

The
EARLY HISTORY
of the
STRICKLANDS
OF SIZERGH

*Together with some account of the allied families
of d'Eyncourt, Fleming, Greystoke, and Dunbar*

By S. H. LEE WASHINGTON, M.A.

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Ὅποῦ ποτ' ἂν ᾤσιν ἌΝΔΡΕΣ,
. . . ἐνταῦθα τείχη καὶ πόλεις.
—ARISTIDES

“Genealogical enquiries and local topography, so far from being unworthy the attention of the philosophical enquirer, are amongst the best materials which he can use; and the fortunes and changes of one family, or the events of one upland township, may explain the darkest and most dubious portions of the annals of a realm.”

—SIR FRANCIS PALGRAVE

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FOREWORD

By G. ANDREWS MORIARTY, F.S.A.

The following study by a very able Anglo-American historian and antiquary upon the early generations of the ancient Westmorland house of Strickland of Sizergh is of more than passing interest to both American and English readers. The Stricklands are one of the comparatively few English families still flourishing in their ancestral home which possess a proved pedigree reaching back into the twelfth century. Their present seat, Sizergh Castle, came into their possession in the thirteenth century by the marriage of the heiress of d'Eyncourt of Sizergh with a Strickland, and their muniment room contains charters and other family documents dating from the twelfth century. Such families are rare in the England of the twentieth century. To Americans the story of their origin has an absorbing interest. Not only were the Virginia Washingtons, the ancestors of the great George, directly descended from the earlier members of the house, but Edward Carleton, the early settler of Rowley, Mass., as has been shown by Professor Hazen, was a great-grand-

son of Walter Strickland of Sizergh (died in 1569), the head of the house in the middle of the sixteenth century (*New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, January 1939).

No less than four accounts of the family are in print, the latest and best being that of Mr. Horn-yold-Strickland, who married a daughter of the late Lord Strickland and resides at Sizergh. Mr. Horn-yold-Strickland's excellent account of the family is based largely upon the rich collections of charters in the muniment room at Sizergh, and he has cleared up several obscure points in the long descent in his critical history of the family. However, his book does not show sufficient research, especially as regards the earlier generations, in the public records, with the result that the descent in the early thirteenth century is a bit uncertain and not as fully proven as one could wish. This is especially true of the parentage of the William Strickland who in 1239 married Elizabeth d'Eyncourt, the heiress of Sizergh, and brought Sizergh to the Stricklands. This point has now happily been cleared up by Mr. Washington, who also shows the probability of the Stricklands being sprung from a cadet of the great Norman house of Vaux, so prominent in the North in the twelfth century. It may be of interest to readers to know that these points were also consid-

ered by the writer of this foreword and that, quite independently of Mr. Washington, he arrived at identical conclusions with him both as to the parentage of William of Sizergh and also as to the descent of the family from that of Vaux. In addition to these discoveries in which Mr. Washington and I are agreed the former has, thanks to his opportunity to examine the documents contained in the local muniment rooms of Cumberland and Westmorland, discovered for the first time the maiden name of Christian, the wife of Sir Walter de Strickland, first of the name (died 1236–1239), the son of Adam de Castle Carrock, the first *proved* ancestor of the family, and who was undoubtedly a cadet of the Vaux family. This discovery of Mr. Washington has disproved the conjectures of previous writers that Christian was the daughter of the Westmorland magnate Gilbert fitz Renfrid, ancestor of the baronial house of de Lancaster. In addition to this, Mr. Washington has discovered much new material regarding the other wives of early members of the Strickland family, has also corrected the question of the eldest son of the house at the end of the thirteenth century, and has added much new information regarding the early cadets of the house and the descent of the Washingtons from the Stricklands.

Mr. Washington has also made some new and

startling discoveries regarding the descent of the d'Eyncourts, correcting the erroneous descent of that family printed by the late Rev. F. W. Ragg in the Cumberland and Westmorland A. & A. Society Transactions (*Cumberland and Westmorland Ant. & Arch. Soc. Trans.*, New Series, vol. XVI, p. 168). Among other things, he has shown that Elizabeth d'Eyncourt descended maternally from the great house of Dunbar, cadets of the Scottish kings, and from the Uchtred, Earldorman of Northumberland and his third wife Aelfifu, daughter of King Aethelred the Unready.

PREFACE

Despite their remarkable pedigree and their Transatlantic connections, it is only with hesitation that I am venturing to present a fresh study of the Stricklands' family origins. The Stricklands of Sizergh have already received more than their due share of scholarly attention; and my chief excuse is that local historians have perforce neglected the resources of the London Public Record Office, on account of the extraordinarily rich collection of family archives which is preserved at Sizergh Castle. I thus hope that my own researches amongst the Plea Rolls and other unpublished sources at the Record Office may serve to open up a new vein of hitherto untapped material; since, despite the existing information, there is much in the early generations that has remained obscure, whilst the descent of the original lords of Sizergh — the d'Eyncourts — has never so far been properly investigated. In addition, I have at various times enjoyed access to the Sizergh muniments (not all of which have been previously made use of), as well as to the great mass of private charters and evidences at Levens Hall, Rydal Hall, and Lowther Castle. In the first half of this study an at-

tempt will therefore be made to contribute some account of the history of the Stricklands of Sizergh prior to the accession of Edward III: and the second section will be devoted to the origin of Elizabeth d'Eyncourt, the heiress who brought Sizergh in marriage to Sir William de Strickland in the thirteenth century, and who traced descent not only from the Flemings of Aldingham (who, as will be shown, were probably cadets of the barons of Wahull) and from such illustrious feudal houses as Greystoke and Stuteville, but even from the great Earl Gospatric (the progenitor of the Earls of Dunbar), who was overlord of all Westmorland after the Norman Conquest. Important new light is also shed on the early pedigree of the lords of Greystoke, and on the Earls of Dunbar and their connection with the barony of Beanley.

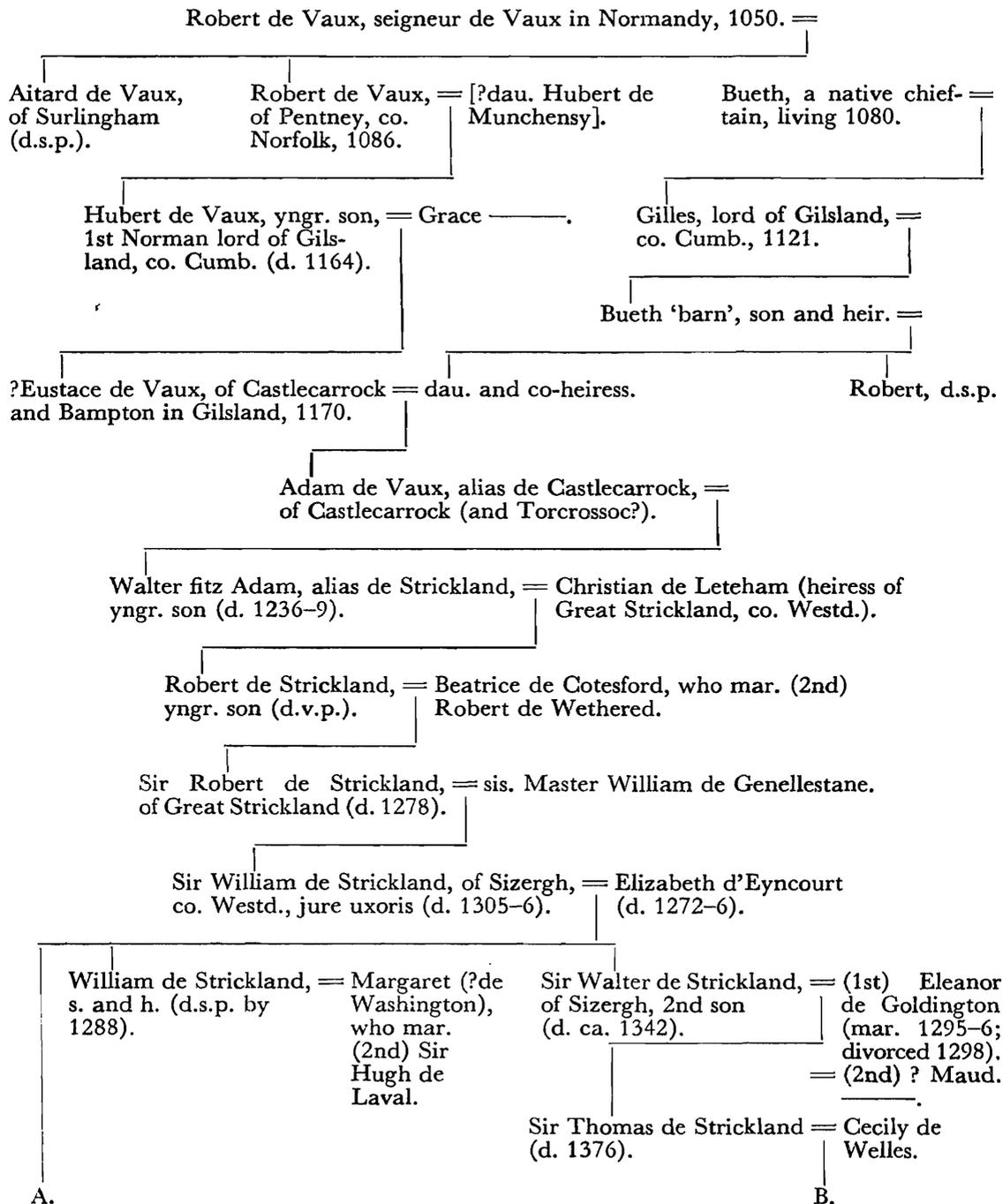
Most of the present study has already appeared in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for April and October, 1942, and in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, New Series, volume XLII. I wish to record my indebtedness to the following for their advice and unfailing kindness in forwarding my researches: the late Lord Strickland, Mr. Henry Hornyold-Strickland, Mr. W. T. McIntire, Mr. Harold Clarke Durrell, the late Mr. John F. Curwen,

the late Mr. M. G. Hughes Le Fleming, Col. Anthony Lowther and the Trustees of the Lowther Estates, and the late Col. John Parker. My special gratitude is also due to Mr. G. Andrews Moriarty for writing the Foreword and for placing his great knowledge of feudal genealogy at my disposal.

S. H. L. W.

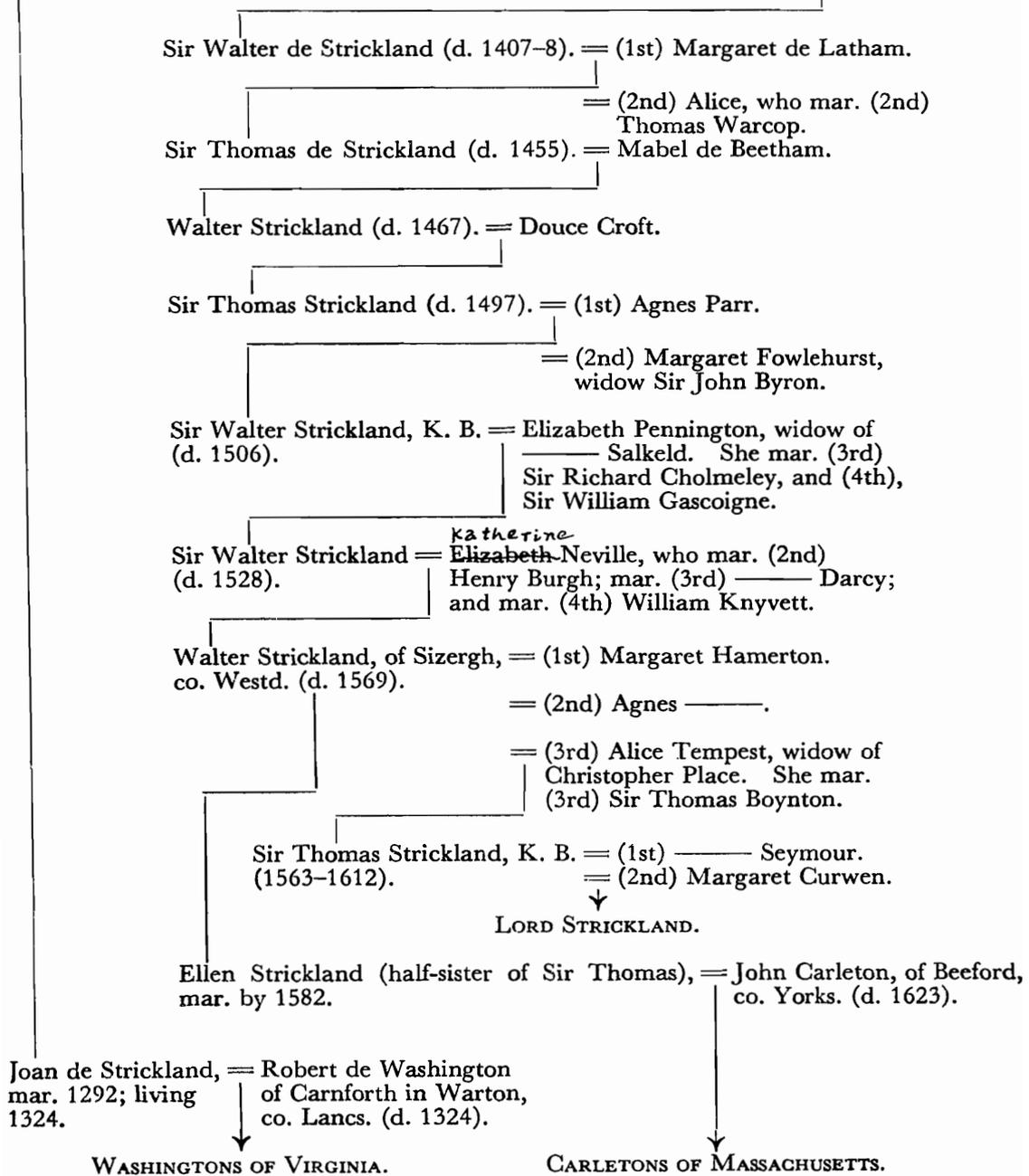
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THE CONNECTION OF THE FAMILIES OF STRICKLAND, WASHINGTON, AND CARLETON



A.

B.



PART I

PART I

THE STRICKLANDS

THE history of the time-honoured English house of Strickland of Sizergh is one of very special interest; for not only do the Stricklands still boast a male representative, but Sizergh, co. Westmorland, which they acquired by marriage with a d'Eyncourt heiress in the thirteenth century, continues to this day to be the seat of the family of the late Lord Strickland, Count della Catena, a former Governor of New South Wales. Since the time of Simon de Montfort, Sizergh has known no other masters than the Stricklands themselves, whose shield quartered with d'Eyncourt still adorns the grey pele tower of Sizergh Castle, with its view westward to the North Sea and northward across the dales of Kendal towards the blue mountains of Ullswater. Moreover, through intermarriage with the Washingtons and the Carletons, the Stricklands were forbears alike of the Washingtons of Virginia and the Carletons of Rowley, Massachusetts (cf. Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1940 edition, pp. 2959–2963; also Prof. Tracy Elliot Hazen's article, "The English Ancestry of Edward Carlton of Rowley, Mass.," in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for January 1939):¹ and we may well pause at the fact of a great English family numbering such diverse descendants as a nobleman who was both a peer of Great Britain and a Count of Malta, the Puritan Edward Carleton of New England, and George Washington, the First President of the United States! Another descendant was Queen Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII: while it was Queen Kath-

¹ Curiously enough, the Stricklands were omitted from all the Visitations: and the first coherent account of them is that contained in Nicolson and Burn's *History of Westmorland and Cumberland* (1777), vol. I, pp. 87 *et seq.*, which is based almost entirely on the MS. pedigree and abstracts of Sizergh documents prepared *circa* 1770, at the request of Mrs. Cecilia Strickland, by the Rev. Thomas West, S.J. In 1887 an elaborate article, entitled "Genealogy of the Stricklands of Sizergh," was contributed by Edward Bellasis, of the College of Arms, to the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society*, Old Series, vol. X, pp. 75 *et seq.* More recently, two separate publications dealing in detail with the family descent have appeared elsewhere, viz., Daniel Scott's *The Stricklands of Sizergh Castle* (1908), and H. Hornyold-Strickland's *Strickland of Sizergh* (1928). Plantagenet-Harrison's *History of Yorkshire* (1878) includes a partial genealogy (*ibid.*, p. 375), which, like the other products of its learned but misguided author, is a curious blend of fact and fiction: and shorter references will also be found in Archdeacon Prescott's *Register of the Priory of Wetherhal* (1897) and in Canon Wilson's *Register of the Priory of St. Bees* (Surtees Society, 1915).

erine's uncle, Sir William Parr, the "cheif ruler of alle the said country," that so "greatly alyed and befrendyd" his young kinsman Lawrence Washington, who subsequently as Sir William's Agent removed south to Northamptonshire, where he made a fortune and acquired Sulgrave Manor (cf. S. H. Lee Washington, "The Washingtons of Sulgrave," in *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* for March 1937). This Lawrence Washington was actually born at Warton, eight miles southwest of Sizergh, on lands that had descended to the Washingtons from their Strickland ancestors.

Like Thackeray's hero, that dashing adventurer Redmond Barry, who attained fame and fortune by winning the hand of the Countess of Lyndon, the founder of the Stricklands owed his success, and even his name, to a lucky alliance. For, three generations before the marriage of Sir William de Strickland with Elizabeth d'Eyncourt, the heiress of Sizergh, a certain Walter fitz Adam, a "landless knight", married Christian, the heiress of the manor of Great Strickland near Appleby, co. Westmorland, and upon becoming possessed of his wife's inheritance adopted "Strickland" as a surname, by which his posterity have ever since been known.² This Walter fitz Adam, though without property, was, however—like Redmond Barry—not without birth; since there can be no question that he was a younger son of Adam, lord of Castlecarrock in Gilsland, co. Cumberland, close to the Scottish Border. For Adam's eldest son and successor, Robert of Castlecarrock, is called "brother" of Walter fitz Adam, *alias* de Strickland, in the latter's charter to the monks of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 327); which disposes of the absurd legend, fostered by Agnes Strickland, the historian, that the Stricklands derived from an imaginary Sir Adam "Stryke-land", so-called from being the first Norman to reach the English shore at the time of William the Conqueror's invasion of 1066!

Such an indentification of Walter's parentage leads to a still more interesting possibility; since there seems a reasonable presumption that Adam's father was none other than Eustace de Vaux, who had been enfeoffed of Castlecarrock *circa* 1160 by Hubert de Vaux, baron of Gilsland,—in which case the Stricklands themselves can claim direct male descent from Robert de Vaux, the Doomsday tenant of Pentney under Roger Bigod.

² Scott, *Stricklands of Sizergh Castle*, p. 10. See a Final Concord of 1208, quoted *infra*, p. 26.

The family of Vaux derived their surname from the *terram et feodum de Vallibus* in Normandy, which King John, on 14 July 1199, confirmed to the abbey of St. Jean de Falaise (*Rot. Chart.* [Record Com.], p. 5). Robert de Vaux (of Pentney) and Aitard de Vaux (of Surlingham), who were apparently brothers and sons of Robert, seigneur de Vaux, living 1050, appear in the Domesday Survey as holding of the fee of Bigod extensive lands in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. In 1246 Maud, daughter and heiress of the last Hubert de Vaux of Gilsland, claimed Aitard de Vaux as her "ancestor" (Assize Roll, Norfolk and Suffolk, no. 818, *m.* 19 *d.*); but he was presumably only a collateral progenitor, since the direct descent was unquestionably from his brother, Robert de Vaux of Pentney (see R. S. Ferguson, "The Barony of Gilsland and its Owners," in *Transactions of the Cumb. and Westd. Antiq. Soc.*, Old Series, vol. IV, pp. 446 *et seq.*). This Robert also held in Suffolk of the fee of William "de Ecohies" (from Écouis, near Les Andelys), and in 1086 gave part of his tithes of Bernières in Normandy to St. Évroult. He left issue four sons (cp. R. S. Ferguson, *ibid.*): (1) Robert, the founder of Pentney priory and a benefactor of the monks of Castle Acre, Norfolk (Dugdale, *Monasticon* [1st edit.], vol. I, p. 628b; *ibid.*, vol. II, p. 19). He rendered the sum of £4 6s. 8d. in 1131 for having the inheritance of his wife (Agnes) at "Hocton" [Houghton], co. Norfolk (*Pipe Roll*, 31 Henry I [Rec. Com.], p. 92); (2) Robert, surnamed *pinguis* ("the fat"); (3) Gilbert; (4) Hubert, afterwards the 1st Norman lord of Gilsland. A fifth son, called Ranulf de Vaux, is traditionally stated to have been enfeoffed by Ranulf "le Meschin," lord of Carlisle and subsequently Earl of Chester, of the three Cumberland townships of Castle Sowerby, Upperby, and Carlatton (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], p. 492). But the second Robert de Vaux (the founder of Pentney), in his charter to Castle Acre, gives the names of his brothers as Robert *pinguis*, Gilbert, and Hubert, without any mention of Ranulf (Dugdale, *Monasticon*, vol. I, p. 628b): and not improbably there is simply a confusion here with Hubert de Vaux's younger son, Ranulf (afterwards 3rd lord of Gilsland)—especially as Hubert's eldest son, Robert (2nd lord of Gilsland), was undoubtedly in possession of Castle Sowerby in 1186. Hubert de Vaux himself was at the Court of the Empress Maud before the accession of Henry II (Round, *Cal. Docs. Preserved in France*, pp. 72, 208), and received the barony of Gilsland, co. Cumb., from the latter monarch in

November 1158 (*Victoria County History of Cumberland*, vol. I, p. 306). The story that he and his brother Robert [Robert *pinguis*?] had been in possession respectively of Gilsland and Dalton some thirty years earlier, as feoffees of Earl Ranulf "le Meschin" (Wilson, *St. Bees*, p. 492), is probably apochryphal. Hubert died in 1165, leaving by Grace, his wife, at least two sons:—Robert, who *d. s.p.* in 1195, and Ranulf, who became his brother's successor and from whom the later lords of Gilsland derived (see G. E. C.'s *Complete Peerage* [ed. Gibbs], vol. IX, p. 397). Very likely Eustace de Vaux, who held Castlecarrock and Hayton of the fee of Gilsland (Denton, *Accompt*, pp. 103, 139), was a third son of Hubert: he, at all events, must have been a near relative. Incidentally, it is interesting to observe that the Vauxes of Gilsland continued to maintain their East Anglian associations, despite their acquisition of a Cumbrian barony; since Hubert II de Vaux (died 1234) was in possession of Surlingham, co. Norfolk, and Denham, co. Suffolk, both of which had belonged to Aitard de Vaux in 1086 (Assize Roll, Norfolk and Suffolk, no. 818, *m.* 19 d.). The christian name "Hubert" perhaps points to some ancestral connection of the Vauxes in East Anglia with the neighbouring families of Walter and Munchensy. Archbishop Hubert Walter was the guardian of Robert son of Ranulf de Vaux (grandson of the first Hubert of Gilsland) in 1199 (*Pipe Roll*, I John [1199–1200]); and *circa* 1150 Hubert III de Munchensy confirmed to William de Vaux land in Stratford, co. Essex, which the latter's father, William de Vaux, Senior, had formerly held (*Cal. Ancient Deeds*, C. 2421). The original Hubert de Munchensy was a tenant-in-chief in East Anglia at the time of Domesday Book. Eustace de Vaux is duly mentioned by Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (*op. cit.*, p. 6), who does not, however, definitely affiliate him to Adam of Castlecarrock; but that the christian name "Adam" was in use amongst the Vauxes at this period is evidenced by the occurrence of an Adam de Vaux as mesne-lord of Torcrossoc in Gilsland *circa* 1200.*

* It seems not altogether impossible that this Adam de Vaux and Adam of Castlecarrock were identical. Nothing is known of Adam de Vaux's connection with Torcrossoc, beyond the statement of Denton (*Accompt*, p. 163) that he alienated the property to Robert son of William [de Corby], by a charter issued in the presence of Archbishop Hubert Walter and Robert de "Vallibus" (evidently Robert, son of Ranulf de Vaux of Gilsland). The names of these two witnesses date the charter itself as having been granted between 1199 and 1205.

It should also be observed that the Strickland arms, *Sable three escallops silver*, as well as their ancient crest of a holly tree, closely resemble the crest and arms borne by the Dacres of Gilsland, the Vauxes' heirs-general.⁴ Moreover, if this view of Adam of Castlecarrock's parentage be accepted (and there can be no question that, at least territorially speaking, he was Eustace de Vaux's successor), an equally noteworthy descent would be involved on the maternal side: since, according to the antiquary Denton,⁵ Eustace had married one of the two sisters and co-heiresses of Robert son of Bueth, who was the last direct male descendant of a native chieftain, Gilles son of Bueth, the original owner of Gilsland (Gilles-land) in the days of Henry I. Eustace de Vaux's posterity could thus boast the blood of both the native and the Norman lords of Gilsland—a circumstance made more romantic by the fact that a fierce rivalry long existed between them (cf. *Victoria County History of Cumberland*, vol. I, pp. 306, 310). Gilles son of Bueth only actually occurs twice in contemporary records—first, amongst the *judices Cumbrenses* who officiated at David of Scotland's inquest concerning the lands of the See of Glasgow *circa* 1124 (Lawrie, *Early Scottish Charters*, p. 46), and, second, as a witness to the perambulation of the bounds of Stobo, co. Galloway, *circa* 1150 (*Scottish Antiquary*, vol. XVII, pp. 105–11). There are other indications, however, that he and his family long remained a thorn in the side of the Norman invaders (*Victoria County History of Cumberland*, *loc. cit.*; *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society*, Old Series, vol. IV, p. 450). By one means or another, he himself seems to have retained possession of Gilsland right up till the date of Henry II's recovery of the northern counties from Scottish domination in 1156: and, though his death is expressly referred to in Henry's transfer of Gilsland to Hubert de Vaux two years later, his son, Bueth *barn* (i.e. "the younger"), and grandson, Robert son of Bueth, evidently made desperate attempts to recover their

⁴ In the Parliamentary Roll of Arms, of *circa* 1310–15, it is recorded that "Sire Wauter de Striklande" bore "de argent a ij barres e un quarter de goules," which evidently represent a newer and alternative coat based on that of the de Lancasters, lords of Kendal, of whom the manor of Great Strickland was held (cf. the parallel instance of the d'Eyncourts, cited in footnote no. 75). The de Lancaster arms were *Silver two bars gules, on a canton gules a leopard guardant or*, and derived, like those of Multon, from William fitz Duncan, lord of Coupland (see S. H. Lee Washington, "The Arms of the de Lancasters, Lords of Kendal," in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. XCVI, pp. 93–4).

⁵ *Accompt*, pp. 195–6.

lost inheritance (cf. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society*, New Series, vol. XXVI, pp. 285 *et seq.*). This last mentioned Robert son of Bueth was an adherent of King William the Lion of Scotland in his invasion of England in 1174, but in 1177 procured a pardon from the English Crown on payment of a fine (*Pipe Roll*). He appears to have died without issue, and to have left two sisters as his co-heirs (cf. Denton, *Accompt*, pp. 103, 195–6), married respectively to Eustace de Vaux of Castlecarrock and to Robert son of Asketill of Over Denton. (The latter's son, John de Denton, confirmed in 1214 to the monks of Wetheral a gift previously made to them by "Robert son of Bueth, my uncle").

The outstanding problem in the early Strickland pedigree, however, is not so much the descent of Walter de Strickland (the son of Adam de Castlecarrock) as that of his wife Christian, about whose origin nothing definite has ever been ascertained, beyond the fact that, as already stated, she was actually the heiress of the manor of Great Strickland, co. Westmorland, from which the family surname was derived. Two rival theories as to Christian's identity have, it is true, long held the field: but neither of them appears to rest on a sufficiently substantial foundation.

Thus, theory number one is based on the circumstance that Great Strickland itself, although situated in the parish of Morland a few miles from Appleby, was a "member" not of the barony of Appleby but of the barony of Kendal, being held by the service of one-fourth of a knight's fee: ⁶ and hence it has been argued that Christian was a sister of the contemporary baron of Kendal, Gilbert fitz Renfrid, and that she received the manor of Great Strickland as her *maritagium* (Hornyold-Strickland, *Strick-*

⁶ *Cal. Inqs.*, vol. VIII, p. 202; *ibid.*, vol. X, pp. 467–8; and see footnotes nos. 18 and 68. From the middle of the twelfth century onwards, Westmorland (the northern half of which had been wrested from the Scots, along with Cumberland, by King William Rufus in 1092) was divided into two great fiefs: (a) the barony of Appleby (the northern portion, originally known as "Westmarieland" and included in ancient Cumbria), which passed from Hugh de Morville to his descendants, the Vieuxponts (de Veteripontes) and Cliffords; and (b) the barony of Kendal (the southern portion, originally called "Kenddale" and included in Yorkshire), which, after being for a short time in the hands of Ivo Taillebois, *circa* 1092–97, was granted to the Mowbrays, who enfeoffed a knight of native descent named William de Lancaster (see footnote no. 8; also S. H. Lee Washington, "The Arms of the de Lancasters, Lords of Kendal," in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. XCVI, pp. 93–4). This William's granddaughter and heiress, Helewise, married Gilbert fitz Renfrid (son of Henry II's *dapifer*, Roger fitz Renfrid), who became 3rd lord of Kendal *jure uxoris*, and was endowed with full baronial status throughout his domains by King Richard I in 1189.

land of Sizergh, pp. 10–12).⁷ This hypothesis, however, appears entirely inadmissible. For, quite apart from there being no vestige of proof of any such relationship between Christian and Gilbert, we must remember that Gilbert's own title to the barony of Kendal was merely derived through his marriage to Helewise de Lancaster, so that he would be unlikely to enfeoff his sister and her descendants of land which he himself could only claim to hold *jure uxoris*.⁸

⁷ It seems worthwhile to point out that Mr. Hornyold-Strickland, in his remarks upon the early history of Great Strickland (*op. cit.*, p. 15), has been misled into confusing it with the manor of Strickland in south Westmorland, which was afterwards represented by the two townships of Strickland Roger and Strickland Ketel. Worse still, he has identified a native thegn called Gillemichael, who is mentioned in Domesday as having held this same manor of Strickland under Edward the Confessor, with the Gilles son of Bueth who was lord of Gilsland circa 1150 (*ibid.*, p. 4). The latter statement has since found its way into Burke's *Peerage* and other publications, although Gilles and Gillemichael not only lived in different centuries but were wholly unconnected with each other! Moreover, Great Strickland near Appleby (*i.e.* in north Westmorland)—with which we are concerned in the present study—is not even so much as mentioned in the Domesday Survey, being at that period part of the district of Cumbria which was still under the control of the Scottish kings.

⁸ Helewise was the daughter and heiress of the second William de Lancaster, lord of Kendal (died 1184), and granddaughter of the first William de Lancaster (who died 1170). Mr. Hornyold-Strickland devotes considerable space to the ancestry of Helewise's husband, Gilbert fitz Renfrid, whom he represents (*op. cit.*, pp. 2–3) as son of Roger fitz Renfrid by Rohese, widow of Gilbert de Gant, Earl of Lincoln, and daughter and heiress of William de "Romare," Earl of Lincoln, son of Roger fitz Gerald (de "Romare") by Lucy, daughter and heiress of Ivo de [*sic*] Taillebois by Lucy, sister of Earls Edwin and Morcar and granddaughter of no less a personage than the celebrated Lady Godiva. The real object of this pedigree—apart from the splendour of the actual descent involved—is apparently to affiliate Gilbert fitz Renfrid, the alleged brother of Christian wife of Walter de Strickland, with Ivo Taillebois [his surname of "Taillebois" was not territorial, but simply a nickname], who is known to have received a grant of the manor of Strickland circa 1092. Unfortunately, however, it can be demonstrated that Ivo's estate was not Great Strickland near Appleby, but the south Westmorland Strickland previously owned by Gillemichael (see footnote no. 6); and, moreover, Gilbert fitz Renfrid was not even descended from Ivo Taillebois at all. Indeed, the actual marriage of his father, Roger fitz Renfrid, with Earl Gilbert de Gant's widow, Rohese, has still to be established: and, apart from that, it has long ago been proved that Rohese, so far from being the daughter of William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln, was in reality the daughter of the latter's maternal cousin, Richard de Clare. True, in either case she would have derived from Lucy, the wife of Ivo Taillebois and the grandchild (as Mr. Hornyold-Strickland has it) of the immortal Maid of Coventry (*vide infra*). But it can be shown that Lucy and Ivo's marriage was childless and, furthermore, that there were not two Lucys (mother and daughter) but only one (cf. G. E. C.'s *Complete Peerage* [ed. Gibbs], vol. IX). In other words, Lucy herself was married thrice: first to Ivo Taillebois (by whom she had no issue), secondly to Roger fitz Gerald (by whom she became the mother of William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln), and thirdly to Ranulf "le Meschin," Earl of Chester (by whom she left *inter alia* a daughter, Alice, wife of Richard de Clare and mother of the Rohese who espoused Earl Gilbert de Gant). Not the least astounding feature of Mr. Hornyold-Strickland's pedigree is the resurrection of the long-exploded theory which places Lucy as the sister of Earls Edwin and Morcar. On the contrary, nothing whatever can be proved about Lucy's parentage except that she was, maternally, the niece of Robert Malet of Eye. After a prolonged study of the question, however, the present writer has become convinced of the soundness of the hypothesis which identifies her father with Tuold the Sheriff (of Lincoln). But Tuold's own origin and ancestry remain wrapped in mystery; and certainly neither he nor Robert Malet could boast the faintest relationship to Lady Godiva!

In all this I do not mean to cavil unduly at Mr. Hornyold-Strickland's statements, my principal aim being merely to demonstrate once and for all that Gilbert fitz Renfrid was *not* a descendant of Ivo Taillebois and that Ivo himself was totally unconnected with the manor of Great Strickland.

The second, and rival, theory,—which was originally propounded by the late Dr. William Farrer,⁹—seeks to identify Christian as the daughter and co-heiress of a certain Uctred:¹⁰ but here, too, the arguments fall to the ground for lack of proof, nor, indeed, did Dr. Farrer ever intend this supposition as anything save an interesting possibility. He founded his conjecture solely and simply on a Westmorland Final Concord of 1208, which records that Walter de “Stircland” and Christian his wife made an agreement with “Sigrid daughter of Uctred” regarding a carucate of land in “Stircland” [Great Strickland], whereby Walter and Christian acknowledged the said property to be the right of Sigrid, to hold of them and of the heirs of Christian by the free service of a two shilling render yearly.¹¹ Thereupon, Sigrid granted to them all her land “from Aspelgile to Groshousic and from Groshousic to Bounwath,” with remainder to Christian and her issue; and it was specified that Sigrid and her heirs were not to be amerced in the Court of the said Walter and Christian above an amercement of two shillings (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 10 John [1208–1209], no. 28). On the basis of the above document, Dr. Farrer proceeded to infer that Christian wife of Walter de Strickland and Sigrid daughter of Uctred were sisters, and that Uctred must have been mesne-lord of Great Strickland under the barons of Kendal. But such a supposition is scarcely warranted by the language of the Fine. In the first place, Christian is nowhere described, either in the Fine or in any other record, as Uctred’s daughter; and, in the second place, there is nothing to show that this Uctred had ever possessed the *manor* of Great Strickland at all. That his daughter Sigrid (who was probably his sole heiress) did succeed him in the tenure of a carucate or ploughland there, is apparent from the Fine itself; but this assuredly

⁹ Quoted in Scott, *Stricklands of Sizergh Castle*, pp. 12–13.

¹⁰ “This Ughtred had two daughters—the writer supposes—Christiana, married to Walter de Stirkland, and Siegrid, a widow or unmarried in 1208” (cf. Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 12). Dr. Farrer also placed Robert of Castlecarrack as brother of Sigrid and son of Uctred, which is unquestionably at variance with the facts (see *ante*, p. 20).

¹¹ As a matter of interest, I might mention that a Final Concord of 1200 shows that Sigrid had married a certain Maldred, who is described as *quondam viri sui* in a claim which she then brought against Walter son of Durand [of Great Asby] for dower in her deceased husband’s property at “Werfton,” co. Westmorland (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 2 John [1200–1201]). Another Fine of the year 1208 refers to an agreement touching two bovates of land in “Stirkeland,” made between “Sigrith” daughter of Uctred and Gilbert de Lancaster (*ibid.*, 10 John [1208–1209]). Incidentally, the names “Maldred” and “Uctred” are curiously reminiscent of those borne by the early paternal ancestors of the historic house of Neville.

does not imply that Uctred's own status had been anything more than that of a freeholder or an under-tenant of Christian's actual father. Indeed, a somewhat analogous position would seem to have been occupied by another native landowner named Dolfin, whose daughter Eve occurs in 1246 as claiming various lands in "Stirkland" against Adam, son of the said Christian and Walter,—the lands in question having previously been held by the plaintiff's father (Dolfin) "*in dominico ut de feodo et jure tempore domini Johannis regis, patris domini regis qui nunc est*" (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 31 Henry III [1246–1247], no. 454).¹²

Meanwhile, although far from being able myself to provide a complete solution to Christian's origin, I can at least, I believe, offer a partial key to the mystery. For in the following hitherto undiscovered extract from the Westmorland Assize Rolls, Sir William de Strickland—who is known to have been Walter and Christian's great-grandson—explicitly refers to the latter as his "great-grandmother, Christian *de Leteham*:"

Michaelmas Term, 1291: "Alan son of Thomas son of Bernard de Midelton seeks against William de Burgh of Lonesdale one messuage and eight acres of land and three acres of meadow in Midelton in Lonesdale [in the parish of Kirkby Lonsdale, co. Westmorland], which he claims by a grant from Ralph de Berburne. And William de Stirklaund [Strickland] seeks against the said William de Burgh one messuage and sixteen acres of land, which his great-grandmother Christian de Leteham (*Cristiana de Leteham proavia predicti Willelmi de Stirklaund*), whose heir he is, held on the day of her death. And William de Burgh comes and calls to warrant Matthew de Burgh and Avice his wife, who come and say that they hold the said land in right of the said Avice—along with Gregory de Thorneton and Agnes his wife, John de Bolton and Eve his wife, and Gilbert de Burnolfsheued [Burneside] and Christian his wife—of the inheritance of Ralph de Berburne, father of the aforesaid Avice, Agnes, Eve, and Christian. But all the above-named lands and tenements are now in the King's hands for felony, owing to the imprisonment of the said Gilbert (de Burnolfsheued); wherefore the said Alan (de Midelton) and William (de Stirklaund) are without a day," etc. (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 985, *m.* 23).¹³

¹² A further example may be cited in the case of the "Thomas Long of Stirkland" who was evidently a landowner in Great Strickland at about the same period (see p. 49).

¹³ In February 1292/3 Sir William confirmed to the monks of Wetheral the charter previously granted them by Walter de Strickland, *proavi sui* (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, pp. 326–327; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 18). There is also recorded a release from John de Reygate, curate of Morland, to Sir William de Stirkelände of an annual rent of four pounds of wax for having a chantry in his chapel of Stirkelände, etc., the said chantry having been originally founded by Walter de Stirkelände, "great-grandfather of the said Sir William" (*Hist. MSS. Com., Various Collections* 1903], vol. II, p. 339).

This record is incidentally of value as establishing for the first time the identity of the wife of Gilbert de Burneside, or Burneshead (a prominent figure in Westmorland *temp.* Edward I), as one of the four daughters and co-heiresses of Ralph de Berburne; and we further learn that another daughter had married Sir Gregory de Thornton, who served as Knight of the Shire for Yorkshire on no less than eleven different occasions between 1313 and 1333. The Berburnes had had possessions at Middleton-in-Lonsdale from a very early period. In 1280 Ralph de Berburne, above named, was defendant in an assize of novel disseisin regarding a tenement in "Midelton" brought by Adam del Eskes (*Dep. Keeper's Report*, XLIX, Appendix, p. 119); and about the same date, as "Ralph son of Gilbert de Berebrun," he acquired property there from William son of Gilbert de Layfite (Farrer MSS.). Moreover, nearly a century beforehand, Richard de Berburne, lord of Berburne (*alias* Barbon in Kendal), granted land at Middleton in frank-almoign to the canons of Cockersand (*Cockersand Chartulary* [Chetham Society], p. 927).¹⁴

But our interest naturally centres chiefly in Christian "de Leteham," wife of Walter de Strickland and great-grandmother of Sir William de Strickland, the claimant in the above suit against William de Burgh: and it thus becomes apparent that her own inheritance—in addition to the manor of Great Strickland near Appleby—had likewise included considerable holdings in South Westmorland at Middleton-in-Lonsdale, where her great-grandson still retained interests in 1291. Nevertheless, in spite of this fresh information and of the vital new fact regarding Christian's previous surname, we are not even yet in a position to identify with certainty the family to which she belonged.

The very name "de Leteham," for instance, presents difficulty; for there are no place-names in Westmorland which furnish any corresponding equivalents, though there is a Leatham in northern Northumberland and a Kirkleatham in the Northeast Riding of Yorkshire,—not to mention Lytham in the Hundred of

¹⁴ Ralph de Berburne, father of the four co-heiresses, held Whitwell and Godwinscales (in Kendal), co. Westmorland, of William de Lindsay in 1283 (*Cal. Inqs.*, vol. II, p. 269). He was the son and heir of Gilbert de Berburne by his wife Joan, the eldest of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Roland de Reagill (Levens Hall MSS.; *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin.*, vol. II, p. 278). This Gilbert was apparently the son of Gilbert, younger brother of Richard, lord of Berburne (already mentioned), whose daughter and heiress, Sybil, married Robert Fossard and became the ancestress of the family of Lascelles of Escrick (*Cockersand Chartulary* [Chetham Soc.], pp. 927-928; *Plac. de quo Waranto* [Record Com.] p. 787).

Amoundness, co. Lancaster, which was not infrequently written "Liteham" or "Letham" in records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (cf. Baines, *History of Lancashire*, ed. Harland [1870], vol. II, p. 503). It seems impossible, however, to connect Christian herself with any of the families associated with those three localities:¹⁵ and at present the most that one dare say is that it would appear probable that she was the daughter and heiress of ——— de Leteham [first name unknown], who held the manor of Great Strickland and property at Middleton-in-Lonsdale of the barony of Kendal.¹⁶

In the meantime, besides younger sons Robert and William and a daughter Amabel, wife of Sir Richard de Preston,¹⁷ Walter and Christian de Strickland also left an elder son, Adam (who

¹⁵ Cf. Hodgson-Hinde, *History of Northumberland*, pt. II; *Victoria County History of Yorks.* [North Riding], vol. II, pp. 103–105; and *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, vol. VII, pp. 214, 285–287. The early Lancashire lords of Lytham—the descendants of Roger son of Ravenkil, thegn of Woodplumpton—had lands (at Whittington, etc.) near Middleton-in-Lonsdale, where part of Christian's own inheritance was situated; and no less than three of the daughters and co-heiresses of the last thegn of Woodplumpton, Richard fitz Roger (who died in 1200 without male issue), married into families possessing Westmorland or Cumberland affiliations (e.g. one daughter, Margaret, became the wife of Hugh de Multon of co. Westmorland; another, Avice, married William de Millum of Millum, co. Cumberland; and a third, Amice, married Thomas de Beetham of Beetham in Kendal, great-great-grandfather of the Sir Thomas de Beetham who was M.P. for Westmorland in 1302). But, unluckily, none of Richard fitz Roger's daughters was called "Christian" (cf. George Ormerod, *Parentalia*, p. 7); and, moreover, they did not even inherit the manor of Lytham, which their father had granted to the Benedictine priory of Durham by charter issued between 1189 and 1194 (Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe Rolls and Early Charters*, p. 346; *Reginald of Durham* [Surtees Society, vol. I], pp. 280–4).

¹⁶ Conceivably some ancestral relationship with the Berburnes (for whom see footnote no. 14) lay behind the Middleton-in-Lonsdale lawsuit of 1291; and, moreover, in the twelfth century the Berburnes held considerable property at Lowther, which adjoins Great Strickland (*Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society*, New Series, vol. XVI, p. 114). But, in the absence of more concrete evidence, it is profitless to indulge in further speculations.

¹⁷ For the son Robert (who was living in 1220 and from whom the later generations of the family descended), see page 34. The son William occurs in a Westmorland Fine of 1246, when William son of Walter [de Strickland] and Amabel his wife were the defendants in a claim for property at "Stirkeland" brought by Roger son of Jordan [de Lancaster] (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 31 Henry III [1246–1247], no. 4). The daughter Amabel (who must not be confused with her sister-in-law Amabel, wife of William son of Walter) can be identified from a charter granted by Walter de Strickland to the priory of St. Bees, in which he confirms a gift made by Richard de Preston and the said Richard's wife Amabel, *filia mea* (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], p. 414). The early Preston pedigree has not hitherto been worked out; but the above Richard de Preston, who was of Preston Richard in Kendal, co. Westmorland, appears to have died before 1256, leaving by Amabel de Strickland (who survived him [cf. Wilson, *St. Bees*, pp. 414–415]), a son and heir, Sir Richard, whose wife was named Alice (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 40 Henry III [1255–1256], no. 30). The latter was father of a third Sir Richard, who married Amabel [de Burton] and was M. P. for Westmorland in 1290, dying shortly before the year 1315 (see S. H. Lee Washington, *The Early Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*). Thanks to this Strickland alliance the Prestons acquired property at Great Strickland (cf. Wilson, *St. Bees*, pp. 412–415), which was considerably increased by later generations. It is interesting to note that the first Richard, husband of Amabel de Strickland, was a cousin-german of Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt of Sizergh (see Part II).

was presumably called after his paternal grandfather, Adam of Castlecarrock). There seems no doubt that this Adam son of Walter was indeed his father's heir, since—along with Robert of Castlecarrock, the grantor's brother—he was witness as a consenting party to Walter de Strickland's well-known charter to the priory of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, pp. 326–327; Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 9; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, pp. 10–11). But, apart from that, practically nothing has been learned about him; and the available evidence is both scanty and conflicting. In the first place, it is generally assumed that Adam died *vita patris* “about 1230” (cf. Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 12), on the grounds that Walter de Strickland (Adam's father) was still living in September, 1238, when he officiated as a justice at Appleby, and that Sir Robert de Strickland—who is known to have been Walter's grandson—made a settlement of the manor of Great Strickland in the year 1239. We shall return to the difficulties raised by the last-mentioned settlement in a moment; but in the meantime it also should be noticed that four separate documents demonstrate that Adam himself—far from dying “about 1230,” as alleged—was still alive at least twenty years afterwards. The earliest of these records consists of an entry on the Westmorland Pipe Roll of 26 Henry III [1242–1243], showing that Adam son of Walter paid 40s. “quia retraxit se,” and that Roger [[?] *recte*, Robert de Stirkland] and Hugh le Despenser paid the sum of one mark by pledge of the same Adam (Parker, *Pipe Rolls of Cumberland and Westmorland*, p. 206). Next, in 1246 we have the claim (*ante*, p. 27) brought by Eve daughter of Dolfin against Adam son of Walter for a bovate and two acres of land in “Stirkland,” and against Robert son of Robert de Stirkland for another bovate and thirteen acres there “with the appurtenances” (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 454). Moreover, yet a third document vouchsafes us details of a Final Concord levied at Appleby on the morrow of St. Martin, 31 Henry III [12 November 1246], by which Adam son of Walter agreed that a moiety of the manor of “Stirkeland” was the right of Robert son of Robert de Stirkland, in return for which the latter gave Adam eight bovates thereof for life and undertook to provide him with seven and a half quarters of oatmeal *per annum*. The aforesaid lands were to revert to Robert son of Robert de Stirkland at Adam's decease; and we also meet with the names,

as interim feoffees, of Ralph d'Eyncourt (of Sizergh) and Roland de Reagill (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 31 Henry III [1246–1247], no. 14).¹⁸ Finally, in 1250 Robert son of Robert de Stirkeland was impleaded by Adam son of Walter for dower at "Stirkeland,"—a claim which was clearly an echo of the Final Concord of four years before (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 35 Henry III [1250–1251]).¹⁹

There can thus be no question, in the light of the above records, that Adam son of Walter died, not "about 1230," but some time after the year 1250: and the problem which next confronts us is how to reconcile such a fact with Sir Robert de Strickland's settlement of the manor of Great Strickland as early as 1239. The writer should explain that the settlement itself had been made by Sir Robert upon the occasion of the marriage of his young son William (the Sir William de Strickland of 1291, etc.) with Elizabeth d'Eyncourt of Sizergh,—a marriage which, owing to the broad acres that the bride afterwards inherited, was to have a far-reaching effect upon the future destinies of the race. But, although every writer on the Strickland pedigree from Nicolson and Burn onwards has duly mentioned this famous document, not one of them has quoted it *verbatim*; and that eminent authority, the late Archdeacon Prescott, even doubted whether 1239 were really the correct date of the settlement at all (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 326, note 3). However, the clarity of the original charter effectually excludes the possibility of errors. Moreover, apart from its value in confirming the charter's date as 1239, the context reveals other illuminating details; and consequently I venture to append a full transcription:

Sciart omnes presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus de Stirkland, miles, dedi, concessi, et hoc presenti scripto indentato confirmaui Willermo filio meo et Elisabete filie Radulpho [sic] Daincourt militis totum manerium meum de Magna Stirkland in comitatu Westmerland existente una cum seruicio liberorum tenencium ibidem molendo, boscis, pratis, pascuis, pasturis, et omnibus pasturis et omnibus aliis qualitercumquibus et ubiquibus eidem manerio spectantibus, tenendum et habendum predictum manerium cum pertinenciis una cum seruiciis

¹⁸ The document adds that, in the case of the vill of "Stirkeland," sixteen carucates comprised a single knight's fee. Therefore, as the vill itself owed the service of a quarter of a knight's fee, it must accordingly have been rated at four carucates. Now one carucate equals eight bovates; from which it is evident that Robert son of Robert de Stirkland was allowing Adam one-fourth of the manor (*i.e.* half of the moiety).

¹⁹ The last-mentioned entry was known to Plantagenet-Harrison (see his *History of Yorkshire*, p. 373): but, unluckily, he translated the *Adae* of the original record not as "Adam" but as "Ada" and promptly identified this mythical lady as Adam's widow—a piece of carelessness that has served, not unnaturally, still further to mislead those dealing with the family genealogy (cf. Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 12).

liberorum tenencium ibidem, molendo, boscis, et omnibus aliis cum pertinenciis predictis ut predictum est prefatis Willelmo de Stirkland filio meo [et] Elisabete et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete legitime procreatis, de capitalibus dominis feodis illius per seruicium inde debita et de inde consueta. Et si contingat quod predicti Willelmus et Elisabeta sine heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete exeuntibus obierint, quod absit quod tunc omnia predicta manerium una cum seruiciis liberorum [tenencium] molendo, boscis, et omnibus aliis ut predictum est cum pertinenciis prefato Roberto de Stirkland, militi, heredibus suis et assignatis suis remaneant imperpetuum. Et ego vero Robertus predictum manerium cum pertinenciis una cum seruiciis liberorum tenencium ibidem molendo, boscis, ac omnia alia ut predictum est dicto manerio de Magna Stirkland spectantibus predictis Willelmo et Elisabete et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmo et Elisabete et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete legitime procreatis contra omnes gentes warrantizabim et imperpetuum defendem. In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti scripto [inden-] tato sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus: domino Thoma de Helbek, domino Roberto de Enewyth, militibus, Willelmo de Warthcopp, Galfrido de Brantingham, Henrico de Tyrer, et aliis multis. Datum apud manerium meum in Magna Stirkland in vigilia Sancti Johannis Baptisti [23 June], anno regni regis Henrici filii domini regis Johannis vicesimo tercio. [Seal missing.]

Of the witnesses, Sir Thomas de “Helbek” (of Hillbeck in Brough) was the predecessor of a second Sir Thomas, deputy-sheriff of Westmorland 1292–1295; Henry de “Tyrer” held the township of Tیرهgh (now Tirrell) in the parish of Barton; and William de “Warcopp”²⁰ became the grandfather of Henry de Warcop, M.P. for Westmorland 1315 and 1316, from whom descended the Warcops of Warcop and Smardale. But the really significant clauses to observe are those dealing with the manor of Great Strickland: for here we see Sir Robert de Strickland already a knight,²¹ and in possession of the entire Great Strickland estate (*totum manerium meum de Magna Stirkland*), less than three years after Walter de Strickland’s death and over eleven years prior to the death of Walter’s son, Adam.²² What, then, is the explanation?

Clearly, I think, there is only one,—and that is, that Adam,

²⁰ The mention of this William de Warcop in 1239 supplies us with a missing generation in the early Warcop pedigree, of which a very inaccurate account was given by the late Canon Ragg in *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society*, New Series, vol. XVI, p. 168. William himself seems to have been still living on 13 September 1265, when he occurs in company with Henry de Tیرهgh (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1265, p. 131). Sir Thomas de Helbeck, Sir Robert de Yanwath, and Henry de Tیرهgh all attested a grant to Thomas Black made by Gilbert Engaine of Clifton, near Appleby, which, from its reference to Ralph de Nottingham as “then sheriff of Westmorland,” must have been issued *circa* 1247–1248 (*vide* Nicolson and Burn, *History of Westmorland and Cumberland*, vol. I, p. 416).

²¹ He is again given the designation of *miles* when attesting (*circa* 1250–1260) a charter of John son of William de Thrimby to the priory of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetheral*, p. 332).

²² As has previously been shown, Adam son of Walter was alive at least as late as the year 1250 (*ante*, p. 31).

in spite of being Walter's eldest son, never actually succeeded to the Great Strickland heritage. (That Adam—like his younger brother, William, and his sister, Amabel—had certain holdings at Great Strickland is, of course, beside the point.)²³ Moreover, we must remember that the manor of Great Strickland was actually the inheritance of Adam's mother, Christian; and such maternal possessions were frequently entailed on the second son, whilst the eldest son fell heir to the paternal property.²⁴ It should also be noted that Adam himself, unlike his father Walter, is never once styled "de Stirkland" in contemporary records, but invariably appears simply as *Adam' filius Walteri*. But in that case, who was Sir Robert de Strickland, the lord of Great Strickland in 1239 and the father of the (Sir) William who married Elizabeth d'Eyncourt? From this last-named Sir William's specific references to Walter and Christian de Strickland as his great-grandparents (*ante*, page 27), we at any rate learn that Sir Robert de Strickland was Walter and Christian's *grandson*: and Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (following Bellasis and Nicolson and Burn) concludes that he must have been Adam's son and heir (*op. cit.*, p. 12),—an argument based (*a*) on the fallacious premise that Adam died *vita patris* and (*b*) on a charter amongst the muniments at Sizergh which has "Robert son of Adam de Stirkeland" as one of its witnesses. But internal evidence would date the charter in question as *circa* 1280–1290;²⁵ and nothing

²³ Cf. footnote no. 17.

²⁴ Some hint that Walter de Strickland did have lands of his own (apart from what he had obtained *jure uxoris*) is contained in one of his charters to St. Bees, in which he bestows upon that house two acres of arable land *de dominico meo in Crosrig* (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], pp. 413–4).

²⁵ The deed itself, which no one (including Mr. Hornyold-Strickland) has thus far quoted, records a release by "Alice del Howes, late the wife of Thomass, son of Thomas de Levenes," of the two moieties of "Le Howes" [*i.e.*, The Hawes in Helsington, co. Westmorland],—one moiety of which she settled upon her son, Thomas, and the second moiety of which she divided between her two younger sons, Benedict and John. The witnesses, in addition to Robert son of Adam de Strickland, included Sir Roger de Burton and Sir Richard de Preston (Sizergh MSS.). As has been said, this release is *sans date*; but it should be compared with three other documents at Sizergh, which obviously form part of a single series and of which the substance is as follows:—(I) General release [undated] from Alice del Howes to "William son of Robert de Stirkeland, knight," of both moieties of Le Howes (previously settled upon her sons Thomas, Benedict, and John). Attested by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, etc. (II) Quitclaim [undated] to the aforesaid Sir William son of Sir Robert de Strickland by John son of Thomas de Levenes, confirming "all my [*i.e.* the grantor's] land in Le Houwes which the said [Sir] William has by gift of Alice, my mother." Attested by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, etc. (III) Grant from Sir William son of Sir Robert de Strickland to John "de Camera" and Sybil, his wife, of all the land of Le Howys, etc., "which Alice del Howys holds for life." Dated "at Great Stirkeland in Westmorland" on the Sunday after Michaelmas, 1288; and witnessed, *inter alia*, by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, William de Windsor, and Gilbert de Burneside (Sizergh MSS., *ibid.*). Now although in only one of the above documents is the actual date given, yet all of them are clearly of the same period, since not only do

indicates that the "Robert son of Adam de Stirkeland," there mentioned, was identical with Sir Robert de Strickland of 1239 or that he was more than a stray cadet of the main family.²⁶ On the contrary, all the accumulated evidence tends to identify Sir Robert himself with the "Robert son of Robert de Stirkeland" who made an allowance of land and oatmeal²⁷ to Adam son of Walter in 1246,²⁸ and from whom the said Adam claimed his endowment at Great Strickland in 1250 (*vide supra*, page 31). Such an identification, moreover, is the only one which provides a solution that is both reasonable and in harmony with all the known facts. A Robert de Strickland served as a juror at Appleby in 1220 (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 312, *m.* 27): and doubtless the latter was Sir Robert de Strickland's father, and in consequence a younger son of Walter de Strickland and Christian de Leteham. We may further assume that this Robert de Strickland (Senior) died during Walter and Christian's lifetime; for, judging by the dates, his son, Sir Robert, succeeded to Great Strickland immediately following the said Walter and Christian's decease.²⁹

they relate to the same set of transactions, but they even have virtually the same group of witnesses. Moreover, Sir Roger de Burton did not succeed his elder brother (Sir John) until shortly before 1278 (cf. *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1270, p. 500; De Banco Roll, no. 27, *m.* 119): he was M.P. for Westmorland in 1298, and died in 1302 or 1303 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, I, p. 480; *Cal. Inqs.*, IV, p. 86).

²⁶ Very possibly he was the son of an "Adam son of Robert de Stirkeland" who attested, *circa* 1245-1255, a grant by William de "Schelmergh" to Roger son of Simon of land at "Schelmergh" [Skelsmergh], co. Westmorland (*Cal. Ancient Deeds*, A. 9342). For the probable place of this Adam son of Robert in the Strickland pedigree, see the illustrative chart on page 35. Robert son of Alan [*recte*, Adam] de Stirkeland obtained a pardon from the Crown at the instance of Sir Roger de Clifford (of Appleby) for the death of Alan son of William Mustel, 25 October 1269 (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1269, p. 372).

²⁷ It is significant that one of the interim feoffees named in this transaction was Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt of Sizergh, whose daughter had already married Sir Robert de Strickland's son, William.

²⁸ See also footnote no. 18. Perhaps the agreement had been designed to compromise some claim brought by Adam son of Walter as heir male. Incidentally, this Final Concord of 1246 did not escape the vigilant eye of Dr. Farrer, who wrote that "Robert son of Robert de Stirkeland, dealing with the manor in 1246, makes it highly improbable, even impossible . . . that Adam [son of Walter] had a son Robert in the line of the lords of Strickland" (cited in Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 13). Dr. Farrer, however, was not aware of the full circumstances of the case, and interpreted the Final Concord as meaning that Adam son of Walter was actually lord of Great Strickland at the time. In addition, he avoided the *chimera* of Sir Robert de Strickland's settlement of some seven years earlier by assuming, like Archdeacon Prescott, that the date "1239" was erroneous (*vide supra*, p. 108).

²⁹ Or rather, to speak more accurately, following the decease of Christian; since it was she, and not Walter, who possessed the Great Strickland estate. Indeed, I have come across a charter amongst the muniments at Lowther which records a grant from Thomas de Hastings to the Hospital of St. Peter's at York of certain privileges at Crosby Ravensworth, co. Westmorland, for the use of their grange at Garthorne; the witnesses to which included Walter de Stirkeland and Gilbert de Kirketon, "then sheriff of Appleby" [*i.e.* of Westmorland]. Gilbert de Kirketon was certainly sheriff