

*THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA*  
*uncovers the epic journey of a family*  
*whose lineage stretches from the*  
*Norman frontier of medieval England to*  
*the tobacco fields, vineyards, and*  
*battlefields of a rising American nation.*

## **The Lawsons of Virginia**

By Geoffrey R. Lawson

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# THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA



Geoff Lawson

The Lawsons of Virginia  
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Geoff Lawson is an architect who resides in Arlington, VA. His interest in family history began after years of living up and down the East Coast and eventually returning to the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. When asked where he was from, he often found himself without a meaningful answer—an absence that sparked his genealogical journey.

Nearly two decades earlier, while in graduate school, Lawson had unknowingly taken his first steps toward this pursuit. In a course entitled History of British Landscape Architecture, he wrote a paper on North Yorkshire manor houses—long before discovering that his family’s origins lay in that very region.

His fascination with history also led him to travel throughout Virginia, photographing historic buildings. Only later did he realize that several of these places held direct connections to his ancestors. Some of those photographs now appear within the pages of this book.

## INTRODUCTION

The surname LAWSON appears across populations of varied backgrounds. Genetic testing confirms that individuals bearing this name belong to a broad range of paternal y-DNA haplogroups, demonstrating that not all Lawsons descend from a single male ancestor within the last several millennia.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, testing also identifies a large and ancient Lawson lineage originating in the Anglo-Scottish borderlands. Over time, this lineage fragmented into many distinct branches. Numerous unrelated families later adopted the name independently.

This ancestral line—referred to here as the Corbridge Group—was among the earliest to establish itself in the Virginia Colony. Although not formally recognized among the “First Families of Virginia,” several members maintained close social, political, and financial relationships with them.<sup>2</sup> My own branch of the family has been present in Virginia for at least thirteen generations. With the passage of centuries, many of the earliest connections have become obscured or lost.

## ORIGIN OF SURNAMES

Prior to 1066, most people in Britain used only a single given name. This changed following the Norman Conquest, when William, Duke of Normandy, defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings and was crowned King of England on Christmas Day. William confiscated the estates of the Anglo-Saxon nobility and redistributed them to his Norman followers, creating a new aristocracy.<sup>3</sup>

The adoption of surnames in Britain began within this Norman elite, generally three to four generations after the Conquest.<sup>4</sup> As populations grew and governments developed systems of taxation and property ownership, the necessity for hereditary surnames increased. By the reign of Edward II, surnames had spread into all social classes.<sup>5</sup>

Surnames developed through several principal forms:

- Toponymic: based on location (e.g., York, London)
- Occupational: based on trade (e.g., Miller, Weaver)

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<sup>1</sup> (FamilyTreeDNA, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> (Hatch, 1992).

<sup>3</sup> (Douglas, 1964).

<sup>4</sup> (Reaney & Wilson, 1991).

<sup>5</sup> (McKinley, 1990).



- Descriptive: based on personal traits (e.g., White, Armstrong)
- Patronymic: based on descent from a male ancestor (e.g., Johnson, Williamson)

### **PATRONYMIC SURNAMES**

Patronymic surnames originated in Scandinavia and spread throughout northern Europe.<sup>6</sup> In their earliest form they were not hereditary but altered each generation to reflect the father's given name. One important feature of this system is that people with different patronyms were often closely related, while those with the same patronym might be entirely unrelated.

For example, if two brothers—Lars and Hans—had children, their descendants would likely carry different patronyms: one branch becoming Larsson, the other Hansson. Conversely, multiple unrelated families might adopt the same patronym simply because their fathers shared a common first name.

Illustrative sequence:

- Father: Hans Andersson ("son of Ander")
- Children: Lars Hansson, Anna Hansdotter
- Grandchild: Peter Larsson
- Great-grandchild: Erik Petersson

This practice persisted until the modern era: abolished in the Netherlands (1811), the Scottish Highlands (early 1800s), Denmark (1826), Norway (1923), and Sweden (1963).<sup>7</sup>

Viking settlement introduced patronyms into Britain, particularly in Northumbria and Mercia, regions with substantial Scandinavian admixture.<sup>8</sup> In Britain, however, patronyms became hereditary much earlier, often by the 14th or 15th century. Regional linguistic patterns influenced their form: the suffix *-s* predominated in Mercia (e.g., Laws), while *-son* was characteristic of Northumbria and Scotland (e.g., Lawson).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> (Hanks, 2003).

<sup>7</sup> (Scandinavian Genealogical Society, 2010).

<sup>8</sup> (Higham, 1986).

<sup>9</sup> (Black, 1946).

### ORIGINS OF THE LAWSON SURNAME

The surname LAWSON has multiple independent origins, shaped by geography and culture. Its two most widely recognized derivations are:

- As a patronymic meaning “son of Law,” a diminutive, or shortened version, of *Lawrence*.<sup>10</sup>
- As an Americanized rendering of Danish *Larsen* or Swedish *Larsson*.<sup>11</sup>

Other attested developments include:

- Scotland (Stirling): Clan MacLaren (MacLabruinn), descended from Labhran (Gaelic for Lawrence), occasionally Anglicized MacLaren, meaning ‘*son of Lawrence*’, to Lawson.<sup>12</sup>
- Ireland (Kerry): Clan MacLabhais, descended from Labhras (Irish Gaelic for Lawrence), occasionally Anglicized MacLabhais, meaning ‘*son of Lawrence*’, to Lawson.<sup>13</sup>
- Scotland (Aberdeen): Developed the name *Lowson*, derived from Old English *hlāw* (“hill”). Related surnames include Lowe, Lowry, and Lawrie.<sup>14</sup> In this context, Lawson may be a modernization of Lowson and denote ‘*son of a hill-dweller*.’

### NORTHUMBRIA, ENGLAND

The earliest appearance of the name was Thomas Lawesson (c.1180) in Upper Littondale, near the present-day villages of Litton and Arncliffe, along the Skirfare River in North Yorkshire—a tributary of the Wharfe River<sup>15</sup> which was once part of the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria. Other early records include Leonard Lawesson (Corbridge subsidy roll, 1336) and Henry Lawesson (Yorkshire Poll Tax Rolls, 1379).

Northumbria included the modern counties of Yorkshire (YKS), now North, West, South, and East Yorkshire, as well as Durham (DUR), Cumberland (CUL), Cheshire (CHS), Westmorland (WES), Northumberland (NBL), and Lancashire (LAN). At its peak, Northumbria stretched into parts of southern Scotland, including the border regions all the way up to Edinburgh.

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<sup>10</sup> (Reaney & Wilson, 1991).

<sup>11</sup> (Hanks, 2003).

<sup>12</sup> (Skene, 1837).

<sup>13</sup> (Woulfe, 1923).

<sup>14</sup> (Black, 1946).

<sup>15</sup> (McCready, 2019, p. 14).

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON

This fiercely independent region has always stood out from the rest of Britain. As the center for Viking settlement during the Middle Ages, it was ruled at times by Norse Vikings and by the Danes, who made Jorvik (now York) their principal city. Despite frequent warfare, the English and Scots along the border developed close ties. Historian George Frazier writes, *“English and Scots Borderers had everything in common except nationality. They belonged to the same self-contained, unique world, lived by the same rules, and shared the same inheritance... distinct from the Anglo-Saxons and Celts to the south, as well as the Picts, Scoti, and Strathclyde to the north and west.”*

Two Lawson families have existed in Northumbria since early times: the Falsgrave Group and the Corbridge Group. These groups may have originated from a single source that split early on, or they could be completely independent. The results of DNA studies are inconclusive, as no members of the Falsgrave Group are documented in contemporary genetic research. Today, Lawson is the sixth most common surname in North Yorkshire.

### FALSgrave GROUP

The Falsgrave Group traces its lineage to John Lawson, Lord of Falsgrave,<sup>16</sup> who lived in North Yorkshire in the mid-1200s. One of his descendants, Sir Wilfred Lawson (1545-1632), served as High Sheriff of Cumberland and was a member of the House of Commons (*see page 176*). Although he died childless, he was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Wilfrid Lawson of Isel Hall. Other members of the family established the Lawson Baronetcy of Little Usworth, Tyne and Wear, as well as the Lawson Baronetcies of Isel Hall and Brayton Hall, both in Cumberland.<sup>17</sup>

### CORBRIDGE GROUP

The Corbridge Group traces its ancestry to Thomas Lawesson (c.1180) of Bywell/Corbridge, Northumberland. His descendants founded prominent families, including the Baronets of Cramlington, Bywell, and Brough Hall. One of his descendants, Thomas Lawson, fought at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 under Sir John Neville.

It was Thomas's grandson, James Lawson, who laid the foundation for the family's wealth. James was a merchant on Male Street in Newcastle, and he served as the town's mayor in both 1529 and 1540. Additionally, he held the position of King's tax collector. During the dissolution of the monasteries, he took advantage of the upheaval to

---

<sup>16</sup> Falsgrave is a region of Scarborough, North Yorkshire that was founded in 966 by a Viking named Thorgils Skarhi. The first Lord of Falsgrave was a Viking named Tostig Godwinson.

<sup>17</sup> (Isel Hall, Wikipedia, 2025).

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON

acquire significant land holdings. By the time of his death in 1544, James owned the manors of Byker and West Matsen, along with estates in Nesham, Cockfield, Little Burdon, and Dynshall. His eldest son, Edmund Lawson, inherited most of these estates. The family's fortune was further secured by Ralph Lawson, Edmund's grandson, who moved the family to a new home at Brough Hall in Yorkshire. In 1565, Ralph married Elizabeth Brough (de Burgh), the heiress of Brough Hall, passing the estate to their son, John Lawson.<sup>18</sup>

The family's fortunes took a downturn during the English Civil War when their lands were confiscated by the Cromwellians for being Catholic and Royalist. As a result, many family members emigrated to America as religious refugees (*see page 10*).

### ORIGINS OF THE VIRGINIA AND CORBRIDGE LAWSONS

The last major scholarly attempt to investigate the origins of the Virginia Lawsons was Caroline Kemper Bulkley's 1933 essay, *Notes on Immigrant Lawsons of Tidewater: A Search for Clues to the Illustration of Origins*.<sup>19</sup> Bulkley suggested a possible connection to the ancient Lawsons of Corbridge but left numerous uncertainties unresolved. Later studies tended to concentrate on local or regional branches of the family within the United States, without addressing the earliest origins.

Current research demonstrates that nearly all the earliest Lawsons of Virginia and Maryland descend from the Corbridge Lawsons of North Yorkshire.<sup>20</sup> This lineage exhibits both Anglo-Roman and Anglo-Norman-Flemish elements, complicating the question of whether the surname, in this instance, is derived from Latin or French.

- Latin/Anglo-Roman hypothesis: LAWSON signifies "son of Law," with *Law* being a diminutive of *Lawrence* (Latin *Lavericii* or *Laurentius Filius*). *Laurentius* originally denoted "man of Laurentum," an ancient city predating Rome, and came to mean "crowned with laurels," a symbol of nobility.<sup>21</sup> The widespread cult of St. Lawrence, martyred in 258 CE, disseminated the name throughout Christendom, with at least 237 churches in Britain dedicated in his honor.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> (Raine, Hodgson, and Bruce, 1840, pp. 94-95).

<sup>19</sup> (Bulkley, 1933, pp. 19-33).

<sup>20</sup> (FamilyTreeDNA, 2020).

<sup>21</sup> (Kajanto, 1965).

<sup>22</sup> (Farmer, 2011).

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON

Once thought to descend from Robert Laurence who fought in the Battle of Acre during the Third Crusade in 1187, modern researchers of the ancient Laurence/Lawrence family of Ashton Hall in Lancashire now believe this to be imaginative at best. Instead, their surname is believed to be of Norman French origin, likely evolving from the French variation LAURENS. Lawson in this context would derive from similar origins.

- French/Anglo-Norman hypothesis: LAWSON (or earlier LAWESSON) represents a phonetic adaptation of *L'Oison* (“gosling” or “young goose”), from Old French *oise* (bird), itself from Latin *avis*.<sup>23</sup> In this interpretation, LAWSON began as a toponymic, connected to the L'Oison River Valley in Normandy, rather than a patronymic.

Heraldry lends weight to the latter hypothesis. The Lawsons of Brough Hall bore arms featuring a chevron and martlet (a stylized bird), consistent with a broader pattern among Norman- and Flemish-origin gentry in Yorkshire.<sup>24</sup> Comparable families—such as the Mallorys of Studley Royal, the Lascelles of Northallerton, the FitzHughs of Ravensworth, and the Swales of Swale Hall—also employed bird imagery and maintained recusant Catholic associations.<sup>25</sup>

By contrast, the Lawrence family and its offshoot surnames employed symbols of Roman and ecclesiastical resonance, such as the red cross.

### LATER LAWSONS IN AMERICA

In America, additional Lawson families arose through immigration, assimilation, and adaptation. Dutch, Swedish, and Ashkenazi Jewish families with phonetically similar names sometimes adopted *Lawson* as an English equivalent, even when their original surname was not *Larsson* or *Larsen*.<sup>26</sup> African American families also frequently adopted the surname—either during or after the colonial era—owing to its prominence in early records and its association with the colonial gentry.<sup>27</sup> For a systematic survey of all known Lawson groups in the United States and their respective origins (see *chapter 5 on page 166*).

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<sup>23</sup> (Reaney & Wilson, 1991).

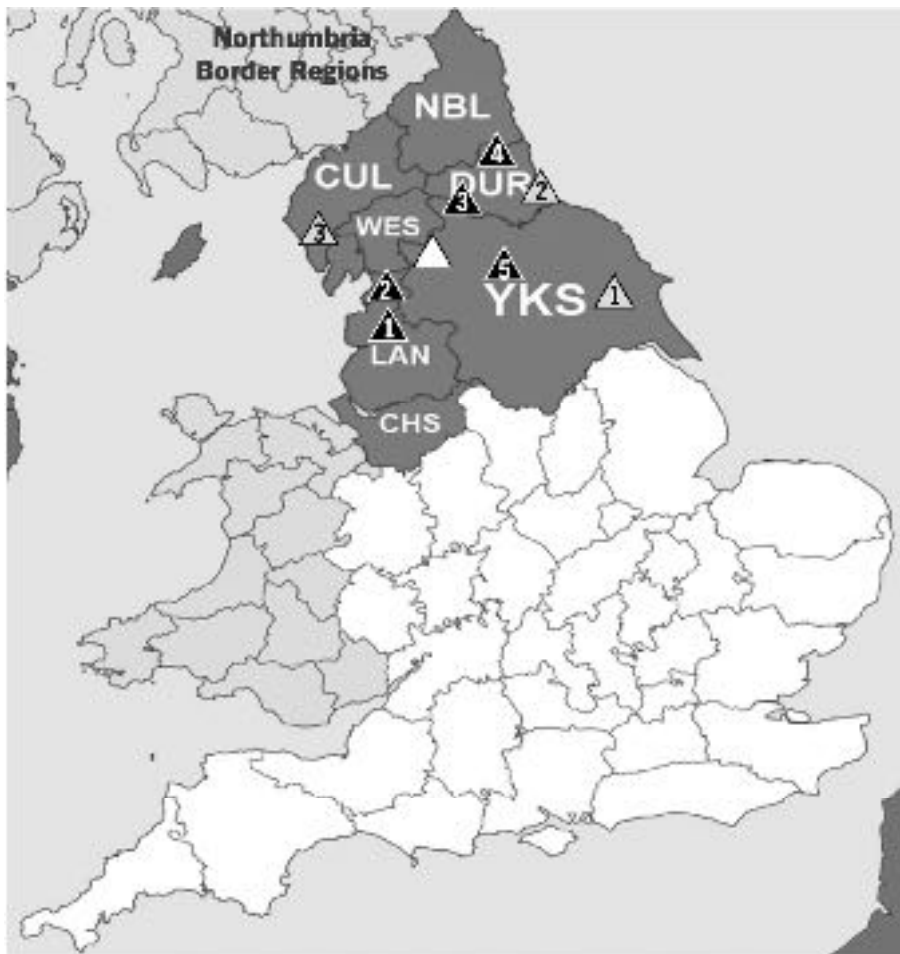
<sup>24</sup> (Burke, 1884).

<sup>25</sup> (Gill, 1980).

<sup>26</sup> (Hanks, 2003).

<sup>27</sup> (Berlin, 1974).

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON



1	Kendal Castle, Westmorland (Bans of Kendal)		Linton, Upper Liffordale, North Yorkshire
2	Lancaster Castle, Lancashire	1	Falsgrave Manor, Scarborough, North Yorkshire
3	Villages of Carbridge & Bywell, Northumberland	2	Little Usworth Hall, Washington, Tyne & Wear
4	Village of Cramlington, Northumberland	3	Isel Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria
5	Brough Hall, Catterick, North Yorkshire		

MAP OF NORTHUMBRIA – EARLIEST LAWSON LOCATIONS

## **APPENDIX I**

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[illegible]







C.L. 1891-96

1.—BROUGH HALL, NEAR CATTERICK: THE NORTH FRONT

C.L. 1896

## BROUGH HALL, YORKSHIRE—I

THE SEAT OF SIR RALPH LAWSON, BT. & By JOHN CORNFORTH

The late-16th-century house of the Lawsons was classified about 1730 and extended in the 1770s by Thomas Atkinson. It is one of the oldest Roman Catholic houses in the north of England still occupied by descendants of its original builders.

**B**ROUGHBRIDGE, Catterick Bridge and Scotch Corner are familiar names on the Great North Road as it streaks across the Yorkshire plain towards the Durham border, but the road has changed so much in recent years that the landmarks have altered, too. At Catterick it no longer goes through the village and past the racecourse to the old bridge over the Swale, but now plunges down into a cutting and then crosses the river a little farther upstream, towards

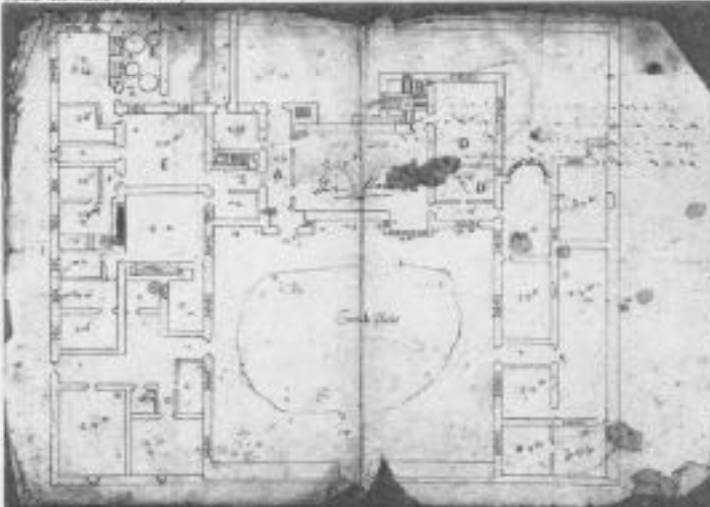
Richmond. Inevitably this new route seems to divide the history of Catterick and Brough, which lies about a mile to the south-west, and makes it more difficult for a stranger to grasp the Lawson family's ancient connection with the village.

For centuries they and their medieval and Tudor predecessors, the de Brughas or Broughs, maintained the bridge and were buried in the church that Katherine de Brugh and hers on built in 1412; and it was to the Lawsons,

probably to the 1st or 2nd baronets, that Catterick owes its racecourse. But the coming of the military camp and the new road has made Brough retreat into its park: even the old drives have dropped out of use, and fine Adamesque gate-piers now lead only into fields. The present way to the house is from the north, down a lane that brings one into the park close to the great Victorian chapel. In a sense, this is a very suitable approach because it is a reminder that Brough is one of the oldest and most loyal of northern Roman Catholic houses.

There is no loss of lodges or blaze of heraldry at the entrance to the park, and the drive winds towards the house in an exaggerated reversed S that gives delightful glimpses of it through the trees. One expects to find it austere and grey, but instead one's first impression is of its warmth and friendliness. Like most houses on a medieval site it sits down snugly in the landscape, hiding from the wind, and the trees of round-headed windows with their crisp white astragals seem to beckon one across the park; and, most important for a north-facing house, the stone is not chilly, but a lively pink, purple brown. It is only when one gets to the pretty classical bridge over the beck that the view becomes clear of big trees and the effective grouping and movement of the building becomes apparent (Fig. 1). The flanking wings are necessarily straightforward mid-to late-Georgian and pose no problems, but the upright central block does not fit into any preconceived picture of an 18th-century house, and immediately one starts to wonder about its true age and the course of its history.

However, before attempting to trace that, it is necessary to explain how the Lawsons came to Brough in the second half of the 16th century. Henry (Maize) Lawson, who inherited in 1811, traced his ancestors back to Leonard Lawson of Burwell, alias Bywell, 13 generations back from the Ralph Lawson who acquired Brough. This Leonard Lawson appears to be the same man as Lawrence of



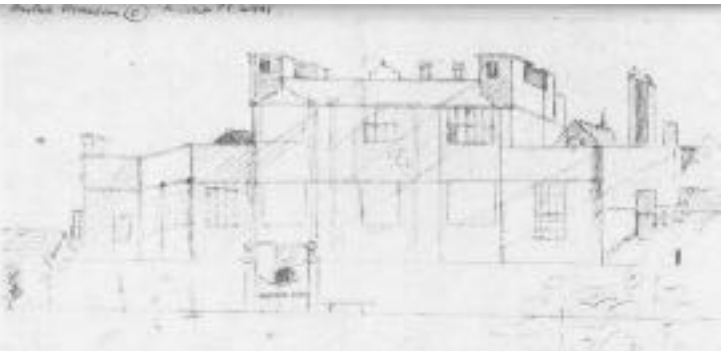
2.—A PLAN OF THE HOUSE, ABOUT 1630. The layout of the middle fits in with the arrangement of the rooms today. A. Service Passage. B. Oak Staircase. C. Stone Staircase. D. Drawing-Room. E. Kitchen Court.

Corbridge, whom H. H. E. Craster identifies as the first of the family: he appears in a subsidy roll of 1336, and was a burgess of Newcastle and a householder in Corbridge. Craster accepts that William Lawson, who married Agnes Crumlington about 1425, was a closely related descendant of his. Through this marriage Crumlington came to the Lawsons, and the senior branch continued to hold part of it until they died out in 1791.

One of William Lawson's younger great-grandsons, James, was a Newcastle merchant and mayor of the town in 1539 and 1540. He bought property at Byker, just to the east of Gateshead on the Tyne, and at West Wotten. Ralph Lawson was James's grandson, and acquired Brough through his marriage in 1565 to Elizabeth Brough, the heiress. The Broughs were a family as old as the Lawsons, and seem to have held the property at least since the reign of Edward II.

It is not clear when Elizabeth Brough's father died and Brough came to the young couple, but Ralph and Elizabeth Lawson were certainly the holders of the middle part of the present house. Ralph Lawson was only 35 in 1561-62 and at Brough in 1568, and so it is unlikely that they started to build until after that, probably in the 1570s or 80s. The reason for attributing the house to them is heraldic evidence on all three floors. Both the ceilings in the great hall and the present kitchen on the first floor bear their arms: two achievements each, one showing the arms of the Lawsons quartered with those of the Crumlingtons and the Selwyses, Ralph Lawson's mother's family, together with the Lawson crest; and the other showing the arms of the Lawsons impaled with those of the Broughs, the Lawson arms quartered as before, and the Brough arms quartered with a crest I have not identified. In subsidiary panels above the Lawson quarter, the Lawson rising sun, the Brough bear, and the Brough swan. Fragments of a frieze on the top floor also incorporate the complete Lawson arms, a rising sun supported by two faced arms on a wreath.

It is not possible to determine the full extent of the late-16th-century house or how much of the earlier building was incorporated in it. The earliest plan (Fig. 2) is one of about 1630 and is puzzling because of the unexpected spread of the building to the north and east: it is not clear whether it is a survey of what was already in existence or whether it is partly a proposal for its enlargement, but the layout of the middle block fits in with the arrangement we see today. It has a strongly



3.—BUCK'S DRAWING OF BROUGH, ABOUT 1720. This shows the Elizabethan house before it was classicalized



4.—BROUGH IN 1750. Showing the Elizabethan house classicalized and the wings before their rebuilding in the 1770s



5.—THE MIDDLE OF THE NORTH FRONT



5.—PART OF THE SOUTH ELEVATION. The Venetian window lights the oak staircase, and the chapel wing lies on the right.

traditional or even medieval look about it, with the hall as the pivot of the design. At the west, high table, end was a big projecting window, in the position of a hall oriel, and behind air parlours and the principal staircase. East of the hall was a screen passage, entered at a projection matching the big window in the hall, and further east there was a kitchen court.

The arrangement of the hall and screen passage (A on plan) still survives, although the screen has gone (and by one of those curious turns of history, the Lawsons now find it more convenient to use the original door into the old screen passage than the central door leading straight into the hall). In other ways, too, the Elizabethan plan is clearly recognisable: the Georgian oak staircase has replaced the south staircase (B) and there is still a stone stair in the same position as that shown to the east of the screen passage (C). The two parlours west of the hall are now the drawing-room (D), and the narrow slip of a room at the north end is part of the corridor leading to the 1770 staircase. There is a kitchen court approximately on the site of the one shown in the plan (E).



1.—A DETAIL OF THE ELIZABETHAN FRIEZE ON THE SECOND FLOOR. It incorporates the Lawson crest.

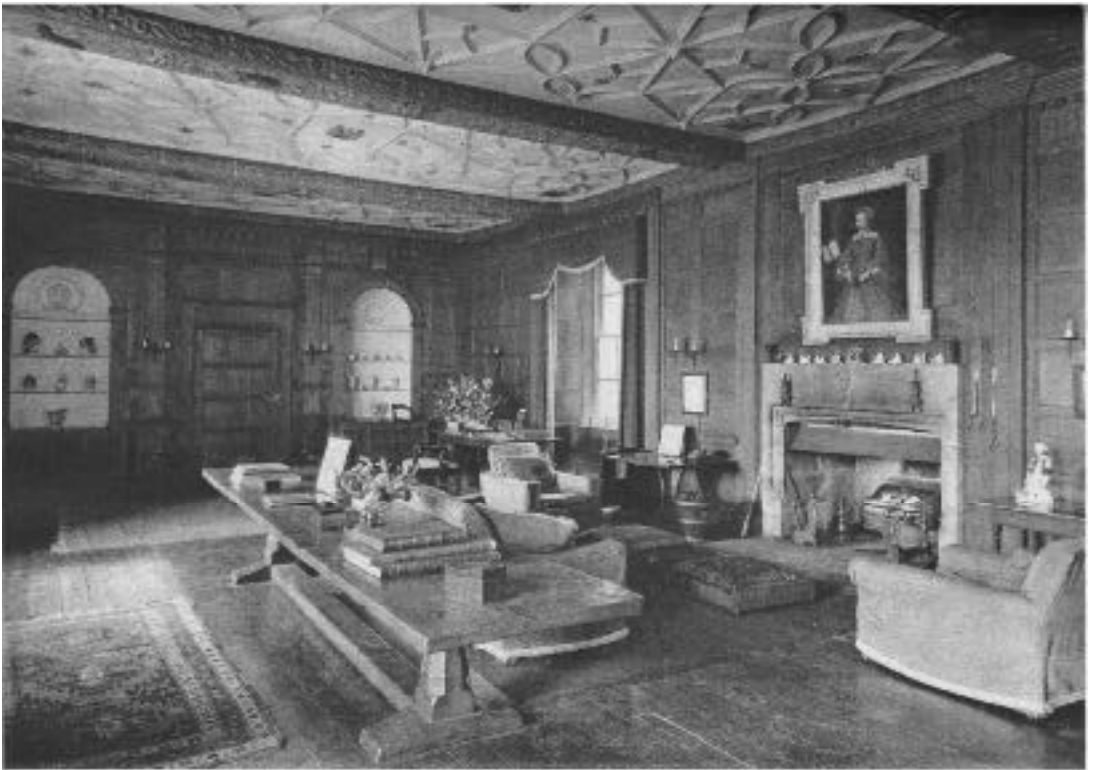
east back, is the Elizabethan house, where rubble walling and blocked windows appear through the rough casting put on in 1863. The low arched door to the left of the massive buttress leads into the screen passage. At right angles to the Elizabethan building was the chapel, basically of about 1550 but perhaps altered about 1770 by Thomas Atkinson. At the west end of the house the main feature is the shallow bow that houses Atkinson's elegant staircase.

As early as the second half of the 16th century restrictive legislation forced Catholics to go abroad for their education, and Ralph Lawson appears to have been among the first students at Douai when it was founded in 1568. There is a record of this at Brough in the form of a book of remembrance with the arms of his contemporaries there, together with a portrait of himself inscribed: "For Ralphe Lawson 1600 an English Young Gentleman & bright with ye Riches of Virtue & ye Noblesse of his Pedegree. These were taken care to be printed by Felix Lewis at Douay in the Year from Christs Nativity 1598 & of his Age ye 34th." He was knighted in 1608 and died in 1623.

When his son, Roger, married Dorothy Constable, a daughter of Sir Henry Constable of Burton Constable, in 1597, Ralph Lawson settled Brough on them, and for the first years of their marriage they lived there.

although Roger spent part of the year in London at the Inner Temple. Although Catholics were supposed to be barred from practising law, it seems the penal statutes were not watertight and Roger Lawson may have been able to undertake certain legal work without conforming. Certainly he died a Catholic in 1612 or '13. Several years before this Brough had already become too small for all his children—suggesting it was smaller than the house on the 1630 plan—and in 1606 he and Dame Dorothy moved to Hexham in Northumberland, where they lived until after his death. In 1614 his widow moved to St. Anthony, at Byker on the Tyne to the east of Gateshead, because her father-in-law wished to sell Hexham. According to her chaplain and biographer (whose MSS is still at Brough) it was "a place more advantageous for her designe . . . a seat incomparably more pleasant, but no house unless she would erect one at her own charge. Hope and confidence in God gave courage to commence a new building, and charity facilitated the work; first, because the place was holy, dedicated in Catholic times to St. Anthony, his picture being decently

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON



8.—THE HALL. The ceiling bears the arms of Ralph Lawson and Elizabeth Brough, the builders of the house

placed in a tree near the River Tyne, for the comfort of seamen; secondly, for that it was more private than Heton, and free to frequent her chapel." On the table end of the house she set up the word JESUS "large in proportion and accurate for art, that it might serve the nursery instead of St. Anthony's picture," and each room was "dominated and publicly known by the name of some particular saint." During her years in Northumberland she brought about many conversions and was even protected, on occasion by a well-disposed mayor of Newcastle. When she died in 1688 she was given a public funeral and buried in All Saints, Newcastle, according to the full Catholic rite.

Her eldest son had died in 1612, and Henry her second son in 1635, but the latter left a 12-year-old son, also Henry, to whom Henry the younger married Catherine Fenwick and had a daughter, but no son, and so after he was killed at Melton Mowbray fighting for the King, Brough passed to his younger brother, John. The years that followed were particularly difficult for the family because of John Lawson's youth, the claims to the property advanced by Catherine Lawson on behalf of her daughter, and sequestration. Little could be proved by the Parliamentary committee against John himself.



9.—THE DRAWING-ROOM. It is formed from two rooms paralleled in the late 17th or early 18th century



10.—PART OF THE STAIRCASE. "A typical piece of York work, with excellent joinery, crisp carving and good plaster-work"

who lived quietly at Brough after serving for a few months in the Royalist army before he was of age, but even so his losses were heavy. His mother's house at St. Anthony's had been tried by the Royalists in 1644 out of fear that the Scots might occupy it; in 1652 it was sold for the use of the navy and never recovered by the Lawsons. Crumlington was leased to George Moore in 1652, but John Lawson did manage to recover part of the purchase money in 1653. According to a family tradition other Northumberland property and Brough itself were recovered through the influence of the Cromwell ladies, with whom the Lawsons were friendly.

After the Restoration, John Lawson's wife, Lady Katherine Howard, a daughter of the Earl of Carlisle to whom the Lawson lands had been charged for safety, petitioned Charles II for assistance to recover lost lands, claiming "it has induced us to a new condition having a great change of children (they had 12 in all), yet we endure it cheerfully nor can I still repair at my suffering it being so noble an account and so just a cause." King Charles could not and would not answer such pleas, but he did recognise the Lawsons' sacrifices by conferring a baronetcy in 1695.

Barred from public life, several of Sir John's sons went abroad, at least for a time. William became a Benedictine monk, and Thomas a Jesuit priest; Charles was a captain at the Duke of Monmouth's regiment and was

killed later in Germany; and all five daughters became nuns at Ghent. William and Thomas both served as chaplains at Brough, William apparently succeeding his uncle, Francis, who was also a Benedictine and Provincial of York from 1677 to 1686. Thomas was minister at the English College in Rome in 1692-93 and came back to Brough in 1700; a few years later he went over to the Stuart court at St. Germain and for a time was confessor to the Old Pretender.

There is no record of any alterations at Brough in the late 17th or early 18th century, but the two parlours to the west of the hall that now form the drawing-room (Fig. 9) may have been panelled in the 1st or 2nd baronet's time. The clausetings of the house, as I have already suggested, was probably carried out by Sir John, the third baronet. Although there are no accounts to support this, and no evidence as to who directed the work, it is conceivable that William Wakefield may have been responsible for the design, but discussion of this will have to be held over until next week when the chapel will be illustrated.

Apart from relocating the Elisabethan house, Sir John made the chapel in the south wing, inserted the oak staircase, and altered both the hall (Fig. 8) and the great chamber over it. He did not disturb the hall ceiling, but I think he rearranged the panelling to make it appear more classical, inserted the niches at either end and was probably responsible for

pointing the panelling a light colour, a stain in which it remained until Sir Ralph and Lady Lawson stripped it in the 1890s.

The oak staircase (Fig. 10) is a typical piece of York work of the second quarter of the 18th century, with excellent joinery, crisp carving and good plaster-work. The balusters are of a favourite pattern in the region and are comparable with those in certain houses in York and at Beandaby Hall (to be described in *Conveyance* next year) and apparently at Gilling Castle, too. The ceiling, as Dr. Eric Gee has pointed out to me, has similarities to the one formerly in the Gallery at Gilling (the room is now in the Bowers Museum but the ceiling was not saved when the room was dismantled in 1900) and it also resembles parts of the ceiling in the Gallery at Bedale Hall.

At the head of the stairs lies the old great chamber, which was the library until 1899 and is now the dining-room. From its south windows there are attractive views across the park to the Victorian chapel. But it is the grand pair of portraits by Nicholas Blaeu that face each other down the length of the room that really hold the eye.

The only 16th-century decoration on this floor is the ceiling of the adjoining room to the east, which is now the kitchen. This decoration is of a similar type to that in the hall and, as mentioned earlier, bears the Lawson and Brough arms. What is more remarkable is to find a fragment of a late-16th-century frieze (Fig. 7) incorporating the Lawson crest on the top floor.

One of the rooms over the great chamber was used as a chapel until the mid 18th century, but no special decoration survives there, and the only clue to its old use is the hook for the sanctuary lamp. Rather oddly there is an old church plate in the house, and the most telling signs of pre-Georgian catholicism are the priests' ante benches: a cupboard on the first floor (above letter X on the 1635 plan) and a beautiful pre-Restoration confessional chancel. Nothing is known of the history of the chancel, but one would like to think it had belonged to the Temple before the Lawsons and that it stands for the seven or eight centuries during which Mass has been celebrated in the house.

(To be continued.)

Illustration 10: British Museum.



11.—DETAIL, SHOWING THE DESIGN OF THE BALUSTERS AT THE FOOT OF THE OAK STAIRCASE



# BROUGH HALL, YORKSHIRE—II

THE SEAT OF SIR RALPH LAWSON, Bt. — By JOHN CORNFORTH

About 1730 the Elizabethan house was classicalised, possibly by William Wakefield, and a chapel was fitted up in the south wing. Thomas Atkisson rebuilt the east and west wings in the 1770s. In the 1840s William Lawson, assisted by Ignatius Russell, built an ambitious chapel in the park.



*Ant. Except May 1840.*

1.—THE NORTH FRONT FROM THE NORTH-WEST

IN the 18th century, after 100 years of intermittent persecution and uncertainty, life at Brough evidently became more settled, but the atmosphere of the house at that time is one very difficult to sense today. On the one hand, the Lawsons must have felt the effects of official restrictions and discrimination in the form of ineligibility for office and double land tax payments, and yet

on the other hand it is equally clear that they were in much easier circumstances than they had been in the previous century. Again, according to the law their priests could still be the victims of an informer, but in practice they were left undisturbed, provided they did not draw undue attention to themselves.

Apparently their only chaplain to get into trouble was Father Knatchbull, who in the

mid 1780s was charged with making a considerable number of conversions and had a brush with the Vicar of Catberick over the baptism of a child. The end of the incident was typically Georgian; Sir Henry Lawson, the 4th baronet, went to see Archbishop Desmond at York, who merely advised him to change his chaplain, which he proceeded to do.

Another of the Brough chaplains always wore coloured clothes and never appeared when strangers dined at the house. Perhaps this seems over-cautious, particularly when it must have been widely known that Sir John Lawson, the 5th baronet, added a large chapel on to the house. Previously a room at the top of the house had been used for Mass, but Sir John built the new one a few years after he inherited in 1725. Its exact date is not known, but it had probably been in existence for more than 20 years when the register was started in 1758.

Sir John not only felt secure to furnish and decorate a permanent chapel, but evidently he was not so worried by possible enquiries from tax assessors as to be put off an extensive remodelling of the house. Again no precise date is known, but evidently it was done at the same time as the chapel, and various clues both in the design of the work and its decorative detail permit one to make a tentative attribution to the gentleman architect William Wakefield and to William Pitt, the York builder who was apparently his partner.

Wakefield's style was compounded of Vanbrughian and Palladian elements and he seems to have had a particular fondness for round-headed windows of the kind found at Brough and Gresham inspired by those at Castle Howard. The relaxing of the old house at Brough has a marked individuality that suggests the liberating influence of Vanbrugh, and yet it has a lightness that is not present in either of Wakefield's best-known works, Drumcliffe Park or the engraved design in *Domus Britannica* for Rokeby. Perhaps the difference in weight could be explained by



2.—THE CHAPEL OF ST. PAULINUS IN THE PARK. It was copied from the Archbishop's Chapel at York, and was opened in 1837

the much earlier date of De Witt's, which is supposed to have been begun in 1713, when Vanbrugh's manner style was high fashion.

We still do not know much about Wakefield, but he had quite a reputation in his lifetime, and Mr. Howard Colvin in his *Dictionary of English Architects* quotes a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson to Lord Carlisle sent in December, 1790, which refers to "the many alterations he has made in the old houses of his friends (where) we shall always find taste consistency with good economy in respectable accommodations." In considering Wakefield our thought comes to mind is whether he would have been prepared to work for a Catholic family like the Lawsons. This would seem to have been a problem; among his identified patrons are Lords Langdale and Baines, who were both Catholics. Wakefield died about 1728 or 1730, but it is quite possible that he provided Sir John with a design for Brough a year or so before this, and that the work was not actually completed until the early 1730s.

The excellent stonework and carving in the chapel and on the oak staircase (illustrated last week) is typical of the York school about 1730, but the plasterwork is difficult to attribute with any degree of certainty. The trouble is that only a little is known about a great number of men working in the region, and although comparisons are possible, nothing very definite emerges. All the chief Italian masters were in Yorkshire in the second quarter of the century: Ariani putting in his work at Castle Howard in 1728 and possibly working at Hothall Hall, about ten miles north of Brough; Vasselli at Aske Hall, about five miles north west of Brough, in 1730; and a few years later at Castle Howard; Solena at Hareham in 1727 and 1728; and Corbucci at Studley Royal in 1745, at Gilling in 1747 on the hall and at Newbarns Priory about 1750. The Brough plasterers could well be by one of these Italians, and Dr. Gee has pointed out similarities between the staircase ceiling and the reliefs in the chapel (Fig. 4) and parts of the gallery formerly at Gilling. Comparisons can also be made with details at Lumley and Beke.



3.—THE CHAPEL IN THE SOUTH WING, ABOUT 1730. The Ionic capitals suggest an alteration in the 1770s made to accommodate the painting.

Two drawings connected with the chapel survive at Brough, one a variant design for the ceiling, and the other for the chapel itself. Even only a detail of the latter is reproduced (Fig. 5); it shows the triumphal arch, and contains a suggestion that the medallion was altered about 1770 or made room for the altarpiece. The Ionic capitals have a thin Adamantine look about them which suggests an alteration by Thomas Adisson.

The altarpiece (Fig. 2) has been attributed by Mr. Michael Jaffé to Janus Van Oost, a Flemish artist working in the second half of the 17th century. If I am correct in thinking the medallion was altered to take it, the picture may have been acquired by the Schommet, also called John, of Plasfleece, where he had a number of connections. He had been educated at Douai, and he had two sons and a sister who were sons in Brough. He was certainly in Brussels on one occasion, because we know he was very ill there. Sir John may also have bought in Plasfleece the medallion.

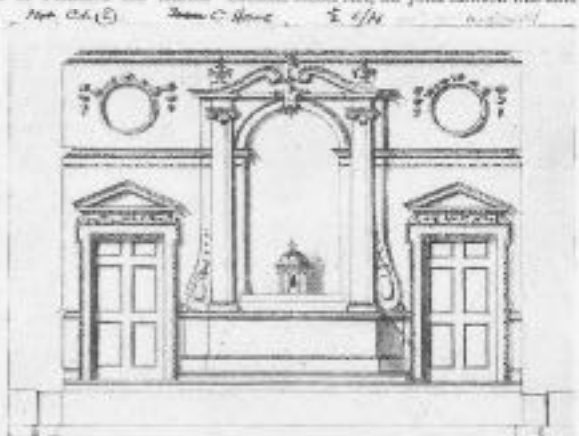
Madness and Clasp (Fig. 8) traditionally attributed to Rubens, but identified last year by Mr. Jaffé as a lost work by Lucas Faydherbe, the leading Flemish Baroque sculptor after the death of Duquesnoy and a former pupil of Rubens. The marvellously tender group is clearly the lost marble from which the medallion in the British Museum (see *Burlington Magazine*, June 1962) was made about 1675.

The chapel also contains two much earlier pieces of sculpture, both Nottingham alabaster reliefs, one of *The Madonna and Child* from the old chapel on Gutterick Bridge and one of the *Descent from the Cross* (Fig. 9), a property that belonged to the Maires of Laxington, related by marriage to the Lawsons.

Although the chapel was probably opened in the 1730s and a register was kept from 1750, it was not legally recognised until 1791, when under the terms of the second Catholic Relief Act, Sir John Lawson was able



4.—THIS HEAD OF ST. PETER. A relief to the left of the medallion. (Fig. 5).—A DETAIL OF A DESIGN FOR THE CHAPEL. This is thought to show the original treatment of the medallion.







6 and 7.—THE DEPOSITION, AN ALABASTER PANEL IN THE CHAPEL, AND (right) THE ALTARPIECE, ATTRIBUTED TO JAKOB VAN GOST

to obtain a licence for it. According to the Act a bell or steeple was still forbidden and not more than five succedens were allowed to attend Mass, but even so the congregation seems to have been about 30 strong.

Sir John did not actually succeed to the baronetcy until 1781, when his father, Sir Henry, died, but Henry seems to have been made over to him some years before this, and it was he who gave it its present form, part of the money being provided by Sir Henry's mother-in-law, Mrs. Mordaunt of Lartington. According to an account book, £4,376 18s. 9d. was spent between February 2, 1774 and May 8, 1775 on new buildings, which not only included the east and west wings, but also considerable remodeling of the kitchen ranges. The architect, or Angus in his *Diary of Scots* (1787) tells us, was "Mr. Atkinson of York," that is to say Thomas Atkinson, who died in 1798. He was Archbishop Drummond's architect at Bishopscrope but also has a considerable practice among the Catholic gentry of Yorkshire. This has always seemed puzzling, and I am grateful to Father Hugh Aveling OSE for telling me that he was a Catholic. He must have had a close connection with the Lawsons because Dr. Gee has discovered that both John Lawson and his wife Elizabeth were sponsors at the baptism of his daughter, Mary, in 1778, and Elizabeth Lawson was a sponsor for his daughter, Isabella, in 1780.

Atkinson's west wing contained a drawing-room 38 ft. by 22 ft. and a dining-room 38 ft. by 25 ft. as well as the staircase and gallery, but, sadly, both rooms with their pretty Adamesque decoration were virtually destroyed when the RAF occupied the house during the war. The dividing walls have gone and the wing is now one vast hall-avenue. The staircase and gallery, fortunately, were not damaged. The north wall of the latter is covered as a blind arcade, with three niches, separated by bookcases inset in the wall. The



8.—MADONNA AND CHILD: A MARBLE STATUE BY LUCAS FAYDEHERRE (1612-97)

central niche is a statue apex, with a clock incorporated as part of the decoration. Its mechanism was worked from the other side, but was irregularly broken in the war. Above the bookcases are a series of grotto-like niches, survivors of the drawing-room decoration. The staircase (Fig. 10) faces the central rooms and climbs in a long, slow curve of great elegance towards an upper gallery and series of bedrooms.

A few years after completing the wings, John Lawson built the stables and also the delicate classical bridge over the beck in the park (Fig. 2) to the designs of a local architect, John Pons of Richmond, who also worked at Swinton. Various proposals, presumably all by Pons, survive for the stables, and so does his agreement whereby he undertook to complete them for £600 before Martinmas, 1782. The stable court still exists and its main, north, range consists of a seven-bay building in the manner of John Carr, with a central arch and three round-headed windows either side set in blind arcades and with small circular windows above. According to some notes made in 1878, there was once a small village by the beck and this was swept away as part of the landscaping of the park. Allen's lake was formed to the east of the house, but this disappeared in the 1930s, and its two-storey fishing pavilion and boat-house is now in ruins.

Sir John, as he became in 1781, had no son to succeed him, and on his death in 1811, his bachelor brother, Henry, became the 6th and last baronet of the first creation. He had taken the name of Mordaunt in order to marry Lartington from his mother's family, but when he came into through he resumed the name of Lawson. He was a talented amateur artist and a man of scholarly tastes, with a particular passion for genealogy. His great work was to compile a MS for *The Genealogies of all the Catholic Families of England* which was published in 1887-88. When he inherited Brough



9.—THE BOW OF ATKINSON'S STAIRCASE AT THE WEST END OF THE HOUSE

the property seems to have been quite heavily encumbered, and he lived quietly, gradually paying off the debts.

The baronetcy lapsed on his death in 1834, and through went to his great nephew, William Wright, the son of Julia Wright of Kelvedon Hall, Essex, and the 8th baronet's younger daughter. William Wright assumed the name and arms of Lawson, and in 1841 the baronetcy was re-created for him.

William Lawson was a man of energy, and while the weeks of coming into the place were in touch with Ignatius Bonomi, the eldest son of Joseph Bonomi, about the design of a new chapel dedicated to St. Paulinus which he proposed to build in the park about a quarter of a mile from the north of the house. Although there is no evidence to support the idea, it was surely intended in some extent as a thank offering for the Catholic Relief Act of 1829, which removed the final restrictions that had hitherto prevented Catholics from voting, sitting in Parliament and holding the great offices of state.

Dr. Nicholas Pevsner has not only described it as "the grandest Catholic church in the county," but as "a job of feverish" and might add that it is a rather military building: its great height and unbroken silhouette has made it still a forebinger in the park after 130 years, and when one looks across to it from the Venetian window of the dining-room one is made strongly aware, not only of a battle of the skyline, but a battle of faith as well (Fig. 2).

Fortunately it is the one chapter in Brough's building history on which there is more than fragmentary evidence. Many of William Lawson's diaries survive, and from these one can watch the chapel going up, almost day by day and stone by stone. Recently it was spotted that the chapel was a copy of the Archbishop's Chapel at York, and William Lawson's diaries add further details. On February 18, 1834, the latter went over to Brough to meet Bonomi and discuss the site of the chapel and the stone to be used; eight days later, drawings of the chapel at York done by a Mr. Brown arrived, and on April 8 William Lawson went over to York to see the original. On July 12 the first sod was cut, and nine days later a man named Flint started as a clerk of works at 14 gr. a week. The first stone was laid on September 2.

I could not find the 1835 diary, but that

the details of the building. It was worked about the dates of the building at York and early alterations to it. He was also looking for a design for the altar, but on January 21 he saw the tomb of Walter Gray in the Minster and decided to use that—the present altar and reredos is a later alteration (Fig. 12). The same tomb also provided him with a design for the "railing" that separates the family pew or tribune from the body of the chapel (Fig. 12). The next step was to arrange for stained glass for the east window, the design of which was taken from the Five Shears at York.

By October, 1838, the roof was going on, and on the 4th of the month a dinner was given to the 86 men who were employed on the chapel. They had baked beef, pease-pudding, and plum pudding, with three pints of ale each, the whole meal costing 1s. 9d. a head. Afterwards a cricket match was arranged between the masons and the carpenters, and the masons won.

By December both gables were finished and on January 31, 1839, the roof was completed. The chapel was opened on May



10.—ATKINSON'S STAIRCASE. "A long slow curve of great elegance"



11.—THE NORTH TRIBUNE. The tomb of Walter Gray in York Minster provided a design for the railing that separates the Lawson pew from the body of the chapel

15, 1837, with a service lasting 3½ hours, during which William Lawson was the first to be confirmed. It was a doubly remarkable day for him, because it was the first time that he had had an opportunity to receive the sacrament.

Sir William, as he became, died in 1835, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John. The latter died in 1916 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Henry, the father of the present baronet.

During the war Sir Henry and Lady Lawson lived in a small house close to the chapel, and they continued to live there after Brough was handed back to them in 1916. Brough had been inconvenient before the war, and it had deteriorated badly after six years of occupation: the east wing was almost derelict and part of the south front had been badly shaken by an explosion two miles away. And to add to their problems Brough was not the only large house whose future they had to consider. In 1888 Lady Lawson, who was the daughter of Philip Howard, had inherited Corby Castle, Cumberland (Cumbria), January 7 and 14, 1854) and, although it was not in such a bad state as Brough, it too needed to be adapted and modernised. In the circumstances it is not surprising that Brough was more or less abandoned. No one could be found for it, and it could easily have joined the long list of country houses casualties of the post-war years.

When Sir Ralph inherited in 1947, he and Lady Lawson made the bold decision to move back to Brough. It was unthinkable to attempt to live in the whole house at that time, but by installing a heating system and moving the kitchen up to the first floor next to the old library, which became the dining room, it became a practical proposition to use the compact Elizabethan building and the rooms immediately adjoining it. The chapel, too, was reopened, but Mass is now only celebrated in it on special occasions, the tradition of daily Mass having come to an end when the house was requisitioned. The sea region of the house was tackled after the war was the east wing with the old kitchen and old servants' hall. In order to preserve the north facade intact and justify the expense involved in repairing the whole range, the old kitchen has recently been converted into a

When one goes to Brough today it is hard to imagine what it looked like in the late 1940s and what faced Sir Ralph and Lady Lawson 20 years ago. So much has been done without the house losing its strong appeal or becoming self-conscious about its history. One is aware that Lawsons have lived here for centuries and of difficult times, but as names, dates and periods never mattered much in the past, its history is one that is felt rather than known. Except to Sir Henry Mairs Lawson, the genealogist, racing, shooting, fishing and the chapel always seem to have counted for more, and the life that goes with a tribe of dogs of all shapes and sizes continues.

They stream through the house after their master and mistress and, what not on the move, always seem to be in unlikely corners: all nine are rarely together and it is as hopeless for someone who does not know them well to try and grasp their names and relationships as it is to be sure when each part of the house was built.

I am most grateful to Father Hugh Aveling OSB for his helpful comments on these articles.



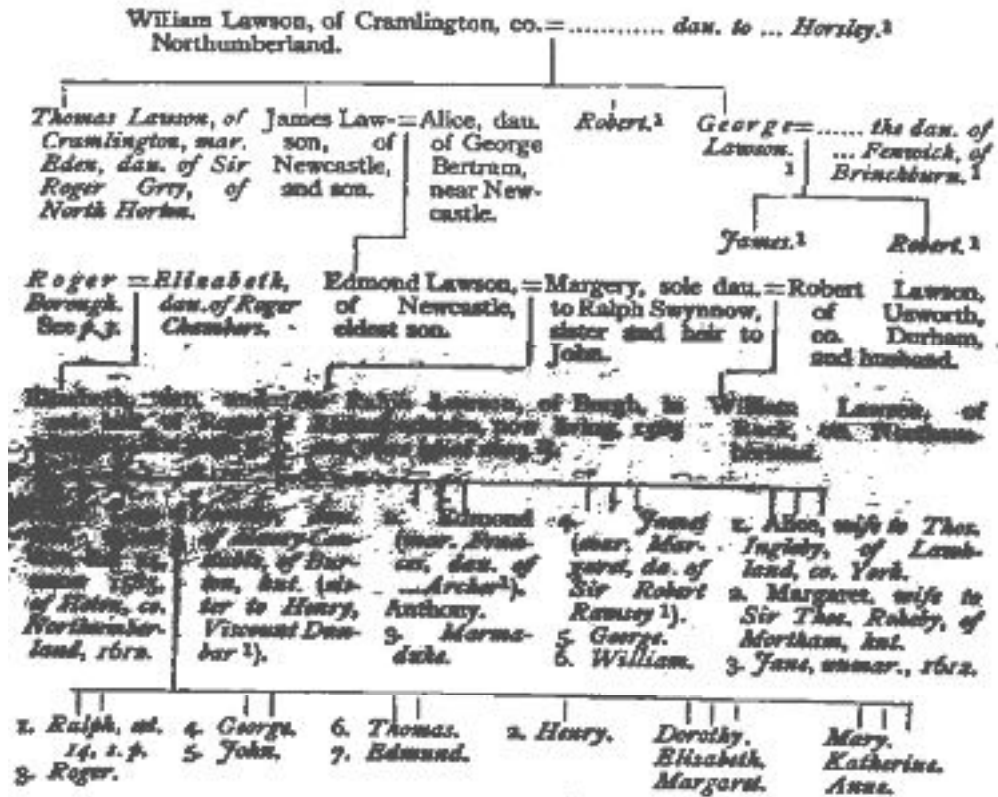
12.—THE INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL. It occupies the upper floor of the building.

# LAWSON, OF BROUGH.

**ARMS:**—Quarterly. 1 and 4. Argent, a chevron between three martlets sable, LAWSON. 2. Barry of 6 argent and azure, in chief 3 annulets sable, CRAMLINGTON. 3. Argent, 3 bears passant sable, SWYNROW. On an inescutcheon, quarterly:—1 and 4. Argent, on a saltire sable 4 swans of the field, BURGH. 2 and 3. Argent, a fesse engrailed between 6 fleurs-de-lis or., RICHMOND.

**CREST:**—On a torse, argent and sable, two arms couped at the elbow proper, vested, holding a ring or, set with a diamond argent, within the ring a sun of the 3rd.

**Another Shield:**—Quarterly. 1st and 6th, LAWSON; 2nd, CRAMLINGTON; 3rd, SWYNROW; 4th, BURGH; 5th, RICHMOND.



RAPHE LAWSON.

MARMADUKE LAWSON,  
for my father, SIR RALPHE LAWSON.

12. 107, fo. 128. 1487, fo. 788. 1594, fo. 172. 1415, fo. 666. 1490, fo. 1298.  
1577, fo. 111. 6070, fo. 778.

See English's Visitations, p. 50, and the Pedigree at large in my Yorkshire Collection.

7 MSS. 499.

<sup>301</sup> (Glover, 1875, p. 254).

## BOROUGH, OF BOROUGH.

Anne 2-nd and 4th, arguent, on a saltire sable, 3 annulets of the field; and and get [supposed] a fess engrailed between 6 fesse-de-lis (sable).

<sup>1</sup> Elias de Richmond =

Richard Richmond = Elizabeth, dau. and sole heir to Wm. Burgh.

John, called himself Burgh, s<sup>o</sup> 1412 = *Katherine*, s<sup>o</sup> dau. of Roger Anke.

William Burgh, s<sup>o</sup> 1442 = Mawde, dau. of.....Lasselle, of Sowerby.

Christopher = Anne, dau. of William Burgh, of = Ellen, dau. of Sir John Sister to Wm. Burgh, mar.  
Burgh ... Chibroe. Burgh, ca. 1422 Pickering, kni. to John Saltmarsh, of Saltmarsh.

.....dau. of  
Burgh, wid. of.....  
Beasley, married  
Symon Andrews,  
and son to Henry,  
of Newland.

Beatrice,  
Jane.  
Agnes.

Ellen, mar.  
to James  
Marshall.  
Alice, prioress  
of Ellerton.

William = Elizabeth,  
Burgh. dau. of  
Christopher  
Conyers, of  
Hornby.

Kelberin, Richard, mar. Ellen,  
mar. to dau. to y<sup>e</sup> lord  
Allen Ful- Henry Spencer.  
thorpe. Thomas  
Sir John Burgh,  
knt. of Rhodes.

George = ..... dau. of Sir  
Burgh. Wm. Piron, of  
Calais. *Ermine*  
on a chevron  
as. 3 leopard's  
heads or.

Lucy, mar. to John Casterick.  
Anne, mar. to John Walden.

William Burgh = Cecily, dau. of Thos.  
son and heir. Metcalfe, of Nappa.  
and son.

Christopher = Agnes, dau. and heir Anthony Burgh, s. 1422.  
Burgh, of John Marton, merchant of y<sup>e</sup>  
of Marion. staple =

Anne, co-heir, mar.  
to Henry Evon.

Elizabeth, co-heir, mar. to  
Sir Thos. Tempest, of  
Holmeside.

Giles = Elizabeth, dau. of John  
of Burgh. Metcalfe, of Stubbs.  
and son.

Elmer, mar. to Thos. Layton, of  
Dalemaine, co. Cumberland.  
Elizabeth, mar. to [Sir]  
Ralph Lawson.

Roger = Elizabeth, one of the six daus.,  
and co-heirs of Roger Cham-  
ber, of Burton-upon-Trent.

1801, p. 51. 1487, p. 51. 1394, p. 21. 1415, fo. 38. 1422, fo. 16. 1499, fo. 304. 1571, fo. 1836. 1670 fo. 78.  
Tonge's Visitation, Surtees Society Edition, p. 44.

<sup>1</sup> Ellis, 1415, 670. 2 MSS., 1415, 1371, 670. 2 MSS., 1415, 670.  
<sup>2</sup> Chas 670, and Tonge also states this daughter as Claire, and in a note it is further stated that she married Sir Thomas Lawson, of Dale, whose nephew  
Sir Ralph, married Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Roger Burgh, but see above.

<sup>302</sup> (Glover, 1875, p. 3).

## Lawson.

John Lawson of Washington in 1587, eldest daughter of Sir William Hylton, the Bishopryke of Durham. Baron of Hylton, and of Mary Stapleton.

William Lawson = Isabel daughter of John Lytle of Lytle Owerth in the Bishopryk. Elizabeth wyf to Thomas Bakstun of Fernton Hall. A daughter wyf to George Emery of the 1st Yale in Warton. A daughter wyf to . . . Emery, of the West Yale.

Thomas Lawson = Elizabeth daughter of Lytell Owerth son & heir of William. Elizabeth daughter to Constantine Darrell of Wythayre. Alexander 4 son died sine prole. John 5 son. William Lawson 7 son. Ann wyf to Richard Barcock, of Backley.

George Lawson = Isabel daughter of Lytell Owerth son & heir to Thomas Lawson. Isabel daughter & on of the 8 heirs of Sir Raynold Carnaby. Wythard Lawson 2 son to Thomas. Wythard. Katheren. Barbara wyf to Thomas Whytchude, of Blacke Warmeworth. Cyldford Lawson 2 son to Thomas. Urania. Margarete.

Thomas Lawson son & heir to George.

\* Probably these are the parents of William Thompson of Hazeleton and Christopher Thompson of Hull, both names of Scarborough (Visitation 1683, pp. 223, 143, 219). Stephen, at 18, 1594, and Richard his brother (Visitation 1587, p. 173), must have died without issue, as Ann, daughter and heir of Roger Thompson, deceased, has brother of Richard Thompson, Esq., of Langton, and new wife of Joan Remington, was found heir to her uncle Richard Thompson by Inquisition of 4 Oct. 1600.

William Lawson = Katheren daughter of Rowland Bednell. Robert Lawson = Margery daughter & heir of Raif Saynaco of Rock in Northumberland and late wyf to Edmund Lawson of Newcastle. Raif Lawson. Dyvers others\*. Charles Lawson sine prole. William. Raynold Lawson. Lyonell Lawson.

G. George Lawson of London = Katheren daughter of Robert Smart Sword Bearer of London.

Thomas Lawson.

<sup>303</sup> (Flower, 1881, pp. 184-185).



# Borough.

ANON.—1 col 4. *A. ne a sabbie Sable sus armes of the first.* 2 col 3. *Arpent, a fers engrelel between six plain of la Sable.* [RECHMOND.]

\* Les armoys de Ely de Rychemond Perle a mee  
Rene engrele entre 6 bouddreces Dymant.

Bliss de Rychemond.

Richard de Rychemond nupt—Elizabetham filiam et heredem Willielm Borough.

Johnnes son nupt Borough\* qui nupt—Katerina filiam Rogeri Aske.

Willielmus Borough nupt—Matildam filiam . . . Lasells de Sourby.

Christopherus Borough—Annam filiam . . . Clyden. William Borough—Elean daughter of Sir John Pykerynge.

Beatrix. Agnes. Richard married Elean daughter of the Lord Henry Spenser. James married daughter of Prior of Croyce. Thomas Borough.

William Borough—Elizabeth daughter to Cryslofer Curriers of Humby. Elean wyfe to James Marshall. Katerin wyfe to Allen Fethorpe. Sir John Borough Knight of St. Jorge in Jerusalem.

William Borough—Cressely daughter to Thomas Metcalf of Nappa. Margaret. Jacin nupt Johanni Ketareke.

Anne Borough daughter—Henry Elean daughter & co-heiress of William. Elizabeth Borough—Sir Thomas Tempest Knight of Home-ock.

\* A later hand says John Borough died 1412, William d. Nov. 1429, and Matilda Lasells 1452. (She was daughter of Sir William Lasells of Sourbyes.) His son William, who is the first in D 2, in 1482, and his wife Elean in 1490. His son William in 1492.

† A later hand says George married a daughter of Sir William Dutton of Collis and had some John, his second son, and Anthony, a Merchant of the Ship at Collis (Henry VII), who had issue Roger Borough, who by Elizabeth daughter of Roger Gomer of Staffordshire, had issue Elizabeth Borough, wife to Ralph [RECHMOND].

‡ This William is the only issue given in D 2.

§ D 2 omits the wife of the last William, and makes his two daughters and heirs general, Anne and Elizabeth, his sisters. This would go far to prove that D 2 is a copy of an older book.

<sup>304</sup> (Flower, 1881, p. 26).

## A HISTORY OF YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING 303

**BROUGH** (Burgh, till xvii cent.) was held by Tor before the Conquest and by Enian of Conest Alan in 1086.<sup>32</sup> Enian's successors, the lords of Conestable Burton (q.v.), had a manse lordship here.<sup>33</sup>

Among the tithes in 1286, when Brough was held in "diven fme," was evidently William de Burgh, who was party to an agreement concerning 7 tithings here in 1296 and was the principal tenant in 1301.<sup>34</sup> He or his son William seized the manor in 1343 on himself in tail-male, with remainder to his daughter Elizabeth<sup>35</sup> wife of Richard de Richmond, whose heirs took the name of Burgh.<sup>36</sup> They were succeeded by a son John who died in 1411.<sup>37</sup> His son William rebuilt Catterick Church.<sup>38</sup> He died in 1442 and his son Christopher succeeded him. On his death without male issue the manor passed to the heirs of his younger brother William. William had two sons, William and George.<sup>39</sup> The former left at his death sons William and Christopher. Their line, however, ended in heiresses and the manor passed to the heirs of George. Roger Burgh, his grandson, died seized in 1574;<sup>40</sup> he seems to have broken the entail, for the manor was inherited by his daughter and heir Elizabeth wife of Sir Ralph Lawson. Ralph died in 1623, and was succeeded by his grandson Henry.<sup>41</sup> He died in 1636, leaving a son and heir Roger.<sup>42</sup>



BURGH. *Argent a saltire sable with five roses argent thereon.*



LAWSON, baronet. *Argent a chevron between three martlets sable.*

Roger was succeeded by his brother John,<sup>43</sup> whose lands were sequestrated in 1653,<sup>44</sup> and sold by the trustees to John Rushworth. They were restored by Charles II, who made John Lawson a baronet in 1665.<sup>45</sup> He was succeeded by his son Henry, who left a son John. John was succeeded by another Henry, who also had a son John. This Sir John died without issue, and the estate and baronetcy passed to his brother Henry, who was succeeded in 1834 by his nephew William Wright, son of his sister Elizabeth. William took the name of Lawson, and was made a baronet in 1841.<sup>46</sup> His grandson Sir Henry Joseph Lawson is the present baronet.

<sup>32</sup> *Dun. B. Rec.* 144.

<sup>33</sup> *Kirkby's Map* (Bart. Soc.), 164, 336.

<sup>34</sup> *Proc. of F. Yorks.* 24 Edw. 3, no. 12; *Lap. Surv. R.* 30 Edw. 3 (Yorks. Arch. Soc.), 91.

<sup>35</sup> *James Raine, The Church of Catterick*, 21; *Proc. of F. Yorks.* 22 Edw. III, no. 30.

<sup>36</sup> *James Raine, The Church of Catterick*, 22. <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Chas. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), class, 49.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* 100, 101, 75.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* 100, 101.

<sup>42</sup> *Genealogia* (Blue Ser.), 24, 251.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Com. for Comp.* 1653.

<sup>44</sup> *Barks, Paragon*.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Kirkby's Map* (Bart. Soc.), 164, 336; *Forda, Fines*, 1327-47 (Yorks. Arch. Soc.), 164; *Chas. Inq. p.m.* 33 Edw. III (1841) no. 35; *Forda, Arch. Surv.* 20, 217.

**BURGH** - "They who assumed the surname of Burgh, Brough, or Burke, are descended from William Fitz-Adelm, steward of Henry II., and Governor of Wexford in Ireland." - Sir Egerton Brydges.

This refers to the existing family, whose splendid pedigree, giving them "an Imperial Carolingian descent in the male line, and a more dignified origin than the houses of Bourbon, Hanover, Saxony, Savoy, or Stuart," dates only from about the middle of the last century, when it appeared for the first time in an Irish peerage, and is utterly ignored by Dugdale and the older authorities. "Burgh" must here stand for Serlo de Burgh, a powerful Northern baron in the time of the Conqueror, who built Knaresborough Castle, and appears to have taken his name from the manor of Burgh, in Yorkshire. He left no son, and was succeeded by his nephew Eustace FitzJohn, who married two of the greatest heiresses in England, and founded the illustrious houses of De Vesci and De Lacy.



## THE MANUSCRIPTS OF SIR JOHN LAWSON, BART., OF BROUGH HALL

The principal manuscripts are a beautiful volume containing the life of St. Cuthbert, a very early York manual; a Brut Chronicle of very late transcription; and original letters by the Young Pretender and the Earl of Perth in 1745. There are also some papers showing how vexatiously penal laws once pressed upon Catholics.<sup>305</sup>

Life of St. Cuthbert: a small 4to, vellum, written about A.D. 1200; forty fine paintings (by British artists) heightened with gold, each occupying a page:

Begins —(2b) Liber Sancti Cuthberti. Domino ac beatissimo patri Eadfrido episcopo.

4a. Incipit Epistola Bede presbiteri venerabilis ad Johannem presbiterum.

5a. Table of contents.

7b. De Vita beati Cuthberti.<sup>306</sup>

Ends — deformitatis et tumoris apparuisset. Explicit liber de vita ac miraculis beatissimi patris Cuthberti Lindisfarnensis Ecclesie Episcopi. Item de quo supra ex. 4to eccl. historia gentis Anglorum lib. 30, et. al.

On a new leaf, and apparently as if a new work were beginning, - Quomodo in peregrini habitu a ministro Elfridi pariem divisum que postea integ. Inventus est, et quomodo idem Elfridus ipso adjuvante rex effectus — Deus omnipotens juste.<sup>307</sup> Ends — protinus abscessit.<sup>308</sup>

Quo anno sanctus Cuthbertus ordinatus est, ea quantum amabatur et venerabatur ab antiquis.<sup>309</sup>

Regins — Anno dominice incarnationis sexcentesimo lxxv. Ordinatus est beatus pater Cuthbertus (5 leaves). Ends — per predictum archiepiscopum Hagustaldensem ecclesiam ingreditur.

(It would be well to collate this volume, to see exactly from what sources the contents have been gathered.)

York Manual, MS., the oldest known. (This I did not see as it had been lent by Sir J. Lawson to one of his friends.)

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<sup>305</sup> (Horwood, 1876).

<sup>306</sup> (Hardy, vol. 1, p. 301).

<sup>307</sup> (Hardy, vol. 1, p. 303).

<sup>308</sup> (Hardy, vol. 1, p. 315).

<sup>309</sup> (Hardy, vol. 1, p. 316).

## THE LAWSONS OF VIRGINIA GEOFF LAWSON

A Latin Psalter. 12mo, vellum, 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Psalter is followed by a prayer in time of pestilence. Before the Calendar are these versus:

In Marche after pe firste

Loke the prime where pat it be The pride Sunday evermo Is estri day hou so hit go.

zif pe prime on the Sunday be, Tolle hym first for oon of the pree.

Nota, quod in mense Marcio post primam C. literam requires primam post communionem, et tertia dominica semper erit pascha. Et si prima illa contigerit die dominica numerabis illam dominicam pro una do tribus.

There is a Paschal table from 1430 to 1616. On a fly-leaf is written, Dominus Robertus Blakeney "hujus libri est processor." Robert Blakeney was the last Prior of Tynemouth. The MS. seems to have been written at Wymundham Abbey, Co. Norfolk.

Horae (in French), vellum. On the binding are the arms of France, with a label of three points; and the initials A. M. in a circle. parliament matters. The text is adorned with full-page pictures.

Semaine Sainte. A printed volume of the last century, but noticeable as having been used by the unfortunate Louis XVI. It was presented by the Abbess of Scorton to the Lawsons.

The Brut Chronicle. Folio, paper, 17<sup>th</sup> century. (183 pp.) It seems to be of the ordinary type, beginning, Sometime in the noble land of Surrey. Ends with the 234d chapter, of the Siege of Rouen (nearly 4 pp. of small writings); the last words are, " helpe themselves in the best manner they might."

1591, June 1.- Recognizance, with a condition avoiding it, if the person bound attended the church services.

Folio paper, 17<sup>th</sup> century. Declaration of all the Ancient Memorials, Rites, and Customs belonging or being in the Monastical Church of Durham before the Suppression. (This has been printed.)

Begins - First in the front or highest part of the church. (122 pp.) Ends with dates. Copied in 1656.

Life of Dorothy Lawson, paper, 17th century. This lady was the second daughter of Sir Henry Constable, and married Roger Lawson, 39 Eliz. From this MS. Her biography was printed at Newcastle in 1855.

1686.—Printed service for touching for the King's Evil, as used by King Henry VII. The rubrics are in English, the text in Latin. (A paper on this subject is in the volume for 1871 of the Archaeological Institute; and the subject is treated in Dr. Pettigrew's book on Medical Superstitions.)

1746.—Copy of the last words written by the Earl of Derwentwater in the Tower of London.

1696, April 8.—Durham.-License, under the hands and seals of Robert Ellison, Jo. Gordon, mayor Geo. Morland, and Jo. Sedgwick, for Thomas Maire, of the City of Durham, gentleman, being a popish recusant convict, with his servant John Jopling also a papist, who by lawes and statutes are restrained from travelling above five miles from their place of abode. Maire had informed them, four of His Majesty's justices of the peace, that he had occasion to travel into the county of Oxford to court a young lady in order to a marriage and had taken an oath that this was the true cause. They gave license for him and his servant to go to Oxford, and to be absent for three months, an then he is to return to Durham.

At the foot, "In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant, "I, one of the Deputy Lieutenants, do allow the license. — Ralph Carr, 8 April 1696. Sworn before me, Jo. Sedwick."

Mr. Mair was a respectable person, for he kept his Ms., the oldest known. (This I did carriage; but he could not safely use it, or cultivate his hot see, as it had been lent by Sir J. Lawson to one of arable land without the following license:

1705, May 31.-Council letter (sealed), signed by the 1 Latin Psalter. 12mo, vellum, 15th century. The Earls of Pembroke, Bradford, and Scarborough, salter is followed by the Litany and other prayers, Lord Coningsby and J. Holt, and countersigned by James Vernon; permitting Thomas Maire at Lartington and closes with a prayer in time of co. York, to keep six horses for his coach and husbandry Before the Calendar are these verses,- purposes, and three breeding mares with their colts,

An original letter from Charles (Prince Regent), grandson of James II., sealed with the royal arms of England; as follows :1745, Nov. 27.—Preston.—After the success which Providence has granted to my arms in Ireland, thought I could not do better than to enter England, always assured I should meet with where I had been equally disposed to exert their loyalty to many friends their native King, and to shake off a foreign yoke under which the Nation has

so long groaned. I have now put into their hands an opportunity of doing both, by repairing with what strength every man can to my army, from which the Enemy industriously keeps at such a distance. The particular character I have heard of you, make me hope to see You among the first. I am persuaded you will not baulk my expectations, and you need not doubt but I shall always remember to your advantage the example you shall thus have put to your neighbours, and consequently to all England. CHARLES, P. R.

The above letter was inclosed in the following from the Earl of Perth:- 1745, Nov. 27-Preston.-Sir, The Prince has ordered me to send the inclosed, and I suppose that so kind an Invitation [from one] who comes to fight as much for the good of his subjects as for the recovering of his own right cannot (but) be as acceptable to you as it will be to all those that are men of honour and loyalty and of true British hearts, as I don't doubt but you will answer it as far as lies in your power.

He desires me to tell you, that in case the circumstances of the Country you are in is such as you can think to raise any men in it, He intends that you should concert with the rest of the Gentlemen that you think will join you in the country.

The Commissions that you may respectively take upon yourself, and he will confirm them immediately. It will be lookt upon as a Batalion if it come to the number of four or five hundred men or upwards. But whatever numbers you bring will be acceptable, tho' they were below that, and even tho' they were very small, your own joining in person will be very agreeable to him and be very usefull to the cause, and I am per-swaded you will think it very much to your honour.

As I have to have the pleasure of seeing you soon I shall add no more but that I am, with the sincerest regard, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, PERTH.

P. S.—This was directed, but it was judged proper to score it out for the more security. In a portfolio there are numerous deeds and other documents mounted; among these I noticed,-

1518.-Certification by John, Prior of Mount Grace, of a deposition by Thomas Lawson, a monk.

29 Hen. VIII., July 4— Letters patent under the great seal, reciting the Act of Parliament of 21 Hen. the King exempts the Priory of St. Mary of Nesham, the operation Act.— Johanna Lawson, prioress of the order of St. Benet, to be Prioress of the House.-Enrolled.

1537.—Lease, with seale of the Priory of Nesham.

## BIOGRAPHY OF SAINTS

**SAINT EPAPHRODITUS (1st century AD)** – A disciple of Saint Paul and one of the earliest converts to Christianity in Philippi, Epaphroditus is mentioned in Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians as a “brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier.” Sent by the Philippian church to assist Paul during his imprisonment in Rome, he delivered their gifts and ministered to the Apostle’s needs, nearly dying in the process.

Recovered and later sent back to Philippi with Paul’s heartfelt commendation, Epaphroditus carried the Epistle to the Philippians, making him one of the first known couriers of Christian Scripture. Tradition holds that he later became bishop either of Philippi or of Terracina in Italy. Venerated for his devotion, humility, and self-sacrifice, Saint Epaphroditus stands as an early model of faithful service in the apostolic Church.

**SAINT LAURENCE OF ROME (c.225–258)** – A deacon under Pope Saint Sixtus II, Laurence was martyred—along with four clerics—just four days after the pope’s execution, likely during Emperor Valerian’s persecution of Christians. Accounts of his death were recorded by Damasus, Prudentius, Ambrose, and Augustine. The church built over his tomb became one of the seven principal churches of Rome and an important site of pilgrimage.

According to an early legend, Laurence—responsible for the Church’s goods and the distribution of alms—gave away all available funds to the poor, widows, and orphans, even selling sacred vessels to increase the amount. When the Prefect of Rome, believing the Christians possessed great wealth, demanded that Laurence surrender these treasures, Laurence asked for three days to prepare them. At the appointed time, he presented a large gathering of the blind, lame, maimed, leprous, orphaned, and widowed, declaring: “*These are the treasures of the Church.*” Enraged, the prefect ordered his slow execution on a gridiron over burning coals. After enduring the torture for some time, Laurence is said to have remarked with courage: “*It is well done. Turn me over!*”<sup>310</sup>

**SAINT PAULINUS OF YORK (c. 584–644)** – An Italian priest sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 601 to assist Saint Augustine of Canterbury in converting the pagan Anglo-Saxons. In 625, he was consecrated bishop and

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<sup>310</sup> (Wace, 1911).

accompanied Princess Æthelburg of Kent to Northumbria for her marriage to King Edwin. Through persuasive preaching—and a prophetic dream recounted by Edwin—Paulinus brought about the mass conversion of the Northumbrians in 627, establishing York as a major Christian center.

Following King Edwin's death in 633, Paulinus was forced to return to Kent, yet his mission laid the groundwork for the future archbishopric of York. Remembered as the first historian of the English Church, he was notable for adapting Christian teachings to Anglo-Saxon traditions, ensuring the faith's lasting presence in England.<sup>311</sup>

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<sup>311</sup> (Persoon, 2022).

## **APPENDIX II**

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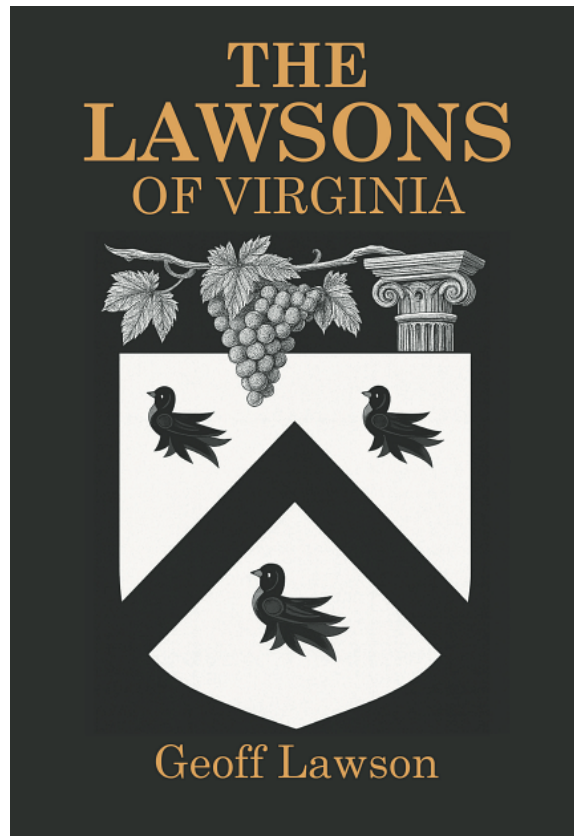
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