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COTHERSTON & ITS STORY.

[BY F. E. COATES.]

IV. THWAITES HALL.

The manor house called Thwaites Hall is a grim building of stones like a millstone grit and looks the epitome of a history of agriculture—a dour grinder of human lives like the owner, Huddleston, who growled and antagonised all his tenants, but yet, like a well-known vicar, managed to hold his seat, and even although the sheep ate the man, he managed to keep hold of his miserly possessions.

The ancestral tree is lost in the forest of the Conqueror and is only traced by an illegitimate branch. Scollandus, server to Earl Allan of Richmond, gave his daughter and heiress the manor as a dower when she married Brian Fitzallan, Earl of Arundel and brother to Conan Earl of Richmond, but the lean man who beat the Conqueror has destroyed the evidence. The descents of the Fitzallan line terminated in two daughters, co-heirs, between whom the estates were divided, and left the trail of the serpent. Matilda, the eldest, received the lordship of Bedale when she married Gilbert de Stapelton, knight, and there were two sons of the alliance—Miles and Brian.



Miles Stapelton settled the Manor of Cotherston and moiety of Bedale on his male heirs by Joan his wife, and failing this arrangement his brother Brian was to have this land of promises. Brian, in 1235, paid 500 marks and seven palfreys for a wardship and marriage, but it turned out a poor bargain.

Sir Miles died without leaving his desired consummations in 1266, and although Brian's descendants were still living, the manor was claimed by Joan, the youngest daughter of Sir Miles, with the help of her prospective husband, Christopher Harcourt, with but a few years to live, and on his decease she married John Huddleston, of Millom Castle.

Lawyers in those days were like pilots who went in search of incoming treasure ships to guide them to a safe haven. Lawyers met litigants on the approach roads to London and clamoured for their clients, so in 1470 Brian Stapelton, with their help, tried to recover the land. The case was settled by Brian recovering Bedale, but not Cotherston, of which Sir John Huddleston, the second husband of Joan, was seized in the right of his wife, a brawling woman in a wide house, judging by the writings left. She tried her best to secure the leaving of the land to her first lover's family—Harcourt.

The Stapelton family was one of great repute and antiquity, giving their name to Stapelton-on-Tees, where they stayed for a while before the Conquest.

Sir John was comptroller of bad King Stephen's household, and they played their tricks together. Sir Miles fought under the Standard of the Cross in Palestine, and on his return brought with him Pendoras, the daughter of the King of Cyprus, a sojourner in the Persian heaven of black eyes and lemonade.

After these came another Sir Miles, who distinguished himself in the reigns of the First and Second Edwards. He was summoned to Parliament in 1313. His son married into the Bruce family. He unfortunately tried politics and became involved in the insurrection of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. Thomas had ruled the kingdom in the famine years after Bannockburn, and the English dared not face the Scots (backed by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster) during their raids on the North, but in the end Bruce was slain. Thomas tried to reach Scotland, which he had befriended,

but was caught and executed along with eight Barons and several knights. He was bidden to kneel with his face to the North, towards the Scots, and his head was struck off.

Nicholas Stapelton paid the price laid on his head of 2,000 marks. His son was the Sir Miles, third baron, one of the first knights of the Garter, and High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1353.

Ferdinando Huddleston was Lord of the Manor in 1641, when he heard of the dissensions between King Charles and his Parliament. Charles was a capable business man and a good foreign secretary, but the Commons were a dour selection. Edgell upset Huddleston, who still supported King Charles. The Royalists were strong in York, but the Parliamentarians were getting even stronger.

There was a Parliamentary revolution against the Crown and a Puritan revolution against the Church, and the two ideas eventually came into collision. Parliament would not do the Puritans' work in the moral sphere, and yet the Puritans dared not appeal to the country, and the only solution was a dictatorship, which fell to the lot of a son of a brewer, who proved to be a good soldier but no politician.

But to return to our wethers and Huddlestons. A Parliamentarian named Gabriel Horne, B.A., a native of Baldersdale, visited this district and secured many of Huddleston's tenants and recruits. Huddleston sent out a plebiscite to his tenants and found no great support for the King. Raising what forces he could, he marched to York on June 30th, 1643, but when near York they were dismayed at the result of the Battle of Marston Moor and many of the troops thought they'd better be getting home.

During the Commonwealth—at the expense of the Royalists—Huddleston fled to Holland

and his estates were confiscated. An army of spies riddled the country and an inquisition under a commission was held. A Receiver was appointed to collect the rents and excess profits were taxed, he being allowed a small sustentation fund, the house being occupied by Widow Mordan in 1670. On the Restoration in 1688 his former possessions were returned to him and he returned, "Beholding heaven and feeling hell."

For the services rendered by the Huddlestons to the Crown they were for many years exempt from the penalties in the acts affecting Catholics. King Charles granted many bogus charters for cash received, and we find that in 1707 Ed. Huddleston was buried and described as Mayor of Cotherston, and it may appear that the old bye-law men were the dorporate body. One of their rules was that nothing could be done affecting the townsmen except after a public meeting.

Thwaite Hall land was sold in 1741 by the descendant of Ferdinando Huddleston (Wm. Huddleston) by a special Act of Parliament for regulating the debts of Huddleston, to George Bowes, Esq., of Streetlam Castle, for £3,150.

Thwaite Hall itself descended from the Huddlestons to the Senhouses in Cumberland. In 1784 it was reported that some workmen turned up the swarth of an ancient pasture and found a leaden jar containing English pennies cut in halves and quarters, and there arose a talk of hidden treasure.

This severance of the property may have been the result of long litigation in 1543, when Huddleston said that he had been left by his father to defend against Delabere. He was drawn into great debt, and by many children of his wife—nine sons and four daughters—and his son and his four daughters. There again there was a great charge for building and housekeeping. His children leased away some part of the jointure and moved his father for want of possession of the west end of Doe Park.

The claim Davil v Huddleston was made in the Star Chamber and arose out of pretended deed of entail made by Sir John Huddleston, knight, John Delabere and Rd. Delabere claimed Cotherston and Hunderthwaite by reason of a conveyance from Anthony Huddleston.

Wm. Huddleston compounded and agreed with Delaberes and paid them interest and a sum of money for conveyance by bargain of the title. Such a claim was said to be a forgery. Interrogations were ordered, but the state of the country was too unsettled for lawyers, and was left to soldiers and the old Scots law.

(To be continued.)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

GROUP MEETING AT STAINDROP.

The half-yearly group meeting of the Teesdale Women's Institutes was held at Staindrop on Thursday, over 200 members from the various institutes being present. Mrs Broumley, President of the Staindrop Institute, presided. The meeting opened with the singing of "Jerusalem." The chairman gave a hearty welcome to all the visitors, and a special re-welcome to Gainford, who have been re-admitted to the Teesdale Group. In the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mrs Lonsdale, convener, her duties were undertaken by Mrs Applegarth, secretary of the hostess institute. A letter was read from Mrs Lonsdale stating that owing to continued illness she was obliged to retire from any public work and was therefore unable to continue as convener. This message was received with great sorrow, and it was decided to enter in the records the regret with which Mrs Lonsdale's resignation was accepted and an expression of appreciation of all she had done for the group during her twelve years as convener. Miss Chipchase, of Cotherstone, was appointed convener in her stead.

It was proposed by Middleton Institute, seconded by Romalldirk and supported by Staindrop, Cotherstone, and Mickleton, that the reports given by secretaries should be discontinued. It was felt that as meetings were reported in local newspapers as well as in "Home and Country," there was no need to reiterate them. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried by a narrow margin. A most interesting musical lecture, "The origin and charm of folk songs," was given by Mrs Parsons, of Northallerton. Miss Foster and Mrs Parsons illustrated the various types of folk songs in a very pleasing manner. Thanks to Mrs Parsons and her assistants were proposed by Mrs Willis, of Middleton, and seconded by Miss Walton, of Cotherstone. Tea was served, after which an entertainment was given by Staindrop members, the programme consisting of a pianoforte duet by the Misses Willans and Myers, a song by Miss Birtley, sleigh dance and Tyrolean dance by the Staindrop Institute folk dancers, and a sketch, "O.H.M.S.," by Mesdames Myers, Walker, T. Race, Graham and Lightfoot, and Miss Myers. It was unfortunate that some members had to leave before the sketch was finished, but buses won't wait. The singing of the National Anthem brought to a close a very enjoyable afternoon.

At the Cotherstone Women's Institute meeting held on March 26th Mrs Cunliffe (Sunnycroft) gave the prize for the six brown eggs and Miss Alderson for the dyed Easter egg. These names were inadvertently omitted from our report.

EASTER EXCURSIONS.

On Easter Sunday the L.N.E.R. are running a half-day excursion from Barnard Castle at 12.7 p.m. to Oxenholme, Grange, Ulverston, Furness Abbey and Barrow. The train will convey a buffet car, and those travelling will be allowed over six hours in Barrow or Furness Abbey, over seven in Grange or Ulverston, and over eight in Oxenholme.

At 11.28 a.m. from Barnard Castle on Easter Monday there will be facilities to Newcastle, Tynemouth, and Whitby Bay; and from Barnard Castle and stations on the Middleton-in-Teesdale line there will be bookings to Darlington and Middlesbrough on both Easter Monday and Saturday, April 18th. On Easter Monday Middlesbrough will be opposed to Sheffield Wednesday, and on Saturday, April 18th, Lincoln City will be the visitors to Darlington.

For those wishing to attend the races at Newcastle on Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday a day excursion will leave Barnard Castle at 8.40 a.m. The fares will be 5s. third class and 7s. 6d. first class.

Cheap return tickets will be issued every day from Barnard Castle to Middleton-in-Teesdale and Sunderland, and every Thursday and Saturday, also on Easter Monday and Tuesday, to Redcar and Saltburn. These tickets will be available outward and return by any train on the day of issue.

Scala Cinema, Barnard Castle.

"The Passing of the Third Floor Back," which comes to the Scala on Thursday, is a picture of rare qualities, and being a departure from the average film fare, it strikes a note of novelty. The play by Jerome K. Jerome was ever a classic. In this fine screen version a new and modern treatment is presented. "Father O'Flynn," to be shown on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, is a delightful Irish musical romance. The cast is headed by Tom Burke as Father O'Flynn, Jean Adrienne as Macushla, and Robert Chisholm as Nigel. Musical numbers include "Ave Maria," "I know of two bright eyes," "When they ask you what your name is," "Father O'Flynn," "Sleepy Moon," "Liza Lee," and many more well-known songs.

A total of 22,500 pieces of silver plate to the value of £20,000 have been specially manufactured for the Queen Mary. Eight thousand ounces of silver were used in their manufacture, the whole weighing nine tons.

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BILLIARDS.

TEES VALLEY BILLIARD LEAGUE.

BARNARD CASTLE T.W. v. WOODLAND
Barnard Castle T.W. Woodland
150 R. C. Jackson B. Woodland
128 W. H. Trott W. Teasdale
150 J. R. Jordan J. Moffatt
118 H. V. Finch J. Bell
T. Dowson

546
175 owed.

371 **BOWES v. MIDDLETON M.C.**
Bowes. Middleton M.C.
129 L. Longstaff H. Bauman
143 W. Hind E. Bellas
150 M. Clarke T. Colman
150 R. Walker E. Watson

572
25 owed.

547 **COCKFIELD "A" v. BUTTERKNOWLE**
Cockfield "A." Butterknowle
150 J. Clark L. Tallentire
138 W. Craggs A. Craggs
150 R. Teasdale D. Wilkinson
150 W. Cowley J. Lowther

588
200 owed.

388 **EGGLESTON v. MICKLETON**
Eggleston. Mickleton
150 L. Bainbridge W. Clarkson
150 G. Wall C. Lowson
150 R. Ieeton J. Raines
143 J. Kidd I. Anderson

593
25 owed.

568 **MIDDLETON W.C. v. COTHERSTONE**
Middleton W.C. Cotherstone
150 M. Redfearn B. Boyer
150 R. Brunskill J. T. Raine
128 J. Dent Col. Grellett
150 R. Kipling J. Richardson

578
175 owed.

403 **WOODLAND "B" v. BARNARD CASTLE**
Woodland "B." Barnard Castle
108 J. Teasdale W. Bailey
150 J. R. Blackett W. Parkinson
150 J. H. Redfearn W. Metcalfe
150 J. W. Dowson N. Jones

558
100 owed.

League Table.

	P.	W.	L.	D.
Woodland "A"	24	20	4	0
Barnard Castle C.C.	24	18	6	0
Mickleton	25	16	9	0
Bowes	24	14	10	0
Cotherstone	25	14	11	0
Copley	24	12	12	0
Lands	25	12	13	0
Woodland "B"	22	12	10	0
Butterknowle	24	11	13	0
Eggleston	25	10	15	0
Barnard Castle T.W.	22	9	13	0
Middleton W.C.	23	8	15	0
Cockfield "A"	24	7	17	0
Middleton M.C.	21	3	18	0

This Week's Fixtures.

Bowes v. Barnard Castle C.C.
Barnard Castle T.W. v. Middleton W.C.
Eggleston v. Middleton M.C.
Woodland "A" v. Butterknowle
Woodland "B" v. Mickleton (April 28)

TEESDALE WANDERERS SNOOKER FINAL.

The final of the snooker competition of the Teesdale Wanderers Club, Barnard Castle, took place on Friday evening. The finalists being Messrs D. Ashman, 122 to 104, and R. C. Jackson. Mr Ashman won 122 to 104.

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY.

The eighty-third annual general meeting of the Halifax Building Society was presided over by Sir Enoch Hill, who, proposing the adoption of the annual report, said the figures for the year show that the number of new accounts opened in the department was 101,210, showing that the members or depositors joined the society at the rate of approximately 2,000 per week. After allowing for withdrawals, the number of investors' and borrowers' accounts open at the end of the year was 659,509, an increase of 37,186. Receipts for the year, excluding the amount received on realisation of investments, amounted to the large sum of £36,300,000 and the share and deposit funds had increased by £4,580,613, and now amount to £103,374,717. The number of new mortgages granted was 35,166, and the total amount advanced £21,712,318, which is a total of £1,000,000 more than the amount previously reached. The amount now standing upon mortgage securities stands at £85,942,328, an increase in the year of £7,843,242, and the total number of borrowers is 214,455, being 15,533 more than a year ago. In respect of 168,320 mortgages, the amount owing is less than £500, and on the whole of the mortgages including the large ones, the amount owing is only £400 each. The assets have increased to £108,057,468, an addition of £5,289,853 to the preceding year's total.

HOME DRESS

AN OVERALL THAT IS PRACTICAL
A beautifully cut overall the subject of our dressmaking week. And although it is to all duties I am not



Refer to H.

"spring cleaning," as I have sleeves more practical for afternoon wear, and for would be found most useful quite different from the overall, it being a cross short bodice and gathered quickly be put on and of fastenings beyond the bust. Often when there is a door, overalls have to well, this one will without a protective garment for it, it is ideal, the slight skirt allowing ample room. Fashioned in a such as Sparva, a cotton washes well and looks could be slipped on during evening when special detection of a nice frock.

THE MATERIAL.
For the mornings, material, like gingham, or pique, all of which may suit individual purposes are especially nice in pink, some very huge, but attractive. Then there are silks, also obtainable in and designs, spots and stripes, and a variety of "lines," while there are of other fabrics to choose each week sees something on view at one's local 2 1/2 yards of 36-40 inch should a longer skirt be

THE PATTERN.
As will be seen by looking there are five pieces at and back of bodice, the skirt, and the pocket. stamped, and will be when cutting out and remind readers here that try on the pattern before material, and to make a notice if the length of and also the length of

THE CUTTING OUT.
Place the pattern on shown in the diagram, point out another method of the skirt, if the front skirt edges if preferred, and cut it that way. It takes



inches in the cutting, the most economical method carefully on the material necessary allowance for hems, and one half inch more, for the hem. It have a wide hem on the "fall in" as it might do

THE MAKING.
Take the bodice first and shoulder seams to the side seams to the edge (or little hem) do one or two gathering dots round the edge of the bodice a little wide round centre front and back fitting. Stitch the gathering and finish on the machine. The neck is finished by binding narrow strip of material method is shown, cut