

**DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF
WESTMORELAND**

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Description of the county of Westmoreland by Sir Daniel Fleming & Sir G. F. Duckett

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SIR DANIEL FLEMING & SIR G. F. DUCKETT

**DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF
WESTMORELAND**

DESCRIPTION
OF
THE COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND,

BY
SIR DANIEL FLEMING OF RYDAL,

A.D. 1671.

EDITED,
FOR THE CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND ANTIQUARIAN AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

From the Original MS. in the Bodleian Library,

BY SIR G. F. DUCKETT, BART.

London:
BERNARD QUARITCH, PICCADILLY.
KENDAL, T. WILSON.

1882.



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A
DESCRIPTION OF WESTMORELAND;

BY
DANIEL FLEMING, ESQ., AFTERWARDS KNIGHT;
COMPILED ANNO CHRISTI M.DC.LXXI.

From the Original MS. in the Bodleian Library.

BYOND the farthest parts of Lancashire, more northward, lyeth another lesser country of the Brigantes, called by modern Latin writers Westmoria and Westmorlandia, in our tongue Westmoreland, bounded on the west and north with Cumberland and part of Lancashire, on the south with Lancashire, and on the east with Yorkshire and Bishoprick of Durham, which, because it lyeth among moors and high hills, and was antiently for the most part unmanured, came by this name in our language, for such barren places which cannot easily, by the painful labour of the husbandman be brought to fruitfulness, the northern English men call *moores*, and Westmoreland is nothing else but a western moorish country.†

* This MS. has already been alluded to at p. 13, vol. iv, of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Transactions, being numbered B. 436 in the Rawlinson Collection. The writer, Sir Daniel Fleming of Rydal, belonged to one of the most ancient families in Westmoreland, and his history and descent is exhaustively given by Burn, who at p. 2, vol. i of his "History of Cumberland and Westmoreland," acknowledges the use he made of the very MS. now under notice.

† Although it is currently supposed, especially by those indigenous to the county, that its orthography as "Westmoreland" is less correct than that of "Westmorland," it is worthy of note that the latter form seems to have come into vogue within the last hundred years. The spelling, therefore, adopted by Sir Daniel is consequently the older of the two. We cannot, however, quite accept his definition of the name. The earliest records have "Westmerland" and "Westmerland," which last, or rather "Westmerland" is suggestive of a district abounding in lakes (or *meres*).

The

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The length thereof extending from Burton in her south to the joining Cumberland and the Bishoprick of Durham, (in the mountains near the first rise of the two rivers Tees and Tyne), in her north part, is above thirty miles; the broadest part, from the east to west is from the Spittle on Stainmoor to the Shire-stones* on Wreynose, containing about twenty-four miles; the whole circumference above CXII miles.

The air in winter especially, is a little sharp and piercing, yet very healthful; the soil for a great part of it is but barren, being full of great moors and high mountains, called in the north Fells, yet there are many fruitful valleys in it, abounding with good arable, meadows, and pasture grounds, and commended for plenty of corn and cattle.

1. The division thereof, according to its ecclesiastical government, is part (viz. the Barony of Kendal) within the diocess of Chester, and part (viz. the bottom of Westmoreland) in Carlile diocess; these two parts are divided into several deaneries, which are again divided into many parishes.

2. Its division according to the temporal government thereof, is into two great Baronys, the one being divided from the other by a ridge of mountains, our Appenine growing here broader, thro' which there are three common, but not very good passes, called Grayrigge-Hawse, Crookedale-Hawse, and Kirkstone, containing the south part of the county called Kendal-Barony, which was given to Ivo Tailboys by the Conqueror; this Ivo had issue Elthred,†

* The point at which the counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire meet.

† That Ivo de Tailboys was father of Ethelred must not be assumed without reference to the following authorities:—"The Pipe Rolls of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Durham," with Introductions, pp. xviii and xciv; "Duchetiana," pp. 135, 136, 137, 148, 149; paper on the "Early History of Cumberland," by John Hodgson Hinde, in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xvi, pp. 217, 235; paper on the "Curwens of Workington Hall," by W. Jackson, F.S.A.; and *Transactions of*

and he Ketell, who had issue Gilbert whose eldest son was William, who obtained a license of K. Hen. 2 to change his name and to call himself and his posterity Lancaster, from whom the Lancasters of this county, heretofore a great family, were descended. In Parliament before the King, he was stiled Will^m de Lancaster, Baron of Kendall, and this Barony was afterwards enjoyed by Helwise, his grandchild, and heir, daughter of William of Lancaster the 2^d, who was married unto Gilbert the son of Roger fitz Reinfrid, by whose daughter, (after her son William of Lancaster the 3^d was dead), the inheritance went to Peter Brus, Lord of Skelton, the 2^d of that name, and unto William Lyndsey, by which Peter Brus his daughter called Margaret, the sister and heir of Peter Brus the 3^d, came this Barony to the Rosses of Werke, and from them by right of inheritance this possession was devolved upon the Parrs, of whom S^r Will^m Parr was made Lord Parr of Kendall by K. Hen. VIII., and in the 35 of his reign, this Lord in right of Anne (daughter and heir of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex), his first wife, was created Earl of Essex, and afterwards in 1 Edw. 6 he was created Marquess of Northampton, but he dying without issue, the Barony came to the Crown where it now remaineth.*

The Barony of Kendall is divided into two wards, viz. Kendall-Ward and Lonsdale-ward, which are subdivided into several constablewicks.

the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, vol. v, pp. 181, 182.

The Barony of Kendal was included in Amounderness, which at the period of the Domesday Survey, comprised, in addition, the south-western corner of Cumberland, all Lancashire north of the Ribble, and the Wapentake of Ewecross in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Kendal, with all the rest of Amounderness, was in the hands of the Crown at the date of the compilation of Domesday, but was afterwards in the possession of Ivo de Tailboys. An explanation, (from which we entirely dissent), is given in the "Pipe Rolls," *ut supra*, pp. xlii, xliii, as to the way in which the Barony of Kendal became vested in William de Lancaster. From him, however, it descended as stated in the text.

* See this descent given very fully in Buer's "History of Cumberland and Westmoreland, vol. i; and "Duchetiana" (Lancaster Evidences), pp. 135-154.

The other Barony* containeth all the rest of the county, being the north part thereof, and called the Barony of Westmoreland, of late the bottom of Westmoreland, the office of hereditary Sheriff of the whole county being parcell of the said Barony, (that office heretofore holding by one Knight's fee, and the rest of the Barony by three), was granted by King John October 8th in the 5th year of his reign unto Robert de Veteriponte (or Vipont), and unto the heirs of his body of him and his then wife to be begotten, whose name was Idonea, daughter and heir of John de Buly, [*Builly*], owner of the castle of Tickhill, this Barony continued in the Viponts name for three descents, but then by marriage it came to the Cliffords, in which noble family it hath until this time continued, being now enjoyed by the Right Honourable Lady Anne Clifford, Westmoreland and Vescy, Countess Dowager of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery, and only daughter of George, Earl of Cumberland deceased, (See a pedigree of the Cliffords in Thoresby's Ducatus, p. 62, 63), whose paternall arms were, Cheque or and azure, a fess gules. In anno 1726 this Barony was enjoyed by the Earl of Thanet, in right of Margaret, daughter of the said Anne and Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset, who was married to John Tufton, Earl of Thanet, and had issue by him Nicolas, John, Richard, and Thomas, who was (*sic*) successively Earls of Thanet.† This Barony is also divided into two wards, (there being no Hundreds in this county, it being freed from all subsidies until King James 1st time, by reason of its no small charge in Border service against the Scots), called the East and West Wards, which are again divided into many Constablewicks.

In *Lonsdale-ward* are two market towns:

1. *Burton*, a town indifferently well built, and procured

* The Barony of Appleby was part of the Earldom of Carlisle, and hence was not included in the Doomsday Survey. That Earldom reverted to the Crown when its possessor Ranulph became Earl of Chester.

† This paragraph must have been added by a subsequent hand.

to be a market since his Majesties happy restoration by S^r George Middleton, of Leighton, in Lancashire, Kn^t and Bart., Lord thereof, its market day every Tuesday, and fairs every 25th April and Whitsun-Monday.

2. *Kirkby Lonsdale*, antiently writ, Kirkby-in-Lonsdale, *i.e.*, the church-town in Lonsdale; its a fair market town, scituate on the banks of the river Lon, which giveth name to this place and to Loncaster, placed on the same river. This is a town of note, whither all the peop^le round about repair to church and market, it being the greatest town, save Kendall, in this county; it is scituate in a pleasant and rich vale called Lonsdale, and is beautified with a fair church, and a large bridge of stone. This town and lordship hath several priviledges, and was heretofore belonging to the Prestons of Holker, until of late it was sold to S^r John Lowther, of Lowther, Bart.,* who is now Lord thereof. The market day is every Thursday, and the fairs on Ascension Day and S^t Thomas Day.

OTHER PLACES OF NOTE IN THIS WARD.

1. *Biggins*, which heretofore belonged to the Prestons, from whom it came by marriage to Tho. Carus, son and heir of Judge Carus in Queen Eliz. time, and from him to the Curwens of Workington, it went afterwards to the Prestons of Holdker, and was lately sold to S^r Jn^o Lowther of Lowther, Bart.

2. *Underley*, a pleasant seat belonging to Hen. Wilson Esq^r.

3. *Middleton Hall*, a pleasant and stately seat, which gave name to the antient family of the Middletons, now enjoyed by John Middleton Esq^r. Arms, Argent, a saltire engrailed sable.

The market towns in Kendall-Ward are two, viz.

* Ancestor of the present Earl of Lonsdale. The number of estates bought up about this time and later by Sir John Lowther in the county of Westmorland is very remarkable, the owners in many instances parting with them at a mere nominal value.