

**DIARY OF THOMAS
BELLINGHAM,
AN OFFICER
UNDER WILLIAM III**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649076338

Diary of Thomas Bellingham, an officer under William III by Anthony Hewitson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANTHONY HEWITSON

**DIARY OF THOMAS
BELLINGHAM,
AN OFFICER
UNDER WILLIAM III**

SOCIAL LIFE AND NATIONAL MOVEMENTS
IN THE 17TH CENTURY.
(1688-89-90).

DIARY
OF
THOMAS BELLINGHAM,
An Officer under William III.

COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT AND NOTES

BY
ANTHONY HEWITSON,

*Author of "History of Preston," "Stonyhurst College—Present and Past,"
"Churches and Chapels" (Preston and District), "Northward," &c.,
and Joint-Editor of the "Tyldeley Diary."*

INTRODUCTION BY

A. R. MADDISON, F.S.A.,

Canon of Lincoln Cathedral and Rector of Burton-by-Lincoln.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, &c.

—
COPYRIGHT.
—

Preston :

Geo. Toulmin & Sons, "The Guardian" Printing Works,
1908.

Preston:
PRINTED BY G. TOULMIN AND SONS,
AT THE GUARDIAN PRINTING WORKS.



INTRODUCTION.

The writer of this diary was one of a cadet branch of a family which took its name from Bellingham, a small market town in Northumberland, about 16 miles N.N.W. of Hexham. Here the Bellinghams were lords of the manor from a very early period, and down to the latter part of the 17th century manorial quit rents were paid to them after the actual estates had passed into other hands. In 1715 these were held by the ill-fated Earl of Derwentwater, on whose attainder and execution they passed, by grant of the Crown, to Greenwich Hospital.

It is a striking instance of the tenacity of local tradition that Capt. Alan Bellingham, a descendant of the diarist, was welcomed, in 1807, by the inhabitants of Bellingham as one of the old race. He records in a journal in that year that in visiting Bellingham he was "constantly addressed by the title 'Lord,' as they declared I was the rightful Lord of the Manor there." He attended the Court of the Manor at Wark, where the inhabitants of Bellingham did suit and service, and says, "Upon the Heir of the last Alan Bellingham being called in Court, I immediately answered, and claimed the Manor and Royalties attached to Bellingham. Great civility and attention was shown me by Mr. Peters (the solicitor), who holds the Court for Greenwich Hospital, and by Mr. Walton, the principal Receiver. I was invited to dine at the Court Dinner."

What made the Bellinghams leave Northumberland, for Westmorland, was the marriage of a Richard Bellingham with Christian, or Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert de Burneshead or Burneshead, Knt., by which they acquired the lordship of Burneshead Hall, near Kendal, in the latter county, early in the 14th century. Very possibly they were not sorry to leave so unsettled and lawless a region as Tynedale, exposed to constant depredations from the Scots, for more peaceful quarters. At any rate, from that marriage they were Bellinghams of Burneshead Hall.

In the 15th century the family divided into several branches. Sir Robert Bellingham, the then head of the family, had a large family of sons. Of these Sir Henry Bellingham succeeded him at Burneshead, took the side of Lancaster in the Wars of the Roses, and was knighted by Lord Clifford, at the battle of Wakefield, 31st March, 1460. But a reverse speedily followed, and on the 10th of February, 1462-3, his estates being forfeited were granted by Edward IV. to Sir William Parr, Knt., and his brother John. Fortune, however, again smiled on the family under the Red Rose, and Sir Roger Bellingham, his son, was made a Knight Banneret at the battle of Stoke, in 1487, while Sir Roger's son Robert distinguished himself by capturing Lambert Simnel at the same battle, for which he, too, was knighted. He, however, had only daughters, and through them most of the estates passed from the family. Burneshead he sold to Sir Thomas Clifford, Knt. Two branches were planted by Richard and Thomas Bellingham, younger brothers of the above Sir Henry, in Lincolnshire and Sussex respectively. The Lincolnshire line ended, so far as its connection with that county was concerned, in Richard Bellingham, the Governor of Massachusetts in the 17th century. The Sussex line was exceedingly prolific, and divided into branches at Erringham (from which came Sir Edward Bellingham, Lord Deputy of Ireland, temp. Hen. VIII.), Hangleton, Lyminster, and Newtimber. These were all flourishing early in the 17th century, but gradually decayed and became extinct. The most vigorous offshoot from the main stem was that which was planted by Alan Bellingham, the eighth son, and youngest brother of Sir Henry above mentioned. He, according to the Heraldic Visitations and the County History of Westmorland, was Treasurer of Berwick and Deputy Warden of the Marches, and the more modern motto of the family, "*Amicus amico*," is taken from the distich which commemorates him—

" *Amicus amico Alanus,
Belliger belligero Bellinghamus.*"

He was living in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII., and is considered by genealogical authorities to have acquired the very extensive estates at Levens, Helsington (Westmorland), and elsewhere which were enjoyed by his descendants. It is highly probable, however, that there has been some confusion between him and his grandson, also called Alan, who died in 1577, and who can be shown by documentary evidence to have made large purchases of land, and to have been Treasurer of Berwick. He was appointed to that office by Writ of Privy Seal, 2nd August, 1557, with a salary of £20 per annum. By his second wife,

Dorothy Sandford, whom he must have married rather late in life, he left a very large family, of which the sons were all under age at his death. The eldest, Thomas Bellingham, died only three years after his father, unmarried. The second, James, carried on the line at Levens. One of the younger sons, Robert, was admitted into the Middle Temple on the 2nd of August, 1595. He was the ancestor of the writer of this diary. The eldest son, James, was knighted in 1603. He practically rebuilt Levens Hall, and fitted up the rooms with the beautiful wainscotting which is so well known, and has been so well described. The fortunes of the family attained their zenith in his lifetime. He declined a Baronetcy, which was thereupon conferred on his eldest son, Henry, in 1620. In 1642 Sir James died, and trouble quickly came with the miseries of Civil War.

In 1646 Sir Henry had to reckon with the victorious Parliament. His "Delinquency" was that being a member of the Long Parliament he deserted it, and went to Oxford and sat in the Assembly there. He acknowledged this to be true, but pleaded, in extenuation of his fault, "that he took the National Covenant in his parish church in the country, before William Curwen, minister, the 12 Sept., 1645, as by his certificate doth appear. He hath also taken the negative oath the 30 June, 1646." The Parliament, however, being greatly in need of money, was not disposed to show much mercy to an unfortunate Royalist, and Sir Henry was ordered to furnish a schedule of his estates and the rental. His fine was fixed at £3,228. It is interesting to note in the schedule the following:—"He is seized of an estate to him and his heirs of and in the Lordship of Bellingham, in the Co. of Northumberland, of the yearly value before these troubles of £5." This so-called rental was really the quit rents paid to him as Lord of the Manor, while the bulk of the estate had gone into other hands. But Sir Henry's troubles were not yet over. A petition from him to the "Commissioners for Compounding with Delinquents," dated 27th November, 1648, states that "This last summer Sir Marmaduke Langdale coming with his forces into Westmorland, and the petitioner's estate lying under his Command, and being daily threatened to be plundered, and seeing no visible forces to protect him, He was againe drawne to engage against the Parliament, not out of disaffection to them but meerly to preserve himselfe from ruine, for which he is again sequestred." For this act of self-defence he was fined £1,971. The son has now to share in the punishment inflicted on the father, and on the 4th of May, 1649, the humble petition of "James Bellingham, Esq., sonne and heire of Sir Henry Bellingham, Knt. and Bart.," was presented to the Commissioners for Composition. He, too, confessed to

having been a "member of the honorable House of Commons, and having deserted the Parliament, and having been in arms against the Parliament in the late engagement." His separate estate, independent of that settled by Sir Henry on him and his wife, was but small, and his fine was only £200. But the family troubles were not yet over: they culminated in 1650, when Sir Henry and his only son James died, within a few days of one another, at Levens Hall. It is sad to think that Sir Henry's last days were embittered by fresh trouble. A certain John Musgrave had given information to the Commissioners for Compounding that Sir Henry in giving in a schedule of his estates and rental had greatly under-valued the amount of the latter and concealed a good deal of his property. In the beginning of June, 1650, Sir Henry went to the Commissioners, at Kendal, and engaged "to make satisfaction for any under-values that might afterwards appear, etc., and caused a horse to be provided for the journey, intending to send up to London or Newcastle; which of the two being the proper place for him to compound. But that in the meantime it pleased God to visit him with sickness, whereon he died." The precise date of his death is not known, but it must have been very shortly after making his will, which is dated 15th of October, 1650. He made his son James sole executor, who must have been lying sick unto death at the time, for he left a nuncupative will which, with his father's, was proved by his relict Katharine on the 24th of May, 1651, when the administration was granted to her. The will clearly shows that the son had survived the father, though only for a few days, as he is styled "Sir James Bellingham, Baronet," and his widow "the Lady Katharine Bellingham."

The Commissioners for Compounding, in a letter dated 26th October, 1650, distinctly state that Sir Henry Bellingham was then dead, and in a postscript add, "Since the writing of the lettre above said we have received certaine information that Sir James Bellingham is *this present evening* deceased, neither he nor his father having left any issue male, and when we knowe upon whome the state descends we shall certifie, etc." Between the 15th of October and the evening of the 26th Sir Henry and Sir James had both passed away. The heir male was Sir Henry's brother, Alan Bellingham, to whom his father, the elder Sir James, had given the estate of Gathorne, in Westmorland, on his marriage with Susan, daughter of Marmaduke Constable, of Wassand, in Co. York. Alan, who at the Heraldic Visitation of Westmorland, in 1664, gave his age at 68, now petitions the Commissioners, 21st November, 1650, and after stating that Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., of Levens, and his only son, Sir James, "both being delinquents, are very lately and suddenly dead,

together with the *grandchild* the only heir of that line of the family being but above half a year old," etc.: "He prays the rather because he has been no delinquent, but ever faithful to the Parliament," etc., that he may have time to establish his succession to the estates. Certainly it would be natural to suppose that a faithful adherent to the cause of the Parliament would escape sequestration; but, unfortunately, the Parliament wanted money, and Sir Henry's under-valuation of his estates had not been atoned for. Alan accordingly found himself obliged to pay, 24th Feb., 1651-2, the sum of £1,413 12s. od. for the "under-values"; Lady Katharine, Sir James' widow, had to pay £620 19s. od.; and Sir Henry's daughters and co-heirs, Agnes wife of Thomas Wentworth and Elizabeth wife of John Lowther, were duly mulcted according to their portions.

Alan Bellingham carried on the family line at Levens. He lived to old age, and seems to have been prudent in the management of his affairs, for he was able to leave the manor of Whitwell, in Co. York, to his second son, Henry Bellingham, who in all the Baronetages is put down as ancestor of the Irish branch of the family. But, so far from this being the case, he had an only daughter and heiress, Frances, who married Sir Reginald Graham, Bart., of Norton Conyers. Alan left to his third son, Thomas Bellingham, his property at Houghton, in Co. Durham. He died unmarried. In 1672 Alan died, and his eldest son, James Bellingham, succeeded him. He married three times. By his first wife he had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Timothy Mauleverer, of Arncliffe, Co. York. By his second wife he had three sons, Alan, Henry, and William; and five daughters: Mary, wife of Alexander Johnson, of Preston, Co. Lancaster; Agnes, wife of William Patten, of Preston; Bridget, wife of Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, of Kirkoswald, Cumberland; Elizabeth, wife of John Seahouse, of Seascale, Cumberland; and Dorothy, who died unmarried. James Bellingham died in 1680.

The period is now reached when the writer of the diary comes on the scene, and it will be well to give his descent. We must go back to Alan Bellingham, of Levens, who died in 1577. His brass, in Kendal Parish Church, says that he had vii. sons and viii. daughters, and that v. sons and vii. daughters survived him. He is said to have been 61 years of age at his death, 7 May, 1577. His post-mortem Inquisition gives, as is usual, a considerable portion of his will, which was dated 15th of June, 1568—nine years previous to his death. Clearly several of his sons were born afterwards, for he only mentions three at first—Thomas, James, and Henry; entailing the estates on them and their male issue; failing that, on his nephew, Thomas Bellingham, son of his