

CHAPTER IX

THE NORTHERNERS

In the Beaumont Chapel in the Parish Church of Kirkheaton near Mirfield there is a panelled alabaster altar tomb with the recumbent figure of a knight, his head resting on a pillow. With long hair, moustache and beard, he is depicted in armour, ruffs at the neck and boots. The memorial, designed by Nicholas Stone, is flanked by Corinthian columns which support a canopy with cornice, and ornamented with statues and shields. The inscription bears the name of Sir Richard Beaumont (remembered locally as "Black Dick") of Whitley Hall. He died unmarried in October 1631 and made his relative Thomas Beaumont, son of another Richard Beaumont of Kexburgh in ye Countie of Yorke Esq. one of his Executors and heire to his Parke at Sandall and to his Ancient Inheritance in Whitley, South Crosseland, Meltham and Lepton lying in the said Countie."

This Thomas (knighthood in 1660) and the deceased Sir Richard were representatives of two northern branches of the Beaumont family, Whitley Beaumont and Lascelles Hall. Lying, as their estates did, adjacent to each other, they were closely connected in interests, though not by marriage until Rosamund, Sir Richard's aunt, and daughter of Richard of Whitley Beaumont married in 1567 William, eldest son of Richard of Lascelles Hall and thus later became grandmother of Sir Thomas (1605-1678).

Sir Richard was knighted by James I at Whitehall on 23rd July 1603 and received land and an entail from the king in 1617. He rebuilt most of the old house at Whitley Beaumont. A stout adherent of the Stuarts, he was made a Justice of the Peace in 1618, was M.P. for Pontefract in 1627 and three years later was created a baronet by Charles I, the fourth Beaumont to be thus ennobled by the early Stuart kings.

He and his young 'cosen' were apparently fond of each other, so much so that when Thomas was 21 Sir Richard refused to listen to mischievous gossip about his conduct while he was away in London. He accompanied his assurance by a kindly letter of advice which Thomas pres-

"Cosen Thomas Beaumont, I received your letter of the 12th of this instant, whereby I understand that you are told there should be an evil report given of you before me and some other of your friends. In answer whereof I assure you there was never any such thing, nor will I, nor your friends easily admit of any such belief of you; my hopes are much better of you. But of this I rise, I asked John Lawson when he came from London of your health, he told me you were well; I asked him who were with you, he said he met my cosen Wodroffe with him in I answered I would not have youe companie with him in

London, and I had thought to have writ you on this, to take heed of little Judge Josnas' companie in that towne; but of drunkenness there was no word, nor anie tending to your disgrace, but of good advice which I doubt not that you will followe. Thus I commend my love to youe, resting wherein youe have occasion to use me.

Your assured lovinge cosen

Ric. Beaumont

Whitley this 23rd of August 1626.

I have sent youe here enclosed a smale token, and remember this advise from me good cosen, take heed of ill companie for it is a dangerous towne."

The story of the Yorkshire Beaumonts goes back to 1206. Nearly two centuries later, Henry the third son of Sir John de Bellomonte of Crossland Foss inherited his father's estate after the deaths of his two elder brothers Sir John (d. 1355) and Sir Robert (d. 1371). In 1390 he was implicated in one of the lawless deeds which were so often committed in these wild northern shires, being tried at York on a charge of killing John, son of Geoffrey Darcy of Clifton. The murder arose out of a quarrel between Henry and Sir John Aston who had taken some of his cattle by force of arms. Geoffrey Darcy was one of the men who took part in Sir Johns rustling expedition, and according to the evidence, Thomas, Henry's son (whom we cannot trace in the records) shot John Darcy in the back with an arrow and Henry gave him the coup de grace with a sword-blow on the side of the head. Henry, his son Thomas and a third man accused with them, were acquitted.

From Henry the three Yorkshire branches of Whitley Beaumont, Lascelles Hall and Crossland Foss (later Darton) were descended. Their sons and daughters, most of them bearing the family names such as William, Robert, Richard, John, Edward, Elizabeth, Joan, Alice and Anne, usually married into the local gentry, and their names appeared on many a memorial inscription, those of Whitley Beaumont mainly in the parish church of Kirkheaton, those of Lascelles Hall at Mirfield, those of Crossland at Almondbury and those of Darton at Darton and Sandal Magna.

Two members of the Whitley Beaumont family, Henry (d. 1424) and Richard (d. 1540) paid fines to be excused from taking on the honours and burdens of knighthood. In 1468 Henry's son Richard obtained from the Archbishop of York a licence to erect an oratory in his mansion and to maintain it for three years. In 1475 Thomas Beaumont, the son of Richard, made over lands and tenements at Crossland Foss to Robert, his son and heir on condition that he paid four shillings a year to him and one mark (13s. 4d.) to his wife, Robert's mother, for the period of their lives. There are numerous records of other family transactions, one of which concerned Richard Beaumont (1519-74), a Justice for the county. In one of his letters he warns his second cousin Robert, who lived in Southampton about a lease held of the latter by one John Ward who apparently owed money for rent. Ward was bargaining for the sale of his lease with Thomas Beaumont of Mirfield, a member of the family of Lascelles Hall, who had lately rebuilt Castle Hall adjoining the west end of Mirfield Church. There was evidently at that time some friction between the two branches of the family, for Richard's letter concludes:

"I wold ye shuld remembre yourself and concide that
 if Johne Wodd shuld sell his lease to a man not beyng
 your frend, it shuld greve you and put you to great
 displeasures dyverse ways, whiche thynge I suppose he
 will do except ane honest ordre he hade betwix you and
 hym verey shortly. Wherefore fole ye not, but send word
 hastily what ye wold have done in the premysse. I
 thinke youre tenant Thomas Atkynson have send you a
 letter declarng to you no lesse then is above mencioned.
 And thus I comyt you to the llyngge God, whom alway
 preserve you in goodnes to his blessed pleasure.

Frome Whitley, the thirde of Decembre ao Dni 1549

By your lvyngge cosyne

Richard Beaumont esquier

Your tenant Robert Crawshay

To Mr. Robert Beaumont of Southampton dellyver this with
 speed, hast, hast.

Whatever the difference between the families, it appears to have
 been ended later, for Richard's daughter Rosamund married in 1567 William
 (1546-1621) grandson of Thomas of Lascelles Hall, by which marriage the
 estates at Whitley, Mirfield and Lascelles Hall were in due course united
 and passed on the death of Rosamund's nephew Sir Richard, to his "deare
 cosen" Thomas.

The Lascelles Hall branch was descended from the same Henry whose
 grandson Henry married in 1425 Joan, a daughter and co-heiress of John
 Lascelles of Lascelles Hall, whose family was little more than a mile from
 Whitley, overlooking the narrow valley of the Fenay Beck which joins the
 Calder a short distance below Huddersfield. Castle Hall, rebuilt by
 Thomas, a great-grandson of Henry stood a mile north-east of the town of
 Mirfield, where the modern church of St. Mary and the tower of an earlier
 church stand near the tree-clad mound once topped by an old Norman fort.
 Near here, according to legend, Robin Hood came to visit his cousin who
 was a nun at Kirkstall Priory. Robin, who was ill, asked his cousin to
 bleed him, which she did, then locked him in a room where he was allowed
 to bleed to death.

The West Riding abounds with legends which its homely poets expressed
 in many an epic of rhymed couplets (see below). The story of
 Castle Hall and the Norman mound is told in one of these old manuscripts:

"In times of yore a knight did dwell
 At Castell Hall, near Chapel Well;
 And Sir John Heton was his name,
 A worthy baron great in fame;
 Lord of this town, as story tells,
 When chapel stood at Chapel Wells;
 He got this church parochial made,
 And the foundations of it laid,
 In the same place where now it stands
 Upon a portion of his lands:
 Behind the house a mount appears,
 A lasting monument of the years;
 It was created by the Danes,
 And piled up with wondrous pains.
 A Saxon Lord possessed the same,
 Before the Norman princes came,
 The Normans next possession took,

As doth appear by Domesday Book,

The Beaumonts did the place command

When Henry Tudor ruled the land,

The house rebuilt, which ages stood,

And front adorned with carved wood,

By Thomas B. the owner's name

Who lived and died in the same;

Bells to the Church the living call,

And to the grave they summon all,

And when by death one gets a fall

He's neighbour then to Castell Hall."

As stated above, the grandson of Thomas of Lascelles Hall, William married Rosamund, daughter of Richard of Whitley and their grandson was the Major Thomas who inherited the Whitley Beaumont estates.

Like most of the Beaumonts of Grace Dieu, Stoughton Grange and Barrow-on-Trent, Thomas was a prominent Royalist, and in 1642 he was appointed Sergeant Major in the regiment commanded by Sir William Saville who in that year captured both Leeds and Wakefield. In 1643 Thomas was appointed Deputy Governor (and on Saville's death Governor) of Sheffield Castle. This was the major fortress in the area, owned by the Earl of Shrewsbury where Mary Queen of Scots had been imprisoned for many years. In the first few months of his tenure of office things went well for the Royalists in the north, and Major Beaumont received encouraging news from his regimental commander about the victories of Hopton in Devon and Cornwall and the Royalist advances in Lincolnshire.

By June 1643 the campaign was in full swing, for Fairfax had advanced on the West Riding towns of Leeds and Bradford, only to be defeated at Adwalton Moor (June 30th). In anticipation of danger, Thomas was already preparing to face a siege and making plans for the safety of his wife and family. On June 21st, Sir William, then on his way to intercept the Parliamentary forces, wrote to him:

"I pray you ... be sure you want not any money nether for your selfe, nor your friends, soe long as any Roundhead hath either fingers or toes left, within tenn myles of the Castle. For these goods that you have left, if your wife please to send them to Pontefract Castle they shall bee there with some of mine. I will send to your wife to day, and know how she meanes to dispose of herselfe and children, wherein I shall doe her the best service I cann and send you word of her resolutions. I have received the bullets according as you write and shall hereafter desire you to send me the sizes as well as the number of the bullets. Wee are now upon our march towards Leeds and I hope shortly to send you good news. For all other things in your letter I shall take care, and once (a)gane entreate you to plunder as many goods as to make yourselfe a savor (sic). So in haste I (am)

Your faithful friend and servant
Will. Saville "

The formation of the Eastern Association and the headstrong conduct of Prince Rupert changed all this. While Fairfax was besieging York in 1644 Rupert advanced from Shrewsbury to Liverpool where he gathered forces, then crossed the Pennines into the West Riding while Fairfax and Manchester broke up the siege of York and marched out to check his advance. The Royalist defeat at Marston Moor meant the end of resistance at Sheffield where Thomas Beaumont, after facing growing Parliamentary

forces, wrote to him about 1st August 1644 demanding the surrender of the Castle:

"Sir,

Being in these partes by command of the Parliament to reduce such places as yet refuse obedience to their Commanders, I have sent you this summons, that you deliver up to mee the Castle of Sheffield now in your possession, with the arms, ordnance and ammunition therein. In the performance whereof you may expect all civillities becoming a gentleman of your quality. If you make any doubt of my performance, if you will come or send anyone to mee at Doncaster, you shall receive all satisfaction therein. I desire (your sp)eedy answer and rest,

Your servant,

E. Manchester"

On Major Thomas's refusal to surrender, General Crawford, in command of the besieging troops, wrote:

"Sir,

I am sent by the Earle of Manchester to reduce this place you hold, and therefore send you a summons, th(rough my trumpet was shot at, against the law of armes the other day. You may easily perceive I desire not the effusion of blood, otherwise I should have spared myselfe this labour. If you thinke good to surrender it, you may promise yourselfe all faire respecte befitting gentlemen and souldiers; otherwise you must expect those extremities which they have that refuse mercy. I desire your answer within one houre and rest,

Your servant,

L. Crawford

Sheffield, Aug 4th, 1644."

On August 9th an iron demi cannon and a 24 ft bronze cannon known as "The Queen's Pocket Pistol" (which still survives in Dover Castle) arrived from York and the breaches then made in the mediaeval walls persuaded Thomas that further resistance was useless. On 10th August he agreed to surrender the Castle on condition that he was allowed to march out with his "field officers, Captains, Lieutenants and Ensignes ... with their drummes and culiers, and each his owen horse, saddle, sword and pistoles", to Pontefract Castle or such other place as they desired, with a sufficient convoy or passes for their security. The privates with their non-commissioned officers were also to be allowed to march out with their swords and pikes, each to his own home or where else they pleased. On 13th August 'Major Beaumont' was provided with a pass to return "to his house at Whitley Hall and there reside without any of your lets or molestations in body or goods, hee the said Major Thomas Beaumont conforming himself to all the ordinances of Parliament and demeaning himself as becometh a good subject."

One of the commissioners appointed by Major Thomas to treat for the surrender was his cousin, Gabriel Hemsworth. Sir W. Saville's widow and children were allowed to return to Thornhill "or else wher, with a

sufficient guard befitting the quality of her person."

During the rest of the Civil War Major Thomas was bound by his promise not to take any active part, but he was in no mind to demean himself as becometh a good subject." In 1639 he had sold Sandal Castle near Wakefield to John Pollard, servant of Francis Neville of Cheveley, "together with all quires and rooms in the Church", for £1100. This had been the last resting place of Richard Duke of York on the night before he fought his last battle at Wakefield during the Wars of the Roses. In 1645 it had become an isolated strong point in a hostile region. Thomas, who claimed that he was prevented by his wounds from going to London to attend personal business, garrisoned the Castle and put Colonel Bonivant in charge of it. The Colonel determined to raise the siege by an artful stratagem. At a set hour each day the besieging army sounded the drums for prayers. Major Bonivant did the same, inducing the enemy to believe that this was an agreed truce until one day, during a very short period of devotion

"those within the castle dedicated themselves unto God with upright heartes and religious prayers in breefe manor",

then made a sudden sortie, falling on the besieging forces while they were unprepared, with such fury that, taken by surprise they were forced to raise the siege losing 42 men killed and another 50 taken prisoner. Before the end of the first Civil War Thomas, like all other Royalist men of property was compelled to pay a fine for the redemption of his lands. The charge against him was that he had been

"in arms against the Parliamte, Major of a Regimte of ffoote and did keepe a garrison in Sheffeld Castle for the king against the Parliamte. That he delivered up Sheffeld Castle in July 1644, to the Parliamte upon composicion to goe and reside at his dwellinge and soe infirme of body as that he is not able to come upp in person to London to finish his composicion, that he petitioned heere the 7th of November last"

Then follows a list of the estates he held in Lepton, Crossland, Meltham, Kirkburton and Kirkheaton with their values, together with an inventory of all the goods at Whitley Beaumont and its outbuildings, furniture, utensils, corn and livestock. After much hard bargaining he paid a fine of £700 on April 13th 1646.

The government of Cromwell must have been a very sad time for him, but at the restoration of Charles II he entered on happier days. A month after the king's landing at Dover Thomas was rewarded for all his past services by the grant of a knighthood. This could not, however, have compensated him for the loss of his eldest son.

Born in March 1631, Adam Beaumont was only eleven years old when the war broke out, and only 18 when the king was beheaded. At the age of 20 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Assheton who was a neighbouring landowner but a captain in the Parliamentary forces. In 1654 and 1655 there were many plots and sporadic risings against Cromwellian rule and while opposing one of these with a detachment under his father-in-law he was killed in a skirmish (November 1655). A small and indifferently engraved brass in Kirkheaton Church depicts a knight in the armour of the period, bareheaded, with long waving hair clad in ridged breastplate, large epaulieres, long tassets and jackboots. His young son kneels at his side and facing him is his wife in a veil headress and gown holding

a baby in her arms, while a daughter stands behind her. Adam's will, in which he left special bequests to his "kind father" and his relatives, a bay gelding to "Mr. Hitch, Minister of God's Word" and £10 to the poor of Kirkeaton, give evidence of a devout and earnest young man. The Adam died before his father, leaving a son and two daughters. The son, Richard, only a year old when his father died, inherited the Whitley estate from his grandfather in 1668 and died in 1692 aged only 37, "a sincere member of the Church of England and to whose principles in a most fickle age he lived steady and died with the decency and resignation of a Pious Christian." Surely in this memorial there must be some indirect reference to the dissenting leanings of his father and an indication of a young sheep returned to the fold, in days when religious prejudice still ran high. He left a son, Richard, who married an heiress, enlarged the house and died in 1704 aged 26 leaving a litigious widow but no children. The Whitley estate passed to the issue of Adam's brother Richard. The widow insisted on getting every penny due to her under her husband's will. She later married the Earl of Westmoreland who used her money on ambitious building projects at Mereworth Castle in Kent and elsewhere.

Richard, younger son of Sir Thomas (1638-1706) lived longer than any other male member of his family, long enough to see some measure of internal peace restored and England launched into the adventurous eighteenth century of expansion. He inherited Lascelles Hall but that estate was not as rich as Whitley. He was a captain in Lord Castleton's Regiment of Foot and served in Flanders in 1688. His son, another Richard (1670-1723) followed his father's calling, was a captain in the same regiment from 1692 to 1700 and served under the Earl of Albemarle in Jamaica. In 1713 he became Sheriff of Yorkshire but was always short of money. From him the later representatives of the Whitley Beaumont branch were descended; the Allendales and the Nottinghamshire family also descend from him through the marriage of his daughter, Frances with George Beaumont of Barton. Sir Thomas, the Major, though a member of the Lascelles Hall branch, had inherited the Whitley Beaumont estates. In 1704 the estates were again united and eventually Lascelles Hall passed out of the family.

A cousin of Sir Thomas who deserves mention was George, a Master of Arts, probably of Magdalen College, Cambridge, Rector of South Kirby near Pontefract. In February 1648, during the siege of that town by General Lambert and the Parliamentary forces, George kept up a correspondence with the garrison under Major Morris by means of letters in cipher. On this being detected, he was taken by Lambert, imprisoned, loaded with irons and eventually hanged before the walls of the castle, one of his own relatives being forced to assist at his execution. An engraving showing this event is to be found as the frontispiece of William Winstanley's "Loyal Martyrology" (1665) and the reference (page 27) reads:

"Master Beaumont, a Reverend Divine belong(ing) to the Garrison of Pontefract, who for his Loyal Endeavours towards the Restoration of his Majesty in holding Correspondency in Cypher with some active Royalists, was, by those Murdering Mischreants, who spared none, either for their Age or Function, most barbarously murdered Feb. 15. 1648(9)"

Before moving on to the next Yorkshire Branch of the family mention should be made of one unusual character, a scholar and local historian who sprang from the original Whitley stock. This was Richard Henry Beaumont of Whitley, born in 1748. The bare record of his life is that he was an Hon. M.A. of Oxford, Fellow of Brasenose College, F.S.A., J.P. for the

West Riding and High Sheriff in 1793, dying without having married on 28th Novr. 1810. Before going up to Oxford he made a tour of Italy which gave him a lasting love of antiquities and the Arts. At Oxford he spent untold hours trying to sort out and classify the Dodsworth collection of Papers at the Bodleian, which were in a chaotic state, at the same time making his own notes of items of Yorkshire interest to him which are today among his papers available to historians at Huddersfield. He attempted to build up a family pedigree, being most careful to reject anything which was incapable of proof. He poured friendly scorn on his Barton cousins, who suggested, with some degree of reason, that their branch was senior to that of Whitley. His home which in its heyday, having been enlarged and modernised in part by James Paine, must have been a museum of treasures and beauty, was neglected. He gave away pictures to the Bodleian and Ashmolean Museum among other things a contemporary portrait of Queen Elizabeth I and others by Jordan, Sir N.D. Holland and Sir Joshua Reynolds. A famous but enormous Conversation Piece by Romney is in the Tate gallery. Others which belonged to him have survived. His sensitive calm face portrayed by Sir Wm. Beechey looks down today on the contributor of these notes.

Unfortunately for the family his concentration upon the past caused him, as he grew old, to neglect his own affairs and indeed his own comfort. He wrote to his Nottinghamshire cousin early in the 19th century:

"I am negligent and indolent in all things except writing pedigrees and as timorous and undecided as T.W. (Thomas Denholm Whitaker) my old school-fellow"

In 1808 Marianne Spencer Stanhope, a neighbour from Cannon Hall describes a visit to the "Master of Whitley" as she calls him:

"He leads the life of a hermit and has not had a brush, painter or carpenter in his house since it came into his possession many, many years ago. It is more like the haunted house in a romance than anything I ever saw. He is now an old man and has never bought a morsel of furniture. Half the house was never finished; one of the staircases has got no bannisters. The stables were burnt down some years ago and have never yet been rebuilt.

"The rooms he lives in have not been put to rights for many years. A description of the things they contain would not be easy, hats, whips, coats, piles of newspapers, magazines and letters, draughts, bottles, washbasins, pictures without frames, apples, tallow, candles and broken teacups.

"The whole house looks like a place for lumber. There are some fine rooms but so damp and mouldy it is quite shocking. There is a chapel completely filled with old rubbish and a plank bed, which was put up for the Pretender.

"In the room Mr. Beaumont sleeps in I saw his coffin made of cedarwood. He scarcely ever sees a living creature and quite dislikes the sight of a woman. He does everything in the room which no housemaid ever enters, nor indeed any part of the house."

He unfortunately made his own disastrously muddled will leading to Chancery litigation to interpret it and doubtless much disputation among his relatives.

Rising below Cross Fell in the south-east corner of Cumberland, the South Tyne, fed by numerous mountain streams, runs northward until, past the township of Alston, it reaches a wider valley near Haltwhistle. Turning eastwards, it is joined after some five miles by the little river Allen, flowing northwards through a narrow picturesque valley. Here, from the Middle Ages onwards, mining had been one of the main industries of the people, for veins or lodes of lead had been found running through the carboniferous limestone of the series. From here to Hexham and Corbridge, the old Roman settlement of Corstopitum and supply base of the forts on Hadrian's Wall, a branch of the Beaumont family inherited lands and industrial interests by marriage and when one of its members was ennobled in 1906 he took the name of Baron Allendale.

The family of Allendale sprang originally from Roger of Crossland-foss, second son of Henry (d. 1405) of the Whitley Beaumont family who had been tried for murder in 1359. The family continued to live through a further three or four generations at Crosslandfoss until (due to poverty?) they relinquished it to their Whitley cousins in 1515. A son of this family called Humphrey was described in 1567 as of "Over Flockton." Flockton is situated on the further side of Whitley Beaumont as the crow flies, and his grandson George who died in 1664 moved to the Oaks Darton which is just 5 miles further to the East. It is presumed that Humphrey's father was John who died in 1541, but as there was another John who died 20 years earlier and both were of Nether-ton which is at the foot of the hill at Crossland, there is at present a little uncertainty. The second John however, in his interesting Will left money for the "mending of the way between Armitage Bridge and the Castle Hill" "to be paid at such time as the guest men of the parish will take upon them to amende the same waye." This was the ancient road going from Nether-ton across the R. Holme direct to Almondbury Church in which he wished to be buried.

The benefactions of the Darton Beaumonts are typical of the English gentry of the day. Thomas of Chapelthorpe (1675-1731) a second son left £150 to the poor of Darton where he is buried, as well as £20 for the purchase of communion plate at Sandal Magna the parish church in which he worshipped. George of Darton who died in 1664 remembered Flockton and left the poor there £30. A fourth and later Thomas of the Oaks also left £100 to the poor of Darton. But these small requests are insignificant compared with those of George the Danzig Merchant referred to later.

The male members of this branch do not seem to have taken any prominent part in the political struggles of the 17th Century or in the Civil War. For one daughter alone may any claim to notoriety be made. This was Sarah, elder sister of George the Danzig Merchant. In October 1656 she married Josiah Wordsworth of Waterhall Penistone, only a few miles from the family home. Their grandson John, an Attorney living in Westmoreland became law-agent to the first Earl of Lonsdale and their Great-grandson was the Poet William Wordsworth born in 1770 at Cockermouth. The Darton family showed some tendency to wander further afield. John, probably the younger brother of Humphrey who died in 1585, having married a girl from Wakefield, moved over to Cottingham near Hull in the East Riding, and his son Hammond after marrying a local girl from Walkington near his home moved to Fangfoss towards York. But we lose touch with their children's issue.

A more enterprising member of the Darton family, however, was George, born in 1633. He settled in York and was described as a "Dantzig" merchant, trading from Hull with the Baltic Ports. He became a wealthy man, dying a bachelor in 1668, thus quite transforming the family fortunes even after many charitable benefactions, including £500 for the foundation of a school at Darton and other sums for the poor of Darton

and Flockton. His nephew Jonathan (who is not mentioned in his will) doubtless carried on the business, as he died unmarried and intestate in 1717 "apud Dantzig in regno Polandia" administration being granted to his brother Thomas and the family solicitor at Wakefield. It was with the proceeds of Baltic trade that this Thomas, also a bachelor, who died in 1731 and his nephew (yet a fourth bachelor) another Thomas, the Rector of Bulwell, Nottingham, bought Chapelthorpe Hall in 1682. They modernised it and acquired further land in and around the Parish of Sandal Magna some of which remained in the family until this century. But they seem to have regarded Darton as their base and most of them were buried there.

Meantime a sad event had happened. George of Darton, the Dantzig Merchant's eldest nephew who had married his distant cousin Frances of Whitley Beaumont, and his wife both died in 1735 within three months of one another, leaving three young children, Thomas aged 13, George 9 and Susannah about 7. There was a choice of Aunts to bring up Susannah including two in Nottinghamshire, Jane the wife of Abel Smith the Banker and Gertrude the wife of the Vicar of Car Colston. (The youngest sister Hannah married Andrew Burnaby, Vicar of St. Mary's Leicester, and is an ancestress of Queen Elizabeth II). The responsibility for George was undertaken by his bachelor uncle Thomas, the Rector of Bulwell, though his early education remained in Yorkshire probably Leeds, and visits to Whitley and Chapelthorpe were frequent. It was these events and the careful guidance in their affairs later by the Abel Smiths, which led to the Nottinghamshire branch being established. The later Abel Smiths, all descended from Aunt Jane, are too well known to mention. The elder orphan brother Thomas stayed in Yorkshire and must have found in his youth a home-form-home with his cousins Henry and Richard at Whitley; but he eventually settled at Darton and it was his only child Thomas Richard (1758-1829) who married Diana Wentworth, illegitimate daughter and heiress of Sir Thos. Blakett, formerly Wentworth of Bretton Hall and Hexham Abbey, thus re-establishing his own, and later the Whitley family fortunes.

Diana Wentworth was a notable character in her own right. Her mother had been the daughter of her father's gamekeeper. She was regarded with some astonishment by her Yorkshire neighbours, doubtless mixed with a good deal of respect as she passed into local history by the name of "Madam Beaumont". It is said that she rode to Church one day on a donkey for a bet.

With the death in 1857 of the surviving male descendant of the original Whitley branch, the Whitley Beaumont estate passed under his will to Henry Frederick, a grandson of Thomas Richard of Darton and Diana. It is proper to mention him if only to record that it was his munificent gift in 1883 which provided Huddersfield with its beautiful Beaumont Park; but alas, with the death of his son Henry Ralph in 1948 the male line failed and the Whitley Beaumont heritage passes into nostalgia. Whitley Beaumont house was demolished in 1952 but fortunately the very valuable documents which Richard Henry Beaumont had studied were deposited in Huddersfield.

There remain two loose ends to tidy up. Edward (d. 1596) son of Thomas who rebuilt Castle Hall, Mirfield (see p. 111) moved to Calton near York and founded another branch of the family, though it is interesting to note that many of its members continued to be buried at Mirfield. The Calton family seems to have passed out of existence with Richard Beaumont (d. 1610).

The last thread to tidy is the result of the unfortunate death in 1735 of the young parents George and Frances on the future of young George, their second son for whom his Uncle Thomas, the Rector of Bulwell and his Aunt Jane Abel Smith became responsible in Nottinghamshire. He became the rector of St. Nicholas, Nottingham and his descendants, mainly a series of Georges, Richards, a Frances, a Susannah and two Everlides, Thomas, still flourish. One of them must accept responsibility for all the errors and omissions which come to be found in this section of the book. Other descendants of the Crossland Foss family undoubtedly exist and can establish their link accurately if they will undertake some research. It is to be hoped that these notes will inspire them to do this and to pass on the information.

THE CALTON BRANCH

Edward, second son of Thomas and
Johanna of Lascelles Hall
under age 1555, d. 1596
Elizabeth da. Christopher Hopton
of Armley nr Leeds. 1574

Christopher of Millington and
Thomas of Selby 1580-1615
2 sisters Anne b. 1577
3 sisters Ba
1 sister Bu

Calton
1575 - 1613
m Elizabeth
da. hs of Robert Day
of Elmsall West
Riding

Richard b. 1610
Edward alive 1629
Elizabeth alive 1630
Mary
Jane
Anne
Dorothy

M - married at Mirfield

Ba - baptised at Mirfield

Bu - buried at Mirfield

