

**THE SECRETS  
OF  
HYLTON CASTLE**



*"Tant que je puis"*

*"It is almost an understatement to say they were  
lavish of their blood in their country's cause  
They poured it out like water  
Before the reign of Richard I  
According to an ancient manuscript  
Three Hyltons had already been killed in  
France or England  
Four more were killed in the Crusades  
Three fighting for the Black Prince  
one at Agincourt, two against the Scots  
seven in the Wars of the Roses  
and four at the Battle of Flodden"*

The Hyltons  
of  
Hylton Castle

Monkwearmouth  
England

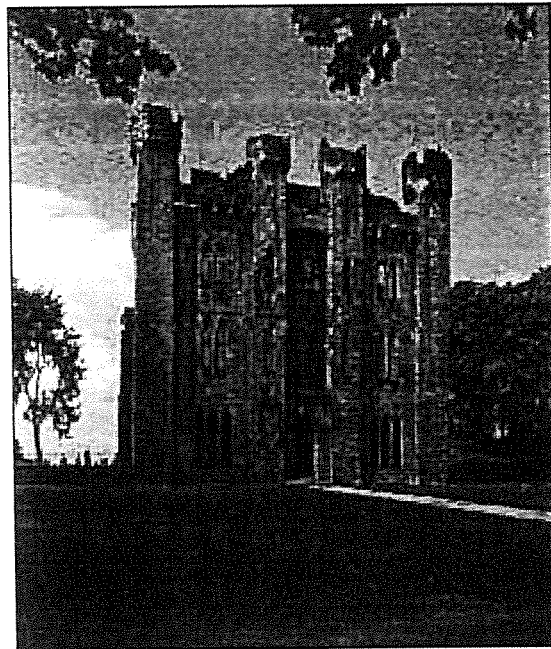
by

ERIC WILLIAM LAMBERTON  
2001

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# The Hyltons of Hylton Castle

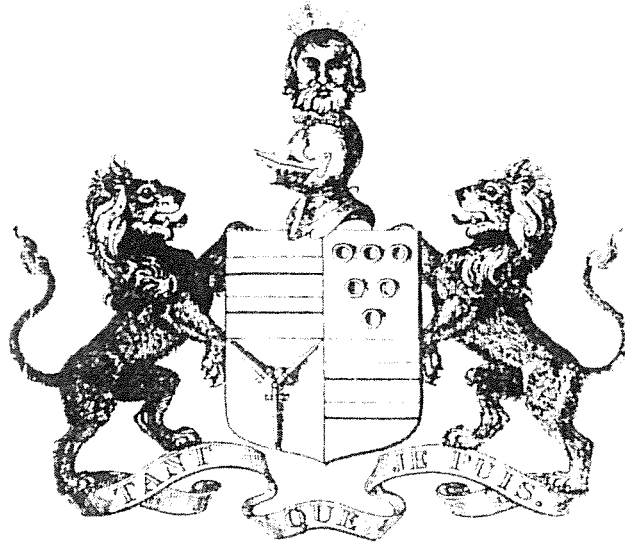


*"The old stone tower of Hilton still stands grim and grey with the age of nearly 1000 years upon it; but what of it'sbuilders, what of the the children born within it's walls, the mothers who nursed them, the fathers who told them tales of daring in field and flood?. Those old Lords of Hilton, once daring, boisterous, and hard fighters, have struck their last sleep under the "massive tomb in the church's dusty aisle" or resting unnamed under the stars. The bustle of life goes on as be fore, but they heed it no more for ever.*

*These stones of their old keep in which they lived, and the chapel in which they worshipped are nearly all which connects our present with their past"*

- Rev Proctor Swaby 1884.

# The Hylton Crest



The Hylton Crest showing the Arms of Hylton quartered with those of Vipont and Stapleton

This book traces the early recorded history of the Barons of Hylton, i.e. the eldest sons or male heirs of the Hylton estates and their wives, sons and daughters from early surviving documents, but the book is dedicated to the sons and daughters of every branch and generation of the family who have shown the same family characteristics of bravery and valour, truth and justice, often in the most challenging of circumstances in many countries across the world.

All who have lived up to the family motto;

*Tant que je puis*  
- *As much as I can*

*"It is almost an understatement to say that they were lavish of their blood in their country's cause. They poured it out like water. Before the reign of Richard I, according to an ancient manuscript, three Hyltons had already been killed in battle in France or England; four more were killed in the Crusades, three fighting for the Black Prince, one at Agincourt, two against the Scots, seven in the Wars of the Roses, and four at the battle of Flodden. If it be true, this warrior record is probably unique in English History."*

"Durham" – Sir Timothy Eden

# Hylton - Helton - Hilton

## The Family Name

The name "Hylton" derives from the anglo saxon words;

"hyl" – meaning a "hill"

and

"tun" – originally used to describe a "fence",  
then an "enclosure" or a "farm",

The word "tun" was later used to describe an "estate" and eventually evolved into the word "town".

"Hyl tun" at Monkwearmouth in England was originally a defensive "enclosure on a hill" and later became known as a "farm on a hill". People who lived there became known as "Hyltuns"

From 1000 A.D. to 1300 A.D. most individuals are recorded in early records by their Christian name only as shown in the muster rolls of 1296 A.D.. Only the monks and a few of the nobility knew how to read and write at that time and names were written in Latin. e.g. Romanus

As the population increased, and as more parents named their children after themselves, they used the name of the place they lived in, to differentiate each other. e.g. Romanus de (of) Hyltun

With the invasion of Normans with William the Conquerer in 1066, the French language became the spoken and written language of the aristocracy and landed gentry..

"tun" became "ton" i.e. Hylton

and

"hyl" became "hel" i.e. "Helton".

In later centuries as the Normans (from Normandy in France) intermarried with the anglo saxons and the English language developed as we know it today, the letter "y" was replaced by the letter "i"

"Hyltun" – original anglo saxon spelling

"Hylton" – anglo saxon/ norman spelling

"Helton" – french norman spelling

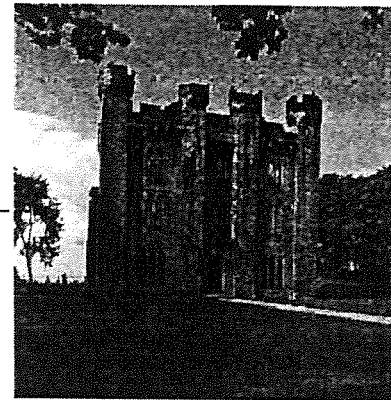
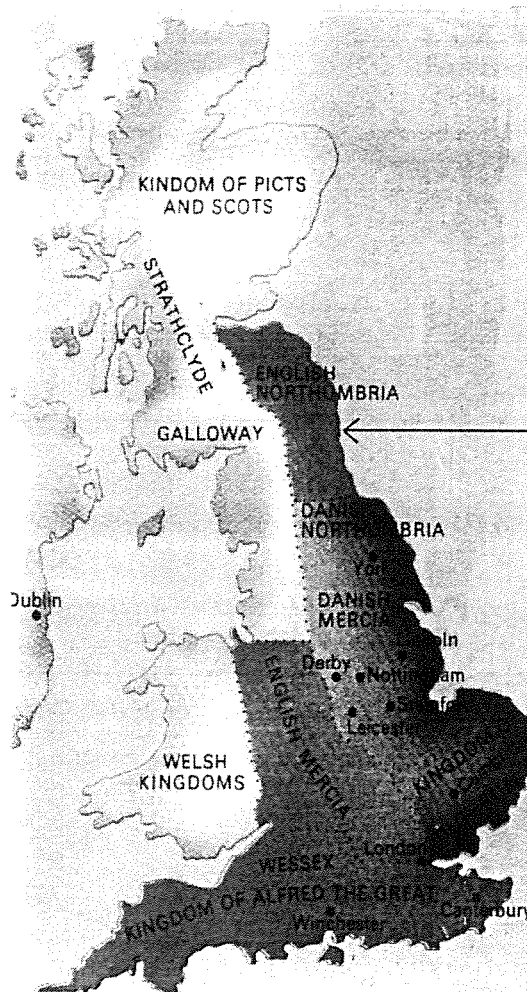
"Hilton" – english spelling



# The Hyltons of Hylton Castle

The Hylton Castle stands proudly on a hill overlooking the River Wear at Monkwearmouth on the North East coast of Britain.

It was built over 600 years ago in a region that was originally known as the Kingdom of Northumbria which covered an area stretching from Edinburgh in the north to the River Tees in the south and was bounded by Pennine mountain range in the west.

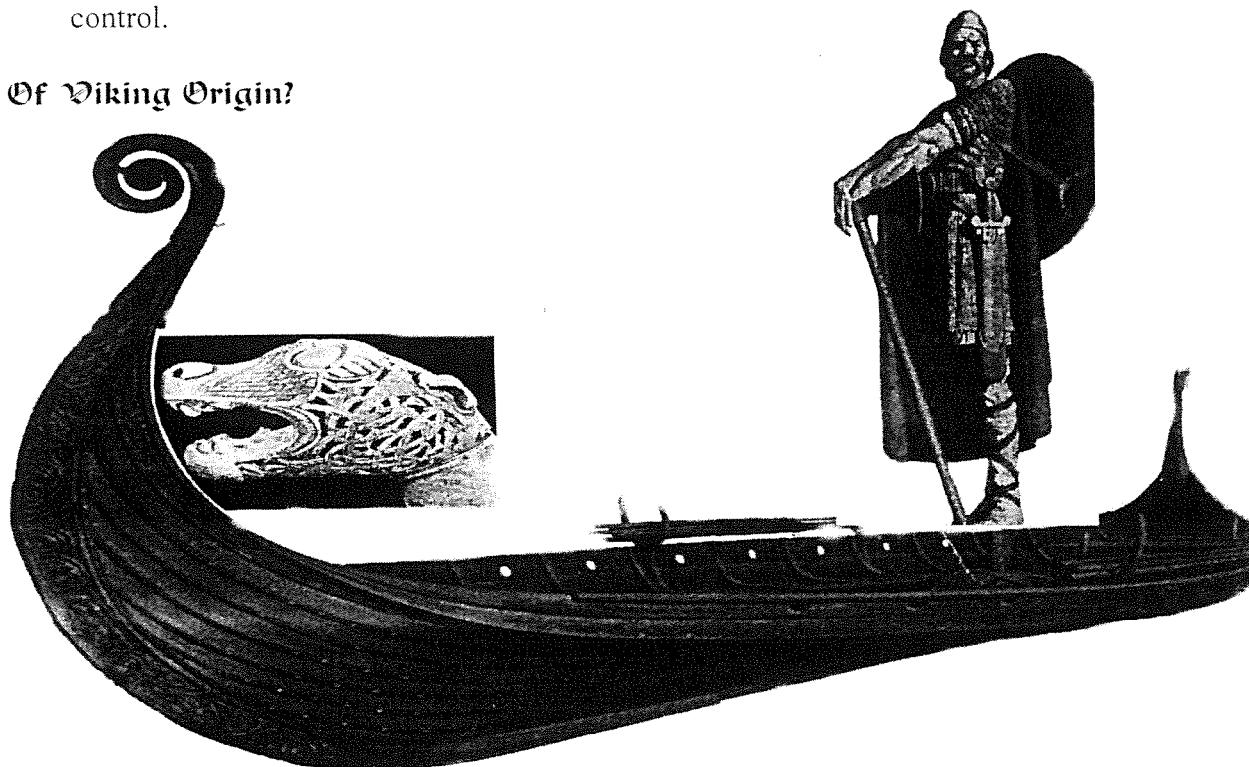


A few miles to the north of where Hylton Castle now stands, the Emperor Hadrian built his wall across Britain to keep the barbarian hordes of the North out of the Holy Roman Empire nearly 2000 years ago. The remains of the Arabeia Roman fort still exist overlooking the mouth of the River Tyne which for more than 300 years controlled the main port of entry to the Roman Empire in Britain..

With the decline of the Roman Empire the region evolved into Northumbria, a kingdom in its own right. The most powerful kingdom in England. The Saxons from Germany and the Angles from Denmark had settled here and the kings of Northumbria became the overlords of all the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England.

By 885 A.D., the Scots and Picts ruled north of Edinburgh, Northumbria was an independent Anglo-Saxon kingdom and to the south the Danish Vikings were in control.

### Of Viking Origin?



The founder of the Hylton line may have been one of the fierce Vikings, who in the days of King Beorhtic arrived upon the coasts of the Kingdom of Northumbria.;

*"In the year 787 A.D. three ships of Northmen came from Haeretha land to Northumbria, and the King's reeve rode to that place, and would have taken them prisoners. but they slew him there and then"*

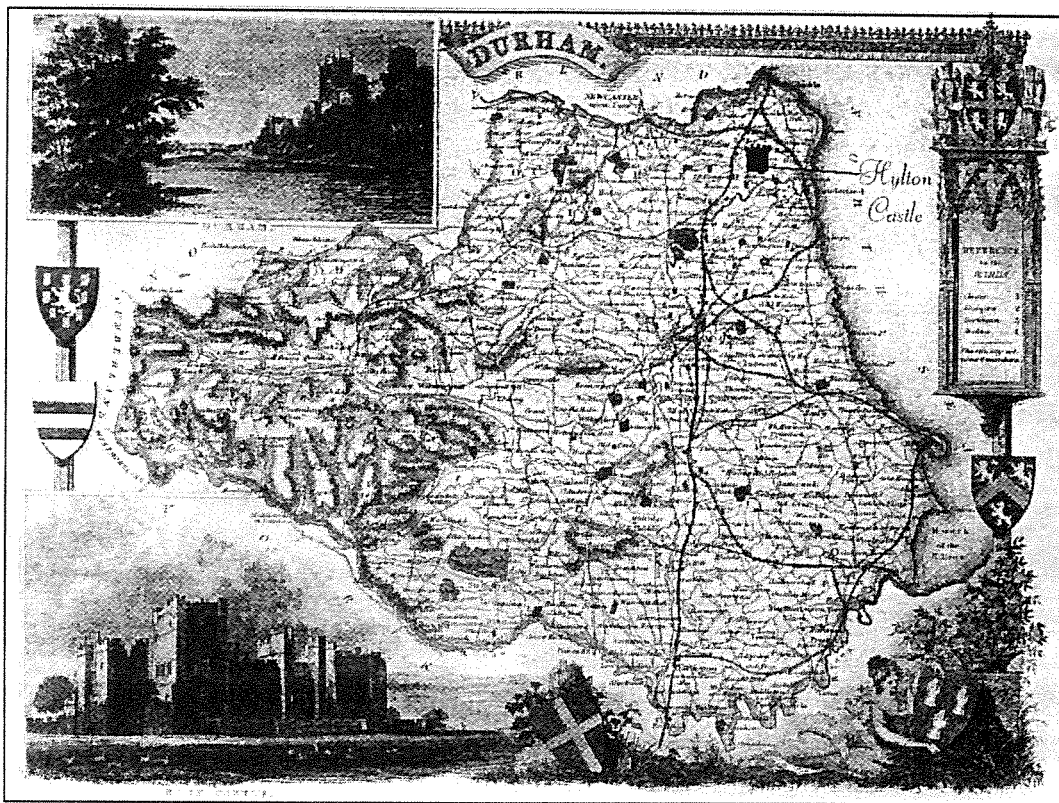
In 793 A.D. the Vikings sacked the monastery on the island of Lindisfarne off the Northumbrian coast..

*"they came like stinging hornets, like ravening wolves, they made raids on all sides, slaying not only cattle but priests and monks"* - Symeon of Durham

In the ninth century the monastery of St Peters at Monkwearmouth which had been founded by Benedict Biscop in 674 A.D. and where Bede began his monastic life, was sacked by the Danish pirates Hubba and Hingmar.

The River Wear was used by the Norsemen. Vikings from Ullensaker in Oslo who ruled a kingdom in Dublin in Ireland. Each winter they would march across country using the Roman Military Road, which ran parallel to the Roman Wall to the Solent on the west coast of England rather than sail around the rough north sea route around

Scotland to Ireland. They had established a settlement at Ulkilla on the River Wear, now known as Biddick in Washington and another settlement at Barmston called Boermunds enclosure. Hylton (an enclosure on a hill) overlooking the mouth of the River Wear was originally an observation post where the Norsemen who became known as the Hyltons could watch any boats sailing up the River Wear to their settlements at Ulkilla and Boermunds.



The monks of St Cuthbert had settled in 885 A.D. at Chester le Street, a few miles upstream on the River Wear from where Hylton Castle now stands. They had escaped from the island of Lindisfarne off the Northumbrian coast with the remains of St Cuthbert and the Lindisfarne Gospels when the Vikings had first invaded. They built a wooden church on the banks of the River Wear, and the site had become so important to early Christian pilgrims, the Pope had appointed Bishops of Chester le Street.

According to the Hayton manuscript, the family of Hilton was settled in England, "in great reputation" 300 years before the invasion of William the Conqueror according to a certain inscription in Hartlepool. By the early 10th century they had been converted to Christianity and in the reign of King Athelston, Adam of Hylton presented a silver crucifix which weighed 25 ounces to the monastery at Hartlepool in the year 924 A.D with the arms of Hylton engraven upon it.

The family were almost certainly of Viking/Anglo Saxon origin, as were many other families of Northumbria at that time. The last King of Northumbria was Eric Bloodaxe, who was slain at Stainmore in 954 A.D. He was red-headed Norseman who had a Danish mother and a heroic reputation for success in battle both in Norway and overseas.

*"Eric had such a great army that five kings followed him because he was a valiant man and a battle winner. He trusted in himself and his strength so much that he went far up country and everywhere he went with warfare" – Fagrskinna Saga*

*"King Eric was treacherously killed in a certain lonely place which is called Stainmore with his son Haeric and his brother Ragnald, betrayed by Earl Oswulf (leader of the Northumbrians)" – written by a 10th century chronicler at St Peters in York.*

From 1017-1036 Cnut, known as King Canute ruled this region in addition to Norway and Denmark. He styled himself " Emperor of the North" His niece Sigurn married Uchtred the Earl of Northumberland.

Who exactly was the founder of the Hyltons of Hylton line is difficult to ascertain. Legend has it he was descended from Harold, son of Eric Ericsson, son of Eric Bloodaxe but this can not be proved.

On the east side of Hylton Castle, carved in stone above the Moses head crest, is the Hilton badge – a Roebuck, couchant, collared, chained . Legend has it that after the Battle of Hastings when William the Conquerer, who was a Norman of Viking origin defeated King Harold in 1066 A.D.and became King William I of England, the head of the Hylton family and his son travelled south where they met the new king and presented him with a Roebuck from their extensive estates in the North. It was "chained" to show that they were not altogether free, "collared" to show that their necks were under the yolk, and "crowned" to show that they were noble.

How much truth there is in the legend is not known but a Roebuck, collared and chained is carved in stone on the walls of Hylton Castle dating back 600 years.

After his triumph in the south of England in 1066, King William the Conqueror's forces moved north, but like the Romans before them, the Normans found the People of the North far more difficult to conquer.

King William installed Robert de Comines at Durham as his man in the North to watch over the Barons but the People of the North besieged Durham City and killed him and all of the Norman troops.

William took his revenge; *"I fell upon the English of the North like a roaring lion"* Between York and Durham he left no house standing and no human beings alive that his horsemen could search out.

As soon as William returned south, the Scots invaded from the west and burned both Hartlepool and Wearside in an attempt to take control of the region.

The North East of England was to become a battleground for power between the English and the Scots for the next five hundred years.

## The Barons vs The King

King William made Walthoef, an English nobleman, Earl of Northumbria in the hope he would control the northern rebels but Walthoef revolted against his sovereign and was executed at Winchester.

The King then made a man called Walcher the first "Norman" Bishop of Durham (i.e. from Normandy in France) but he too was murdered by the people after he was blamed for the death of Ligulf, another English nobleman and the founder of the Lumley family of Lumley Castle, a few miles upriver from Hylton Castle.

This time King William was going to teach them a lesson they would not forget "*An army, led by Odo, the military Bishop of Baieux in France, ravaged the province killing the guilty and the innocent alike*".

William and the Norman kings that followed him realised they could not destroy the will of the People of the North or the power of Bishops and the church. They made Durham a "Palatinate" and the Bishops were given vice regal powers with responsibility of protecting the north of England against the Scots.. Whatever powers the king enjoyed in the rest of the country, the Bishops enjoyed within the Palatinate which stretched from the River Tyne to the River Tees and also included Norham in Northumberland on the Scottish borders.

*"The King's writ did not run in these domains, but the Bishop's; the Kings peace was not kept or threatened there, but the Bishop's. He had his own judges, his own Council and courts, his own army, his own vassals, his own mint. He had rights of Admiralty over his shores. Forfeitures for treason were paid to him, not to the Crown."*

The proudest names in England, Scotland, America and Canada – BRUCE, BALLIOL, PERCY, NEVILLE, HYLTON, LAMBTON and WASHINGTON served under his banner.



Durham Cathedral

Some of these were the heads of Anglo Saxon families who had lived in the Kingdom of Northumbria, had survived the Norman invasion and become “Barons of the Bishoprick”, others were the conquering Knights who had invaded with William the Conqueror, had become Knights of the Realm and been awarded lands in the north of England as their spoils of victory.

The families of “BALLIOL”, “BRUCE”, “PERCY” and “NEVILLE” could trace their roots back to France and had acquired their lands after the Norman invasion in 1066.

“LAMBTON” and “HYLTON” could trace their roots back to the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria.

“WASHINGTON” to the ancient Kingdom of Cumbria, and to Scotland!

Balliol became King of Scotland

Bruce became King of Scotland

Neville became Kingmaker

Percy helped found Virginia

Hylton helped found New Hampshire

Lambton helped found Canada

Washington helped found United States

# The Early Hyltons

## 1157 A.D. Romanus de Heltun

The earliest member of the Hilton family mentioned in Durham records was Romanus de Heltun in 1157 A.D., 91 years after the invasion of William the Conqueror, during the reign of King Henry II of England. He held "Heltun" for three knight's fees "in antient feoffment" (i.e. had to turn out three fully equipped knights and their retainers ready for combat whenever and where ever the King commanded in return for the right to his lands).

This would suggest that Romanus de Heltun was by no means the first in the line of Hyltons. The first mention of a settlement at Hylton on the north bank of the River Wear at Monkwearmouth is 1072 and it's position suggests that the Hyltons had become defenders of the monks of St Cuthbert and controlled entry to the River Wear. There is strong evidence to suggest that the Hyltons also controlled entry to the mouth of the River Tyne, ten miles north, which had been the prime port of entry to Britain in roman times. The Hyltons are first recorded in court records in South Shields on the south bank of the River Tyne in 1364.

Romanus de Heltun is first recorded on an agreement made with Absolom, the Prior of Durham in 1157, that he should have his own officiating chaplain in his chapel of Hylton.

Only a few educated monks and very few of the nobility knew how to read and write at that time. The monks were the first to evolve "legal" language and often wrote the rules themselves! Having your own chaplain and your own chapel meant you could keep an eye on what the monks, and the Bishop of Durham, were up to. It also indicates the high standing of the Hylton family in Durham at that time.

The agreement stated;

*"The same chaplain (at Hylton) might receive all the offerings of his Patron's own house",* (excepting as usual, on great festivals, when the Baronial family were expected to attend the mother church).

*"Romanus should pay for every oxen, one thrane of corn to St Peters at Wearmouth, and that all the tithes and offerings of a certain half carucate called Trublards land, and from the whole lands of Hilton and Ridurm, which should belong to the mother church"*

It was an agreement which would lead to centuries of conflict between the Hyltons and the monks at Monkwearmouth, which became a cell of the priory at Durham. It deprived the monks at Monkwearmouth of the "offerings" from Hilton Castle.

The monasteries and the church had become fabulously wealthy as a result of the "offerings" of pilgrims and their congregations and the tithe system. The monasteries and ultimately the Catholic church of Rome had a right of "tithes" - one tenth of everything produced on it's land and the monastery owned all of the land between the River Tyne and the River Tees.

“this diversity of interests led to perpetual jealousies and bickerings between the Barons of Hilton and the Masters of the cell of Wearmouth. On one occasion, during a quarrel William Hylton *“poulid off his hode, to great shame and reprove and of ye said Priour with many other words of menace”* – Source; Surtees, History of Durham

It was also an agreement which would, in later centuries, play a role in the Hilton’s early involvement with America. John Davenport, leader of the New Haven colony in America was appointed Chaplain of St Katherine’s chapel at Hylton Castle in 1615 - five years before the “Mayflower” sailed.

William, from the Hylton estates at Biddick and Edward Hilton, a fisherman from South Shields sailed to America in 1621 to rescue the Pilgrims who had sailed on the Mayflower the year before. In the letter William wrote from Plymouth colony when he arrived in 1621 he states “We are all freeholders; the rent-day doth not trouble us”.

There is evidence that confirms a chapel stood before 1322 A.D. where the remains of St Katherine’s chapel stands today. A “Chantry” was founded within the chapel dedicated to the virgin, eighty years before the current castle was built.



## Secret Tunnels

Monkwearmouth was the site of the last deep mining coal pit in England, and locals tell of the existence of a tunnel that existed between St Peters monastery at the mouth of the River and the chapel at Hylton. On sighting enemy ships, likely to attack the monastery first, the monks could escape by tunnel to the chapel at Hylton and from there they could seek shelter behind the walls of Hylton Castle.

Also *“a traditional belief has long existed of a subteranous passage connecting this ancient castle with some other part of the adjacent bank of the wear. This belief received an apparent confirmation during the summer of 1852, when a spiral staircase was discovered, extending from the upper portion of the castle to some depth below the ground floor”* – Source – Borough of Sunderland, Sunderland Library.



Further upstream from the Chapel of Hylton on the River Wear, first at Chester le Street, and later at Durham lay the vast riches and wealth of the Bishops, a prime target for Vikings and Scots alike. Because of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the writings of Bede at the monastery of Monkwearmouth, this region had become known throughout Europe as a Centre of Learning and a Cradle of Christianity. The Monks of St Cuthbert had settled at Chester le Street in 885 A.D., and moved to Durham, even further upstream, one hundred years later. The River Wear had become a “River of Destiny”, and one of the wealthiest regions in Britain.

## Early Survivors

By 1157 A.D., when Romanus de Heltun was Lord of Hylton Castle, King Henry II was on the throne of England, and life around Hylton Castle must have been very dangerous.

From 1066 and the invasion of William the Conqueror, to the time of Romanus de Heltun in 1157 it had been an era of castle building for defence. The Normans imported castle building knowledge and techniques from Normandy in France which would see the building of a range of fortresses across the north of England and Scotland which were virtually impregnable, many of which still exist today. Later, many manor houses would be converted into castles, for which a licence to “crenelate” had to be obtained from the king

It is during this period that the building of the cathedral at Durham commenced in 1071 and was completed in 1132.

During King Stephen’s reign as King of England from 1135-1154 A.D., there was a civil war in England which lasted nearly ten years. The castles of the nobility and the clergy of the North of England were full of a “*riotous, mercenary soldiery, who plundered whatever came to their hand.*” A state of anarchy existed.

*“The land was left un-tilled, and the implements of husbandry abandoned. Torture, murder, pillage, fire, slavery, were the weapons the hired soldiery fought with, and the castles were the home of licensed robbers. Abbeys were converted into fortresses, and the soldiery, secure within their moats, set all law and justice at defiance”* – Rev. Proctor Swaby.

In 1136 A.D., King David of Scotland overran the whole of the north of England. He burnt the castle of Alnwick in Northumberland and the newly erected castle at “Newcastle”, previously known as “Monkchester”. King Stephen who was then on the English throne, met King David of Scotland near the city of Durham, and “bought him off” with the promise of becoming the Earl of Northumberland

In 1138, two years after his first invasion, King David of Scotland renewed the war claiming that King Stephen of England had reneged on the deal. His soldiers devastated Northumberland and Durham.

*“Quarter was given to none save young and beautiful women, who, after undergoing the most frightful indignities, were taken as slaves into Scotland”*

- Reverend Proctor Swaby 1884

The savagery of these massacres of the People of the North by the Picts and Scots enraged both the nobility and the clergy who had been protected behind their castle walls.

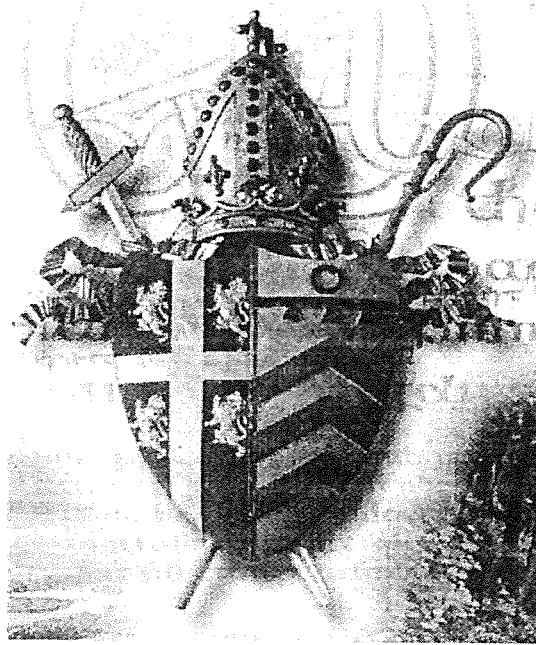
An army was assembled and they raised their "standard" – a crucifix attached to a high pole and fixed it to the framework of a waggon. With "God on their side" they met King David of Scotland and his army at Northallerton in Yorkshire and defeated the Scots at the famous "Battle of the Standard". The Scots were defeated and 12000 were slain.

They were also subject to attack from the sea, in 1153, Norwegian pirates attacked and plundered Hartlepool, some 30 miles further south down the coast, but only year later in 1154, Romanus de Heltun was appointing his own chaplain with the Prior of Durham for the chapel at Hylton, which shows the Hyltons were very much in control of their own territory at that time. Perhaps Norwegian pirates, knew better than to attack the Hyltons!

Romanus, for whom we only have church records of the time, will have lived through the time of Thomas Beckett who became Archbishop of Canterbury, of whom the King asked "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" – Some knights took him seriously and killed Beckett in 1170 A.D.

*Romanus, Miles de Helton, held three Kinght's fees, de veteri feoffamento, in the return of Bp Hugh, 1166 ; witness in the charter of the same Bishop to Anchetel Bolmer, s.d.  
(The Bulmer family of Brancepeth Castle near Durham)*

# Barons of the Bishoprick



1171 A.D. Alexander de Helton

*Alexander de Helton*

*married*

*Agnes*

*expressly named as a Baron of the*

*Bishopric in charters of Bishop Hugh,*

*made a convention with the Prior of Durham*

*relative to the chapel of Helton, 1172;*

*witness to charters of Bishop Hugh, with*

*Germanus the Prior, and John Archdeacon*

*(1171-1174), and in the charter of Roger*

*de Hiblesworth 1180*

Alexander was the first of the Hyltons to be expressly called a “Baron of the Bishopric”. His name and his title appear on a deed between Bishop Pudsey and Alexander de Helton

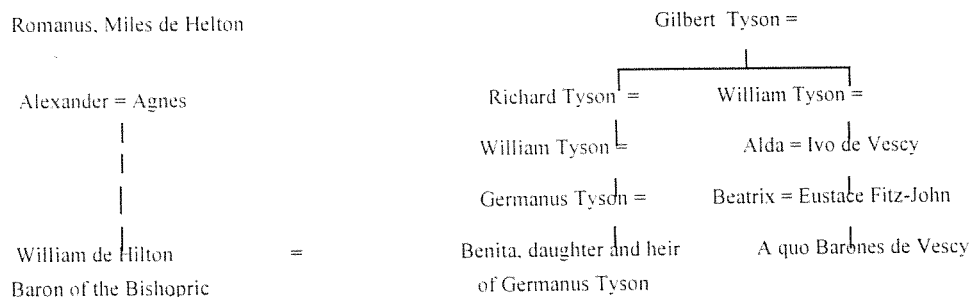
From this charter, we find that Thomas de Yolton was then the priest at Hilton; that Trublard’s land, mentioned in the earlier charter, consisted of four oxgangs and was then held by Albert, Osborn, Outi and Ivelot. It was a charter witnessed by some very important men; Meldred, son of Dolfin, William de Vesci, and William, son of Uted, founder of the Lumleys of Lumley Castle.

We know that Alexander married Agnes and that they became benefactors of St Cuthbert’s shrine at Durham, according to a manuscript that is in the British Museum. Alexander will have known Godric who became St Godric of Finchale Abbey situated approx 12 miles upstream of the River Wear between Chester le Street and Durham . Godric was also known as “Gued Eric” and was rumoured to be the English Pirate who rescued the King of Jerusalem during the Crusades. He lived the life of a hermit at Finchale on the River Wear which had been the site of church synods for centuries. He was well travelled having undertaken a pilgrimage to Compostella.

In 1189 A.D. Richard the LionHeart became King of England. Bishop Pudsey of Durham assembled a fleet at Hartlepool, then one of the main ports on the east coast of England, to sail for the Holy Land as part of the Crusades. Richard the Lionheart led the Crusade whilst the Prince Bishop, Bishop Pudsey was appointed Justiciar of England and Regent of the North. He also became Earl of Northumberland and aquired the town of Newcastle.

The Prince Bishop had become the most powerful man in the North of England.

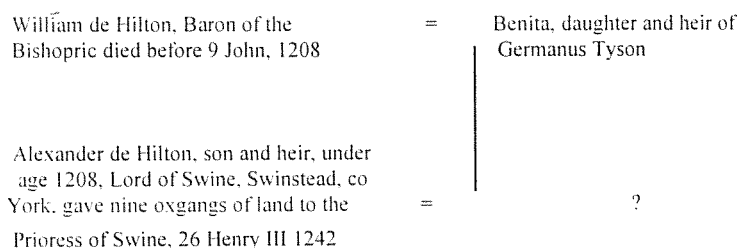
### 1208 A.D. William de Hylton



William succeeded to the barony, which shows the “Baron of the Bishopric” had become a hereditary title passed from father to eldest son. He was the first of the Hiltons we know who married into serious money. He married Beneta, daughter and heir of Germanus Tyson, a family that held lands and property in Northumberland rated at two knights fees. Her great great grandfather had been Gilbert Tyson, Lord of Bridlington (Yorkshire), Malton (Yorkshire) and Alnwick (Northumberland). He had been William the Conquerer’s standard bearer at the Battle of Hastings and became the first owner of Alnwick Castle, and the most powerful man in Northumberland. The castle had passed into the hands of the de Vescy family, another branch of the Tyson family before the marriage of William de Hilton and Beneta Tyson, but she retained other lands in Northumberland..

Arranged marriages between children of leading families were the order of the day to acquire, protect and defend land and inheritances. The acquisition of the remaining Tyson lands in Northumberland by the marriage of William Hilton to Benita Tyson must have been quite a coup. It would have increased both the wealth and the status of the Hilton family within the Bishoprick, and throughout the north of England. The Hiltons had become one of the most powerful families in the north east of England. The title of Baron of the Bishoprick did not carry the right to attend the King's parliament however. That right in Durham was reserved solely for the Bishop who ruled the area as a "kingdom" of his own. The Barons of the Bishoprick did not have the ear of the king in the same way as the Barons of the Realm..

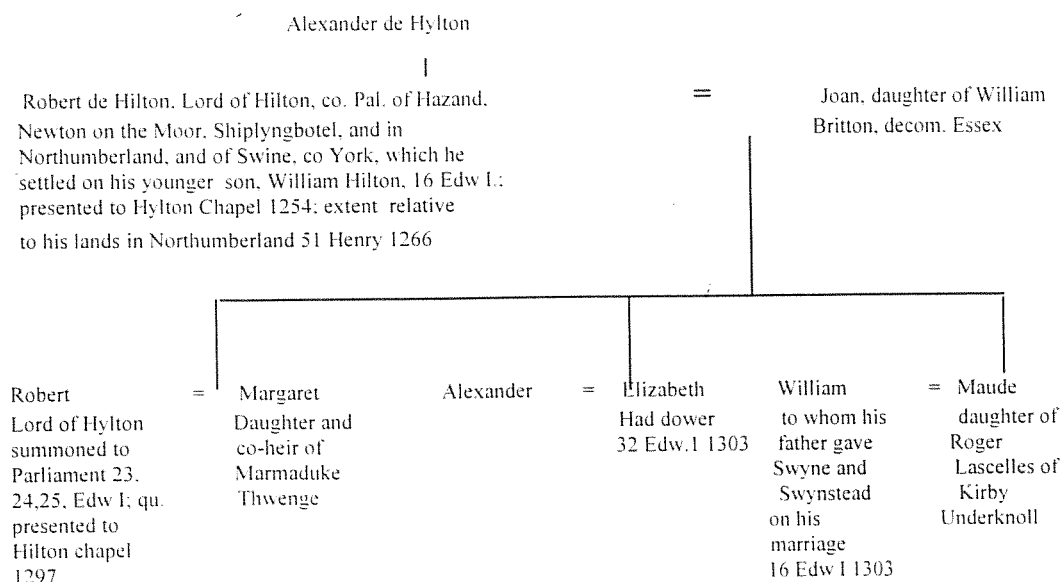
### 1208 A.D. Alexander de Hilton



Alexander was under age when his father died in 1208 when King John was on the throne on England.. The next year, King John marched an army to Norham in Northumberland for an invasion of Scotland but King William of Scotland submitted to the English king. His son Alexander, son of William, King of Scotland gave his allegiance to King John of England at Alnwick the next year.

In 1220 A.D. Alexander of Hilton is recorded as founding a chantry to the alter of St Lawrence for his own souls good and that of his ancestors. He is recorded as the Lord of Swine and Swinstead near Hull in Yorkshire in 1242.

### 1254 A.D. Robert de Hilton



He married Joane, daughter of William Britten of Essex, and they had at least three children; Robert, Alexander, and William.

Robert and his wife had two daughters; Isabel and Maude and the title of Baron of the Bishoprick was inherited by his brother Alexander, the second son.

William de Hilton, the third son was given Swyne and Swynstead in Yorkshire by his father, Robert de Hilton, on his marriage to Maude, daughter of Roger Lacelles, of Kirby Underknoll. They appear to have started the Hylton of Swine line.

From church records, we know that Robert de Hilton presented William Harpyn to the chapel of Hilton at Hylton Castle in 1249 and he was still there in 1266 A.D.

He obtained a licence from Galfrid, the prior of Durham to bury in his chapel of Hilton. In return, he granted liberty to the Abbott to gather and convey by any road the tithes of Hilton. The Hiltons were already doing deals!

### 1303 A.D. Alexander de Hilton

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| Alexander de Hilton  | = | Elizabeth |
|  |   |           |
| Robert de Hilton, Baron of Hilton<br>in the Bishopric living 1313-1320 | = | ?         |

We know very little of Alexander de Hilton, other than he inherited the barony and the estate off his older brother Robert, but we know that within sixteen years the barony had changed hands three times, from Robert II, to his brother Alexander, and from Alexander to his son Robert III probably as a result of deaths during the War of Scottish independence.

In 1314 after the decisive Battle of Bannockburn, the English army were routed by the Scots.

In 1319 King Edward's army failed to recapture Berwick. The English retreated and the Scots raided as far as York, where the Scots army under the Earl of Moray defeated the Mayor of York's forces. Two years later, The Hiltons were definitely back at Hylton in Monkwearmouth.. Robert de Hilton who succeeded his father Alexander, is recorded presenting William de Hilton to the chapel of Hilton in 1321.

In 1322, he granted to his chaplain "the passage of Bovisferry, a toft and croft in nearby Grindon, with one acre of land, a messuage, and 24 acres which Hutting Frer then held in Hilton, in exchange for one chalder of wheat, which the said William used to receive out of the Grange of Ford" etc.

In return, the chaplain bound himself "to provide a boat properly fitted, and to pray for the souls of Robert, his ancestors, and successors"

Interestingly enough, this document is witnessed by the Hiltons, the Washingtons, and the Lambtons as much as to prove they were all back in position along the banks of the River Wear - the "River of Destiny." The witnesses were;

John de Insula, Rector of Boldon

Walter de Washyngton

Gilbert of Usworth

John Breton

Robert of Lambton

John, son of Alexander Hilton

# Freedom

When King Alexander III of Scotland died mysteriously by “falling off a cliff”, and Margaret, Maid of Norway and heir to the Scottish throne, died on her way to Scotland to claim the Crown and marry King Edward I’s son, thereby uniting the kingdoms of Scotland and England, a number of families laid claim to succession to the Kingdom of Scotland. Some of the claimants had substantial land holdings in both England and Scotland and were for a “United Kingdom”, others had lands solely in Scotland and were for an independent Kingdom of Scotland. Many of the families in the north of England had lands in both Scotland and England and had divided loyalties

King Edward I of England wanted a United Kingdom, but could prove no legal right to the Kingdom of Scotland.. He had been unable to control the unruly Scots clans through force, but he thought he would be able to get a new Scottish King to swear loyalty to the English Crown. The main claimants to the Scottish Crown were Balliol, of Barnard Castle in the Palatinate of Durham, Bruce whose family had lands in Hartlepool in the palatinate and in Annandale in Scotland, and Comyn.

With the threat of invasion of Scotland by the English army behind him, and no clear legal claimant to the Scottish crown, King William I of England was able to get his “own man” elected as King of Scotland by the clergy and the Scottish Magnates. He chose Balliol. William though he could rule Scotland through Balliol.

In 1296 however the Balliol rebelled against Edward I of England and invaded Northumberland with a Scots army but was forced back and beaten at Dunbar. Balliol was forced to flee abroad.

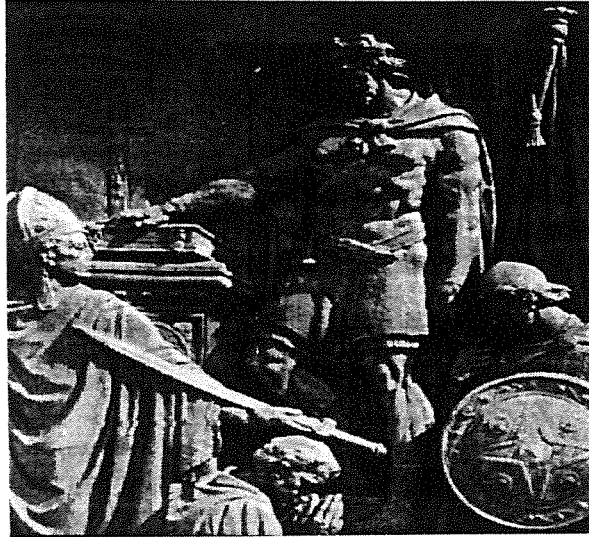
The next year, William Wallace, Braveheart, backed by William Lamberton, the Bishop of St Andrews, attacked Northumberland. He burnt Hexham, Corbridge and Ryton down the Tyne Valley but was beaten back from Newcastle.

King Edward I, the “Hammer of the Scots” moved his government up from London to York then invaded Scotland in 1298 with a massive English army assisted by Bishop Bek , the Bishop of Durham and his forces. They defeated Braveheart and the Scots at Falkirk.

It is interesting to note that there is no mention of the Hyltons involvement in the fight against the Scots at this time, in fact Hutchinson in his “History of Durham” claims that the army raised by the Bishop of Durham were paid mercenaries.

In 1304 we know that King Edward I of England, stayed at the home of the Washington family (ancestors of George Washington, First President of the United States of America) three miles away from where Hylton Castle now stands. “The accomodation which would be needed for the royal retinue is further evidence of the great establishment at Washington; and the expense of entertaining royalty shows the prosperity of the family” – The Washington Family in Britain, Margot Johnson.

We know that the De Vesci family had fled into Scotland, and we now know that William Lambertson, the Bishop of St Andrews who crowned Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland in 1306 was related to the Lambtons, another neighbor of the Hiltons and the de Wessyngton family had strong Scottish ties and lands in Scotland. The father of Sir William de Wessyngton I held lands at the Hirsal in Coldstream c.1180



William Lambertson, Bishop of St Andrews handing William Wallace, "Braveheart", the Sword of Freedom

It was at this time, that perhaps unsure of the loyalty of the Barons of the Bishoprick, in 1309 A.D., that Bishop Bek sold Alnwick Castle to the Percy family. It may not have rightfully been his to sell! The Percy family were descended from William de Percy, who had accompanied William the Conqueror in 1066, and had been granted extensive domains in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and later in Sussex. The Bishop now had his own man controlling Northumberland.

Bishop Bek ;

*"loved power and splendour – and was more of a feudal baron than a churchman"*

*"The excessive magnificence of his state and the arrogance of his manor led eventually to disputes between Bek and the Durham monks – and even to a break with the king, who seized the Palatinate. Bek showed himself ready even to "take on" the Pope – but fortunately for the Price Bishop, fresh trouble broke out in Scotland and the king, needing Bek's help, patched up the quarrel."*

- Durham joint curriculum study group 1976



## 1332 Alexander de Hilton

|     |  |   |  |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 1 = | Alexander de Hylton, Chivalier, Lord of Hilton served in the Scotch Wars with Ralph, Lord Nevill 7 Edw. III.:summoned to Parliament 6 and 9 Edw III 1332-1335, ob. 1361, gave lands in Broxfield to Alnwick Abbey 1334 | = | 2 Maude, daughter and co heir of Richard de Emildon, ob 8 Sept 1369. Inq p.m. 43 Edw III, widow of Richard Acton, Mayor of Newcastle |
|-----|--|---|--|

Robert de Hilton. Chevalier, aet21, 16 Hatf. ob. 32 Hatf

Listed as Chivaler, Lord of Hilton, Alexander de Hilton served in the Scotch wars against Balliol with Ralph, Lord Neville of Raby Castle.

King Edward III of England summoned Alexander, Baron of Hilton to Parliament in 1332 and again in 1333.

He joined the Standard of young King Edward III, and was probably present at the Battle of Hallidon Hill in 1333 when the English captured Berwick and the Lothians in Scotland.. The Scots resented the rule of Edward Balliol whom they regarded as a puppet of the English king and invaded the Tees valley via Cumberland as far as Hartlepool in 1335 In 1342, Balliol was deposed as King of Scotland and replaced by King David II who attacked Newcastle, but could not break the walls. He then seized Durham after a seven day siege, then returned to Scotland.

Four years later, the Scots were decisively defeated at the Battle of Nevilles Cross on the outskirts of Durham by the much smaller English forces. Alexander de Hilton, and probably other members of the Hilton family would have fought at the battle.

When he died in 1361, Alexander de Hilton died "seized of the Manors of Hilton (Monkwearmouth), Barmston (Washington), Grindon, Clowcrott, Newton, and Ford (Sunderland) in the Palatinate of Durham" He also held lands of the Percies in Northumberland at Shifflingbotyl, Haysand, Gysen, and Newton, and gave lands of his situated at Broxfield to the Abbey of Alnwick in 1334.

He married Maude, daughter of Richard de Emildon, Mayor of Newcastle who presented in her own right to the church of Jesmond in Newcastle in 1351.

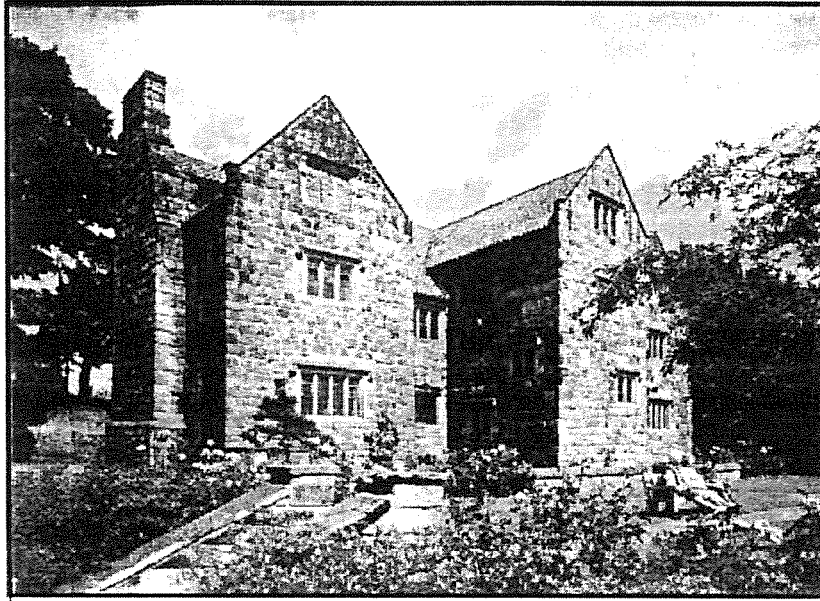
## 1361 A.D. Robert de Hilton

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Robert de Hilton | = | Maude, daughter of Sir William Felton, chivalier, sister and coheir of the whole blood to Sir William Felton, Chivalier |
|                  |   |   |
| William          |   |   |

Born in 1349, he was only twelve years old when his father died. He succeeded his father as Baron of the Bishoprick when he became of age, and he married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of the house of Felton who brought with her considerable property, and whose arms still remain on the front of the present castle, probably placed there by her son the next Baron. Robert died in 1376 and was succeeded by William, builder of the castle of Hylton which still stands today.

# Medieval Neighbours

The river Wear is a long meandering river which flows from its source high in the Pennine mountain range to the west down through Durham to Chester le Street and on to reach the sea at Monkwearmouth. Along its banks, and neighbours of the Hyltons , lived a group of northern families who would have a long lasting impact on the history of the western world. Next door neighbours of the Hyltons were the “De Wessyngtons” – now known as the “Washingtons”



Washington Old Hall, built on the site of the original home of the de Wessyngton family, ancestors of George Washington, First President of the United States

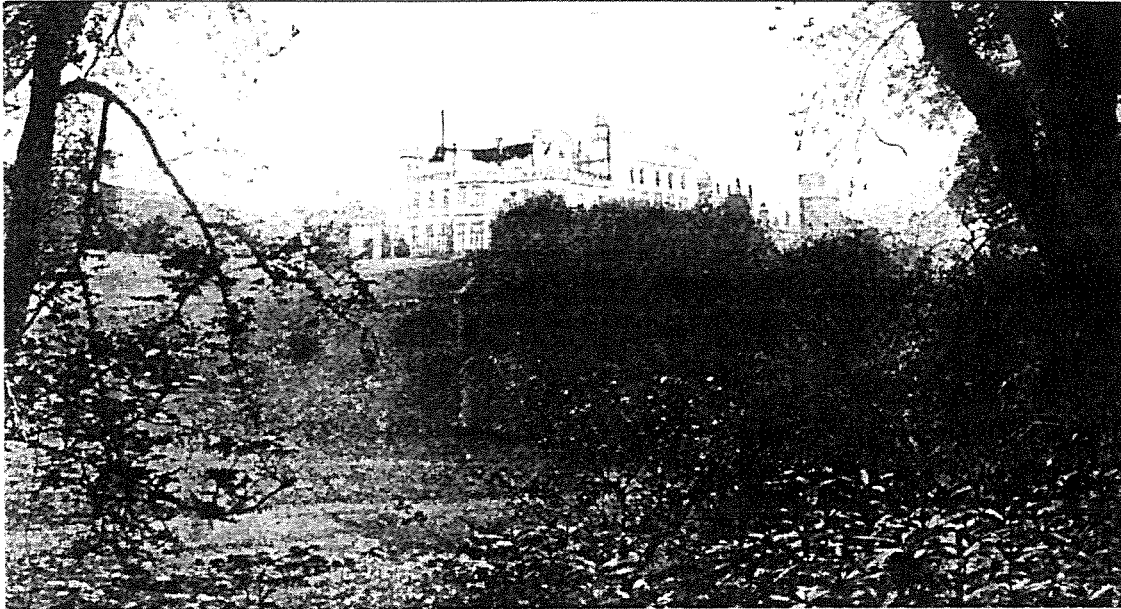
## **The de Wessyngtons now known as the Washingtons**

Originally known as the “de Wessyngtons”, the family who took their name from an Anglo Saxon settlement known as Washington, England. They were descendants of William de Hertburn (now known as Hartburn) - a village further south on the River Tees. He exchanged his lands on Teeside for Washington on the northern bank of the River Wear. His father already had land at Offerton on the south bank of the river Wear.. The Ferry across the Wear led from Hylton to Offerton.

William de Wessyngton, the first member of the family who moved to Washington a little before 1180, was a direct ancestor of George Washington who became First President of the United States of America. He could trace his ancestry back to Maldred, King of the Cumbrians in 1040 before the invasion of William the Conqueror. His wife, Margaret was the younger sister of William the Lion, King of Scotland. They lived three miles upstream from Hylton Castle at a site now occupied by Washington Old Hall.. The Washington family had lands and properties in Berwickshire, Northumberland, Durham and Westmoreland and like other medieval landed proprietors moved between their estates, living in different properties in turn while performing local duties and services, but known by the name of their principal residence. They were of Anglo Saxon origin.

## The Lambtons

Originally spelt "Lamtun".. The "Lambtons" of Lambton, lived a further two miles upstream on the River Wear near Chester le Street, which had been a Roman settlement and was where the monks of St Cuthbert lived for 100 years before they moved to Durham. A descendent of the Lambton family, John George Lambton, First Earl of Durham became the first Governor General of Canada.



Lambton Castle, built by the first Earl of Durham in the 19th century .

Another branch of the family appears to have moved north to Coldingham Abbey north of Berwick in Scotland just after the invasion of William the Conqueror, where they founded a village called Lambertton. William Lambertton became the Bishop of St Andrews who crowned Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland. The third branch of the family, the Lamberts of Durham, moved south to the River Tees, where they obtained lands from the Brus family, ancestors of Robert the Bruce.. One of their descendents became General John Lambert, Cromwell's understudy during the Civil Wars.

The "Lambton" family are thought to be the source of the local legend the "Lambton Worm", which whenever anyone tried to slay it by cutting it in pieces- it joined itself together again. .

*"At lenth the young Crusader returned and shocked at the consequences of his former impiety, made several bold attempts to slay the hugh creature, in all of which he was foiled by the power it possessed of re-uniting itself whenever cut in two" - History and Folklore of Old Washington, - Albert L. Hind*

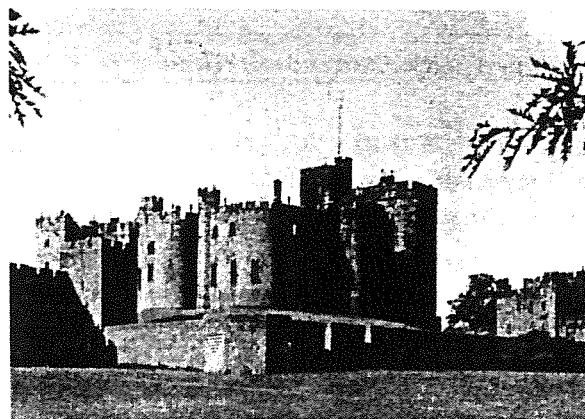
The Hyltons, the Washingtons and the Lambtons would have known each other well in Medieval times. It is interesting to note that there is a village near Lambertton on the north bank of the River Tweed in Berwickshire, in Scotland called Hilton. It is also interesting to note that the main line of the Washington family moved from Washington, in the Palatinate of Durham to Warton in the Duchy (Dukedom) of Lancaster . The head of the family, Robert Washington III (1420-1483) married Margaret, widow of John "Lambertson".

Throughout history, the families of Hylton, Washington and Lambton have found their paths intertwined in the UK, America, Canada.

## The Percys Alnwick Castle, Northumberland

The Percys became one of the most important families in England. Henry, 2nd Lord Percy of Alnwick was fighting along side the Hyltons under the Black Prince in France in 1347, and his son Henry, was at the Battle of Crecy in 1346. "Hotspur", son of First Earlof Northumberland and his brother Ralph led an army of 600 knights and 8000 infantry in the famous battle of Otterburn against the Scots – and lost! or did they?

The Percys were leaders of the Rising of the North in 1569, and Thomas, 7th Earl of Northumberland was beheaded. George Percy, younger son of the Earl of Northumberland was a founder of Jamestown, America in 1607 and Thomas Percy organised the sailing of the Anne and the Little James with supplies for the Pilgrims in Plymouth, America in 1623



Alnwick Castle, once owned by the Vescy family, related to the Hyltons through the marriage of William de Hylton

### Alnwick Castle - Fitz-Greene Halleck, 1790 - 1867 , Yale Book of American Verse 1912

*Home of the Percy's high-born race  
Home of their beautiful and brave.  
Alike their birth and burial place  
Their cradle and their grave!  
Still sternly o'er the castle gate  
Their house's Lion stands in state  
As in his proud departed hours:  
And warriors frown in stone on high  
And feudal banners "flout the sky"  
Above his princely towers.*

*A gentle hill its side inclines  
Lovely in England's fadeless green  
To meet the quiet stream which winds  
Through this romantic scene  
As silently and sweetly still  
As when, at evening, on that hill  
While summer's wind blew soft and low  
Seated by gallant Hotspur's side  
His Katherine was a happy bride  
A thousand years ago.*

*Gaze on the Abbey's ruined pile:  
Does not the succoring Ivy, keeping  
Her watch around it seem to smile.  
As o'er a loved one sleeping?  
One solitary turret gray  
Still tells, in melancoly glory  
The legend of the Cheviot day.  
The Percys' proudest border story.  
That day its roof was triumph's arch.  
Then rang, from isle to pictured dome,  
The light step of the soldier's march,  
The music of the trump and drum:  
And babe, and sire, the old, the young,  
And monk's hymn, and minstrel's song,  
And woman's pure kiss, sweet and long,  
Welcomed her warrior home*

*Wild roses by the Abbey towers  
Are gay in their young bud and bloom:  
They were born of a race of funeral flowers  
That garlanded, in long gone hours,  
A templar's knightly tomb.  
He died, the sword in his mailed hand,  
On the holiest spot of the Blessed land,  
Where the cross was dampened with his dying breath  
When blood ran free as festal wine,  
And the sainted air of Palastine  
Was thick with the darts of death*

*Wise with the lore of centuries  
What tales, if there be "tongues in trees,"  
Those giant oaks could tell  
Of beings born and buried here;  
Tales of the peasant and the peer  
Tales of the bridal and the hier  
The welcome and farewell  
Since their boughs the startled bird  
First, in her twilight slumbers, heard  
The Norman's curfew-bell!*

*I wandered through the lofty halls  
Trode by the Percys of old fame,  
And traced upon the chapel walls  
Each high heroic name,  
From him who once his standard set  
Where now, o'er mosque and minaret  
Glitter the Sultan's crescent moons:  
To him who, when a younger son,  
Fought for King George at Lexington.  
A major of dragoons*

*That last half stanza-it has dashed  
From my warm lips the sparkling clup.  
The light that o'er my eyebeam flashed  
The power that bore my spirit up  
Above this bank-note world-is gone;  
And Alnwick's but a market town,  
And this, alas! its market day,  
And beasts and borderers throng the way:  
Oxen and bleating lambs in lots,  
Northumbrian boors and plaided Scots,  
Men in coal and cattle line:*

*From Teviot's hard and hero land  
From royal Berwick's beach of sand,  
From W. W. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H.*

*These are not the romantic times  
So beautiful in Spenser's rhymes.  
So dazling to the dreaming boy:  
Ours are the days of fact, not fable  
Of knights, but not of the round table  
Of Bailie Jarvie, not Rob Roy:  
'T is what "our President" Monroe  
Has called "the era of good feeling":  
The Highlander, the bitterest foe  
To modern laws, has felt their blow  
Consented to be taxed, and voted,  
And put on pantaloons and coat,  
And leave off cattle stealing:  
Lord Stafford mines for coal and salt  
The Duke of Norfolk deals in malt,  
The Douglas in red herrings;  
And noble name and cultured land,  
Palace, and park, and vassal band,  
Are powerless to the notes of hand  
Of Rothschild or Barings.*

*You'll ask if yet the Percy lives  
In the armed pomp of feudal state?  
The present representatives  
Of Hotspur and his "gentle Kate"  
Are some half dozen serving-men  
In the drab coat of William Penn;  
A chambermaid, whose lip and eye,  
And cheek, and brown hair, bright and curling,  
Spoke nature's aristocracy;  
And one, half groom, half seneschal,  
Who bowed me through court, bower and hall,  
From donjon-keep to turret wall,  
For ten-and-sixpence sterling.*

*From Wooler, Morpeth Hexam and  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

## **The de Lucys** **Langley Castle, Northumberland**

Originally Lords of Cumberland, Maude de Lucy married into the de Umphrville family, Earls of Angus, Lords of Redesdale and Barons of Prudhoe, and then into the Percy family of Alnwick, uniting both sides of the country just below the Scottish borders. They built Langley Castle near Hexham in Northumberland which was taken over by the Percy family

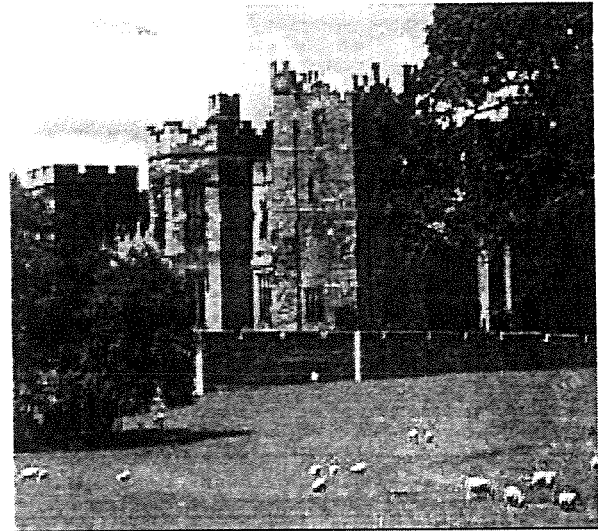
Approx 30 miles from Hylton Castle



Langley Castle, built by the de Lucy family nr Hexham, in Northumberland 30 miles from Hylton Castle

## **The Nevilles** **Raby Castle**

The most powerful family in the north of England. It was said that this family had so many castles and houses that they could have slept in a different home in every week of the year. By the time the Nevilles made their mark on northern history, the male line of the old Norman family had died out, and it was the marriage of the Norman heiress with the powerful Saxon lord of Raby who would produce a long line of proud and noble lords including the Kingmaker, the head of a younger branch who became "the proudest lord that England ever knew". John de Neville the great builder of Raby, became a knight of the Garter, Lieutenant of Aquitaine and Seneschal of Bordeaux in France. He would probably have fought alongside the Hyltons in the French wars.



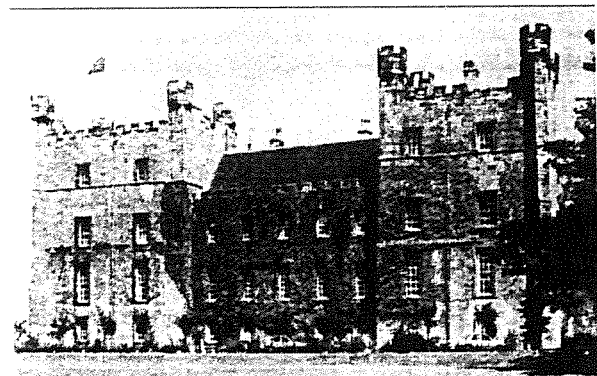
Raby Castle, once home of the Neville Family, leaders of Rising of the North. It was bought by the Vane family, and Sir Henry Vane the Younger became the first Governor of New England in America.

Approx. 30 miles from Hylton Castle

## **The Lumleys** **Lumley Castle, Palatinate of Durham**

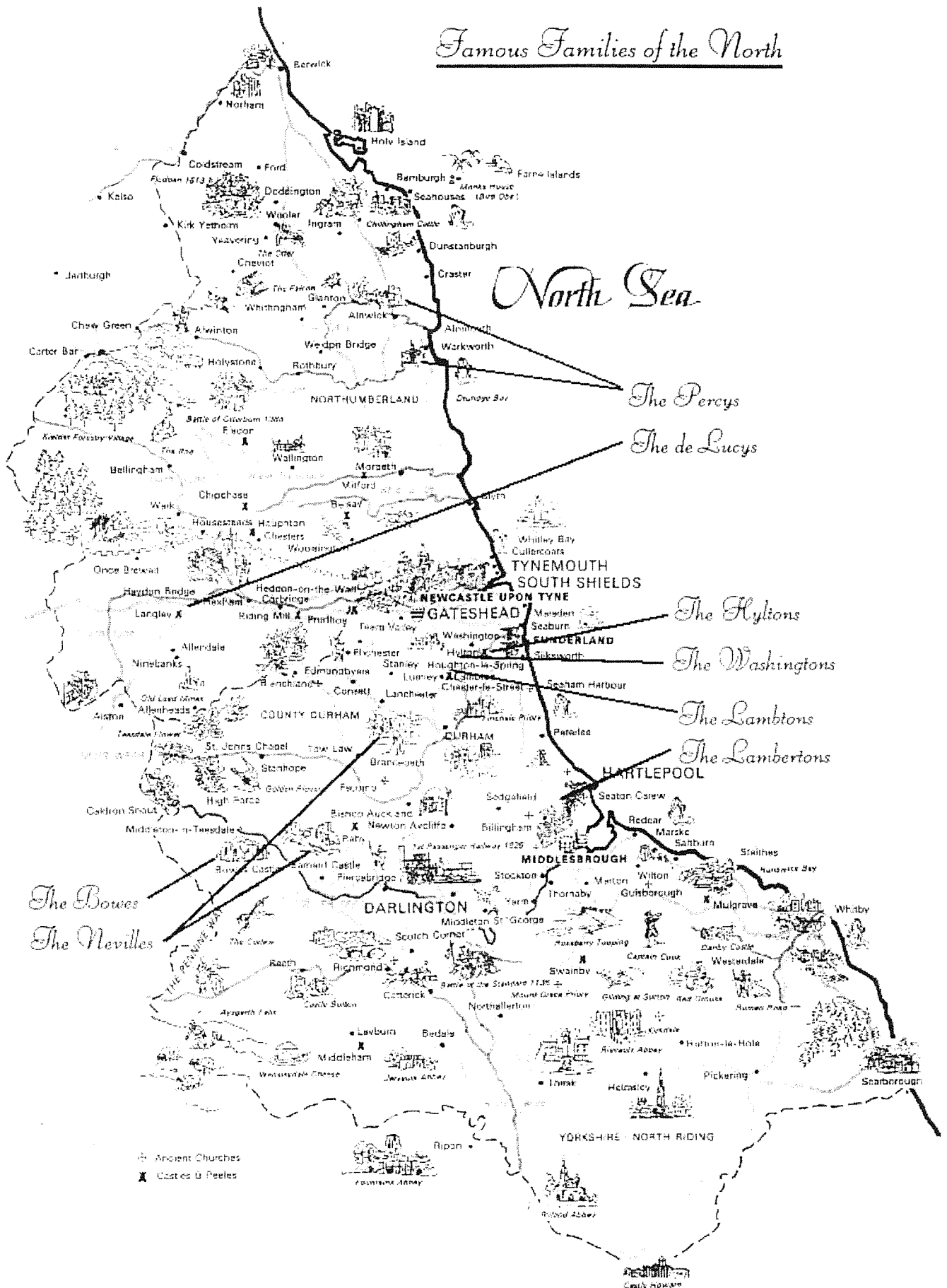
An Anglo-Saxon family who lived on the opposite side of the river from the Hyltons at Chester le Street. Sir Ralph Lumley was made Governor of Berwick on Tweed in 1387 and sat in Parliament from 1385-1400. A friend of King Richard II, the last in line of the Plantagenet kings, he received a licence in 1392 to make a castle out of their manor house at Lumley, overlooking the River Wear. It is now known as Lumley Castle, it is owned by the Earl of Scarborough.

Approx 6 miles from Hylton Castle



Lumley Castle, on the opposite bank of the River Wear at Chester le Street. Built 1392

# Famous Families of the North



## The inly working north

The Knights of the North had spent decades fighting a losing battle to retain the possessions in France of the Norman line of Plantaganet kings, whilst their lands and properties in England were under continuous threat of invasion by the Scots

King Edward III, 1327-1377, had twelve children. He ruled England and parts of France for fifty years from London. His eldest son Edward, Prince of Wales looked after the kings possessions in France. His fourth son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster looked after his interests in the northwest of England and his fifth son was Duke of York and looked after the king's interests the north east of England. His interests in Durham were looked after by the Prince Bishop.

Through marriage and the times in which they lived, the leading families of the north had become a tightly knit group that Queen Elizabeth I, as she tried to break their power, would describe as "the inly working North"

Like all knights of the realm, the Hylton family were expected to turn out fully equipped knights and their retainers, ready to fight whenever and where ever the king commanded. It is recorded that four sons of the Baron of Hylton, presumably the sons of Alexander de Hilton, fought alongside Edward the Prince of Wales, known as the Black Prince. They will have known Sir William de Wessyngton V, who served for a year overseas with Sir Henry de Percy in 1373/4. The Black Prince became the most renowned warrior in Europe defending his father's possessions in France. He ruled Gascony on behalf of his father King Edward III for more than ten years and died in 1376. His father King Edward III died aged 64 after 50 years on the throne the following year leaving the Black Prince's ten year old son Richard II, who had been born in France, to succeed to the Throne and become King of England.

The natural candidate for Regent, until the king became of age, was John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster from the northwest of England, but he was opposed by his brothers who suspected him as having his own ambitions for the throne. A disagreement ensued until a compromise was worked out. No Regent was appointed and a "continual council" of twelve men was set up to decide policy and advise the kings ministers. After the coronation of Richard II, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and lord high steward of England withdrew from court to his own estates.

At the same time, Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland then marshal of England, surrendered his wand of office and returned to his estates in the north.

The southerners were left to get on with it.

Like King Edward II before him, Richard II who married Anne of Bohemia when they were both fifteen, developed a penchant for "favourites", all of whom were unpopular. None more so than Robert de Vere, 9th Earl of Oxford who was compared to Edward II's lover, Piers Gaveston. The king lavished rewards on de Vere including castles and lordships which enraged the aristocracy.

. Things deteriorated between the king and the aristocracy until he was forced to call the "merciless" Parliament of 1388 which resulted in de Vere, the earl of Suffolk and the Archbishop of York having to flee abroad, and two other traitors were executed.

In 1398, following another dispute with the aristocracy, King Richard II, imposed ten years in exile. a decision that was contrary to justice, on Henry Bolingbroke, earl of Derby and son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. When the Duke of Lancaster died in 1399, the king changed the sentence to exile for life instead of banishment for ten years.

# Hylton Castle

The first mention of a castle at Hylton is in 1072, six years after the invasion of William the Conqueror of which no traces remain above ground. The castle that exists today, was built in the last few years of the fourteenth century and the first decade of the fifteenth century and can be accurately dated by the heraldry that is displayed on the front wall.

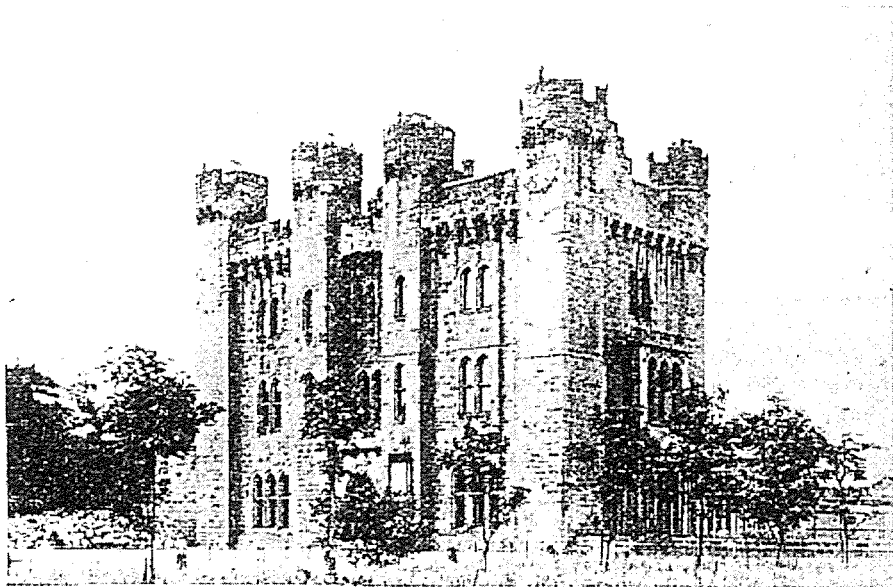
No remains survive of domestic buildings earlier than the present castle which *"was built as a fine gatehouse tower resplendent with a magnificent display of heraldry and with extravagant battlement works"* – Royal Archaeological Institute

The builder was Sir William Hylton who succeeded to the barony in 1376 and died in 1435. An inventory taken at his death implies the existence of ancillary buildings, but whether these were left from an earlier manorial establishment or were newly built with the castle cannot be known. The inventory states:

*"and there are in the same manor, a hall, four chambers, a chapel, two barns, a kitchen, a house constructed of stone called a Gatehouse, which are nothing worth yearly beyond outgoings by reason of the cost of repairs"*

The gatehouse was remarkably self contained and was altered in the sixteenth century when floors and galleries were inserted in the Great Hall probably at two levels.

Hylton Castle in 1896

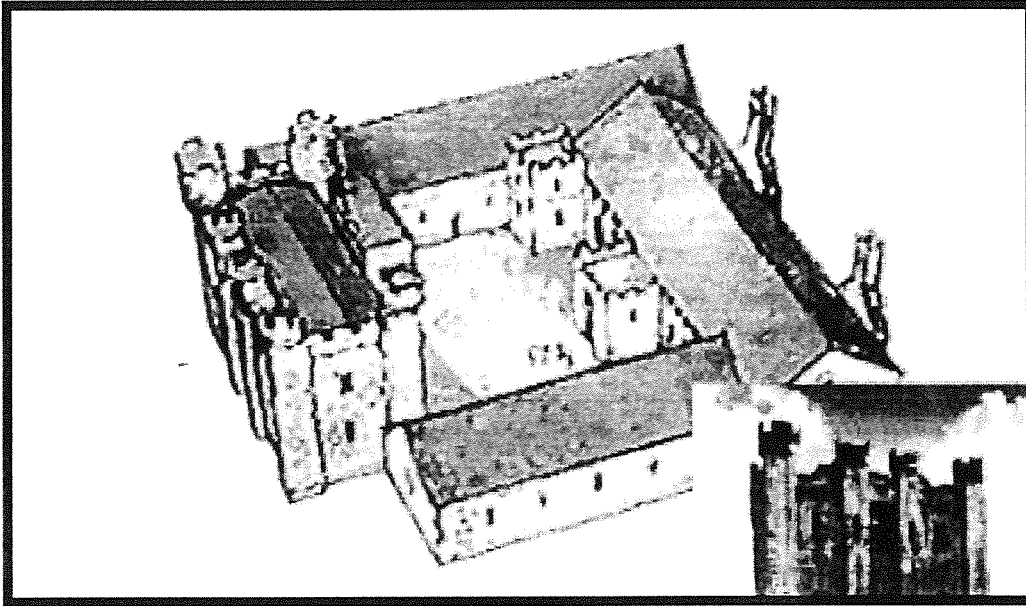


HYLTON

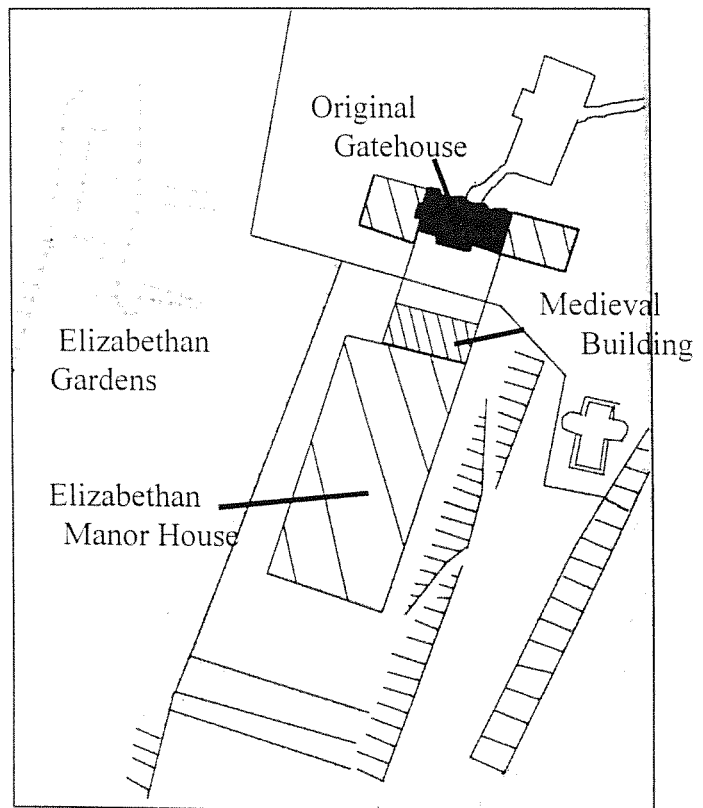
Hilton Castle in 1896



Following an exploratory dig by archaeologists for T.V's Time Team in 1999, remains of a medieval building were discovered at the rear of the gatehouse dating from either the 14th or 15th centuries.



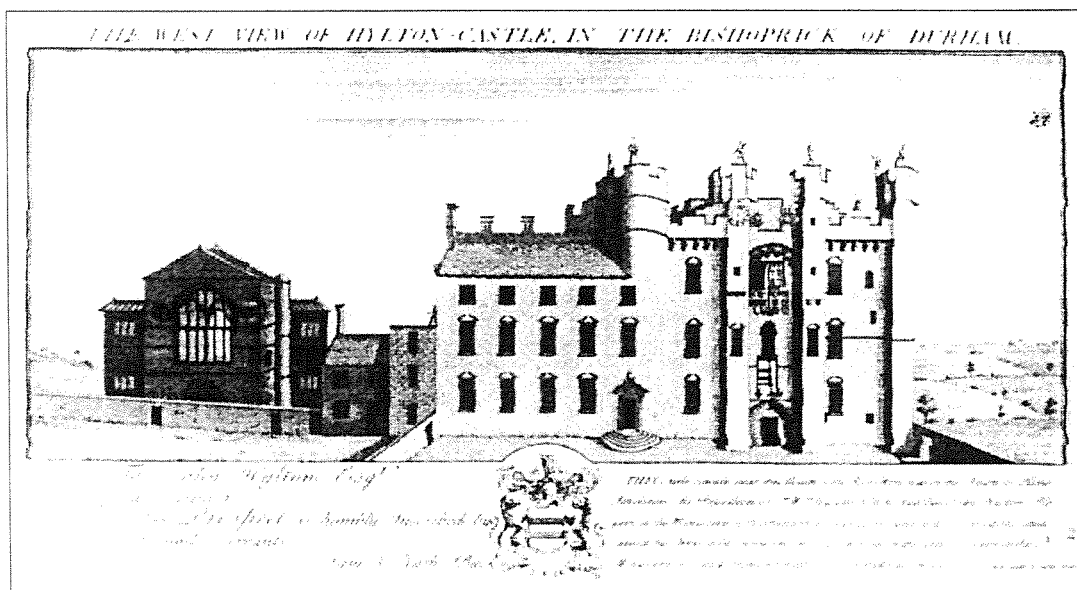
Behind that building, the remains of an Elizabethan manor house facing south from the 17th century was discovered which appears to have been totally the Civil Wars. To the south of the manor house, the remains of what was an extensive Elizabethan garden still survives, awaiting restoration.



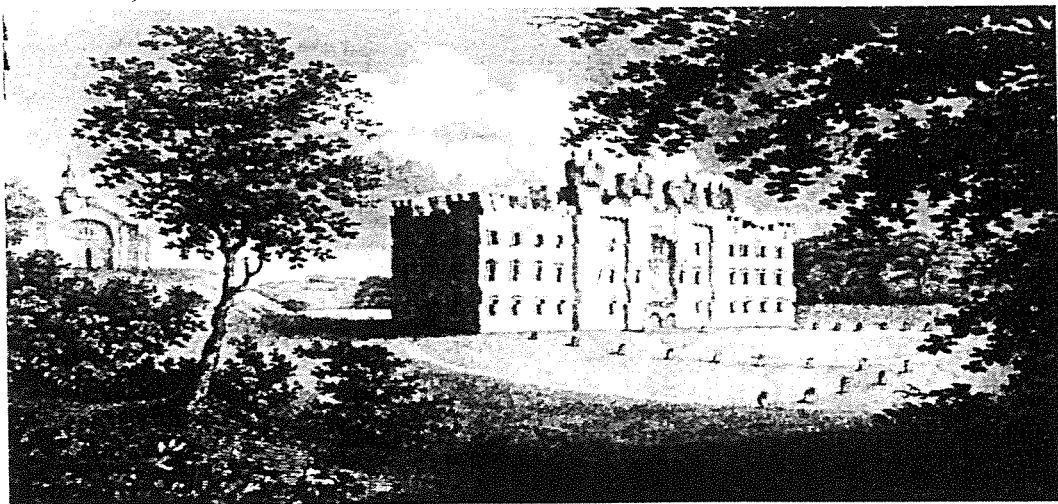
Two other inventories are known;

for Sir Thomas Hylton in 1559 and Sir William Hylton in 1600 which list more rooms and chambers than could be accounted for in the Gatehouse itself, which presumably refer to the Elizabethan manor house.

Early in the eighteenth century the first major alterations were made to the castle by baron John Hylton, who died in 1712. He gutted the interior and forced in a simple three storey arrangement of rooms lighting them with large pedimented, Italianate windows. He added a wing to the north with the main entry in the southern most bay of this addition. Whilst the wing has long since been demolished, the “entrance” has been preserved – it now forms the doorway of the Golden Lion pub in South Hylton!



His son, also called John, added a wing to the south of the gatehouse, to match the one built by his father, and restored the use of a central entrance, so that the old castle became the centrepiece of a nine bay country house to which he added a Neo-Gothic porch on the front. The first floor became a stylish banqueting hall or ballroom approached by a broad staircase rising from the rear of what had been the medieval through-passage of the gatehouse.



John, the last Baron, died without male issue, and on his death in 1746, the estate, still amounting to 5,600 acres in five parishes and mainly consisting of thirty two farms, passed to his nephew, Sir Richard Musgrave of Hayton Castle, Aspatria, nr. Carlisle, in Cumberland on the opposite side of the country. A proviso of the will was that he changed his name to Hilton.

Hylton Castle and its immediate surroundings were bought by the Bowes family, namely Mrs George Bowes of Streatlam Castle in County Durham, and Gibside, another stately home on Tyneside.

It was described in the survey prepared at the time of the sale in 1750 as follows;

*"The Castle farm consists of a magnificent Mansion House 170 feet in front: in the centre of which stands an ancient Castle, towering betwixt two modern built wings, each four story high: a complete family chapel, lately seated after the Cathedral fashion: Gardens surrounded with brick-walls and quickset hedges, well situated; and each side of the said walls planted with fruit trees of various kinds, producing fruit equal to most of the southern counties, being sheltered with plantations on every side but that towards the south; Stables, Coach-houses, Brew-house, Wash-house, Laundry etc., conveniently placed, yet so as not to be seen from the Mansion House. The Wash-House Garth, Lawn, Plantations, Castle, Bowling Green, Chapel etc., together amounted to 57 acres...."*

The rest of the estate was divided into smaller lots, and sold off to miscellaneous buyers.

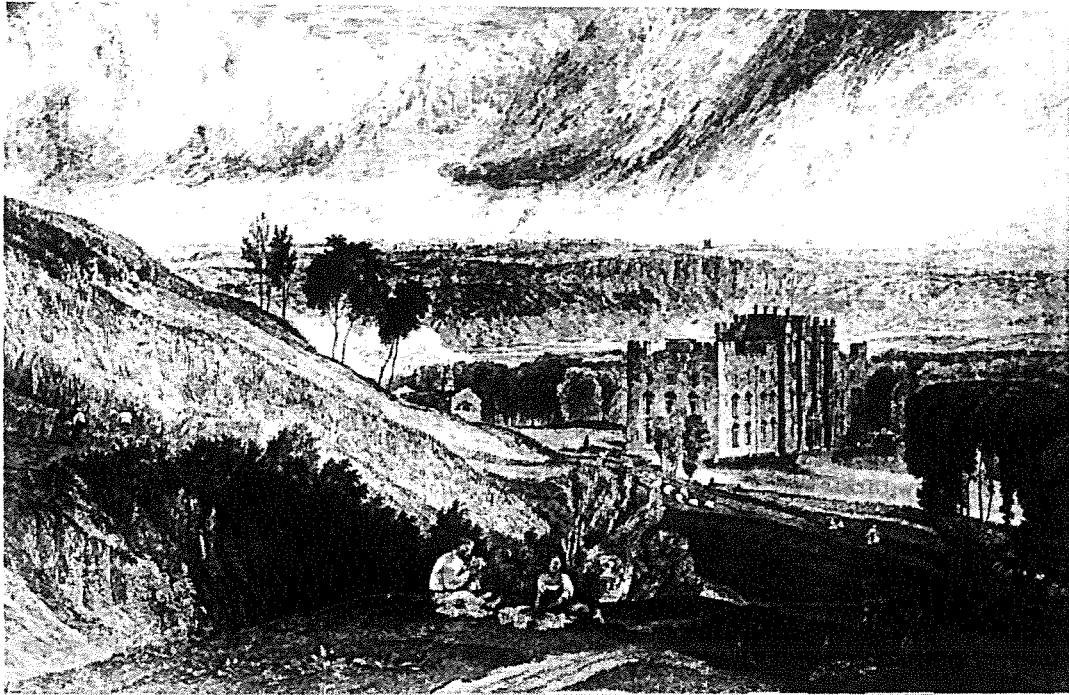
Mrs George Bowes, probably never lived in the castle. Mary Eleanor, the sole heiress of this great and wealthy line of the Bowes family, married John, ninth Earl of Strathmore, who assumed the surname of Bowes. The Earl of Strathmore died at Lisbon in April, 1776, leaving his wife, the Countess of Strathmore, with several children, but still a young woman of immense wealth with a fine house in Grosvenor Square in London, her house and extensive gardens at Chelsea, her seats at Paul's Walden, Gibside, Barnard Castle, and the castles of Streatlam and Hilton, besides lands in Middlesex. In the scale of things, Hilton Castle came well down the list and few successive tenants made any attempt to keep the place in repair.

In 1863 it was bought by William Briggs, a Sunderland merchant and broker who pulled down both of the wings that had been added by the last Baron John and his son, and set about re-gothicizing the tower. He stripped the interior completely but stuck to the simple three story scheme, and put more windows in on the east, west and south sides, putting living rooms on the ground floor, and bedrooms on the second and third.

Hylton Castle  
in 1870

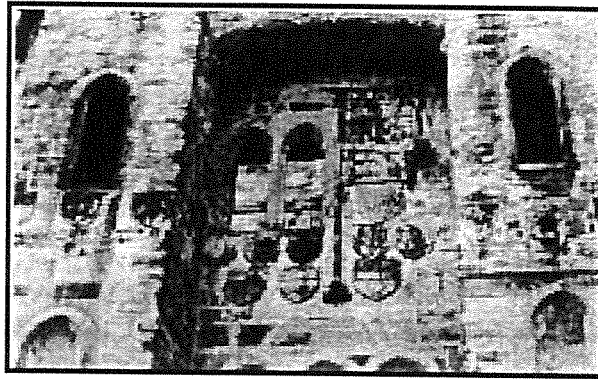


Sadly, it again started sliding into disrepair and it wasn't until 1950, as a result of spirited local pressure, that the "People's Castle" was taken into the care of the state. Decay of the eighteenth and nineteenth century timber work and plaster was so advanced, that it was decided to consolidate the remains as a stripped shell in which all of the remaining medieval masonry would be visible.



Hylton Castle - Painting by Turner

# The Heraldry of Hylton Castle



The Heraldry displayed on the front of Hylton Castle

Hylton Castle holds many mysteries and secrets, none more so than the heraldry proudly displayed on the castle walls. Built at a time of great upheaval in the English monarchy, building appears to have been started during the reign of King Richard II and finished during the reign of the usurper of the throne, King Henry IV.

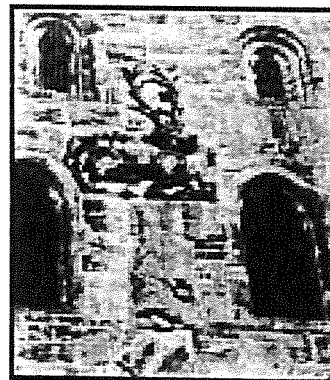
William Shakespeare wrote plays about both Kings, Richard II, and Henry IV Part I and Henry IV Part II. Scholars and academics all over the world still ponder over the deeper meanings in both of them looking for clues as to what really happened, how King Richard II, the last of the Plantaganet dynasty was deposed and succeeded by his cousin King Henry IV, the first King of the house of Lancaster which led to the War of the Roses, and the eventual rise to power of the Tudor dynasty.

Many say the clues lie in the Heraldry and the order in which it was originally displayed in stone on the walls of Hylton Castle. Even the Archaeological Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute states:

*"The position of these arms adjacent to the apparently later Royal Arms is somewhat embarrassing"* Vol 133, 1976

- Were the Hyltons and the other "Families of the North" plotting to depose the king ?
- If not, who plotted what with whom? when ? and how?
- Who won ? and who lost ?
- Why should the Bishop of Durham put his arms on Hylton Castle?
- Why was the heirarchical order of arms changed ?
- Was someone trying to cover up the past ?

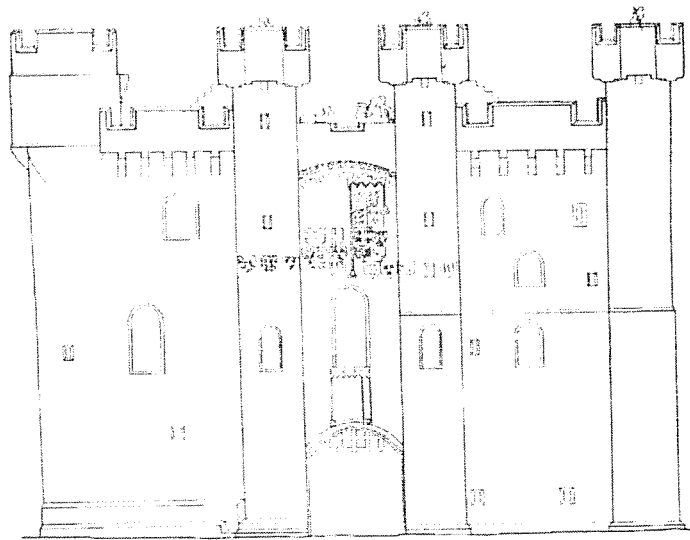
A stag, collared and chained carved in stone on the walls of Hylton Castle, mounted above The Hylton Crest, showing the head of Moses, horned. - This crest would have been worn on the top of the helmets worn by the Barons of Hylton in battle and at tournaments in Medieval times.



An archaeological inspection of Hylton Castle was carried out by Beric M. Morley and his findings were published in *The Archaeological Journal*, volume 133, for 1976 for the Royal Archaeological Institute.

The castle is built of local sandstone, which is prone to wind scour. Some of the armorial bearings carved in stone are now barely discernible and are difficult to identify. Some are said to have been deliberately defaced to hide traces of families who did not want to be associated with the Hyltons in later centuries..and the original position of the armorial bearings have been changed through the various alterations made to the original castle over the years.

By collating the evidence provided by the masonry revealed inside, once the interior had been stripped down to the original medieval stonework, together with the Buck's print of the castle of 1728 and the Billings print published in 1846, it is possible to make a fairly reliable reconstruction of the original west front elevation as constructed.



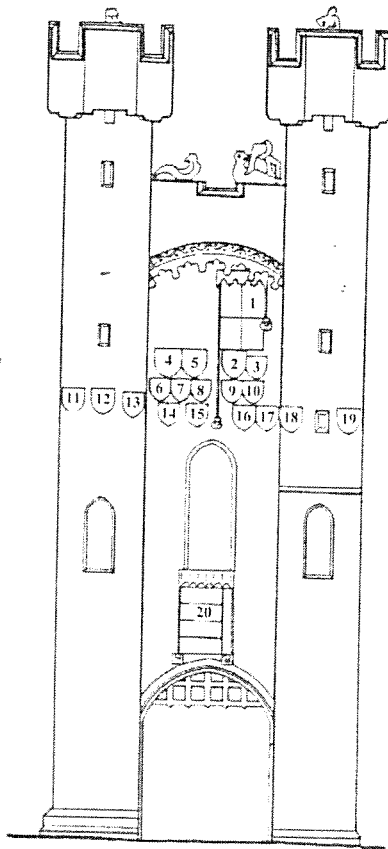
Position of Coats of Arms when castle was built



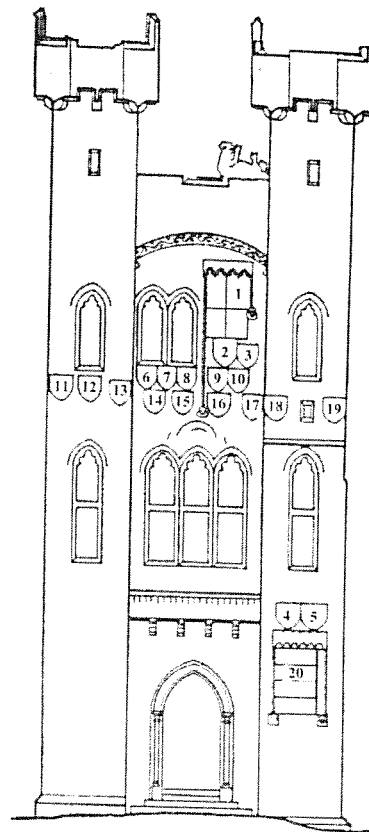
Position of Coats of Arms after alterations - note the Hylton Arms and two others have been moved to right hand side of main entrance

The coats of arms were originally in a hierarchical order as on the Bucks print of 1728. After 1863, local merchant and broker William Briggs demolished both wings and changed the positioning of the heraldry to accommodate more windows in the Gatehouse.

Note the change of position of (4) and (5) and the Arms of Hylton (20) from over the main entrance to the right hand side of the main entrance.



BEFORE ALTERATIONS

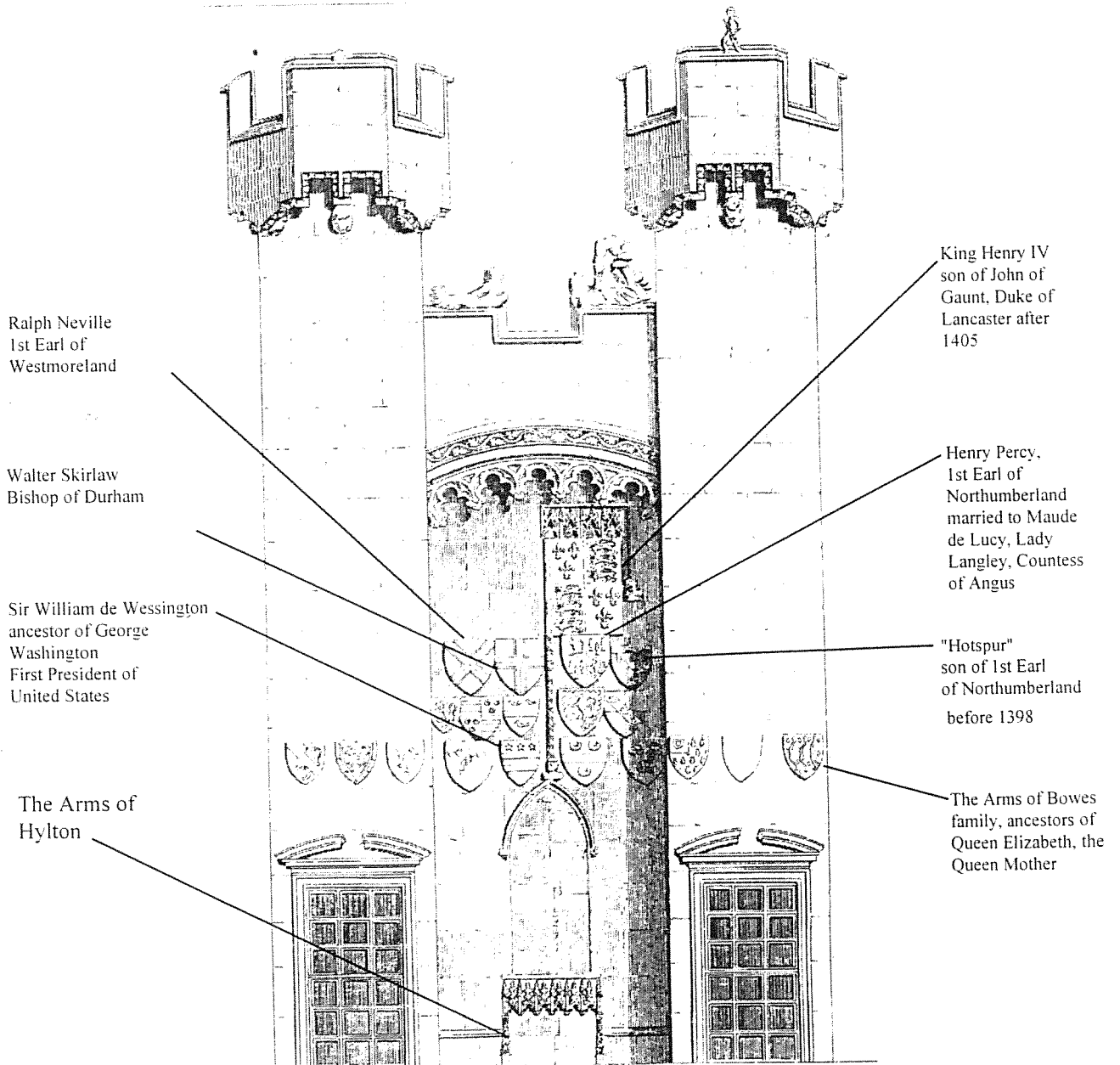


AFTER ALTERATIONS

# The Heraldry of Hylton Castle

*" This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle.  
 This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
 This other Eden, demi -paradise,  
 This fortress built by nature for herself,  
 Against infection and the hand of war,  
 This happy breed of men, this little world  
 This precious stone set in a silver sea,  
 Which serves it in the office of a wall,  
 Or as a moat defensive to a house  
 Against the envy of less happier lands,  
 This blessed plot, this earth, this realm,  
 This England....."*

John of Gaunt in Richard II  
 (William Shakespeare. A.D. 1564-1616)





## 1. The Arms of King Henry IV (after 1405)

The cousin of King Richard II, and son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Henry Bolingbroke he had been banned from England for life but returned in 1399 when he imprisoned Richard II, who "disappeared", presumed murdered. Henry claimed the throne and was crowned King of England in August 1399, ending the direct line of Plantaganet kings, and replacing them with a cadet branch, the House of Lancaster. This later led to the War of the Roses between the House of Lancaster and the House of York, both cadet branches of the Plantaganets.

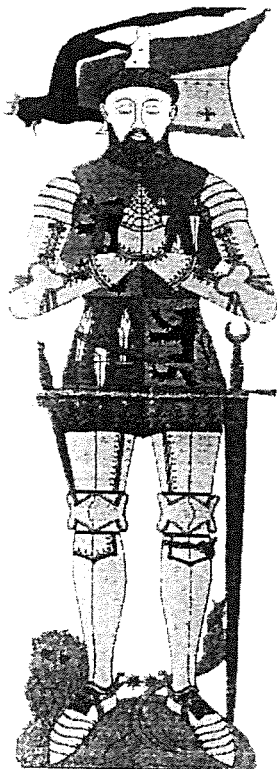
The appearance of these arms on Hylton Castle suggests that the Hylton family were supporters of the House of Lancaster and involved in the campaign to depose King Richard II and replace him with Henry IV. The position of (2) and (3), Percy Arms just below the Royal Arms suggests the Hyltons were supporters of the rebellions of the Percies, against Henry IV, first in 1403 and again in 1405.

## 2. The Arms of Henry Lord Percy, First Earl of Northumberland.

*Arms; Percy quartering Lucy.*

These arms were used after he married Maud de Lucy in 1384. Maud de Lucy was the heiress of the de Lucy family, Lords of Cumberland. She married first, Gilbert de Umphraville, of Prudhoe Castle, Lord of Redesdale. Her second marriage to Henry Lord Percy, First Earl of Northumberland effectively united the north of England, immediately south of the Scottish border, making the Percy family who had married into the powerful Neville family of Durham, a major force to be reckoned with and a challenge to the throne. The earl was killed at the battle of Bramham in 1408.

## 3. The Arms of Sir Henry Percy, Hotspur, son of the First Earl of Northumberland



*Arms; (Or) a lion (azure) and a label of three points (gules)*

These are the arms of Sir Henry Percy, better known as "Hotspur", before 1398. "After 1398 he quartered his arms with those of Lucy in recognition of the receipt of the honour of Cockermouth on his mother's death. He retained the label as his sign of cadency" – Source – The Archaeological Journal, Volume 133, for 1976 and published by The Royal Archaeological Institute.

Only the foot of the lion remains, possibly deliberately defaced, the rest is supplied from the Bucks engraving of the castle front elevation in 1728.

Right - An effigy of Hotspur wearing the tunic of a knight bearing the arms of Percy quartering Lucy. It is interesting to note he is standing on a lion and on his helmet on which his head rests is a crowned lion.

Known as "Hotspur", his name lives on through history in north country ballads, i.e. The Ballad of Chevy Chase and through Shakespeare.

*"Oh, that it could be proved that some night-tripping fairy had exchanged in cradle clothes our children, where they lay, and call mine Percy – his Plantagenet!"*

Shakespeare's fictional Henry IV Part 1, Act 1, Scene 1:

First armed at fourteen years of age when the Castle of Berwick was besieged by the Scots, his "spur" was never cold. In 1388, in revenge for the destruction of Edinburgh and the Abbeys of Melrose and Dryborough by King Richard II of England three years earlier, the Scots, led by James, 2nd earl of Douglas, and the Earls of Moray and Mar invaded England through

Carlisle, on the opposite side of the country to Hylton Castle. Hotspur and his brother, Sir Ralph Percy, were sent against them by their father the earl. They met the Scots forces after they had crossed the country to Newcastle upon Tyne where Douglas captured Hotspur's banner. The Scots then moved back towards Scotland and camped at Otterburn. Hotspur, swearing he would recover his pennon, led their pursuit.

Without waiting for the Bishop of Durham's troops to join him and his men, in the darkness, they attacked the Scots servants and camp followers by mistake. This group fought back and alerted the main force of the Scots. Hotspur lost over one thousand troops in the battle, Douglas only 200.

Hotspur's men fled, but Douglas was killed despite his victory and Hotspur and his brother Ralph Percy were taken prisoner by the Scots and later ransomed to fight another day.

*"At Otterburn began this spurn upon a monnyday*

*Ther was the doughti Douglas-slain*

*The Persi never went away"*

- Source: ancient version of The Ballad of Chevey Chase.

Hotspur was released after the payment of a handsome ransom which included 3000 pounds (an astronomical sum of money in 1388) donated by King Richard II, and in further recompense for his "suffering", the king extended to five years Hotspur's term as warden of Carlisle and the West March.

"Nevertheless, when Henry of Lancaster landed at Yorkshire in 1399, to challenge King Richard II for the throne, Hotspur and his father, threw their powerful support behind him and helped to make him King Henry IV. King Richard II, unpopular because of his "favourites", was imprisoned in Knaresborough Castle, seventy miles to the south of Hylton Castle, between 1399-1400, and later moved to Pontefract Castle where he is either murdered or starved to death. The new king rewarded Hotspur with Roxburgh, Berwick and Bambrough castles, to add to his own Warkworth Castle, and made him warden of the East March which carried a peacetime salary of 3,000 pounds and a wartime salary of four times as much. His father was placed in charge of the West March.

Consider a later ballad about the battle of Otterburn, after the north country English medieval spindoctors known as minstrels, had turned Hotspur into a hero;

*"The Percy was a man of strength,*

*I tell you in thys stounde*

*He smote the Douglas at the sworde's length*

*That he fell to the grouynde"*

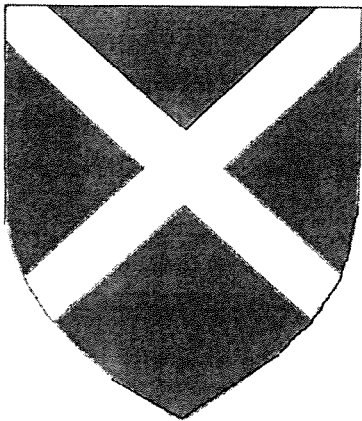
Source: from the ballad, The Battle of Otterboarne

Hotspur was also named as Constable of the castles of Flint, Conway, Chester,

Caernarvon, and Denbigh, appointed justiciar of North Wales, and presented with the island of Anglesey with Beaumaris castle. By now, no English king could rule the whole country without the co-operation of the Percies and their northern followers. William Hylton who was building Hylton Castle at the time was obviously trying to say something to the world by the heraldry he chose to incorporate over the front entrance of his new castle.

Hotspur was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, at least two years before the castle was finished according to the arms of King Henry IV (1405), placed immediately above Hotspur's arms. Had Hotspur been part of a bigger plot? or just a pawn in the international scheme of things? Why put the Percys (Percies? Pierces?) in prime position, above the Hyltons (Heltons, Hiltons) front door?

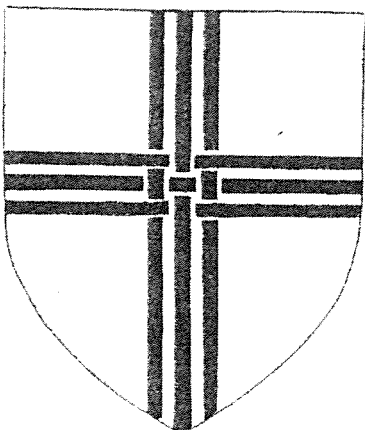
**4. The Arms of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland d. 1425**



*Gules (red), a saltire argent (white)*

According to Surtees; "History of Durham", this saltire represents the arms of Nevill of Raby Castle, Earl of Westmoreland, head of one of the most powerful families in the north at the time and is "Gules, a saltier Argent". According to the Royal Archaeological Institute it is "Argent, a saltire of 6 interlacing wands, sable" and represents the arms of Thomas Weston, chancellor to Bishop Skirlaw of Durham, although they do admit it is now "much eroded". As the arms are carved in local sandstone and are not coloured, it is impossible to tell from the castle itself whose arms they represent. The evidence for the Royal Archaeological Institute interpretation is the Buck's engraving of 1728 A.D. In all probability, they are the arms of the Neville family of Raby Castle, allies of the Percies and the Hyltons and helped to put Henry IV on the throne. It is interesting to note that without colors it could be the Cross of St Andrews

**5. The Arms of Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of Durham 1388-1406**



*Argent (white), a Cross tripartite and fretty, Sable (black)*

Likewise, in stone, these arms could be interpreted as St George's Cross of England, but are identified by both the Royal Archaeological Institute, and in Surtees's History of Durham, as the arms of Bishop Walter Skirlaw of Durham. He was the 25th Bishop of Durham from 1388-1405. In his first year as Bishop, the Battle of Otterburn took place, but the battle was over before the Bishop's forces arrived. It was during his episcopacy that King Richard II was defeated by his cousin Henry of Bolinbroke, Duke of Lancaster who was crowned, Henry IV, King of England at Westminster on 13th October 1399. Bishop Skirlaw was born in Swyne and could possibly have been related to the Hyltons. He was a monk at Durham and had taken a degree at Durham College Oxford. He died in 1406. Something of his character can be gleaned from the following - He was buried with great pomp in the Cathedral,;

*"under a fair marble stone, very sumptuously beset with many brazen images, having his own image most skillfully portrayed in brass in the midst thereof."*  
He probably left his coat of arms on the front of Hylton Castle as well

If the positioning of these arms were originally in a hierarchical order, which seems likely, they could be interpreted as follows:

1. Henry IV King of England after 1405
2. Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland married to Maude de Lucy, heiress of Lord of Cumberland,
- 3 "Hotspur", Son of Percy, Earl of Northumberland before 1398
4. Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland
5. Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of Durham

This would represent a mighty northern alliance, which if combined with the support of the Scots, would be the reason King Richard II was deposed, and Henry IV able to take the throne with the support of the southern nobles.

In 1403, Sir Henry Percy the Younger, known as Hotspur, joined forces with his uncle, Sir Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester, who was the guardian of the King's son, and Owen Glendower, Prince of Wales.

Hotspur's ally, fighting alongside him was none other than the Earl of Douglas from Scotland

It was in 1403 that William Hilton, Baron of Hilton was outlawed in London, and was therefore part of this rebellion. Hotspur was killed fighting King Henry IV at Shrewsbury. His father, Earl of Northumberland who did not take part in the battle surrendered to the king at York

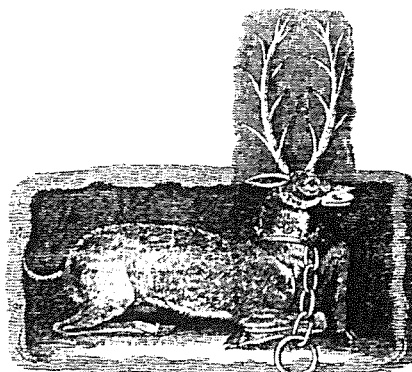
and was pardoned, though remained a prisoner. Such was his power and influence he was allowed back to his Alnwick Estate but by 1405 was in league with Richard le Scrope.

Archbishop of York and Thomas Mowray, the earl marshal in a new revolt against the king. They laid down their arms and archbishop and earl marshal were executed. The Earl of Northumberland fled to Scotland.

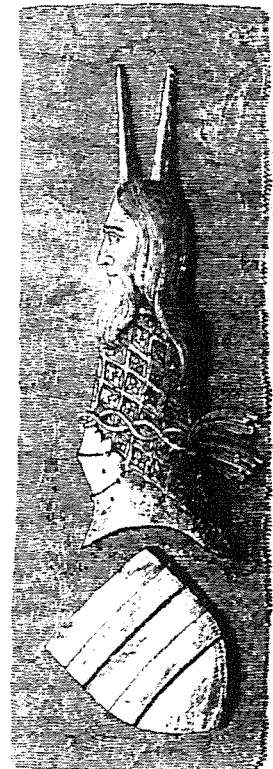
Other Arms included in the Amorial display include the following Families of the North;

6. A lion Rampant - ?
7. Hilton/quartering Vipont
8. Lumley
9. Grey
10. Eure
11. Fitz-Randal of Middleham
12. Washington
13. Lilburne
14. Vescy
15. Felton ?
16. Heron
17. Surtees
18. defaced
19. Bowes

Right; The white stag of Richard II, crowned, collared, and chained.

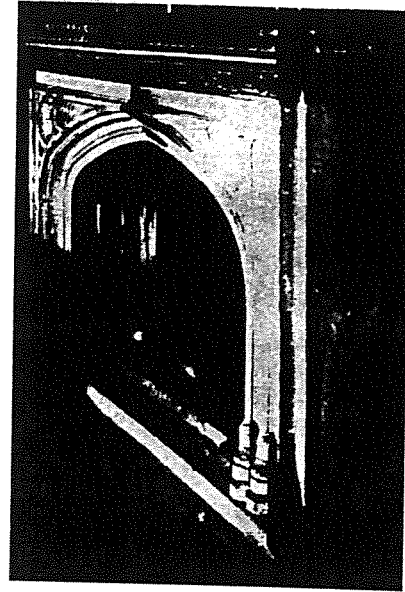


Right; The Hylton Helm - the helmet worn by the B Barons of Hylton during battle, or in tournaments, showing the head of Moses, horned, over the arms of Hylton carved in stone on the walls of Hylton Castle



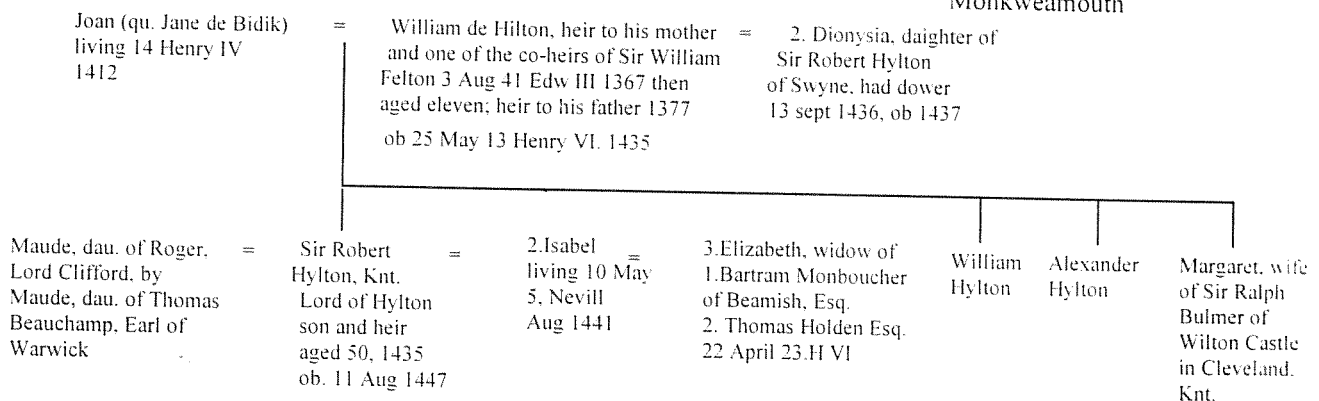
## William Hylton, Baron of Hylton and builder of Hylton Castle

- 1367 - became heir to his mother, and one of the co-heirs of Sir William Felton III then aged eleven
- 1377 - became Baron of Hilton on the death of his father. Then of full age. He accompanied the Bishop of Norwich on Crusade to Flanders
- 1381 - Pirated 2 Scots ships
- 1388 - At the Battle of Otterburn with Lord Percy, Ralph Lumley, Sir Thomas Ogle, Sir Thomas Grey, Sir Thomas Helton (Hilton), Sir John Lilburne, Sir William de Wessyngton V and others
- 1400 - Built Hylton Castle (c.1390-1405)
- 1403 - Outlawed in London
- 1435 - ob. 25 May, 13 Hen IV 1435



Mounment to William Hylton  
The "Old Survivor"  
in St Peters Church  
Monkwearmouth

The "Old Survivor" - he lived through the reigns of; King Edward III. Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI

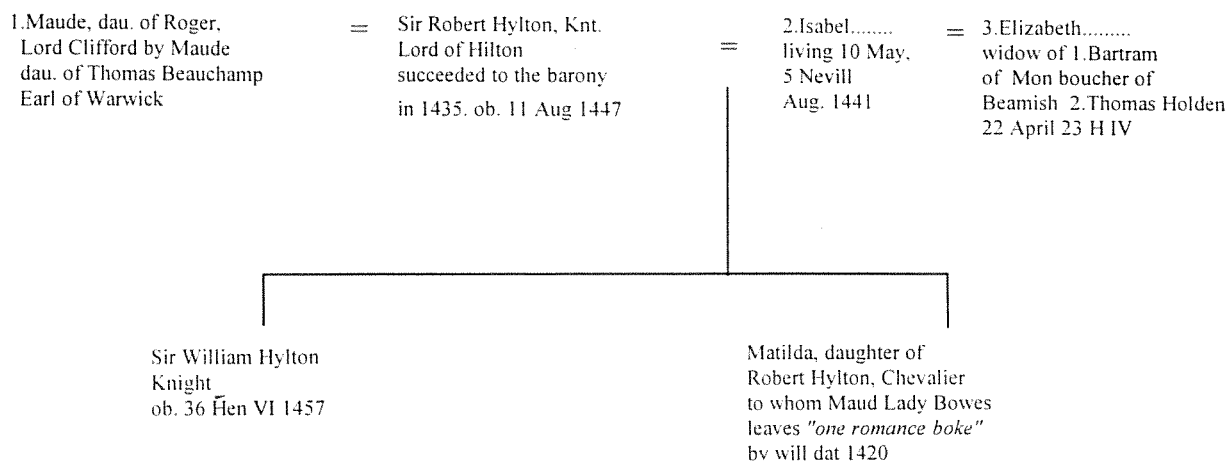


William Hylton, Baron of Hylton was quite a survivor, considering how many of his neighbors were killed in battle or executed during his lifetime. Born in 1356, he died in 1435, at the grand old age of 79 - His son was 50 years of age before he succeeded to the Barony. He married a local girl, Jane of Biddick who was still alive in 1412, and later remarried the daughter of Sir Robert Hylton of Swyne in Yorkshire.

He is recorded as pirating two Scots ships in 1381, which is evidence of the early seafaring skills of the Hylton Family. It is at this time that the first Hyltons are recorded as also living at South Shields at the mouth of the River Tyne. The Baron's family controlled the mouth of the River Wear and his marriage to the daughter of Sir Robert Hylton of Swyne, at the mouth of the River Humber in Yorkshire, effectively gave the Hylton family control of the main north sea ports in England. No one would have been able to move up the north east coastline without the knowledge of the Hyltons.

It is interesting to note that Henry Bolingbroke, who had been banned from England for life by King Richard II, invaded England via Ravenspur on the mouth of the River Humber, presumably aided and abetted by the Hyltons. Richard II, was imprisoned at Pontefract, where he starved to death. Henry Bolingbroke was crowned King of England in 1399

## 1435 Sir Robert Hylton, Lord of Hylton, Baron of Hylton



The inquest on the death of Robert Hylton dated 9th September 1447, describes the Manor of Hylton as follows;

The Manor of Hilton *has a court, four vaulted chambers, a chapel, a kitchen, a room built of stone called a gatehouse; 20 fields making 20 acres, each acre valued at 6 pence; an enclosure called the orchard value 6s 8d; 20 tofts value 6d; 26 acres of meadow value 2s, a toft and 10 acres of land called Sandsonland, the acerage valued at 2s 4d. and the toft at 12 s; 100 acres valued 6d; a messuage and 20 acres called Chaumberland, the messuage valued 12d and the acres 11d; 168 acres moor, each acre valued 2d. The manor holds one knights fee except a tenth part.*

It also describes other landholdings of the Baron of Hylton as follows;

Manor of Newton: *Totally laid waste. 200 acres arable valued at 4d, a number of tofts each valued 20d, a tenth acre woodland value 7d; 30 acres pasture value 4d; 90 acres moor; held from the Bishop for one knights fee.*

Manor of Bermston (Barmston)

Manor of Forth

Manor of Grindon

William Bowes, Knight holds from Robert the manor of Clowcroft.

He settled the manor of Biddick on his son Robert in 1442. *In 5th Bishop Neville (1442), a pardon is granted to Sir Robert Hylton and Isabel his wife for having aquired of Sir William Hylton, Knt, lands in Bermston (Barmston), two parts in Great Usworth, the manor of Bidyk (Biddick)*

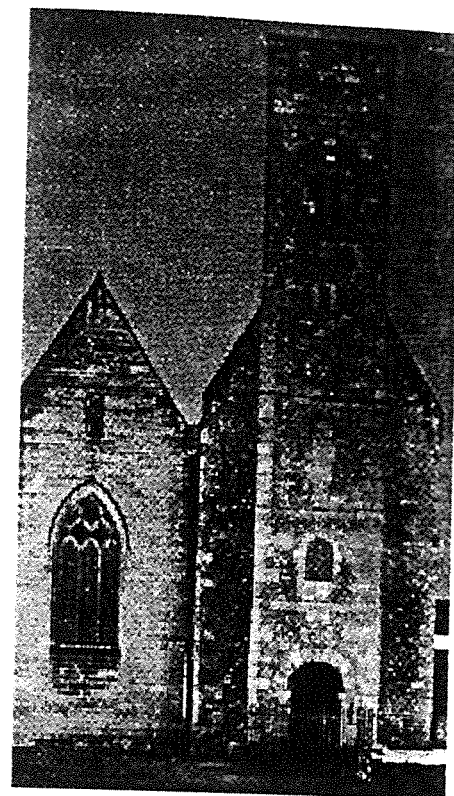
He was married three times, firstly to the granddaughter of the Earl of Warwick, but had only two children by his second wife, Isabel, whose surname was, surprisingly, unknown. It is interesting, considering how few books had been published by this date that Maud, Lady Bowes left Matilda, Robert's daughter, "one romance book". She must have known the Bowes family well.

## The Hyltons vs The Monks

The agreement made in 1157 with Prior Germanus that the Hyltons should attend the mother church of Wearmouth on great festivals, and that the large alms should be presented to the mother church does not appear to have worked smoothly.

The records show a history of grievances and squabbles between the Master of Wearmouth, and the family of Hylton.

During Robert's lifetime, the Master of Wearmouth makes a complaint that the chaplains of Hilton kept back for their own use, the Easter oblations, and he also states that this practise has been going on for a century and a half. The chaplain of the chapel at Hylton Castle is also accused of keeping back the tithes of land in his own occupation (the church had a right to one tenth of the produce, produced on the land) He would not give up the tithes of Elias Fitz Patric and John de Auckland, and would not hand over the tithes of the fisheries of Burnmouth and Edendene, and the tithes of Hilton Mill. He even put into his own pocket the profits of the sale of Holy water in the villages of North Hylton and Newton.



St Peters Monkwearmouth 674 A.D

It is also noted that the then priest of Hylton paid so little respect to the rules of the church or the Master of Wearmouth, that he allowed certain people, who were the inhabitants of Hylton, to attend the chapel of Hylton who were under ecclesiastical censure *"fairly laid on"*.

*"Like priest, like people"*, and we therefore find that as the priest refused to pay his tithes, so others refused to pay theirs. Adam of Fulwell, tenant of the Manor of Fulwell, Thomas Upwood, and others, are accused of detaining the tithes of the Croketayle fishery.

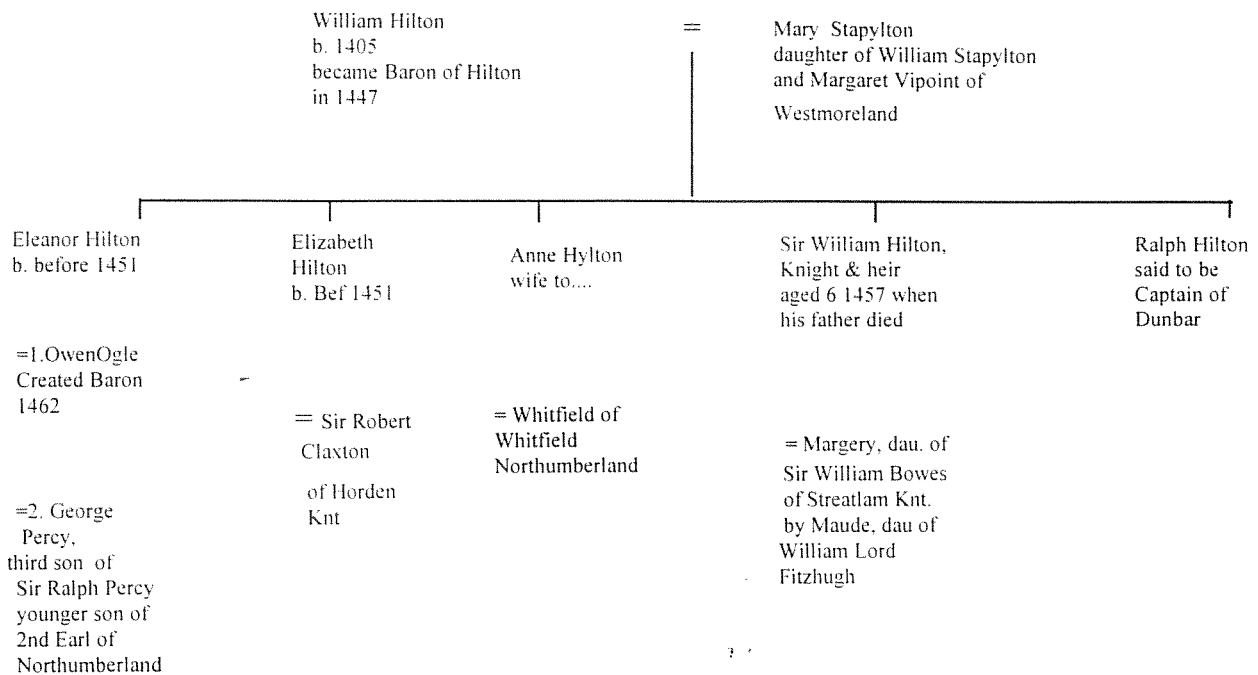
But grievous and disrespectful as was the conduct of the people of Fulwell and the priest of Hylton, the conduct of the Baron and his servants was worse.

*"on the same day William Hylton came to the church to be shriven, and with a stoore countenance he entered the choir of the church without any prayer or reverence paid to the blessed sacrament, and he said to the keeper and masters, "What make ye heere?", and with great oath he swore there was not any chamber so sacred that he could not enter and pull out John Booth the monk, tie his feet under his horse's belly and send him to Durham"*

He challenged the said keeper, and said *"Who are you Sir?"* He therewith also laid hands on him and pulled his hood against his neck against his will, for which deed the keeper and his fellows durst not abide in the place, and withdrew themselves.

It seems it was a battle of authority on the Hylton estates. Whilst the church had a legal right to one tenth of everything produced on the land, or catches made in the fisheries, throughout England it seems the Hyltons resented having to pay it over to the monks of Monkwearmouth when the Hyltons had their own chapel to maintain and their own clergy to keep. It was an ongoing argument for centuries with different Barons and it is interesting to note that in one of the first letters ever written from the Pilgrim fathers new colony of Plymouth in America William Hylton of Biddick says *"the rent day doth not trouble us"*

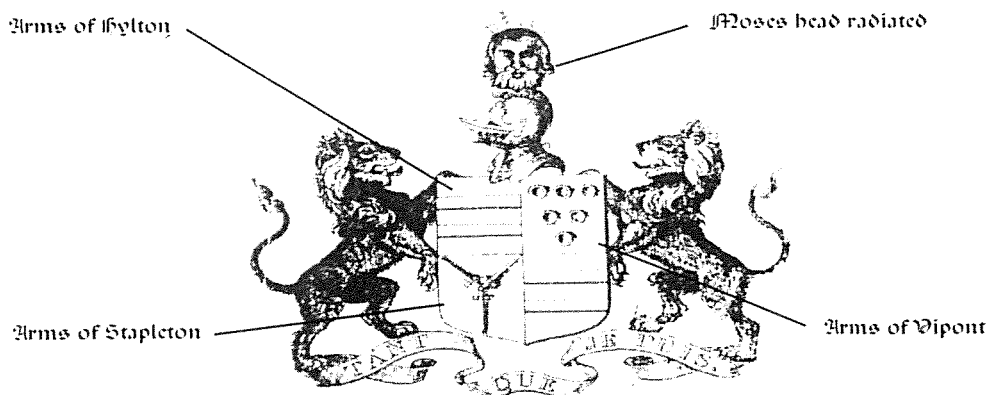
## Sir William Hylton b.1405 - d.1457



The marriage of William Hilton to Mary Stapylton, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Stapylton of Westmoreland brought a partition of the lands at Alston Moor, and the associated wealth from the lead mines into the Hylton Family. It is at this point that the Hylton Crest emerges which shows the arms of Hylton quartered with the Arms of Vipoint and Stapylton - Mary Stapylton was the daughter of Sir William Stapylton and Margaret Vipont. The Stapylton family also had extensive estates in Yorkshire and the Vipont family, Lords of Westmoreland also had landholdings in Scotland.

### The Hylton Crest

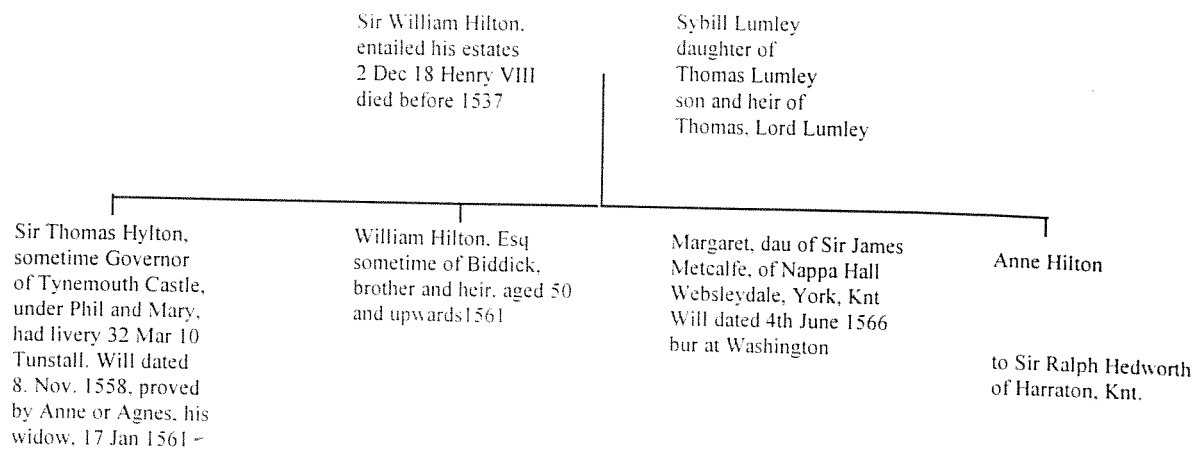
*Moses head, radiated. Supporters; two lions rampant azure*



The use of *two lions rampant azure* (blue) as supporters is particularly interesting, a *lion rampant azure* was on the arms of Brus (Bruce), the Percy family of Northumberland and the Lyon family of Strathmore, Scotland. It denotes union with some of the north's most important families at the time



## William Hylton b.1541



= 1. Elizabeth Clarvaux  
dau. and co-heir of  
Clarvaux of Croft

= 2. Agnes widow of .....  
Baxter, merchant  
of Newcastle

= 3. Eliz. dau and heir  
of Henry Boynton of  
Sedbury, widow of  
Henry Gascoigne.  
Inq. p.m. 13 June  
37 Henry. VIII

= 4. Anne, widow of  
Nicholas Lamberton  
of Owlton, co Pal.  
dau. of Clement  
Hurleston, of Wokyndon  
co Essex



King Henry VIII

By now, the Hilton family had intermarried with a wide range of prominent landowning families throughout the north of England and their influence stretched from Lincolnshire up to and perhaps beyond the Scottish borders. Little is recorded about Sir William Hilton and his marriage to Sybill Lumley of nearby Lumley Castle. Perhaps the most interesting fact, is that Sir William Hylton died in 1537, the year of the Pilgrimage of Grace, in which his son Thomas is recorded as one of the leaders. By now Henry VIII was on the throne of England, and parliament had ordered the dissolution of the monasteries for religious and financial reasons. Eight hundred religious houses, monasteries, nunneries and friaries were closed and over 10,000 monks, canons, nuns and friars evicted. Their properties were taken over by the crown and sold or leased to local landowners. It was the spark for rebellion in the strongly roman catholic north, who also had many other accumulated grievances. economic, social and political as well as religious against the power and wealth base in the south of England. The rebellion in the end was a total failure and ruthlessly put down by the Duke of Norfolk - seventy two of the leaders were executed and hung from the walls of Carlisle as a warning, including Sir Richard Musgrave.

George Lumley and Sir Thomas Percy were executed at Tyburn.

The fact that William Hilton in 1526? (probably 1536) conveyed his manors of Hilton, Ford, Usworth, Folanceby, Grindon, Barmeton, Biddick Co. Durham, Carnaby and Wharram Percy, co. Ebor, Aldstone, Kirkhaughe, Elryngton, and Woodhall, Northumberland to; Sir William Bulmer, Sir Ralph Hedworth, Robert Bowes of Cowton. George Bowes of Dalden, Robert Bowes of Aske, John Hedworth, and John Lambton, all local friends and neighbours, suggests that he was probably amongst those executed for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace.

He left them on trust for himself for life, with the remainder in tail male respectively to;  
 Sir Thomas Hilton, his son and heir  
 William Hilton, his second son,  
 Cuthbert, son of Thomas Hilton, late of Wylome, co .York  
 William Hilton, brother of Roger  
 John Hilton, Citizen and Merchant- Taylor of London, Body-Taylor to Henry VIII  
 Adam Hilton, of Parke in Lancashire  
 Thomas Hilton, Citizen and Skinner of London.

His will also clearly identifies the four main geographic locations of the main branches of the Hilton family at that time as being;  
 Hylton and surrounding areas in Durham  
 Wylome, Yorkshire  
 Parke, Lancashire  
 London

### Sir Thomas Hylton d. 1561

|   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sir Thomas Hylton, Knt.<br>sometine Governor of<br>Tynemouth Castle, under<br>Phil. & Mary. had livery<br>32 Mar 10 Tunstall<br>Will dated Nov 1558<br>proved by Anne his widow.<br>17 Jan 1561 | = 1.Elizabeth, dau<br>and co heir of<br>John Clarvaux of<br>Croft. co York. Esq. | = 2.Anne, widow<br>of Nicolas<br>Lamberton<br>of Owlton co<br>Pal. | = 3.Elizabeth, dau<br>and heir of<br>Henry Boynton<br>of Sedbury, widow<br>of Henry Gascoigne<br>Inq. p.m. 13 June<br>37 Hen VIII | = 4. Agnes, widow of<br>.....Baxter<br>merchant of<br>Newcastle |
|---|--|--|---|---|

Sir Thomas seems to have had similar problems to King Henry VIII in producing a male heir who could inherit the estates. He was married four times.

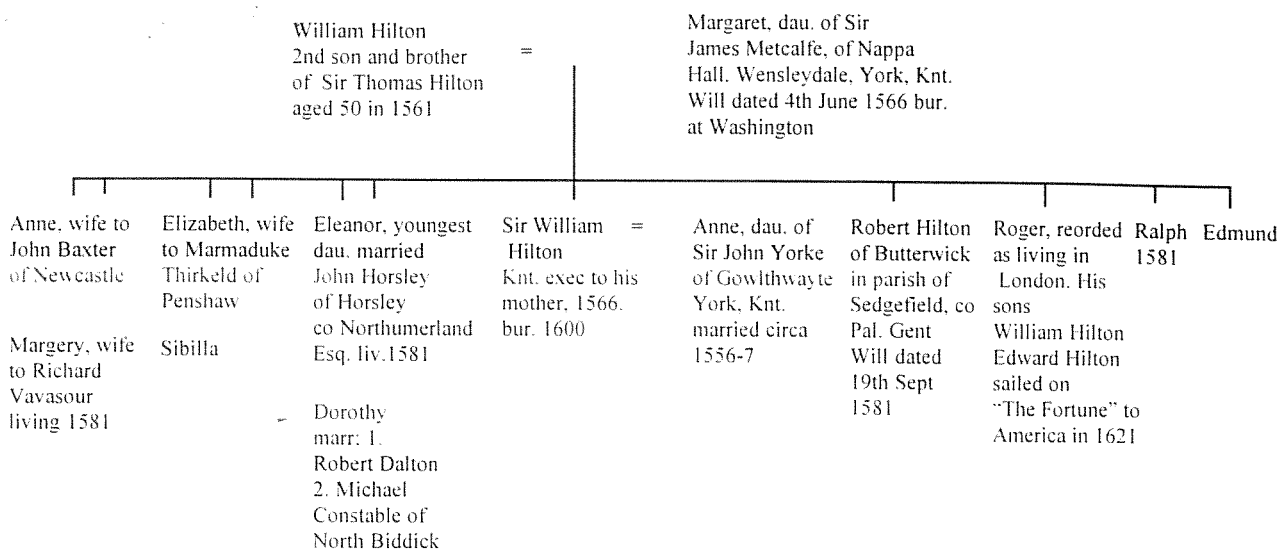
He participated in the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1537, and was one of four delegates sent by the rebels to state their grievances to the Duke of Norfolk at Doncaster. Despite his part in the rebellion, and probably to keep him on the king's side after his father's death, in 1539 King Henry VIII granted him the lands of the recently dissolved Tynemouth Priory on the northern bank of the River Tyne. He was afterwards deputed to make a return of all of the Bishopric whose lands or profits were upwards of £40 per year. In the reign of Phillip and Mary, Sir Thomas became the Governor

Tynemouth Castle. *"In a letter from the Privy Council, dated September 27, 1558, a complaint is made that he had illegally detained a vessel from Flanders laden with salt, and that he is in the habit of taking such wares out of ships passing him on their way to New castle - as he thinketh mete, and is accordingly directed to forebear to meddle with ships which are in amity with the queen"* It seems the Hilton's seafaring skills extended to pirating. It is interesting to note his second wife was Anne Lamberton, widow of Nicholas Lamberton of Owton Manor which had belonged to Tynemouth Priory. She had three children from her first marriage, Robert, Clement and George - A George Lamberton bought Philadelphia off the American Indians in 1642 and disappeared on "The Phantom Ship".

Sir Thomas was made supervisor of the will of John Hedworth of Harraton whose son, Sir Ralph Hedworth married his sister Anne.

In his will, which was proved in 1561 he states his wish to be buried in the chapel of Hilton, in which his "grandfather lieth buried". This suggests that his father was not buried in the chapel of Hilton and that his father could have been amongst the rebels who were executed after the pilrimage of Grace rebellion in 1537, as was the head of Percy family, the Earl of Northumberland. By the law of primogeniture whereby the eldest son, or his eldest son &c. or descendent in direct line succeeds to a father or ancestor in landholdings and property, the Hilton estates passed to his brother next in line, William.

## William Hylton b. 1511, brother of Sir Thomas Hylton



William Hilton inherited the Hilton Estates from his brother Thomas, who died childless in 1561 despite having been married four times. His brother seems to have died in rather mysterious circumstances. William accused a Dr Bulleyn of poisoning his brother Thomas; According to a story inserted in Kippis's Biography, on the authority of Dr Bulleyn; a "learned physician" (Quack doctor!);

*"He aquired a property in the Salt Panns at "Shiles" by Tynemouth. (these are also mentioned in an early letter from the Plymouth colony in America). He also practised with repute in the city of Durham, and gained the favour of Sir Thomas Hilton, in whose family he professes to have performed some notable cures by means of herbs. In 1557, he dedicated his book "Government of Health" to Sir Thomas; but during his absence in London in the following year, compiling materials for a second edition of his book, his patron died, and he was charged by Mr William Hilton, with having murdered him. The doctor was arraigned before the Duke of Norfolk, "and the most diligent injustice was used to bring him to a shameful death, that his adversary might, with the covetous Ahab, through false witness, obtain by the council of Jezebel a vineyard with the price of blood". Though the doctor was acquitted "yet did not that wicked enemy (William Hilton) give over his bloody persecutions, but basely hired some ruffians to assassinate him;". and although "some persons of genteel extraction" (amongst whom was R Bellasis of Jarrow, another ungrateful patient, whose life the doctor saved) became accomplices, yet this plot failed also. William Hilton next arrested the doctor for debt and kept him for a long time in prison, where he employed himself in compiling medicinal treatises.*

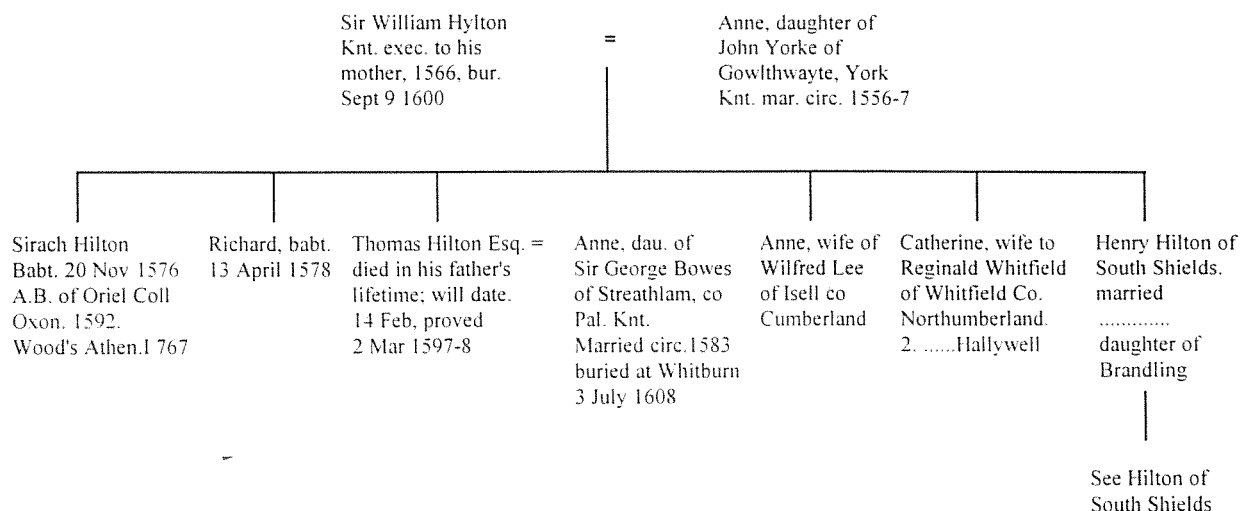
Interestingly, Dr Bulleyn also accuses William Hilton of having persecuted the widow of his brother Sir Thomas, "though she had redeemed much of his lands by great sums of money"

Under the laws of England at the time, the estate reverted to the eldest male heir, When Sir Thomas died childless, William Hilton, his brother who was living at North Biddick Hall at the time, inherited Hylton Castle and all of the Hylton Estates. It was about this time that an Elizabethan Manor House had been built at the rear of the gatehouse and ancillary buildings, and the extensive Elizabethan gardens laid out. It is presumed that this was the "great sums of money" referred to. Sir Thomas's widow may well have had to move out of her new home to make way for William Hilton and his wife and children.

The younger sons of William Hilton, would not have expected their father to inherit the estate, and like most younger sons of the period would have been expected to make their own way in the world. One such son was Roger Hilton, who had moved to London where he became a fish-monger, presumably selling the fish caught by his two sons William and Edward. The fishing grounds off the north east coast of England were a prime source of fish for the London market where they brought better prices. Travelling time from Monkwearmouth to London by road at the time was approx two to three weeks. By ship it was a matter of days. It was William Hilton's grandsons, William and Edward who sailed to America in 1621 to rescue the surviving pilgrims

From the Mayflower in the Plymouth colony, America

## Sir William Hylton d. 1600



Sir William Hylton married Anne, daughter of John Yorke of York in 1556, and they lived through a period of great religious upheaval between protestants and catholics. In 1569, the northern earls rose up in rebellion in support of Mary Queen of Scots in "The Rising of the North". Led by the Earls of Northumberland (the Percy family) and the Earl of Westmoreland (the Neville family), they enlisted the support of most of the prominent families from Northumberland and Durham and marched south but the rebellion failed and many of the rebels were forced to flee into Scotland. Many were thrown into prison, and 60 were executed at Durham in 1570. Other executions took place in virtually every town and village from Wetherby to Newcastle. Raby Castle and Brancepeth Castle were confiscated from the Nevilles, and Charles Neville was executed at York in 1572. George Bowes and William Hilton appear to have supported Queen Elizabeth I. during the rebellion. William Hilton brought into service one hundred horse on her behalf and was knighted by the Earl of Sussex at Carlisle on August 28 1570. He also lent the Queen £50 on her privy seal. His son Thomas married Anne, Sir George Bowes daughter.

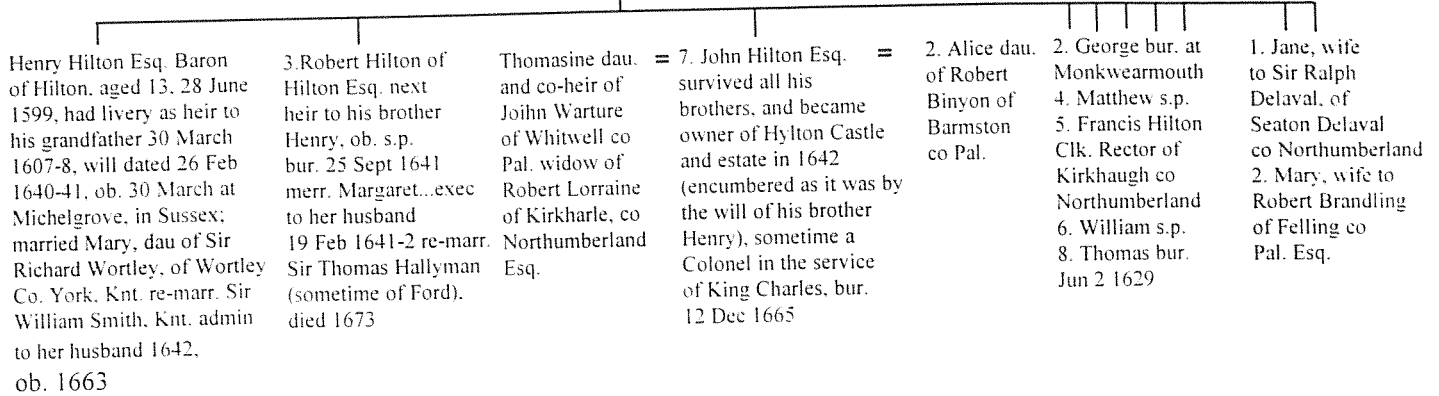
This was also the great age of exploration. The Spanish were shipping gold from their conquests in South America and piracy was commonplace. It was the time of the invasion of England by the Spanish armada, and the first voyage to Virginia in a new found land. The seafaring skills of Hyltons would have put them in good stead as opportunities opened up outside of Europe. We know that William and Edward Hilton became fishermen, and many of the Hiltons of South Shields are recorded as Master mariners. News of the latest discoveries and happenings reached the ports first and the Hilton family would have been amongst the first to hear the latest news from the Americas.

There appears to have been four main residences of the Hilton family at this time; Hylton Castle, in Monkwearmouth, Field House in South Shields, North Biddick Hall, now in Washington, and in the will of Sir William Hilton who died in 1600, a house in Newcastle is also mentioned. Surtees in his "History of Durham" states; *"The furniture of the house at Newcastle, where perhaps Sir William chiefly resided, is not much superior; his funeral expenses are only estimated at thirty shillings"*. Administration of the will was granted to Lady Anne Hilton (nee Bowes).

His eldest son Thomas had died during Sir William's lifetime, leaving a grandson, Henry son of Thomas Hilton and Anne Bowes who inherited the estate. Queen Elizabeth I, had long wanted to weaken the power of the northern barons. The rising of the north in 1569, had effectively reduced the power and influence of the Percy family and the Neville family, and they were no longer a threat to the throne. Henry Hilton was only eleven years of age when his father died in 1600, and it provided the opportunity for Queen Elizabeth I to ensure he was educated in the protestant religion

## Henry Hilton b. 1586 - The Mad? Baron

Thomas Hilton = Anne Bowes



Son and heir of Thomas Hilton and Anne Bowes, and grandson of Sir William Hilton who died in 1600, Henry Hilton was eleven years of age when his father died, and only two years later his grandfather died leaving him as the sole heir of the Hylton Estates when he became of age.

Queen Elizabeth I had never forgotten the Rising of the North, and the threat to the throne of the northern earls, or the execution of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. Childless herself, and nearing the end of her life in 1600, she seems to have been determined to solve the problem of the "inly working north" as she described it before her death. She herself never travelled further north than Northampton in her lifetime, but she knew what could happen to England in the power vacuum after her death. The power of the Nevilles in the north had been smashed. Raby Castle was now in the hands of the Vane family. Thomas Percy, 7th Earl of Northumberland was executed for his part in the Rising of the North in 1572. Henry the 8th Earl was sent to the Tower of London in 1584 on charges of conspiracy with Mary Queen of Scots and was found shot in his cell the following year. Henry the 9th Earl had just about learnt how to behave himself and was a supporter of James VI of Scotland as the rightful successor to Elizabeth when she died.

In 1593 the Hyltons were reported to the government by one of it's spies for celebrating Mass, presumably at Hylton Castle, although it was well known that many of the northern families still adhered to the old religion. When thirteen year old Henry became heir to the Hylton Estates, it provided Elizabeth I with the chance to ensure that the Barons of Hylton would not fill the rebellious shoes of the departed Nevilles when she was gone. The Hyltons had all the signs of rebellion against the throne still displayed on the front of their castle walls from the days of Richard II and Henry IV and was it not her favorite Shakespeare who had written historical plays about those times which so pleased the London audiences?

But young Henry was also the son of Sir George Bowes' daughter, Anne, and the Bowes family were now the most trusted family in the north. Sir George Bowes had been the Provost-Marshal north of the River Trent (1/2 of England). Sir George Bowes son who died in 1606 is described as "of Biddick" (part of the Hylton estates) as is his grandson, Sir George Bowes who died in 1643.

Henry Hilton, was only 13 years of age when he inherited the Hilton estate, he was left in ward to Queen Elizabeth I. and by indenture between the Queen and Thomas Marbery, it was agreed that he should bring the boy to the Bishop of Carlisle, to be reviewed and talked with, "that his manners, education, and profiting in learning may be understood and perceived, upon payne and forfeiture of the said warde (the Hilton Estate)"

*(Under feudal laws of the time, the Queen had rights to the feudal dues of the Estate as feudal overlord. The most important of these was the right to enjoy guardianship or "Wardship" of those of her tenants who died leaving heirs under age, and to arrange marriages of their female heirs. Either the estates of those in wardship could be managed direct, and the profits collected on the Queen's behalf, or the wardship, including the right to manage the property, could be sold for a lump sum*

In 1583, Thomas, son and heir of Sir William Hylton married Anne, daughter of Sir George Bowes of Streatham. Sir George Bowes had been appointed High Sheriff of the County Palatine of Durham on 27th July 1576. It was a marriage settlement that would prove difficult for some members of the Hylton family;

29th September 1583

(1) Sir William Hilton of Hilton, Knight

(2) Dame Jane Bowes of Streatlam, widow of Sir George Bowes, and William Bowes of Barnard Castle., esq., her son.

*"Marriage settlement after the marriage of Thomas Hilton, son and heir apparent of (1) and Anne, daughter of Dame Jane Bowes, by which (1) covenants to convey to Talbot, Robert and George Bowes and Marmaduke Thirkeld, his lands in Hilton, Hilton Park, Volanbye, Great Usworth, Burmestone, Fourde and Beddicke, and Aldstone and Garragill in Cumberland and in Newcastle, of which the lands in Alsdstone, Garragill, Volansbye and one tenement in Great Usworth are to be held in trust for Thomas and Anne Hilton in tail, and the lands in Hilton, Hilton Park, Fourd Feilds Ferriebote, Clowcrofte, Burmestone, Great Usworth, Beddicke and the Whitefriars in Newcastle are to be held in trust for (1) for life with the remainder to Thomas Hilton in tail, with the provisions for the granting of annuities.*

*Consideration: 1200 marks."*

Thomas Hilton and Anne Bowes went on to have 8 sons and 2 daughters. Their first born was Henry Hilton born in 1586 who became heir to the estates.

In 1597-8 his father Thomas Hilton died, and his grandfather, Sir William Hilton died and was buried on 9th September 1600, two years later

This appears to be what Robert Cecil, secretary to the then old and ailing Queen Elizabeth I had been waiting for. They had successfully reduced the power of the Percy family and the Neville family in the north of England after the Rising of the North, and put their own man in power; Sir George Bowes, a staunch protestant.

Now they had the opportunity to reduce the power of the Hyltons, the most powerful family in the Palatinate of Durham, and by so doing, reduce the power of the Palatinate and the Bishop himself.

Henry Hilton was educated in London, and will have spent most of his formative early years separated from his direct family and under the influence of Thomas Marbery and the Bishop of Carlisle.

He probably never lived with Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Wortley from whom he was separated nearly 30 years. He was "of most melancholy habits, and lived much alone, first at Billingham in Kent, and then at Michel Grove in Sussex (scandal affirmed that he lived in too close intimacy with Lady Shelley). He died in 1640 and by a will "*such as a madman only could make*" he alienated the greater part of the property and ruined his family. He left the entire estate to the Mayor and Corporation of London for 99 years with various conditions which bankrupted the estate. He also stipulated that at the end of 99 years his estate shall go to the heir-at-law, providing "he does not claim remote issue from the testator's body". He also stated that he wanted to be buried in St Paul's cathedral under a "faire tombe".

Henry, was obviously worried someone might lay claim to the estate. He states in his will;

*"Yt If anie p'son shall p'tend to be a child of my body begotten, w'ch I hope noe body will be so impudent and shameless, I hearby, calling God and man to witness, yt I have no child living of my body begotten, and if any such person shall p'tend so to be, I hearby declare he or she so doing to be an imposture, and I hope noe body will undertake to doe such a shameless, dishonest and impudent act and he or she soe declaring to be my child, I doe hereby utterly rnonce and disclaim ym"*

(actual spelling)

His wife was not named in the will, and Lady Shelley was the sole executor - he didn't get buried in St Paul's cathedral!

# Master Mariners

With their Viking heritage, the sea ran in their blood. From earliest times, the Hyltons of Hylton Castle were recorded as mariners and seafarers. Hylton Castle is sited only one mile from the North Sea., on the north bank of the river Wear.

In the 16th century, the appointment of Sir Thomas Hylton as Governor of Tynemouth Castle at the mouth of the river Tyne gave the Hyltons control of one of the main north sea ports. The city of Newcastle was sited 8 miles upstream on the River Tyne. It was one of the main trading ports with Scandanavia and Russia (the Muscovy Company). Wool from all over the north of England was also exported to Flanders from Newcastle.

The marriage of Sir Thomas Hylton, Baron Hylton of Hylton Castle, to Anne Lamberton of Owton Manor at Hartlepool will have given him control over the River Tees, and with a cadet branch of the family at Swyne in Yorkshire the Hyltons had a base on the river Humber. Sir Thomas Hylton, Baron of Hylton Castle had control of all of the main sea ports of Northern England in the mid 16th century, and control of the trade to Europe.

## North Sea Fishing

Many Hylton descendents living in the region, made their living from the sea. The North Sea was the main source of fish for the English market, and before the advent of refrigeration, much of the fish was salted at Hylton and South Shields, to preserve it and later sold as salted fish at the London fish market at Billingsgate. During the late 16th century, the Hyltons were granted a monopoly on salt production by Queen Elizabeth I. Coal was plentiful in the area, and so was sea water. By evaporating sea water by heating it in salt pans, using the readily available coal, the cost of importing salt from warmer climates in countries further south where natural evaporation of sea water formed salt, considerable savings on imports could be made for the English exchequer. Salt Pans were established at South Shields on the south bank of the river Tyne, and at Wearmouth on the south bank of the river Wear.

Sir Thomas Hylton is recorded as "illegally detaining a vessel from Flanders laden with salt" in 1558, probably to defend his monopoly on English salt production.

## Ship Building

The first mention of shipbuilding on the river Wear was in 1346 when Thomas Menvill is recorded as building ships at Hendon. By the 16th century, the demand for coal for heating homes in the rapidly expanding City of London in Elizabethan England, created an increased demand for ships and shipbuilding started to thrive. A ready supply of oak trees combined with local skills and seafaring knowleadge led to a rapidly expanding ship building industry. Ships are known to have been built at Hylton Ferry, the main crossing point of the River Wear before any bridges were built, and the slipway where they were launched can still be seen at low tide.

On the first map of Durham drawn after the 1569 rebellion, Monkwearmouth is shown on the north bank of the river and the village on the south bank is shown as Wearmouth.

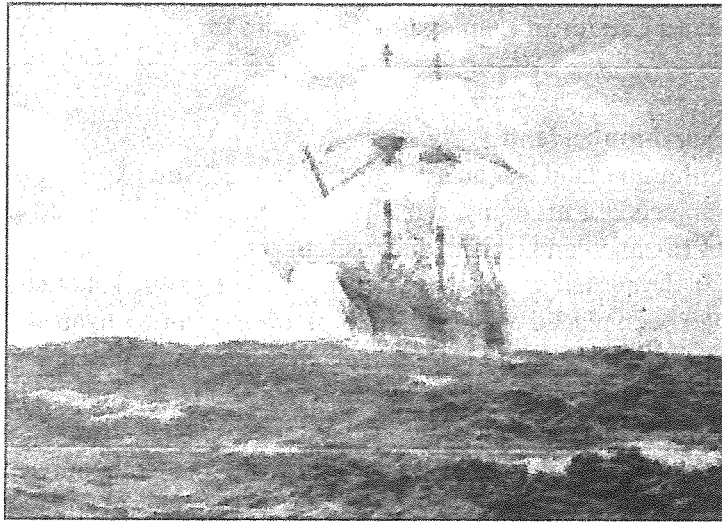
Sunderland, at the mouth of the river, was still a small fishing village in 1588 when the report of a commission sent to Sunderland by Queen Elizabeth I to enquire why no customs dues were forthcoming. The report said there was no customs house at Sunderland. There were shallow coal workings and salt pans, a village of thirty householders. There were seven cobbles belonging to 20 fishermen.

The Hyltons had first hand seafaring experience in the north sea, they had aquired a knowl- edge of shipbuilding design and building techniques. They were ideally placed to take advantage of the new opportunities the age of exploration was opening up.

### Navigation

The monks who had founded many of the monasteries on the east coast of England had developed quite advanced sailing and navigation skills centuries before, and many of these skills had been spread amongst the local population.

In the first half of the 16th Century, King Henry VIII, granted charters to three cities to set up schools of navigation; London, Hull, and Newcastle all on the east coast of England. Spain and Portugal were shipping gold and silver back to Europe from South America, and England were being left behind. Trinity House in Newcastle was founded in 1505 and a charter was granted to "the Bretheren of the Blessed Trinity", to found a school for navigation on the banks of the River Tyne in 1543. The Hyltons, with a cadet branch of the family at South Shields on the South bank of the River Tyne, were well placed to aquire these new navigational skills.



### Age of exploration

Mariners from the north east of England, are recorded as early as 1590 in America. Men named Harding and Swan from Newcastle are listed amongst the crew of the 1590 expedition to Roanoke, the first attempted settlement in Virginia in America. No doubt they will have told tales of what they had seen and heard of the "New World" in the local Inns on Tyneside and Wearside.

We know that Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland, known as "the Wizard Earl", and born at Tynemouth Castle, surrounded by the sea, took an early interest in the "New Found Land". A friend and gambling companion of Sir Walter Raleigh who had financed the expeditions to Roanoke, he was introduced to Thomas Harriot, one of Elizabethan England's greatest scientists, in 1590. Thomas Harriot had trained Raleigh's captains in the newly developed navigational skills to plot both longitude and latiitude using his knowledge of astronomy and mathematics. He had spent nearly 12 months living at Roanoke in America and had become the acknowledged expert on what was required to achieve a permanent settlement there. He was also an expert cartographer and was able to make maps and sea charts other's could follow.

When Sir Walter Raleigh fell from favour with Queen Elizabeth I, Thomas Harriot became a "pensioner" of Sir Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland. He actively encouraged Thomas Harriot to continue his research into astronomy and it's navigational implications. He was helped by Walter Warner, his assistant, and Robert Hues. They became known as the Earl's three "Magi".

Thomas Harriot was given lands at Brampton in Cumberland where he is recorded as receiving rents and there is evidence to suggest he trained a number of northern sea captains in navigational skills, probably including George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland.



### **George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland**

Like the Percy family, Earls of Northumberland, the Clifford family, Earls of Cumberland held lands across the north of England including Skipton in Yorkshire, and Hartlepool in Durham. George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland is recorded as a leading international seafarer in the late 16th century.

*"He performed nine viages by sea in his own person, most of them to the West Indies, with great honour to himself, and servis to his Quene and country, having gained the strong town of Fiall, in the Torrous (Azore) islands, in the year 1589, and his last viage, the strong port of Portereco, in the year 1589. He was made Knight of the Garter by Quene Elizabeth, and Counsellor of State by King James"* - *History of Hartlepool - Sir Cuthbert Sharp*

In 1588, he took an active share, as a naval commander, in the destruction of the Spanish Armada. He and his seamen, most of whom will have been local men, will have aquired extensive knowledge and experience of sailing the Atlantic

Most of these voyages were at his own expense, and he was compelled to sell a great portion of his estates to pay for them, amongst others, the manors of Harte, Hartness, Hartlepool which were purchased by John, Lord Lumley of Lumley Castle in 1586 for the sum of £5350.

He died in 1605

### **Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland**

Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland had an avid interest in the "New World" and built up a magnificent library on the subjects of astronomy, astrology, alchemy etc, and mixed with some of the foremost scientists of Elizabethan England and visiting scientists from Europe. After sowing his wild oats in Paris, he had returned to England after his father had been shot dead in the Tower of London where he had been placed on suspicion of plotting against Elizabeth I although no evidence had been produced. His death had been classified by the Government as suicide, although few people believed it. His grandfather had been executed at York for his part in the Rising of the North in support of Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth and her advisors, were bound to watch the 9th Earl of Northumberland carefully, particularly after Elizabeth I had ordered the execution of her half sister, Mary Queen of Scots.

The Earls of Northumberland, traditional leaders and overlords in the north east, still had the support of most of the people in Northumberland, and Yorkshire, but Henry Percy was banned from visiting his estates in the North, rents from which were his main source of income. Blood ran thicker than water in the north, and most of the families had inter-married over the centuries. Elizabeth, and her court of mostly southern Earls, regarded it as the "inly working north".

The 9th Earl of Northumberland's ancestral home in the south was at Petworth in Sussex, another of his homes, but he also rented houses in London and at Barking in Essex where he could meet up with the great sea captains of the day, including Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh. He will no doubt have kept in touch with sea captains from Northumberland to find out what was happening on his estates there. He was granted back the Governorship of Tynemouth Castle, and the rents that went with it, in 1591. He also aquired Syon House just outside of London on the River Thames.

### **Henry Hilton, Baron of Hylton Castle**

Young Henry Hilton does not appear to have lived at Hylton Castle after his education and appears to have resided at the home of his cousin, Nathaniel Hilton of Billingham in Sussex, only 10 miles away from Petworth, the ancestral home of the Percy family in the south. The Earl of Northumberland and Baron of Hylton had moved south along with most of the rest of the northern nobility who thought they were going to have influence with the new Scottish king. Elizabeth I had reigned for over 40 years and she was essentially a southern queen. She never travelled further north than Northampton. It was not to be however. James I quickly realised the

power behind the throne was Cecil

### Union of the Crowns

In 1603, Queen Elizabeth I died, and King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England. Initially the families of the north hoped for better things, primarily better toleration of the Catholic religion which was still prevalent in the north. James I knighted over 300 of his own supporters, and many of the northern families benefited. Many of the northern nobility and Gentlemen moved south to London in the hope of gaining patronage from the new king. Cecil had been the real power behind the throne in Elizabeth's ailing years, and James I quickly fell under his influence. The promised tolerance for the Catholic religion in the north did not materialise which resulted in the Gunpowder plot of 1605 to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Henry Percy, whilst not directly implicated in the plot, was arrested and put in the Tower of London where he joined his friend Sir Walter Raleigh. Thomas Harriot was jailed with them for a short while, although he quickly won his freedom.

### Lost lands

The death of Thomas Hylton and his father William Hylton in quick succession, leaving the 13 year old Henry Hylton as heir to the estates and a ward of Queen Elizabeth I, provided the opportunity Cecil, secretary to Queen Elizabeth was waiting for. Henry Hilton was quickly married off as a child to Mary Wortley, daughter of the Wortley's of Yorkshire presumably with the approval of Talbot, Robert, and George Bowes and Marmaduke Thirkeld mentioned in the marriage settlement of Thomas Hylton in 1583. This may have been to ensure that the heir to the Hylton estates was married to a protestant and educated in the protestant religion.

Not all the members of the Hylton family had converted from the Catholic religion to Protestantism at this time, and as recently as 1593, the wife of Sir Willam? Hylton had been reported to the Government for celebrating a Catholic mass at St Katherine's chapel;

*"In 1569 another unsuccessful Catholic rising took occurred. On this occasion the head of the Hylton family, Sir Robert\* (?), rallied to the side of the Crown, one of the few Durham notables to do so. It is thus ironic that in 1593 his wife was reported to the Government by one of it's spies for celebrating Mass, presumably at Hylton Castle.-Historic Sites of County Durham - Glen Lyndon Dodds. \*(Head of the Hylton family in 1569 was Sir William Hylton)*

It effectively gave control of the Hylton estates to the Bowes family who passed it on to the Wortley family when in 1601, Talbot Bowes granted Henry Wortley access to the Manor House and lands at at Hylton, and the rents that they generated.

### A New Beginning

The northern Nobles and Gentlemen must have realised that with the "Union of the Crowns", and the formation of "Great Britain" (although it was to be another 100 years before it became a "United Kingdom") that they no longer held the balance of power between England and Scotland. For centuries they had fulfilled the roles of Wardens of the Western and Eastern Marshes, responsible for defending the border against the Scots. They were in effect, redundant. Whilst still major landowners in the north of England, the prospect of taking a leading role in the New Found Land of America must have seemed particularly appealing. They also realised it was a young man's game and was a job more suited to the younger sons of the family who would never inherit landholdings of any consequence in England, other than marrying into money.

There appears to have been a deliberate recruiting campaign amongst the leading families of the north for younger sons of established families to migrate to the Carribean and America and it is not unusual to find families with land holdings in the West Indies, Virginia, and New England within the first twenty five years of settlements in North America. Their success in establishing viable settlements, usally a result of both their education and military training combined with the with the right connections back in England to develop trade which was beneficial to both parties, played a major part

As Carlisle is on the opposite side of the country to Hylton Castle at Monkwearmouth, Henry Hilton will have spent most of his formative early years separated from his direct family and under the influence of Thomas Marbery and the Bishop of Carlisle.

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ed.

He married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Wortley from whom he was separated nearly 30 years. He was "of most melancholy habits, and lived much alone, first at Billingham in Kent, and then at Michel Grove in Sussex (scandal affirmed that he lived in too close intimacy with Lady Shelley). He died in 1640 and by a will "such as a madman only could make" he alienated the greater part of the property and ruined his family. He left the entire estate to the Mayor and Corporation of London for 99 years with various conditions which bankrupted the estate. He also stipulated that at the end of 99 years his estate shall go to the heir-at-law, providing "he does not claim remote issue from the testator's body". He also stated that he wanted to be buried in St Paul's cathedral under a "faire tombe".

Henry, was obviously worried someone might lay claim to the estate. He states in his will;

*"Yt If anie p'son shall p'tend to be a child of my body begotten, w'ch I hope noe body will be so impudent and shameless, I hearby, calling God and man to witness, yt I have no child living of my body begotten, and if any such person shall p'tend so to be, I hearby declare he or she so doing to be an imposture, and I hope noe body will undertake to doe such a shameless, dishonest and impudent act and he or she soe declaring to be my child, I doe hereby utterly rnonce and disclaim ym"*

(actual spelling)

His wife was not named in the will, and Lady Shelley was the sole executor - he didn't get buried in St Paul's cathedral!

Henry's sister, Mary married Robert Brandling of Felling who is described as a Merchant Adventurer. They lived at Hoppen in Northumberland, next door to the Barony of Bradford, the smallest barony in Northumberland. It is rumoured, although as yet unproven, that William Bradford, the governor of the Plymouth colony in America was descended from the Barons of Bradford, and could well have known the Hiltons in England before meeting up with them again when William and Edward Hilton sailed on "The Fortune" to rescue the Pilgrims in 1621

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# FOUNDING FATHERS OF AMERICA

In 1620, the Mayflower sailed for America with 103 souls on board. Half of them died during their first winter. A rescue mission was organised led by William and Edward Hilton who sailed on a ship called "The Fortune" in 1621. William Hilton agreed to stay behind to help the Pilgrims who remained alive, and sent for his wife and children to join him in the New World

This is the letter he wrote to encourage others to join him in "The Great Migration" to America. He was joined by Edward Hilton who founded Dover in New Hampshire, and moved his own family up to Maine where he founded a trading post at York. William and Edward Hilton were amongst the founding fathers of America.



Loving Cousin,

At our arrival at New Plymouth, in New England, we found all our friends and planters in good health, though they were left sick and weak, with very small means; the Indians round about us peaceable and friendly; the country very pleasant and temperate, yielding naturally, of itself, great store of fruits, as vines of divers sorts, in great abundance. There is likewise walnuts, chestnuts, small nuts and plums, with much variety of flowers, roots and herbs, no less pleasant than wholesome and profitable. No place hath more gooseberries and strawberries, nor better. Timber of all sorts you have in England doth cover the land, that affords beasts of divers sorts, and great flocks of turkeys, quails, pigeons and partridges; many great lakes bounding with fish, fowl, beavers, and otters. The sea affords us great plenty of all excellent sorts of sea-fish, as the rivers and isles doth variety of wild fowl of most useful sorts. Mines we find, to our thinking; but neither the goodness nor quality we know. Better grain can not be than the Indian corn if we will plant it upon as good ground as a man need desire. We see that our land will one day look not trouble us, and all these good things are ready to be had without need but in these seasons for taking. Our company are all most pious and religious, honest people; the words of God sincere and true. I know not any thing a Christian's hand can do for you, but I am sure your friendly care is bound to send me and my children to you, as I am bound to be your friend. This is our England.

Your loving friend,

## Hilton Pioneers in America

The Hilton family were amongst the first Englishmen to visit and settle in America and the Caribbean and appear to have been instrumental in establishing the first links between the separate colonies which became essential in developing early trade with England.

Their seafaring and navigational skills combined with their hardy upbringing on the north east and north west coasts of England made them ideally suited to survive in the challenging environment of early America.

They are thought to have been amongst the first families to fish off New Found Land in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, salting their catch on land, and returning to London where they sold it at the fishmarket in Billingsgate. They were amongst the first to prove that settlements in America could be viable.

### 1619 – VIRGINIA – Hugh Hilton

Hugh Hilton arrived at Jamestown, Virginia on the ship "Edwine" in 1619.

The ship is thought to have belonged to Sir Edwin Sandys, who became Treasurer of the Virginia Company of London in 1619 although he had been involved for the beginning in 1607. Just prior to 1618, there had been but four hundred colonists still alive at Jamestown, "very many of them in want" and "utterly destitute"; plantations were few, "poorly housed," and "ill fortified"; there was no commodity...save tobacco"; and the people "suffered under martial law" and "a most extorting Governor". The reforms introduced in 1618 by Sir Edwin Sandys introduced new rules for land distribution and the economy; and the instructions for the colony's political reorganization, and the stipulation that a "general assembly", including "two burgesses out of every town, hundred, and other particular plantation" had to meet at least once a year.

The Sandys family were an old Westmoreland family dating back to at least 1401 from Furness and had strong Yorkshire connections in as much as Edwin Sandy's father was Archbishop of York and owned extensive landholdings in Yorkshire, including Scrooby original English home of the Pilgrims. Edwin Sandys seems to have recruited the younger sons of northern families as potential settlers and landowners for Virginia including Hugh Hilton.

He is thought to be (although this is not confirmed) the son of Richard Hilton of Hylton Castle. He is recorded in "The Muster of the Inhabitant's of the Neck of the Land in the Corporation of Charles Cittie in Virginia taken the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1624." Hugh Hilton aged 36 years. Arrived in the Edwine 1619"

A Hugh Hilton also turns up in records of St Christopher (now St Kitts) in the Caribbean in 1635 aged 23. (possibly a son)

Thomas Warner was granted a Royal Commission from King Charles I in 1625 for the Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Barbados and Montserrat. Nevis was colonised by English settlers from St Christopher in 1628 and Captain Anthony Hilton was appointed first Governor of Nevis by Thomas Warner. Thomas Warner lived at Perham in Sussex, England, less than 10 miles from Billingshurst, home of Anthony Hilton.

Walter Warner, was one of the three "Magi" (scientists) of the 9th Earl of Northumberland and was known to have a house at Petworth, a few miles from the Hyltons at Billingshurst

The link with Captain Anthony Hilton who can be traced back to the Hyltons of Hylton Castle, suggests Hugh Hilton may have been a relative.

## 1621 – NEW ENGLAND - William Hilton,

William Hilton arrived at Plimoth in America on “The Fortune” in 1621.

“The Mayflower” had sailed in 1620 with 103 souls on board, and half of them had died during their first winter in the New World.

### Background:

It was Edwin Sandys who became deeply involved with the preliminary negotiations with the Pilgrim fathers at Leyden, through his brother Samuel and because the most important elder of the congregation was William Brewster, a close friend of Sir Edwin’s old schoolmate, George Cranmer. The Mayflower sailed in 1620, supposedly for Virginia, but arrived at Cape Cod out of the jurisdiction of Virginia Company of London.

In 1607, the second (Plymouth) Virginia Company had attempted to colonise New England (the Popham Colony) but had failed. Early in 1620; *“aboute this time, they had heard by Mr Weston and others, that sundrie Honourable Lords had obtained a large grant from ye king for ye more northerly parts of that countrie derived out of ye Virginia patente, and wholly secluded from their Governemente, and to be called by another name, viz., New-England. Unto which Mr Weston and ye cheefe of them, begane to incline it was best for them to goe, as for other reasons, so chiefly for ye hope of presente profite to be made by ye fishing that was found in that countrie”*

In 1620, the Virginia Company issued the (First) Peirce Patent to the Company of Merchant Adventurers. The patent gave the Merchant Adventurers permission to start a new settlement (to be inhabited by the Pilgrims) in the Virginia territory. The First Peirce Patent was never effective, because the *Mayflower* landed outside the bounds of the Virginia Company.

When the *Mayflower* returned to England with no cargo in April 1621, the Merchant Adventurers learned that the Pilgrims had settled at Plymouth and that half of them had died. They then obtained a patent from the Council for New England; the Council had the authority to plant and govern land in the Plymouth area. This Second Peirce Patent confirmed the Pilgrims’ settlement and governance of Plymouth.

The text of the 1621 Peirce Patent begins:

*“This Indenture made the First Day of June 1621 And in the yeeres of the raigne of our soueraigne Lord James by the grace of god King of England Scotland Fraunce and Ireland defendor of the faith etc. That is to say of England Fraunce and Ireland the Nynetenth and of Scotland the fowre and fiftith. Betwene the President and Counsell of New England of the one partie And John Peirce Citizen and Clothworker of London and his Associates of the other partie Witnesseth that whereas the said John Peirce and his Associates have already transported and vndertaken to transporte at their cost and chardges themselves and dyvers persons into New England and there to erect and built a Towne and settle dyvers Inhabitanes for the advancem[en]t of the generall plantacon of that Country of New England Now the sayde President and Counsell in consideracon thereof and for the furtherance of the said plantacon and incoragem[en]t of the said Vndertakers have agreed to graunt assigne allott and appoynt to the said John Peirce and his associates and euery of them his and their heires and assignes one hundred acres of grownd for euery person so to be transported...*

*In witnes whereof the said President and Counsell haue to the one part of this p[rese]nte Indenture sett their seales And to th’other part hereof the said John Peirce in the name of himself and his said Associates haue sett to his seale geven the day and yeeres first aboue written.*

[signed] LENOX HAMILTON WARWICK SHEFFIELD FERD: GORG

It is interesting to speculate on exactly who John "Peirce" was, and whether it was a mis-spelling of "Percy" - The "Percy" Coat of Arms are carved in stone on the front of Hylton Castle.

William Hilton is thought to be the son of Roger Hilton (probate record 1619) of Hylton Castle. He was the grandson of William Hilton (sometime of Biddick on the River Wear and Margaret, daughter of Sir James Metcalfe who was buried at Washington in 1566).

John Davenport, who had been the preacher at St Katherine's chapel at Hylton Castle, Monkwearmouth was elected lecturer and curate of the Church of St Lawrence, Old Jewry, London on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1619, shortly after the death of Roger Hilton. He "preached before the Virginia Company of London"

William Hilton's wife Mary and their two children arrived in Plimoth aboard the "ANNE" IN 1623. Also on board was Roger Conant, a parishoner of John Davenport. John Davenport was elected a member of the Virginia Company of London in 1622

There can be little doubt that William Hilton was aware of the high death rate in Jamestown in Virginia, and he knew that over half of the pilgrims from the Mayflower had died during their first winter in the New World when he wrote this letter home asking his wife and two young children to join him

### 1623 – VIRGINIA - Anthony Hilton

Hilton Anthony is recorded as sailing to Virginia in 1623. He is believed to have been living at Billingham in Sussex and was part of the South Shields branch of the family. Mr Anthony Hilton the elder is recorded as being buried at Billingham on 13th October 1615.

This is the letter he wrote to his mother on 4th May 1623.

From the Isle of Waight this 4th of May 1623.

Loveing mother my humble dutie vnto you remembred, desireing your dailie praters to God for me. My last letter I hope you haue long since receiued, wherein I writt you of my intended voyage for Virginia, that hopefull, and happie soile: for wch voyage this day being the 4th of Maye and the Sabboth day wee haueing the wynd faire (that messenger of God) haue dispensed with the Sabboth and hoised vp saile this daye and sailed some part of our Journeye, But you may now please to vnderstand, that my honest Carefull, and loveing Maister John Hart my first, and onelie best maister, hath wrought for me better hopes then formerlie I writ you of for my preferment, wch is that by his liberall Comendacon of me, and earnest Intreatie for me, As also that good likeing wch that hopefull and religious Gentleman Mr Gabriell Barbor marchant of London, and a man of great Estate, hath entertayned of me, haueing had some Conference with him, Concerninge my parte and abilitye of performance in his hopefull Employmente, hath verie willinglie entertayned me, and taken me bound vnto him for some yeares, to make me a ffreeman of London And hath set forwarde provideing me of all necessaryes for our intended voyage, wch is in a good ship named the Bonnie Besse, built at the Cowes in the Isle of Wight being a new ship of fourescore and ten Tunnes, or thereabout, full fraught with all kind of prouision for 2 yeares, as also with 45 brave gallant Gentlemen, and some of them their Wyues, and Children with them richlie set forwarde for to plant in Virginia. (...) But now to retourne vn to a relacon of what wee intend, it wilbe tedious, yet thus much in short. Wee are first to land our Passengers and their goods in Virginia wch done wee are to proceed vpon the discouerie of that famous river named Hudsons river, first found out by him, yet never was he further then in the mouth thereof, wher hath beene had rich Trade for Beaver skins, pearles, and dyamonde and manie other rich Comodityes, And indeed wch river by the probable Conjecture of manie and learned Navigators is the verie passage Called the Northwest Passage so often sought after by the Northerne Seas,

yet never found, wch Wee are by Comission from rthe Lord of Southampton Governour of the Companie and other the Learned Councell, and diuers great lorde to discover the verie topp and head of that River, and if wee ther find anie straungers as Hollanders or other wch is thought this yeare doe Adventure there, we are to giue them fight, and spoile, and sincke them downe into the Sea, wch to doe, Wee are well prouided with a lustie ship stout seamen, and great Ordnance I pray God prosper us therein, and I hope we shall returne with rich loadenge, a famous discouerie, and much Credit euerie Way. Wch our retourne wilbe I hope about 2 yeares hence, if not sooner,...

yoreuer obedient sonne

Anthonie Hilton.

(P.R.O. Manchester Papers, No.364.)

In 1623 St Christopher became the first British territory in the West Indies when Thomas Warner landed on the island. He returned to England and brought a group of settlers with him in 1624. Thomas Warner was granted a Royal Commission from King Charles I in 1625 for the Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Barbados and Montserrat. Nevis was colonised by English settlers from St Christopher in 1628 and **Captain Anthony Hilton** was appointed first Governor of Nevis by Thomas Warner. Antigua and Montserrat were colonised by 1632. Thomas Warner died in 1648 and his grave can still be seen on St. Christopher. Thomas Warner lived at Parham in England, a few miles from the Hyltons at Billingham.

- A Capt Anthony Hilton was Governor of Nevis in 1631 – 35 “Carribbeana, vol” ii
- John Hilton, storekeeper and chief gunner of Nevis in 1675 stated his brother Anthony Hilton was born in the Bishoprick of Durham. Ibid.

### **1628 – Edward Hilton - New England**

Recorded as making return trips to England in 1629 and return to New England in 1630 or 1631. He is recorded as a member of the Fishmongers Guild of London and is belived to be the son of Ralph Hilton of Hylton Castle.

EDUCATION.- As a member of the Fishmongers Company he would have had a basic general education during his apprenticeship [Pillsbury Anc 333]. His inventory included “the 3 Books of the Martyrs” valued at f 2 1 Os. and “one great Bible & five other books” valued at 12 6s.

ESTATE: On 12 March 1629/30 the Council for New England issued to Edward Hilton a patent (known as the “Squamscott Patent”) for “all that part of the River Pascataquack known by the name of Wecanacohunt or Hilton’s Point with the south side of of the said River, up to the fall of the River, and three miles into the mainland by all the breadth aforesaid” [NEHGR 24:264-69; NHPP 1:28-29; History of Grants 32]. Hilton sold this land to “some merchants of Bristol,” who in turn sold it to a number of the leading Puritan gentry of England [NHPP 1: 157-58].

### **1666 - William Hilton - Carolina**

On March 24, 1663, the Crown issued a charter giving the eight proprietors title to the land lying between 31 deg. and 36 deg. north latitude, -including most of present-day North Carolina, all of South Carolina, and virtually all of Georgia-and stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the “South” Seas.” William Hilton was selected to lead the first exploratory voyage on the ship Adventure. William Hilton is thought to be the son of William Hilton who arrived in New England in 1623 on the Anne. His log of a voyage of discovery in the ship "Adventure" in 1666 still survives, and provides an insight to life in early America and is published in full.



On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1662/3, King Charles by letters patent granted to eight Proprietors;

The Earl of Clarendon

The Duke of Albermarle

Lord Berkeley

Lord Ashley (later Earl of Shaftsbury)

Sir George Carteret

Sir William Berkeley

Sir John Collerton

a province to be called Carolina, extending from latitude 31 deg, to 36 deg. N and from the **Atlantic to the Pacific**. In this province the Proprietors to have the right to institut government, to appoint officers, and with the assistance of the freemen, to make laws.

*A Relating of a Discovery, By William Hilton*

**Captain William Hilton, Commander and Commissioner**

**Voyage of the Ship "Adventure" August 1663**

*Printed by J. C. for Simon Miller at the "Star" near the west end of St. Pauls, London 1664.1*

**"A true Relation of a Voyage, upon discovery of part of the Coast of Florida from the Lat. of 31 Deg. to 33 Deg. 45 m. North in the Ship "Adventure", William Hilton Commander, and Commisioner with Captain Anthony Long and Peter Fabian ; set forth by several**

**Gentlemen and Merchants of the Island of Barbados giving an account of the nature and**

**temperature of the Soyl, the manners and disposition of the Natives, and whatsoever else is remarkable therein, together with Proposals made by the Commissioners of the lords Proprietors, to all such persons as shall become the first Setters on the Rivers, Harbors, and Creeks there."**

**10<sup>th</sup> August 1663** - Sailed from Spikes Bay, Barbados

**26<sup>th</sup> August 1663** – After Sixteen days of fair weather, and prosperous winds, Wednesday the 26 instant, four of the clock in the afternoon, and God be thanked, we spied land on the coast of Florida, the lat. of 32 deg. 30 min. being four leagues or thereabouts to the northwards of Saint Helena, having run five hundred and fifty leagues ; and to the westward. of the meridian of Barbados, three hundred thirty and one leagues. The evening and the night following we lay off and on:

We came to anchor in five fathoms at the mouth of a very large opening of three leagues wide. or thereabouts, in the latitude. of 32 d 30 min. and sent our boat to sound the channel.

**3<sup>d</sup> September –**

We entered the harbor, and found that it was the River Jordan (River Corn?), and was but four leagues or thereabouts N. E from Port Royal, which by the Spaniards is called St. Ellens (St. Helena Sound) within land, both rivers meet in one. We spent some time to sound the Channels both without and within, and to search the rivers in several branches, and to view land

**5<sup>th</sup> September –**

Two Indians came on board us from the N. E shore, whom we entertained courteously, and afterwards set them on shore

**6<sup>th</sup> September –**

Several Indians came on board us, and said they were of St. Helens; being very bold and familiar; speaking many Spanish words, such as, Cappitan, Commarado, and Adios. They know the use of guns, and are as little startled by firing of a piece of ordnance, as he that has been used to them many years: They told us the nearest Spaniards were at St. Augustine, and several of them had been there, as they said was but ten days journey; and that the Spaniards used to come to them at Saint Helena, sometimes by land, at other times in small vessels by sea, which the Indians describe as having but two masts. They invited us to come to St. Helens with our ship, which they told us we might do within land

**14<sup>th</sup> September –**

Our Boat went with twelve hands within land to St. Helen's

**16<sup>th</sup> September –**

Came five Indians on board us: one of them pointing to another, said, "he was the Grand Captain of Edisto", whereupon we took especial notice of him and entertained him accordingly, giving him several beads and other trade that pleased him well: He invited us to bring up our ship into a branch on the N.E. side and told us of one "Captain Francisco", and four more English that were in his custody on shore; whereupon we showed him store of all our Trade, as Beads, Hoes, Hatchets etc., and Bills etc, and said, he should have all those things if he would bring the English on board us; which he promised should be done the next day, Hereupon we wrote a few lines to the said English, fearing it to be a Spanish delusion to entrap us. In the dark of the same evening came a Canoe with nine or ten Indians in her with their bows and arrows, and were close on board before we did discern them: We hailed them, but they made us no answer, which increased our suspicions: So we commanded them on board, and disarmed them, detaining two of them prisoners, and sending away the rest to fetch the English; which if they brought, they should have theirs again. At length they delivered us a note written with a coal, which seemed the more to continue our suspicion, because in all this time we had no news of our long-boat from St. Helena, which we feared was surprised by the Indians and Spaniards. But to satisfy us that there were English on shore, they sent. us one man on board about twelve of the clock in the night who related to us the truth of the matter, and told us they were cast away some four or five leagues to the northward of the place we then rode. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July past, being thirteen persons that came on shore, whereof three of them were killed by the Indians.

**17<sup>th</sup> September –**

The Long-boat returned from St. Helena, which presently we sent on shore to fetch the other

English, the Indians delivering us three more; and coming aboard themselves, we delivered them their two men. Then we demanded of the chief Commander where the rest of our English were?: he answered, five were carried to St. Helena, three were killed by the Stonohs (Indian tribe), and the other man we should have within two days. We replied to him again, that we would keep him and two more of his chief men, till we had our English that were yet living; and promised them their liberty, with satisfaction for bringing us the English.

Now to return to the business of our design; the experience we had at St Helena put us in great fear of the Indian's treachery; for we observed their continual gathering together, and at last began with stern look'd countenances to speak roughly to us, and came to search our men's bandoleers (A bandoleer was a broad belt or baldric slung over the shoulder). and pockets; yet inviting us to stay that night with them: but we made a sudden retreat to our Boat, which caused the Indian King to be in a great rage, speaking loud and angry to his men; the drift of which discourse we did not understand.

What we observed there, was a fair house built in the shape of a Dovehouse, round, two hundred foot at least, completely covered with Palmeta leaves, the wallboards being twelve foot high, or thereabouts, and within lodging rooms and forms; two pillars at the entrance of a high seat above all the rest: Also another house like a Sentinel house, floored ten foot high with planks, fastened with spikes and nails, standing upon substantial posts, with several other small houses round about.

Also we saw many planks, to the quantity of three thousand foot or thereabouts, with other timber squared and a Cross before the great house. Likewise we saw the ruins of an old Fort, compassing more than half an acre of land within the Trenches, which we supposed to be Charles's Fort, built, and so called by the French in 1562, etc.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> September –**

On Monday, September 21, one English youth was brought from St. Helena aboard us by an Indian, who informed us that there were four more of their company at St. Helens, but he could not tell whether the Indians would let them come to us: For saith he, his colleagues told him, that they had lately seen a Friar and two Spaniards more at St. Helena who told them they would send Soldiers suddenly to fetch them away. This day we sailed up the River with our Ship to go through to St. Helena.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> September –**

On Tuesday the 22 instant, three Indians came on board; one of them we sent with a letter to the English prisoners there.

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> September -**

On Wednesday the 23d, we sent out boat and men to sound the channel, and find out the most likely way to St. Helena with our Ship by the river Combeheh (*Combahee*). In the mean time came many Canoes aboard us with Corn, Pumpions, and Venison, Deerskins, and a sort of sweetwood. One of our men looking into an Indian basket, found a piece of Spanish Rush, it being new, we demanded of the Indian where he had it; who said, of the Spaniards. In the meantime, while we were talking, came a Canoe with four Indians from St. Helena, one standing up, and holding a paper in a cleft stick; they told us they had brought it from the Spanish Captain at St. Helena. We demanded how many Spaniards were come thither; who said, seven, and one Englishman.

We received their letter written in Spanish, but none of us could read it: We detained two of the chiefest Indians, one of them being the Kings Son of St. Helena, and that kept one of the English prisoners; the other two we sent away with a letter to the Spaniard, wherein we gave him to understand, that we understood not his letter; and told the Indians, when they brought the English, they should have their men again, with satisfaction for their pains.

#### **24<sup>th</sup> September -**

On Thursday, 24 instant, we sailing further up the River to go through, at last came to a place of fresh water, and anchored there, sending our Boat ashore with a Guard to get water. Towards night came the first Indian that we sent to St. Helena with a letter to the English, who brought us another letter from the Spaniards, and an Answer of ours from the English, writ in the Spaniards letter. The Spaniard sent us a quarter of Venison, and a quarter of Pork, with a Complement, that he was sorry he had no more for us at that time. We returned him thanks, and sent him a Jug of Brandy; and withal, that we were sorry we understood not his letter. This night about twelve at of the clock we had a most violent gust of wind, but of no long continuance.

#### **25<sup>th</sup> September -**

On Friday 25 September, we weighed, and returned down the River six leagues, or thereabouts, because we perceived the Indians had gathered themselves in a Body from all parts thereabouts, and moved as the Ship did: and being informed by an Indian that the Spaniards would be there the next day; we took in Firewood, and continued there that night, at which time one of our Indian Prisoners made at his escape by leaping overboard in the dark.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> September -**

On Saturday the 26. we weighed, and stood down to the harbour's mouth, and stayed there till Monday the 28.

#### **September 28<sup>th</sup> -**

In all which time came no one to us, though we stay'd in expectation of their coming continually; therefore put out to sea, concluding their intentions not to be good being out of the River Jordan, we directed our course S. W. four leagues or thereabouts for Port Royal, to sound the channel without from the points of the Harbour outwards; for we had sounded the Harbour within from the points inward when our Boat was at St. Helena: And now being athwart the Harbours mouth, we sent our boat with the Mate and others, who found the N. E. and E N.E. side of the opening of Port Royal to be Sholes and Breakers to the middle of the opening; and three leagues or thereabouts into the Sea, from the side aforesaid, is unsafe to meddle with: but the S.W. and W. side we found all bold steering in N. N. W. two or three miles from the S. W. shore, sailing directly with the S.W. head-land and of the entrance of Port Royal: the said head -land is bluft, and seems steep, as though the trees hung over the water: But you must note, that if you keep so far from the S.W. side, that you stand in N. N. W. with the bluft head aforesaid, you shall go over the outskirt of the E N.E. scholing, and shall have but three or four fathom for the space of one league or thereabouts, and then you shall have six and seven fathoms all the way in: But if you borrow more on the S.W. side, till you have brought the S.W. head of the Entry to bear N. N.E. you shall have a fair large channel of six, seven, and eight fathoms all the way in, and then five, six, seven and eight fathoms within the Harbour, keeping the channel, and standing over to the Northward: we supposed that it flows here as at the River Jordan, because they are but four leagues asunder, and flows S. E and N.W. seven foot and half, and sometimes eight foot perpendicular: the Mouth of Port Royal lyes in 32 deg. 20 mint. latitude.

Now as concerning the entrance of the River Jordan, at, 32 deg. 30 min. or thereabouts, you shall see a range of Breakers right against the opening, two or three leagues off the St. W. Point; which you must leave to the Northward, and steer in with the said S. W. Point, giving a range of Breakers that runs from the said Point a small birth, and you shall have two, three, and four fathoms at low water; and when you come one mile from the Point aforesaid, steer over directly to the N.E. Point, and you shall have six or seven fathom all the way. Within the N.W. Point is good anchoring: you shall have five fathoms fair aboard the shore: and you shall have five, six, seven, and eight fathoms, siyling all along upon the river, ten leagues, and a large turning channel:

It flows here S.E. and N. W. seven foot and a half, and eight foot at common tides. The River Grandy, or as the Indians call it Edistow, lies six leagues or thereabouts from the River Jordan, and seems to be a very fair opening: but because the chief Indian of that Place was on board us, and the country all in Arms, we not knowing how the wind might cross us, it was not thought fit to stay there: But some of those English that had lived there, being Prisoners, say, that it is a very fair and goodly river, branching into several branches, and deep, and is fresh water at low tide within two leagues of the mouth; it seeming to us as we passed by, a good entrance large and wide, lat. 32 deg. 40 min. in or thereabouts.

Now our understanding of the Land of Port-Royal, River Jordan, River Grandie, or Edistow, is as followeth:

The Lands are laden with large tall Oaks, Walnut and Bays, except facing on the Sea, it is most Pines tall and good: The Land generally, except where the Pines grow, is a good Soil, covered with black Mold, in some places a foot, in some places half a foot, and in other places less, with Clay underneath mixed with Sand; and we think may produce any thing as well as most part of the Indies that we have seen. The Indians plant in the worst Land, because they cannot cut down the Timber in the best, and yet have plenty of Corn, Pumpions, Water-Mellons, Musk-Mellons: although the land be over grown with weeds through their laziness, yet they have two or three crops of corn a year, as the Indians themselves inform us. The Country abounds with Grapes, large Figs, and Peaches; the Woods with Deer, Conies, Turkeys, Quails, Plovers, Teile, Herons; and as the Indians say, in Winter, with Swans, Geese, Cranes, Duck and Mallard, and innumerable of other water-Fowls, whose names we know which lie in the Rivers, Marshes, and on the Sands Oysters in abundance, with great store of Muscles; A sort of fair Crabs, and a round Shelfish called Horsefeet.

The Rivers stored plentifully with Fish that we saw play and leap. There are great Marshes, but most as far as we saw little worth, except for a Root that grows in them the Indians make good Bread of. The Land we suppose is healthful; for the English that were cast away on that Coast in July last, were there most part of that time of year that is sickly in Virginia; and notwithstanding hard usage, and lying on the ground naked, yet had their perfect healths all the time. The Natives are very healthful; we saw many very aged amongst them. The air is clear and sweet, the country very pleasant and delightful: And we could wish, that all they that want a happy settlement, of our English Nation, were well transported thither, etc.

#### **29<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

From Tuesday the 29th of September, to Friday the second of October, we ranged along the shore from the lat. 32 deg. 20 min. to the lat. 33 deg. 11 min. but could discern no entrance for our Ship, after we had passed to the Northwards of 32 deg. 40 min.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> October**

On Saturday the third instant, a violent storm came up, the wind between the North and the East; which Easterly winds and foul weather continued till Monday the 12th By reason of which storms and fowl weather, we were forced to get off to Sea to secure our selves and ship, and were horsed by reason of a strong Current, to Cape Fair-Roads in lat. 35 deg. 30 mint. On Monday the 12th aforesaid we came to an Anchor in seven fathom at Cape Fair-Road, and took the Meridian-Altitude of the Sun, and were in the lat. 33 deg. 43 min. the wind continuing still Easterly, and foul weather till Thursday the 15th instant; and

**16<sup>th</sup> October -**

On Friday the 16th, the wind being at N. W. we weighed, we sailed up Cape Fair-River, some four or five leagues, and came to an Anchor in six or seven fathom; at which time several Indians came on Board, and brought us great store of fresh-fish, large Mulletts, young Bass, Shads, and several other sorts of very good well-tasted fish.

**17<sup>th</sup> October -**

On Saturday the 17th, we went down to the Cape to see the English Cattle, but could not find them, though we rounded the Cape: And having an Indian Guide with us, here we rode till the 24th instant, the winde being against us, we could not go up the River with our Ship; in which time we went on shoar, and viewed the land of those quarters. On Saturday we weighed, and sayled up the River some four leagues or thereabouts.

**25<sup>th</sup> October -**

Sunday the 25th, we weighed again, and towed up the River, it being calm, and got up some fourteen leagues from the Harbours mouth, where we moored our Ship.

**26<sup>th</sup> October -**

On Monday the 26 October, we went down with the Yoal to Necoos, an Indian Plantation, and viewed the land there.

**27<sup>th</sup> October -**

On Tuesday the 27th, we rowed up the main river with our long-Boat and twelve men, some ten leagues or thereabouts.

**28<sup>th</sup> October -**

On Wednesday the 28th, we rowed up about -eight or nine leagues more.

**29<sup>th</sup> October -**

Thursday the 29th was foul weather, of much rain and winde, which forced us to make Huts, and lye still.

**30<sup>th</sup> October -**

Friday the 30th, we proceeded up the main River, seven or eight leagues.

**31<sup>st</sup> October -**

Saturday the 31, we got up three or four leagues more, and came to a Tree that lay across the

River: but because our Provisions were near spent, we proceeded no further, but returned downward the remainder of that day;

**2<sup>nd</sup> November –**

and on Monday the second of November, we came aboard our Ship. Tuesday the third, we lay still to refresh ourselves.

**4<sup>th</sup> November –**

On Wednesday the 4th, we went five or six leagues up the River to search a branch that ran out of the main River towards the N. W. In which branch we went up five or six leagues: not liking the Land, we returned on board that night about midnight, and called that place Swampy-branch.

**5<sup>th</sup> November –**

Thursday the fifth instant, we staid aboard; on Friday the 6th we went up Greens River, the mouth of it being against the place we rode with our Ship.

**7<sup>th</sup> November -**

On Saturday the 7th, we proceeded up the said River some fourteen or fifteen leagues in all, and found that it ended in several small branches; the Land for the most part being marshy and swamps, we returned towards our ship, and got aboard in the night: Sunday the 8th instant we lay still, and on Monday the 9th we went again up the main River, being well provided with Provisions and all things necessary, and proceeded upwards till Thursday noon 12th instant, at which time we came to a place where two Islands were in the middle of the River, and by reason of the crookednesse of the River at that place, several Trees lay athwart beth branches, which stopped up the passage of each branch, that we could proceed no further with our Boat; but we went up the River side by land some three or four miles, and found the River to enlarge it self: So we returned, leaving it as far as we could see up a long reach running N.E. we judging our selves from the Rivers mouth North near fifty leagues; we returned, viewing the Land on both sides the River, and found as good tracts of land, dry, well wooded, pleasant and delightful as we have seen any where in the world, with great burthen of Grasse on it, the land being very level, with steep banks on both sides the River, and in some places very high, the woods store'd with abundance of Deer and Turkeys every where we never going on shoar, but saw of each also Partridges great store, Cranes abundance, Conies, which we saw in several places; we heard several Wolves howling in the woods, and saw where they had torn a Deer in pieces.

Also in the River we saw great store of Ducks, Teile, Widgeon, and in the woods great flocks of Parrakeeto's; 1 the Timber that the woods afford for the most part consisting of Oaks of four or five sorts, all differing in leaves, but all bearing Acorns very good: we measured many of the Oaks in several places, which we found to be in bignesse some two, some three, and others almost four fathoms; in height, before you come to boughs or limbs, forty, fifty, sixty foot, and some more, and those Oaks very common in the upper parts of both Rivers; Also a very tall large Tree of great bignesse, which some do call Cyprus, the right name we know not, growing in Swamps. Likewise Walnut, Birch, Beech, Maple, Ash, Bay, Willough, Alder and Holly; and in the lowermost parts innumerable of Pines, tall and good for boards or masts, growing for the most part in barren sandy ground, but in some places up the River in good ground, being mixed amongst Oaks and other Timber. We saw several Mulberry-trees, multitudes of Grape-Vines, and some Grapes which we did eat of.

We found a very large and good tract of Land on the N. W. side of the River, thin of Timber, except here and there a very great Oak, and full of Grasse, commonly as high as a mans middle, and in many places to his shoulders, where we *saw* many Deer and Therkies; also one Deer with very large horns, and great in body, therefore called it Stag-Park: it being a very pleasant and delightful place, we travelled in it several miles, but saw no end thereof. So we returned to our Boat, and proceeded down the River, and came to another place some twenty five leagues from the Rivers mouth on the same side, where we found a place no lesse delightful than the former; and as far as we could judge, both Tracts came into one. This lower place we called Rocky-point, because we found many Rocks and Stones of several bignesse upon the Land, which is not common. We sent our Boat down the River before us; our selves travelling by Land many miles, were so much taken with the pleasantnesse of the Land, that travelling into the woods so far, we could not recover our Boat and company that night. On Sunday the morrow following we got to our Boat, and on Monday the 16th of November, we proceeded down to a place on the East-side of the River some twenty three leagues from the Harbours mouth, which we call'd Turkie-Quarters, because we killed several Therkies thereabouts.

We viewed the Land there, and found some tracts of good Land, and high, facing upon the River about one mile inward, but backwards some two miles all Pine-land, but good pasture-ground: we returned to our Boat, and proceeded down some two or three leagues, where we had formerly viewed, and found it a tract of as good Land as any we have seen, with as good Timber on it. The banks of the River being high, therefore we called it High-Land Point, Having viewed that, we proceeded down the River, going on shoar in several places on both sides, it being generally large Marshes, and many of them dry, that they may more fitly be called Medows: the wood-land against them is for the most part Pine, and in some places as barren as ever we saw Land, but in other places good Pasture-ground: And on Tuesday the 17th instant, we got aboard our Ship, riding against the mouth of Greene's River, where our men are providing wood, and fitting the Ship for the Sea: In the interim, we took some view of the Land on both sides of the River there, finding some good Land, but more bad, and the best not corn parable to that above. Friday the 20th instant was foul weather, yet in the afternoon we weighed, and went down the River some two leagues, and came to Anchor against the mouth of Hilton's River, and took some view of the Land there on both sides, which appeared to us much like unto that at Greene's River.

Monday 23. we went with our Long-boat well victualled and manned up Hilton's River; and when we came three leagues or thereabouts up the said River, we found this and Greene's River to come into one, and so continued for four or five leagues, which causeth a great Island betwixt them. We proceeded still up the River, till they parted again, keeping up Hilton's River on the Lar-board side, and followed the said River five or six leagues further, where we found another large branch of Green's River to come into Hilton's, which maketh another great Island. On the Starboard side going up, we proceeded still up the River some four leagues, and returned, taking a view of the Land on both sides, and now judge our selves to be from our ship some eighteen leagues W. and by W.

One league below this place came four Indians in a Canoa to us, and sold us several baskets of Akorns, which we satisfied for, and so left them; but one of them followed us on the shoar some two or three miles, till he came on the top of a high bank, facing on the River, we rowing underneath it, the said Indian shot an Arrow at us, which missed one of our men very narrowly, and stuck in the upper edge of the Boat, which broke in pieces, leaving the head behind. Hereupon we presently made for the shoar, and went all up the bank except four to guide the Boat; we



searched for the Indian, but could not finde him: At last we heard some sing further in the Woods, which we thought had been as a Challenge to us to come and fight them. We went towards them with all speed, but before we came in sight of them, we heard two Guns go off from our Boat, whereupon we retreated with all speed to secure our Boat and Men: when we came to them, we found all well, and demanded the reason of their firing the Guns: they told us that an Indian came creeping on the Bank as they thought to shoot at them, therefore shot at him a great distance with Swan-shot, but thought they did him no hurt, for they saw him run away.

Presently after our return to the Boat, while we were thus talking, came two Indians to us with their Bows and Arrows, crying *Bonny, Bonny*: we took their Bows and Arrows from them, and gave them Beads, to their content. Then we led them by the hand to the Boat, and shewed them the Arrow-head sticking in her side, and related to them the businesse; which when they understood, both of them manifested much sorrow, and made us understand by signes, that they knew nothing of it: so we let them go, and marked a Tree on the top of the bank, calling the place Mount-Skerry. We looked up the River as far as we could discern, and saw that it widened it self, and came running directly down the Countrey: So we returned, and viewed the Land on both sides the River, finding the banks steep in some places, but very high in others. The banks sides are generally Clay, and as some of our company doth affirm, some Marie.

The Land and Timber up this River is no way inferiour to the leest in the other, which we call the main River: So far as we discovered, this seems as fair, if not fairer than the former, and we think runs further into the Countrey, because there is a strong Current comes down, and a great deal more drift-wood. But to return to the business of the Land and Timber: We saw several plats of Ground cleared by the Indians after their weak manner, compassed round with great Timber-Trees; which they are no ways able to fall, and so keep the Sun from their Cornfields very much; yet nevertheless we saw as large Corn-stalks or bigger, than we have seen any where else: So we proceeded down the River, till we found the Canoa the Indian was in who shot at us. In the morning we went on shoar, and cut the same in pieces: the Indians perceiving us coming towards them, run away. We went to his Hut, and pulled it down, brake his pots, platters, and spoons, tore his Deer-skins and mats in pieces, and took away a basket of Akorns:

So we proceeded down the River two leagues, or thereabouts and came to another place of Indians, bought Akorns and some Corn of them, and went downwards two leagues more: at last we espied an Indian peeping over a high bank: we held up a Gun at him; and calling to him, said, *Skerry*: presently several Indians appeared to us, making great signes of friendship, saying, *Bonny, Bonny*, and running before us, endeavouring to perswade us to come on shoar; but we answered them with stern countenances, and said, *Skerry*, taking up our guns, and threatening to shoot at them; but they cryed still *Bonny, Bonny*: And when they saw they could not prevail, nor perswade us to come on shoar, two of them came off to us in a Canoa, one padling with a great Cane, the other with his hand; they came to us, and laid hold of our Boat, sweating and blowing, and told us it was *Bonny* on shoar, and at last perswaded us to go ashoar with them.

As soon as we landed, several Indians, to the number of forty lusty men, came to us, all in a great sweat, and us *Bonny*: we shewed them the Arrow-head in the Boat-side, and a piece of the Canoa which we had cut in pieces: the chief man of them made a large Speech, and threw Beads into our Boat, which is a signe of great love and friendship; and made us to understand, when he heard of the Affront which we had received, it caused him to cry: and now he and his men were come to make peace with us, making signes to us that they would tye his Arms, and cut off his head that had done us that abuse; and for a further testimony of their love and good will towards us, they presented to us two very handsome proper young Indian women, the tallest that we have

seen in this Country; which we supposed to be the Kings Daughters, or persons of some great account amongst them. These young women were ready to come into our Boat; one of them crouding in, was hardly perswaded to go out again. We presented to the King a Hatchet and several Beads, also Beads to the young women and to the chief men, and to the rest of the Indians, as far as our Beads would go: they promised us in four days to come on board our Ship, and so departed from us.

When we left the place, which was presently, we called it Mount-Bonny, because we had there concluded a firm Peace. Proceeding down the River two or three leagues further, we came to a place where were nine or ten Canoas all together; we went ashore there, and found several Indians, but most of them were the same which had made Peace with us before: We made little stay there, but went directly down the River, and came to our Ship before day Thursday the 26th of November, the winde being at the south, we could not go down to the Rivers mouth: but on Friday the 27th, we weighed at the mouth of Hilton's River, and got down one league towards the Harbours mouth. On Sunday the 29th we got down to Crane-Island, which is four leagues or thereabouts above the Entrance of the Harbours mouth.

Now on Tuesday the first of December, we made a purchase of the River and land of Cape-Fair, of Wattcoosa, and such other Indians as appeared to us to be the chief of those parts: they brought us store of Fresh-fish aboard, as Mulletts, Shads, and other very good Fish: this River is all Fresh-water fit to drink. Some eight leagues within the mouth, the Tide runs up about thirty-five leagues, but stops and riseth a great deal farther up; it flowes at the Harbours mouth S.E. and N. W. six foot at Neap-Tides, and eight foot at Spring-Tides: the Chanel on the Easter-side by the Capeshoar is the best, and lyes close aboard the Cape-land, being three fathoms at High-water, in the shallowest place in the Chanel just at the Entrance; but as soon as you are past that place half a Cables length inward, you shall have six or seven fathoms, a fair turning Chanel into the River, and so continuing four or five leagues upwards; afterwards the Chanel is more difficult in some places six or seven fathoms, four or five, and in other places but nine or ten foot, especially where the River is broad. When the River comes to part, and grows narrow, there is all Chanel from side to side in most places; in some places you shall have five, six, or seven fathoms, but generally two or three, Sand and Oazet.

We viewed the Cape-land, and judged it to be little worth, the Woods of it shrubby and low, the Land sandy and barren; in some places Grass and Rushes, and in other places nothing but clear sand: a place fitter to starve Cattel in our judgement, then to keep them alive; yet the Indians, as we understand, keep the English Cattle down there, and suffer them not to go off the said Cape, as we suppose, because the Countrey-Indians shall have no part with them, and as we think, are fallen out about them, who shall have the greatest share. They brought aboard our Ship very good and fat Beef several times, which they could afford very reasonable; also fat and very large Swine, good cheap penny-worths:

*Note: ... "The punctuation should apparently be, "all fresh water fit to drink, some eight leagues within the mouth. The tide runs up about thirty-five leagues, but, etc. The author is still speaking of the Cape Fear River. "*

...but they may thank their friends of New-England, who brought their Hogs to so fair a Market. Some of the Indians brought very good salt aboard us, and made signes, pointing to both sides of the Rivers mouth, that there was great store thereabouts. We saw up the River several good places for the setting up of Corn or Saw-mills. In that time as our businesse called us up and down the River and Branches, we kill'd of wild-fowl, four Swans, ten Geese, twenty nine Cranes, ten Turkies, forty Ducks and Mallard, three dozen of Parrakeeto's, and six or seven dozen of other small Fowls, as Curlues and Plovers, etc.

Whereas there was a Writing left in a Post at the Point of Cape Fair River, by those New-England-men that left Cattel with the Indians there, the Contents whereof tended not only to the disparagement of the Land about the said River, but also to the great discouragement of all those that should hereafter come into those parts to settle: In Answer to that scandalous writing, We whose names are under-written do affirm, That we have seen facing on both sides of the River, and branches of Cape-Fair aforesaid, as good Land, and as well Timbered, as any we have seen in any other part of the world, sufficient to accommodate thousands of our English Nation, lying commodiously by the said River.

On Friday the 4th of December, the winde being fair, we put out to Sea, bound for Barbados; and on the 6th day of January, 166 3/4 we came to Anchor in Carlisle-Bay;<sup>1</sup> and after several known apparent dangers both by Sea and Land, we now brought us all in safety to our long wish'd for and much desired Port, to render an Account of our Discovery, the verity of which we aver.

Anthony Long

William Hilton

Peter Fabian

## William and Edward Hylton

For centuries, the Hyltons had been masters of the seas off the north east coast of England. With Hylton Castle strategically placed at the mouth of the River Wear, the South Shields branch of the family monitoring what went on the River Tyne, the Swine branch of the family just outside of Kingston upon Hull on the River Humber, and the illegitimate Lincolnshire branch of the family, little would have happened along the east coast of England without the Hyltons knowing first.

They would also have known the sailing families of Flanders and Scandinavia very well, no doubt sharing each others hospitality when in each other's country.

The "new" found land of America (named after "A Mercia" - the early name for the south of England) was known about by north sea fishermen for centuries. They had often fished off Iceland, and Greenland was well known to them. They also knew that another great land lay to the west but no one had considered settling there. By the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Spanish were shipping gold and silver back from their conquests in South America and pirating was becoming a very profitable operation. The River Wear, with its small river mouth and its early meandering flow, provided an ideal hiding place for privateers, particularly as the Hyltons owned most of the riverbank, and the Shipwrights Arms pub at Hylton became a well known drinking haunt for "merchant adventurers". In later centuries they moved further up-stream to Biddick which became a no go area for law enforcement officers.

It takes a certain breed of sailor to master the North Sea. Crossing from Dover to Calais is one thing, but winter crossings between Norway and England can be a nightmare with the north wind whipping up massive waves. The shores of eastern England are littered with wrecks that didn't make it. Those hard, learnt early sailing skills took William and Edward Hilton to America on a ship called The "Fortune" in 1621.

Henry Hilton, Baron of Hylton was brought up by the Bishop of Carlisle and Sir Thomas Marbury in Carlisle on the opposite side of the country, and will have missed the opportunities of fishing and sailing with his brothers, uncles and cousins. The "Hoary Old Hyltons" as they were known locally. Henry was brought up in a much more genteel environment!

Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603 leaving the throne of England to King James VI of Scotland as a way of uniting the separate kingdoms of England and Scotland into a United Kingdom.

For centuries, there had been a north south divide with the Palatinate of Durham and its peoples suffering centuries of conflict and war between the English and the Scots. The power in England by now all lay in the hands of the southern Earls and handing the throne and the power over to a Scottish King must have put a smile on her face as she died. It probably did not put a smile on the faces of the southern Earls, the Duke of Norfolk in particular.

By the early sixteenth century London saw itself as the hub of the universe. It had beaten off the Spanish Armada, was claiming vast tracts of land in North America, and was becoming known throughout Europe for its culture and learning, aided and abetted by playwrights like William Shakespeare.

Enter King James I of "Britain" handing out (or selling) titles like they were going out of fashion. Forget all that nonsense about earning your knighthood by success in battle. For a while, with the right contacts, if you had the right amount of money or slept in the right bed you could find yourself lifted to the exalted heights of the aristocracy with a hereditary title you could pass on to your eldest son. Enter the Duke of Buckingham.

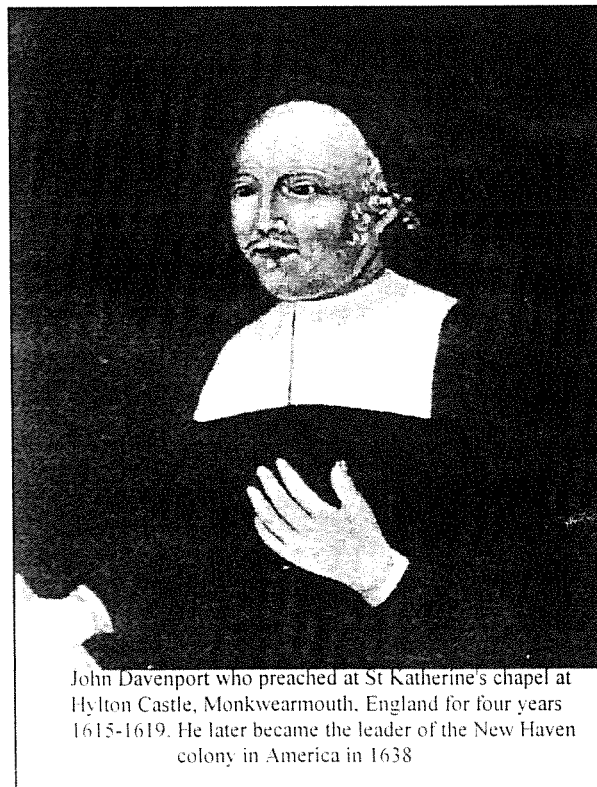
King James VI of Scotland, who was getting on a bit when he became James I, developed a penchant for gay young things known as "favorites". Charles Villiers saw his opportunity and became James I's favorite. He rapidly rose through the ranks of the aristocracy becoming Earl of Buckingham (1617), Marquess (1618) and Lord High Admiral (1619) and eventually he was made Duke of Buckingham, by which time he controlled dispensation of the king's patronage much to the disgust of the old families of England.

James I also recognised for the first time, the northern families who had helped unite the kingdoms. The Lambtons got their first knighthood, and a few of the Washington's were knighted, although possibly because one of them married the penniless half sister of the Duke of Buckingham.

Baron Henry Hilton married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Wortley of Yorkshire probably before 1610. He was separated from her for nearly 30 years, and he died in 1640.

It looks as if Mary lived at Hylton Castle whilst Henry moved south and lived at Billinghamurst in Sussex within riding distance of London with his cousin Nathaniel Hilton who was the Vicar of Billinghamurst descended from the South Shields branch of the family.

In 1615, a young drop-out from Oxford University known as John Davenport became preacher at St Katherine's Chapel at Hylton Castle. He had been forced to drop out of university because he could not afford to pay his bills and had to earn a living, but his time at Oxford had been very interesting. He was a young man full of new ideas about religion and fascinated about all of the latest news coming back from the Jamestown settlement in the new found America which had been settled in 1607 by George Percy, the younger son of the Earl of Northumberland and James Radcliffe of the Earl of Derwentwater's family, both displaced sons of the Rising of the North



Set mid way between London and the sea port of Bristol, Oxford was the right place to be to keep abreast of the latest news which John Davenport took to Hylton with him. As an eighteen year old youth, he preached at Hylton for four years and some of his surmons made at Hylton in 1615 are today at Yale University Library. He would have known William and Edward Hilton as North Sea fishermen and no doubt preached to them at Hylton Castle chapel and talked of the latest news from Jamestown, stories of fortunes to be made and new land opportunities in a new world. He also married Elizabeth Wooley during his time at Hylton.

He was probably a regular traveller to London, and possibly Holland aboard the Hyltons fishing boat by that time. (by road it took two to three weeks to get to London from Hylton). He was elected lecturer and curate of the church of St Lawrence, Old Jewry, London on June 4th 1619 He obviously took an immediate interest in America and preached before the Virginia Company of London whilst a curate at St Lawrence's. By 1622 he had become a member of the Virginia company. It was probably his involvement with the Virginia company that led to William and

Edward Hilton sailing on the Fortune to help rescue the remaining pilgrims from the Mayflower in 1621. With his Puritan leanings and his connections with members of the Virginia Company of London he was probably well placed to help them acquire the patent they needed.

When the Mayflower returned to England empty on 6th May 1621 with news that half of the original settlers and crew of the Mayflower had died during the first winter John Davenport, anxious to help his puritan friends in America immediately enlisted the help of the Hyltons. They knew how to survive in the harshest conditions of the North Sea and had fished off the coast of Newfoundland. Often blown ashore in isolated locations they had learnt how to survive the hard way. Together with Robert Cushman, they helped to put together a group of tradesmen with the skills needed to help the Pilgrims survive. The Fortune left in July but did not find their friends at Plymouth until November 10th. They obviously had had difficulty finding backers for the voyage or for supplies. When they arrived; *"There was not so much as buscuit bread, or any other victuals for them (the pilgrims), neither had they any bedding, nor pot or pan to dress any meat in, nor over many clothes, for many of them had "brushed away" their coats and cloaks at Plymouth as they came"* (they had sold their clothing to raise money for the voyage). They had brought able bodied men and women who could help the pilgrims survive through the next winter including William Hilton who decided to stay to prove America did hold a future.

It looks as if Robert Cushman and Edward Hilton returned aboard the Fortune when she sailed back to England on December 13th with a cargo of good clapboard (oak staves) as full as she could stow and two hogsheads of beaver and otterskins.

In the letter written to his cousin in England in 1621, William Hilton states *"mines we find to our thinking, but neither the goodness or quality we know"*. He obviously knew about mining.

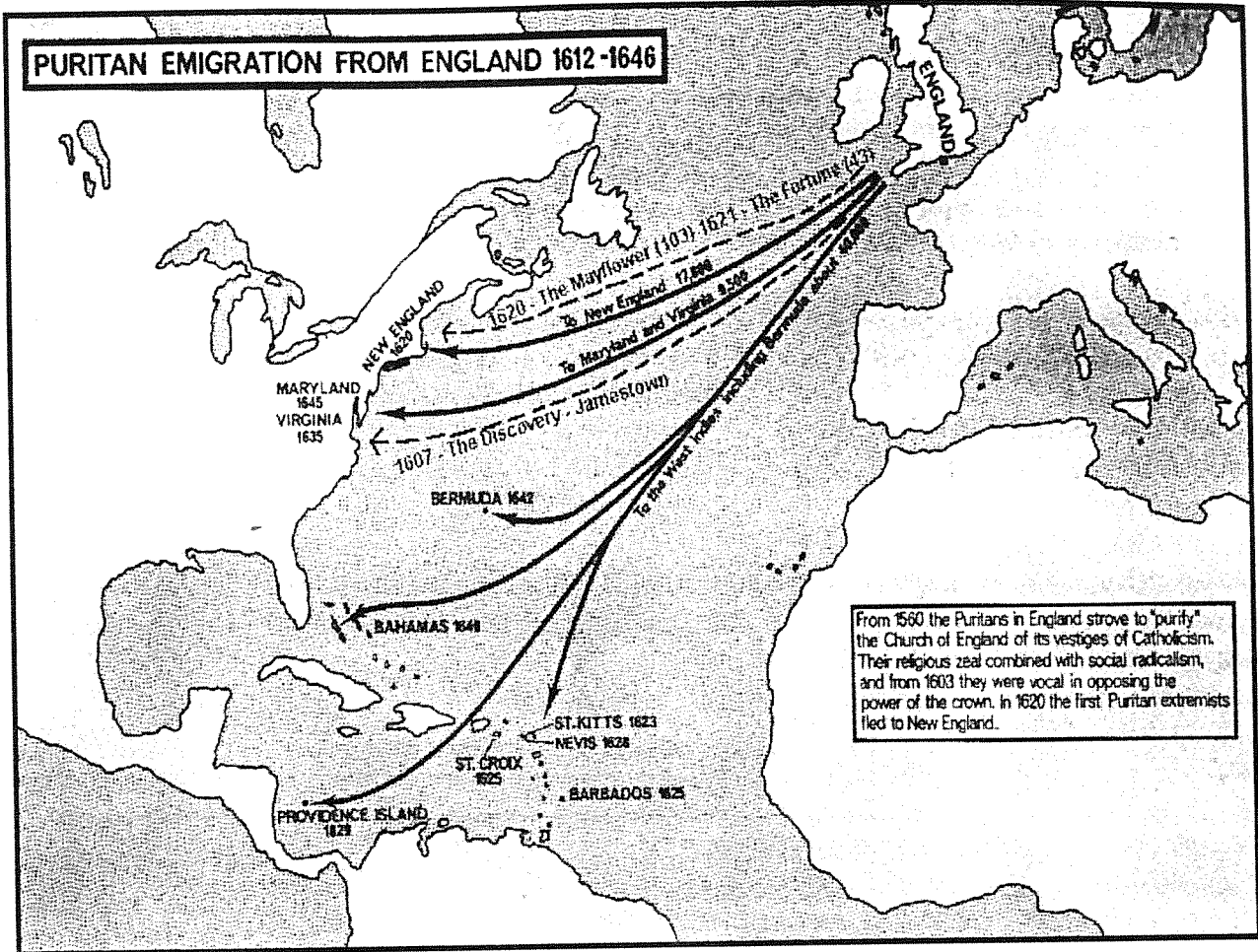
Monkwearmouth in England was by then becoming a successful coal mining area and starting to challenge the "Coals from Newcastle" to heat London homes. He was also a tenant in England and paying rent. He wrote *"The rent day doth not trouble us"*

His letter obviously worked. His wife Mrs Mary Hilton and his children William and Mary arrived aboard "The Anne" accompanied by the "Little James" loaded with supplies in 1623. The supplies according to a letter written by William Bradford in 1623 suggest they were provided by Thomas Percy, (Pierce).

*"They found the settlers in very low condition - many in apparel and some little better than half naked. Save some that had got a few peas of the ship that was last there (The Plantation), the best dish they could present their friends with was a lobster or a piece of fish without bread or anything else but a cup of fair spring water"* - *The Mayflower* - Kate Caffery

With Mary Hilton and her children was Roger Conant, one of John Davenport's parishoners at St Lawrence's in the Old Jewry, London. *"Finding himself out of sympathy with the Separatism of the Pilgrims, he first removed to Nantasket and later undertook the plantation of the Dorchester company at Cape Ann and was responsible for the removal of the settlement to Salem."* - *The New Haven Colony*. Isabel MacBeath Calder. In 1624, the Hiltons themselves quarreled with the Puritan Pilgrims over the baptizing of their first child born in America. It was against Puritan principles, but the Hiltons had the baptism performed by the Rev. John Lyford. It resulted in the Rev Lyford being banished from the colony, and the Hiltons later moved to the Piscataqua River where they joined up with Edward Hilton and founded the town of Dover. It's interesting that William Hilton's occupation is listed as Tavern Keeper and ferry operator (at Kittery) both of which he could have done at Biddick on the River Wear in England. On June 27 1648 "Mr William being licensed for to keep the ordinary at the mouth of the river Pascataquack and that none other shall keep and private ordinary there, nor to sell wine, beer nor liquor upon any pretence".

John Davenport was forced to flee London to Holland himself for his Puritan principles and sailed for America in 1637 where he became the founder of the New Haven Colony where Yale University now stands.



## THE GREAT MIGRATION TO AMERICA

It started with a group of one hundred and thirtyfive colonists on three ships led by "The Discovery" with George Percy (1580-1631) the younger son of the Earl of Northumberland, as one of the most prominent men among those who settled in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The Captain of the ship was John Ratcliffe, descended from the Earls of Derwentwater. Both families had been displaced after the Rising of the North in 1569.



GEORGE PERCY

*From an original portrait by an unknown artist. See also Percy's "Observations gathered out of a Discourse of the Plantation of the Southern Colonie in Virginia by the English..." published in L.O. Tyler's edition of "Narratives of Early Virginia 1606-1625" (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950) as well as in other publications.*

### George Percy (1580-1631)

George Percy, a younger son of the eighth Earl of Northumberland, was one of the most prominent men among those who settled at Jamestown in 1607. During his five years of residence in Virginia (he left the Colony in April, 1612), he served for a time as President, as a Councillor, as Deputy Governor of the Colony, and as "Governor of James Towne."

Among Percy's writings is one of the few surviving accounts of the first days at Jamestown. This narrative, "Observations gathered out of a Discourse of the Plantation of the Southern Colonie in Virginia by the English..." has been published. It appears in L.O. Tyler's edition of "Narratives of Early Virginia 1606-1625" (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950) as well as in other publications.

*"The fifteenth of June we had built and finished our fort, which was triangle wise, having three bulwarkes, at every corner, like a half moone, and foure or five pieces of artillerie mounted in them. We had made ourselves sufficiently strong for these savages. We had also sowne most of our corne on two mountaines"* - George Percy, Jamestown, Virginia, June 15 1607

In 1608, church separatists who had gathered at Scrooby, a coaching station on the Great North Road, just south of Doncaster in the North of England fled England via Immingham on the opposite side of the river from the Hyltons at Swine, to Amsterdam, then moved on to Leyden in Holland where they continued to live in religious freedom for twelve years. They had tried to escape two years earlier from Boston on the Lincolnshire coast near Irnham, another family location of the Hyltons, but had been arrested and then released. Hull was the major north coast trading port with Holland, at that time and no doubt the Hyltons of Swine were kept abreast of the news of the progress of the separatists in Holland.

A number of sea captains were coming back to England from America with tales of death and disease at Jamestown, but in 1612, George Percy, younger son of the Earl of Northumberland returned to England and was able to relate at first hand both the potential and the pitfalls New England offered. Perhaps more important, he was able to give practical advice as to what was needed for successful settlement in the New World. It also gave him the opportunity to make plans for the future.

His father, Henry, the 8th Earl of Northumberland had been arrested on charges of complicity with Mary Queen of Scots and sent to the tower of London for a third time in 1584, and was found shot through the heart in his cell in 1585, when George was only five years old. The government tried to prove that he had died by his own hand, but there were circumstances pointing to murder. His brother had appointed his cousin Thomas Percy as Constable of Alnwick Castle and he had been one of the principal conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605. He was hunted down and shot, and his brother Henry, the 9th Earl of Northumberland, although nothing could be proved against him, was confined in the Tower for fifteen years. He was still there, when George Percy returned from Jamestown in 1612.

King James I and the members of the Virginia Company of London would have listened carefully to George Percy's account of his time in Jamestown, he'd been to hell and back!. Of the thirtyfive gentlemen adventurers who had gone out with the original settlers, most of them had died by September 1607 *"they were destroyed by cruel diseases as swellings, fluxes, burning fevers, and by wars, and some departed suddenly but for the most part they died of mere famine"*

Another 500 settlers had arrived in 1609.

*Some, to satisfy their hunger, have robbed the store, for which I caused them to be executed", Percy wrote sometime between 1609 and 1612. "Then having fed upon horses and other beasts as long as they lasted, we were glad to make shift with.....dogs, cats, rats and mice.....Some were enforced to search the woods and to feed upon serpents and snakes.....and to do those things which seem incredible, as to dig up dead corpse out of graves and to eat them, and some have licked up the blood which hath fallen from their weak fellows"*

Meanwhile Captain John Smith had got out of Jamestown and returned to London in 1609 and published a best seller *"A True Relation of such occurrences and Accidents of Noate as Hath Hapned in Virgina since the first planting of that collony"*. John Smith was the hero, the gentlemen who had accompanied him, the villains. The people of London believed it. The Virginia Company of London didn't - he couldn't raise any more funds for another journey. The Virginia Company, founded by investors, had financed and sponored the English colony founded at Jamestown in May 1607. The company, many of them London merchants, expected the colonists to start industrial enterprises in Virginia that would return profits to the company. The colonists tried a number of different enterprises; silkmaking, glassmaking, lumber, saaafras, pitch and tar, and soap ashes with no financial success. It was John Rolfe's experiments with Tobacco that developed the first profitable export that arrived in London in 1614.

It was at this time that John Davenport was appointed preacher at St Katherine's chapel at Hylton Castle, Monkwearmouth. Fresh from Oxford University he must have been full of the stories from Virginia, and George Percy's exploits will have been of great interest to their old allies, The Hyltons. When the Pilgrims in Leyden decided to emigrate to New England, they sent Thomas Cushman and John Carver over from Leyden to negotiate with the Virginia Company of London for a patent to settle in America. Still outlawed in England they needed someone in

in London who was sympathetic to their religious views and who had connections with the Virginia



Company. John Davenport was considered "a great preacher in London" and known to the Separatists for his sympathetic puritan views. He provided the ideal go-between to negotiate a patent, and he took an avid interest in their voyage and their new colony in Plymouth, America.

To a degree, he must have felt responsible for them and news that half of them had died during their first winter must have horrified him. Thomas Cushman had organised the original Mayflower Voyage for the Pilgrims from Leyden, mostly artisans and their servants, but had not sailed himself. With the bad news coming out of Jamestown and the news from the Mayflower when she returned to port empty, getting anyone to sail to America willingly could not have been easy, and finding someone who knew how to survive in those conditions must have been even more difficult. John Davenport must have obviously called on his old friends the Hiltons who were members of the Fishmongers guild. He knew Roger Hylton, a fishmonger from London and the fourth son of Sir William Hylton well, and had talked of the new world with his son William when he had been in port on the Wear at Hylton Castle. Whilst William and Edward did not share all his religious views they agreed to help. They sailed on "The Fortune" in 1621 and started the "Great Migration" to America from England.

Another family closely associated with the Hiltons at Monkwearmouth, was the Lamberton family. Sir Thomas Hilton married the widow of Nicholas Lamberton of Owton. George Lamberton is recorded as taking a party of puritans from Hull to Boston in 1637. He took the first printing press to America. They eventually settled in Rowley in New England, and George Lamberton is recorded as living on square 9 on the 1642 map of New Haven on the site of where Yale University now stands. He bought Philadelphia off the American Indians and disappeared on "The Phantom Ship" in 1646.

### *The Phantom Ship*

by

Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

*In Mather's Magnalia Christi  
Of the old colonial time,  
May be found in prose the legend  
That is here set down in rhyme  
A ship sailed from New Haven  
And the keen and frosty airs  
That filled her sails at parting  
Were heavy with good men's prayer*

*"O Lord if it be thy pleasure"-  
Thus prayed the old devine -  
"To bury our friends in the ocean,  
Take them, for they are thine!"*

*But Master Lamberton muttered,  
And under his breath said he,  
"This ship is so crank and walty,  
I fear our grave she will be!"*

*And the ships that came from England  
When the winter months were gone  
Brought no tidings of this vessel  
Nor of Master Lamberton*

*This put the people to praying  
and the Lord would let them hear  
What in his greater wisdom  
He had done with his friends so dear*

*And at last their prayers were answered,  
It was in the month of June  
An hour before the sunset  
Of a windy afternoon*

*When, steadily steering landward,  
A ship was seen below,  
And they knew it was Lamberton, Master  
Who sailed long ago.*

*On she came, with a cloud of canvas,  
Right against the wind that blew  
Until the eye could distinguish  
The faces of the crew,*

*Then fell her straining topmasts,  
Hanging tangled in the shrouds,  
And her sails were loosened and lifted  
And blown away like clouds.*

*And the masts all by their rigging,  
Fell slowly one by one  
And the hulk dilated and vanished  
As sea-mist in the sun!*

*And the people who saw this marvel  
Each said unto his friend  
That this was the mould of their vessel  
And this her tragic end.*

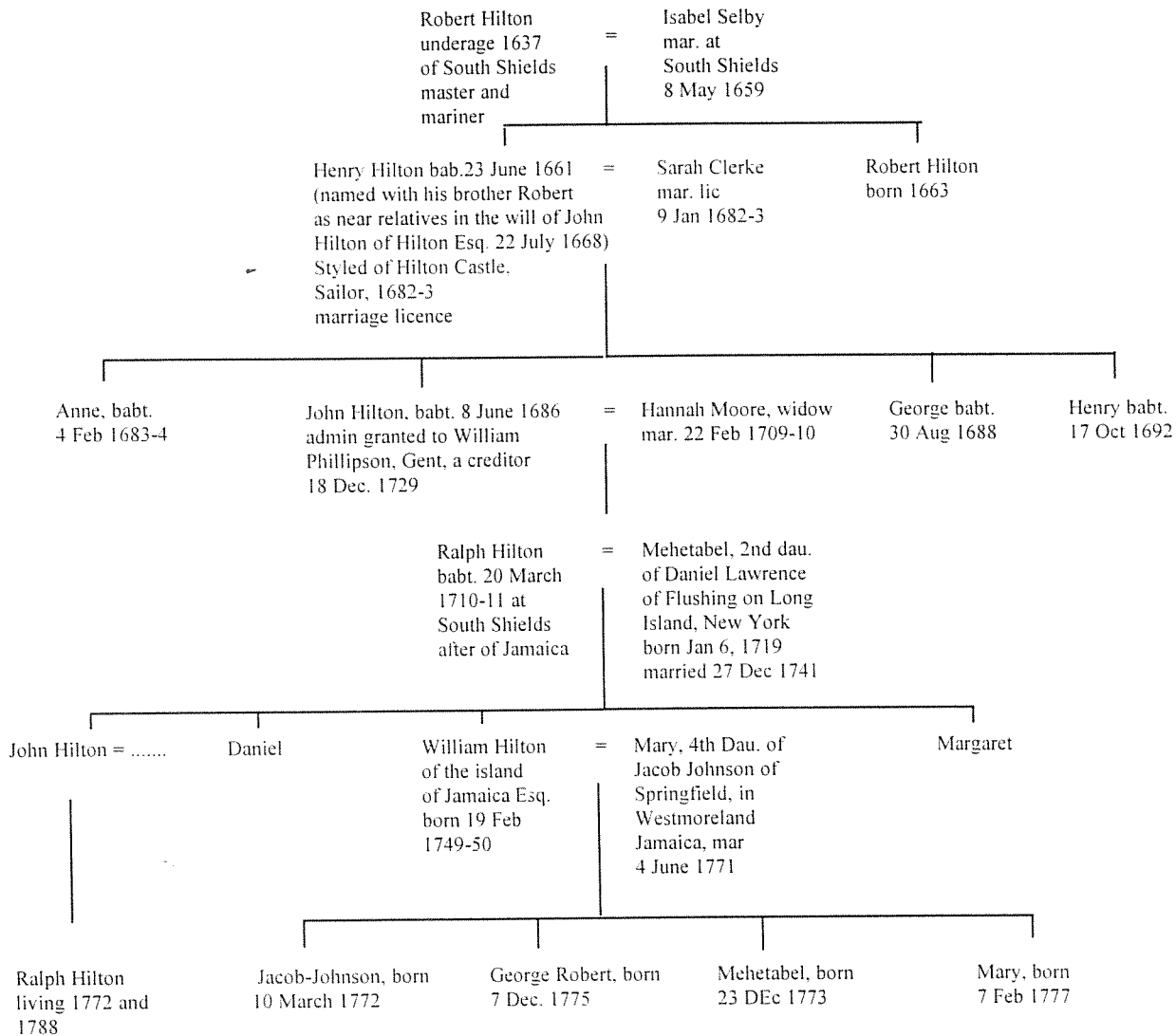
*And the pastor of the village  
Gave thanks to God in prayer  
That, to quiet their troubled spirits,  
He had sent this Ship of Air.*

The ship was supposed to have sunk with the loss of all lives on board. According to the book "The Surnames of Scotland", the Lamberton family is now "extinct"! - but a "Lamberton" wrote this book!



In 1634, the Corporation of Newcastle exhibited a bill against Henry Hilton to suppress a common brewhouse to be demolished, but its enforcement was suspended "until the king's pleasure we know". The Hiltons of South Shields had been in brewing for over 300 years, and sailing seems to have been in their blood.

In Surtees History of Durham he continues the South Shields family line as follows;



Over 40,000 Puritans emigrated to the West Indies and Bermuda before 1646, more than Virginia and New England combined. Trading opportunities were better both with Europe and with America, and the survival rate and climate must have appealed more than America. During the reign of Cromwell, Sir Thomas Lambton, neighbour of the Hyltons was Governor of the Leeward Islands and had returned to Durham where he died in 1662. No doubt he would have told the Hyltons of the opportunities the West Indies offered. Ralph Hilton, born in South Shields in 1710 seems to have taken up the opportunity and settled in Jamaica. He was obviously trading with New York, and married Mehetabel, the daughter of Daniel Lawrence.

In Surtee's History of Durham, he says his son William born in Jamaica in 1749 "modestly saith, in a letter to Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, that - *he knows little indeed of his brother's (John Hilton) claim, but that their father Ralph was son of John, son of Henry, son of Robert, son of Henry Hylton, Esq. called Baron of Hylton.* - MS correspondence of Sir Isaac Heard, Ralph Bigland, Esq.&c. with George Allan, Esq. of Grange, pen. George Allan, Esq. M.P. . Surtees' dismisses the claim as a mistake, between *Henry, The Captain* and *Henry, the melancholy Baron.*

## John Hilton 1642-1655

Thomas Hilton = Anne Bowes

|  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Henry Hilton, Baron of Hilton, son and heir of Thomas Hilton, 13 years of age 28th June 1599, had livery as heir to his grandfather, 30 March 1607-8, will dated 26th Feb 1640-1, ob. 30 March, at Michelgrove, in Sussex, married Mary daughter of Sir Richard Wortley, of Wortley, Co. York, Knt, re-marr. Sir William Smith, Knt. admin to her first husband 1642. ob. 1663 | Robert Hilton of Hilton Esq. next heir to his brother Henry ob. s.p. bur 25 Dec 1641, married Margaret, exec. to...exec to her husband 19 Feb 1641-2 re-marr. Sir Thomas Hallyman, (sometime of Ford) died 1673 | Thomasine, dau. and co-heir of John Warture, of Whitwell co Palatine widow of Robert Lorraine, of Kirkharle, co Northumberland | = John Hilton Esq. survived all his brothers, and became owner of Hylton Castle and estate in 1642(encumbered as it was by the will of his brother Henry) sometime a Colonel in the service of King Charles, buried 12 Dec 1655 | 2. Alice, dau. Robert Binyon of Barmston co. Paltine | 2. George bur at Monkwearmouth 16 Feb. 1616<br>4. Matthew. s.p.<br>5. Francis Hilton Clk, Rector of Kirkhaugh<br>6. William s.p.<br>8. Thomas bur. June 2 1629 | 1. Jane, wife to Sir Ralph Delaval of Seaton Delaval co Northumberland. Knt.<br>2. Mary, wife of Robert Brandling of Felling, co Pal. Esq. |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|

This was the period of the Civil War in England when Parliament fought King Charles I. Parliament was led by Oliver Cromwell, and it resulted in the beheading of King Charles I. It divided many families, but the Hylton family seem to have been staunch Royalists.

When Henry Hilton, who had lived in the south of England for thirty years died in 1641, the year the civil war broke out, he bequeathed the family estates to the City of London for 99 years, and wished them to be administered for charitable purposes.

He probably left the estates to the City of London to stop the Parliamentarians getting a hold of them. Under the terms of his will, a modest annuity was to be paid to his successor, a brother. His widow (not named in his will), re-married Sir Thomas Smith "*said to be an active and intriguing man, of considerable influence during the Usurption*". Certainly, Sunderland took the side of the Parliamentarians. They had started shipping coal to London and the King had ordered that they had to pay the Royalist merchants of Newcastle a levy for every ton of coal shipped. It led to major resentment between the merchants of Sunderland and the merchants of nearby Newcastle. One of the major battles between the Newcastle Royalists and the Sunderland Roundheads (Parliamentarians) took place not far from Hylton Castle. It appears this is when the Elizabethan mansion to the rear of the castle was destroyed.

The will itself was contested, by John Hilton, the seventh and sole surviving brother of Henry, who was included in the lists of malignants, and totally disabled from struggling at law or equity, with the rebel City of London or with Sir Thomas Smith. "*The very litigations of Sir Thomas Smith with the City Chamber, though they tore the estate into pieces, whilst the heir starved, had eventually a favorable effect. The Citizens of London, who derived very little direct advantage from the will of their single benefactor, were wearied out with the contest, and after the Restoration an amicable decree was pronounced, by which possession of the estates was restored to the heir. The younger John Hilton, who succeeded to the claims of his father in 1658, seems to have possessed a share of prudence and quiet perseverance very unusual in a ruined Cavalier.*" - Surtees. History of Durham.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly what happened to the Hiltons during the Civil War. They would have been evicted from their properties when the Parliamentarians won and Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lord Protector of the Commonwealth. On the restoration of the monarchy, with the crowning of King Charles II, they do not appear to have had either the money or the status they had enjoyed previously.

"*From this period, the ancient Barons of Hilton, no longer distinguished by extended possessions or extraordinary influence, retreated, without degradation of blood, or of honour, into the quiet ranks of private gentry. Three successive chiefs of Hilton were not more respected for their ancient and undoubted descent, than for the prudent and unostentatious simplicity with which they supported the fortunes of their house*" - Surtees History of Durham

## Henry Hilton 1666-1712 A.D.

John Hilton = Thomasine

|  |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1. John Hilton Esq. Capt. in the King's service living aet 47, 21 Aug 1666. will dated 22 July 1668, ob. coel. buried 21 June 1670 | 2. Ralph, died young.<br>4. Robert bur. 19 Sept 1646 | Henry Hilton = Esq. aet. 38, 21 Aug. 1666, heir to his brother buried 16 April 1712 | Anne, dau of Henry Proctor of Warsell, co York. Esq. bur. 27 Nov 1700 | 1. Margaret mar. 20 Dec. 1658 John Forde of Newcastle, merchant buried at All Saints Newcastle 12 July 1660 | Mary, wife to Robert Hilton of Hilton Beacon co Westmoreland Esq. marr at Boldon 2. Nov 1647 | Barbara, wife to William Smith, of W. Herrington Esq. buried at Houghton le Spring 7 Aug 1664 | Thomasine wife to George Shadforth of Eppleton co. Pal. Esq. Elizabeth died young Elizabeth died young Anne died young |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|

With the restoration of the monarchy, when King Charles II was crowned, he relinquished his feudal dues from wardship, knight service, and other medieval survivals. Parliament instead granted him revenues for life which, with his hereditary property, were calculated to yield about £1,200,000. All connections between the Hiltons and the monarchy had been severed, and the Hiltons retreated as country gentlemen of Durham. Other families of the north migrated to London to gain the new king's patronage. The influence of the Hiltons as a major force in the north was over, although they seem to have held the respect of the people of Durham and Sunderland, and they did their best to keep up with their neighbours. Hilton Castle was converted into a country mansion.

After the strict regime of the Puritans, King Charles II, the "*merry monarch*" reintroduced "*high living and rather lower moral standards*" back into England, and "*Royal mistresses galore from Nell Gwynne, the saucy actress, to the Frenchwoman Louise de Keroualle who became an English Duchess*" - The Life and Times of King Charles II - Christopher Falkus

He was succeeded by his son, James II, Duke of York whom New York was named after. A staunch catholic, he was eventually forced to relinquish the throne by William of Orange invited over by amongst others, Lumley, neighbors of the Hiltons.

## John Hilton 1712?

Henry Hilton = Anne Proctor

|  |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas Hilton = Margaret Burdett 2nd son living of Low Ford 1708. bur. 1 Jan 1717 will dated 16 Feb 1714 | Margaret bur. at Bishopwearmouth 11 Aug 1707, bur Sept 21, 1711 | Thomasine aet 6 months, 21 Aug 1666, ob. coel buried 12 May 1723. will dated 14 April 1722 | John Hilton = Esq. bur 16 April 1712 ob. intesta. | Dorothy, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Musgrave of Hayton Castle co Cumb. mar. at Washington, 22 Feb 1693-4, bur 6 Sept. 1709 | Margaret = Robert Lawson bur. 17 Oct 1729 | of Chirton, co Northumberland Esq., bur. at St Nicholas Newcastle 13 Oct 1729 | Anne, wife to Justinian Scriber, Clk issue Chirstopher Scriber liv. 1722 and others | Mary wife to Cuthbert Richardson issue John and Hilton and Margaret all living 1722 |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|

It is interesting in this generation of the family, that the only details available for John Hilton is the fact that he was buried on 16th April, 1712 without leaving a will. His wife was Dorothy, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Musgrave, of Hayton Castle, Cumbria. In 1714, King George I succeeded to the British throne - "*Here on English soil stood an unprepossessing figure, and obstinate and humdrum German martinet with dull brains and coarse tastes*" - The Island Race - Winston S. Churchill. He spoke no English and knew little of English or Scottish history. In the North of England, a small band of gentry, led by Lord Derwentwater, rose in support of the Stuarts, but the Jacobite rebellion was defeated, and the Hanovarian dynasty became entrenched as British monarchs. The power of the north was now on a downward spiral, and all influence and political power was based in London

## John Hylton 1699-1747 A.D.

John Hilton = Dorothy

|   |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Richard Hilton.<br>Esq. eldest son and<br>heir, ob. coel. buried<br>23 Sept 1722,<br>ob. interest. | 2. John Hilton, Esq.<br>bapt. 27 April 1699<br>M.P. Carlisle, 1727<br>1734, 1741, 1746<br>ob. coel. Sept 25<br>1746, bur Sept 28<br>in Hylton Chapel<br>will dated 6 Nov 1739<br>1. Dorothy | 2. Anne born =<br>26 Jan 1697<br>mar. 13 Jan<br>1723-4<br>ob. 1 Feb<br>1766 | Sir Richard<br>Musgrave<br>of Hayton<br>Castle, Bart<br>ob. 25 Oct<br>1739, act 38 | 3. Eliz. born =<br>26. bapt. 28<br>Apr 1702, m.<br>31 May 1726<br>bur. at St<br>Nicholas<br>Newcastle<br>25 Oct 1751 | Thomas<br>Young-<br>husband<br>of Budle<br>Esq. | Catherine =<br>born 22<br>Dec 1706<br>br. at<br>Thursby<br>M.I | John Brisco of<br>Crofton, in<br>the parish<br>of Thursby<br>co Cumberland<br>D.D. rector of<br>Orton and vicar<br>of Aspatria |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|

The Hilton estates were inherited by Richard Hilton who died childless in 1722 and passed them on to the second son, John Hilton who was Member of Parliament for Carlisle on the opposite side of the country in 1727, 1734, 1741, and 1746 who will no doubt have spent much of his time in London. He chose to be buried in Hylton Chapel, the family burial site and was the last of the Hylton line to be buried there. He too, died childless, and left the estates to his nephew, the son of his sister Anne who married Sir Richard Musgrave of Hayton Castle, Aspatria, Carlisle. A proviso in the will, stated that his nephew Richard Musgrave must change his name to Hilton to inherit the estates, which he did, becoming Sir Richard Hilton. The estates at that time comprised of Hylton, Ford, Great Usworth, and Follonsby, the inappropriate rectory of Monkwearmouth, and a leasehold estate there. The estates of Grindon, North Biddick, Barmston, and Alston Moor, had previously been alienated.

In 1750, four years after the death of John Hylton, the estate, still amounting to 5,600 acres in five parishes and mainly consisting of thirty two farms was sold off in various parcels. The castle and the manor of Hylton were contracted under a private act of Parliament, by a Mr Wogan for £30,000 but the sale never went through and the castle and manor of Hylton were bought by Mrs Bowes, widow of George Bowes, Esq. of Streathlam Castle and Gibside.

Whilst the importance of the Hilton family was in decline in England, along with the importance of the Bishops of Durham, the Hilton family was making great strides forward across America where they became pioneers in many of the States of the United States. They led the way for others to follow, taking with them the courage, skills, knowledge and endurance of their forefathers.

*"For with few exceptions, they were Englishmen who planted the Colonies from which our nation grew, who founded this Great Republic and brought from England, the Institutions, Laws, Customs, and Traditions which lie at it's foundation. They were Englishmen who established our first representative legislative assembly in 1619, who signed the Mayflower Compact in 1620, who wrote the constitution in 1787. "our flower of liberty grew from seed brought from English soil"*

Mrs Joseph R Lamor  
Colonial Dames of America

For the latest discoveries about the Hylton/Hilton/Helton families  
email; [Webmaster@AncestryUK.com](mailto:Webmaster@AncestryUK.com)

# Ghosts

## The Cauld (cold, cowed) Lad of Hylton Castle

Extracts from "A visit to Hylton Castle" in times of Queen Victoria in 19th century.

"On entering, I found myself in the large old kitchen of the castle. It was one of those tall large rooms with a mighty capacity for cookery, that bore undeniable testimony to the former affluence and jollity of its possessors; but it was now the abode of a poor family, the father of which was a labourer. All about lay the clothes and utensils of such a class of people. It was about twelve o'clock, and they were getting their dinner. The mother and daughter, a young woman who worked in the fields, and appeared well daubed and coloured with the earth in which she grubbed and delved, and a big boy who sate on a log of wood, and looked at me as if I was come to turn them out of a place that seemed ten times too big for them and their concerns. And this was the identical kitchen in which the Cowed Lad of Hilton used to play his nocturnal pranks. Yes; Hilton Castle was one of the last places in which a brownie or hobthrusch flourished. There are various versions of this story; some of which seem to point to more than a hobthrusch origin.

This is the version of it given by Surtees (author of the History of the Palatinate of Durham) :-

- He was seldom seen, but was heard nightly by the servants who slept in the great hall. If the kitchen had been left in perfect order, they heard him amusing himself by breaking plates and dishes, hurling the pewter in all directions, and throwing everything into confusion. If on the contrary, the apartment had been left in disarray, a practice that the servants found it most prudent to adopt, the indefatigable goblin arranged every thing with the greatest precision. This poor esprit folet, whose pranks were at all times perfectly harmless, was at length banished from his haunts by the usual expedient of presenting him with a suit of clothes. A green cloak and hood were laid before the kitchen fire, and the domestics sate up watching at a prudent distance.

At twelve o'clock, the sprite glided gently in, stood by the glowing embers, and surveyed the garments provided for him very attentively, tried them on, and seemed delighted with his appearance; frisking about for some time, and cutting several summersets and gambadoes, till, on hearing the first cock, he twitched his mantle tight about him, and disappeared with the usual valediction :-

"Here's a cloak, and here's a hood

The Cauld Lad o' Hilton will do no more good"

"The genuine brownie is supposed to be, ab origine, an unembodied spirit; but the Boy of Hilton has, with an admixture of English superstition, been identified with the apparition of an unfortunate domestic, who one of the old chiefs of Hilton slew, at some very distant period, in a moment of wrath or intemperance. The baron had it seems, on an important occasion, ordered his horse, which was not brought out so soon as he expected. He went to the stable, found the boy loitering, and seizing a hay-fork, struck him, though not intentionally, a mortal blow. The story adds, that he covered his victim with straw till night, and threw him into the pond, where the skeleton of a boy was, in confirmation of this tale, discovered in

the last baron's time. The story may possibly have had its foundation in the fact of the inquest held on the body of Roger Skelton of Hilton, 3rd July 1609, when Robert Hilton of Hilton, gentleman, was found to have killed him with a scythe, head.

Be the original fact that it may, or be it none of them, it has for many a long age given plenty of food for fireside gossip of this part of the country; and there are not wanting, those who assert that the Cowed lad may still be met there. They tell of servants who, one after another, deserted the service of the house from frights which he gave them, long after the time that he was said to receive his green clothes; and especially of a dairymaid who was very fond of helping herself to the richest milk and cream, but one day, as she had been sipping with a spoon from various pans, the Cowed lad suddenly but invisibly over her shoulder, said- "Ye taste, and ye taste, and ye taste, but ye never gie the Cowed Lad a taste!" At the hearing of this voice she dropped the spoon on the floor in a fright, rushed out of the house, and never would enter it again.



The whole of this large old house is now empty, and in the most desolate state, fit haunt of ghosts and brownies. From top to bottom, and from end to end, reign hollowness and decay. The very winds, as I have said, seemed to triumph round it, and a loose pane of glass in one of the windows served them for a harp to play upon, by which they contrived to make a whirring and moaning noise that sounded through the whole building, and which for a time excited my wonder whence could proceed so unearthly a euphony. The inhabitants, however, seemed totally unapprehensive of it. On the walls of the rooms hung paper rotting piecemeal: except in two or three large rooms, called the wine and drawing rooms, which had stuccoed ceilings, with figures, busts on the walls, and one large scene which seemed to be Venus and Cupid, Apolo fiddling to the gods, Minerva in her helmet and an old king; all those portraits of the Hiltons, and other objects mentioned by the topographer of the county, had vanished, and left Hilton Castle but a naked memorial of a departed line."



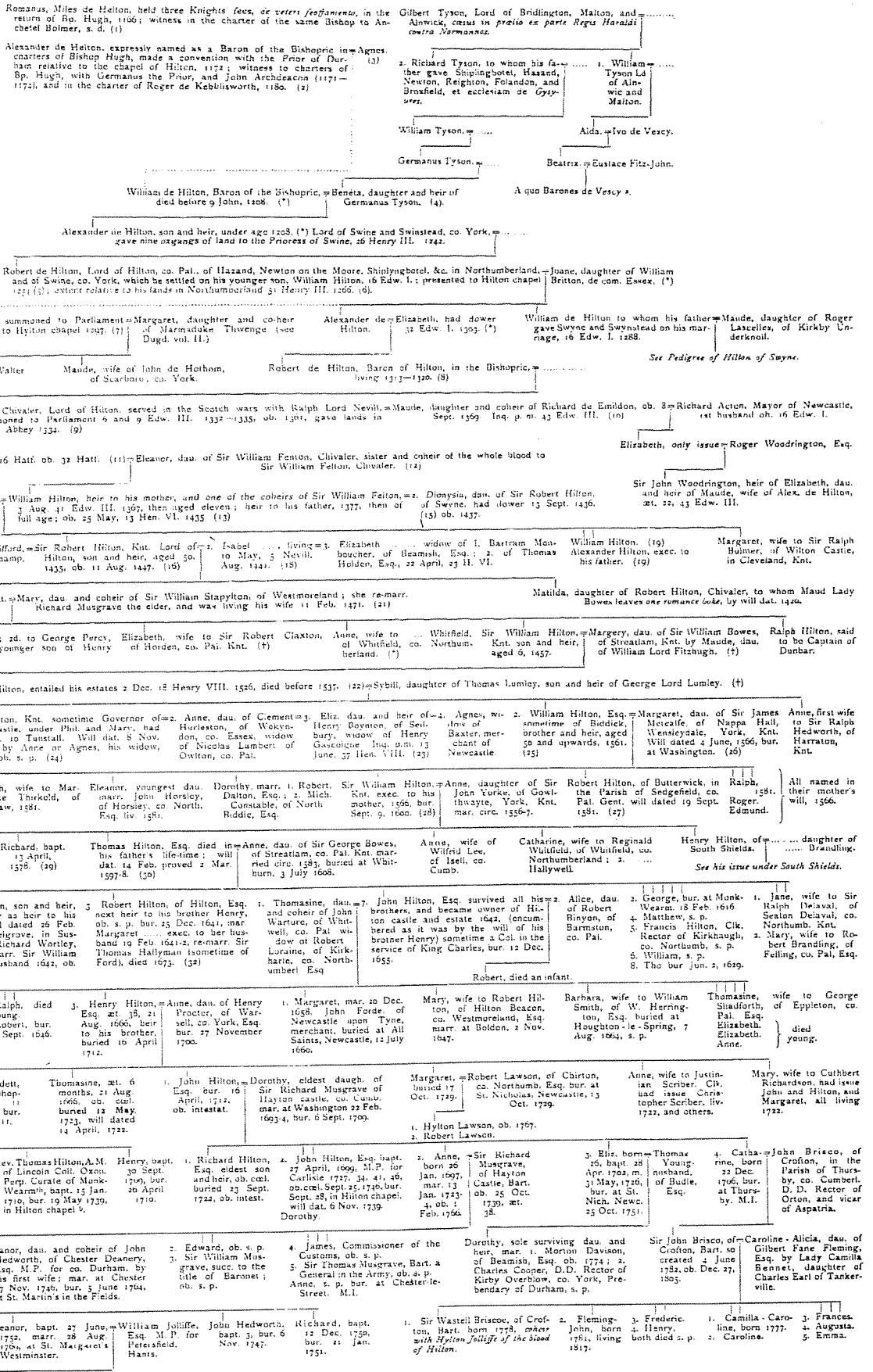
This is a first edition of "The Hyltons of Hylton Castle"  
If you have any information about any branch of the family  
anywhere in the world, you would like to share with other  
family members, please email your information to;  
**[Webmaster@AncestryUK.com](mailto:Webmaster@AncestryUK.com)**

PEDIGREE of HILTON, of HILTON.

not in 2004 edition

ARMS: Argent, two bars Azure. CREST: Moses's Head, horned, or radiated. Supporters, two lions rampant Azure. Motto, Tant que je puis.

TYSON.



Hilton Jolliffe, Esq. M.P. for Petersfield 1817, co-heir with Sir Wastell Briscoe of the blood of Hilton.

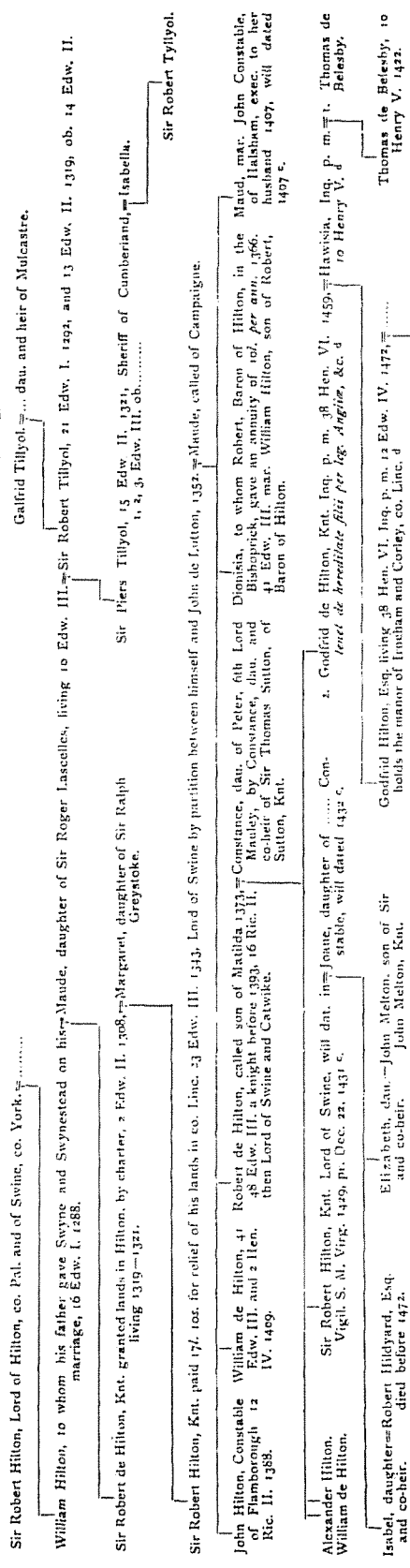
\* Dugdale's Baronage, I. 60.

† He overate himself in walking from Sunderland to Hilton, and died of a violent fever in a few days, to the great grief of the Baron, who considered him as his heir male and lawful successor.

not in 2004  
edition

PEDIGREE of HILTON, of SWYNE.

ARMS: Argent, three chaplets Gules; the coat of their maternal ancestor Lascelles.



<sup>d</sup> Eschaets, in Turre London.  
meo Rogero qui est in custodia Elize de Melton, unum annuatum aureum. Matri mee unam parvam cistam de eburneo. Dom. Johanna Hilton, Domina de Swyne, et Robertus Mountevray, Executores. Dom. Robertus Hilton, avunculus, Supervisor. Dodsworth MSS.