

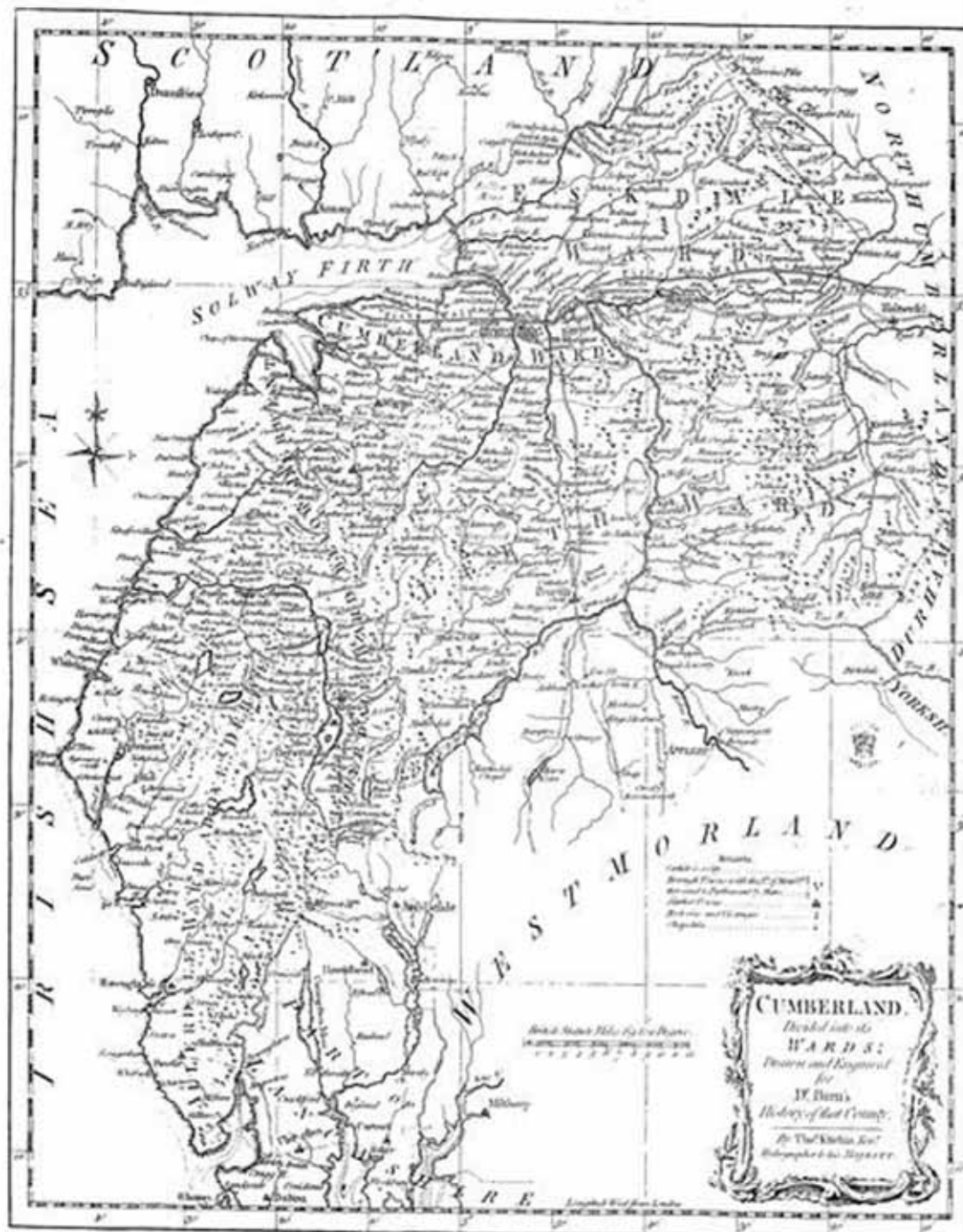
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THE
 HISTORY
 AND
 ANTIQUITIES
 OF THE COUNTIES OF
 WESTMORLAND AND CUMBERLAND.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.
 VOL. II.

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Afterwards it was sold by Sir Richard Lowther knight to Thomas Fletcher father of Sir Richard Fletcher baronet, in whose posterity it still continues under the services before mentioned.

Here is a small demesne and ancient house called Wythop hall, and divers customary tenants who pay arbitrary fines and heriots.

From this place southwards, there is a continued tract of prodigious high mountains as far as the Black-comb fell at Millum, and which runs south east as far as the barony of Kendal and Furnes.

The chapel of Wythop was certified at 2175; part paid by the inhabitants out of their estates by voluntary agreement, and part of it being interest of money given by the will of several persons.

BUTTERMERE is the other chapelry under Lorton, which was certified at 11, paid by the inhabitants by voluntary assessment upon their lands. It was also certified that both this and Wythop were served by Readers, except that the curate of Lorton officiated at each of them three or four times a year.

This village lies about a mile south from Loweswater, in a low crooked deep valley, encompassed with stupendous mountains. Here are also two great lakes or meers, and in them the char is found, and excellent trout little inferior to char. In the hills above these lakes springs the river Cocker.

This district, with the lakes, is holden of the earl of Egremont as parcel of the manor of Derwent Fells; and was granted, as several others above-mentioned, first to the lord Gray and Banister, then to Robinson, and then to Stanley. In the several licences of alienation, the lands are thus described: All the lands called Birknesfield or Gatecath, with the appurtenances in Gatecath and **Buttermere** Dubbs, late in the tenure of Robert Hudson, lying and being in **Buttermere** in the parish of Brigham, late parcel of the possessions of Henry late earl of Northumberland.

WHINFELL, another district in the parish of Brigham, lies on the west side of Lorton fell, and is parcel of the honour of Cockermouth. In the 35 Hen. 8. it was in the hands of coparceners, namely, Christopher Curwen, John Eglesfield, and Ambrose Middleton, who held the same (together with divers tenements in Setmorthow) of the king as of the honour of Cockermouth, by knights service, 6s 8d cornage, homage and fealty, scawake, and pature of the serjeants.

It appears to have been afterwards in the Wharton family; and was sold by the trustees of the late duke of Wharton to the late duke of Somerset, and is now the inheritance of the earl of Egremont.

MOSERGH lies a little higher west, and is another township in the parish of Brigham. In the 35 Hen. 8. Thomas Salkeld of Corkby held the manor of Mosergh of the king as of his castle of Egremont, by homage and fealty,

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fait of court, 13s 4d cornage, and pature of the serjeants. It was afterwards purchased to freehold.

Many of the inhabitants here are quakers, being so approximate neighbours to Parsley Cragg, a most famous place formerly for quakers, being far from any church.

But before the dissolution of the religious houses, there seems to have been a chantry or chapel here, which was pretty largely endowed; for king Edward the sixth, by letters patent bearing date Dec. 13. in the second year of his reign, granted to Thomas Brende of London, scrivener, the chantry of Moser otherwise Mosfargh, together with divers messuages and tenements late in the tenure of Henry Robinson, John Mirehouse, John Watson, John Williamson, and Anthony Fletcher in the parish of Brigham in the county of Cumberland, late belonging to the said chantry; and also, late belonging to the said chantry, one water mill, with all watercourses, pools, and mill-dams in Brigham aforesaid.

Descending from Lorton, by Southwaite, in a fertile country, we come to **COCKERMOUTH**, which is another chapelry in the parish of Brigham. It stands on the *meath* of the river Cocker, from whence it deriveth its name. The said river divides the town equally into two parts, save only that the church, market place, and castle stand all on the east side thereof, more upon an ascent; where, under the west side of the castle wall, the river Derwent receives Cocker, and there they make one stream. Camden describes this place to be a populous, well traded, market town, nearly built, but of a low situation, between two hills, upon one is the church or chapel, and upon the other over against it (which is evidently artificial) a very strong castle, so the gates whereof were the arms of the Miltons, Umfranvills, Lucys, and Percys.

This, together with the rest of the Lucy estate, did Maud sister and heir to Anthony Lucy, give to her husband Henry first earl of Northumberland; and although she had no issue by him, yet made she the family of the Percys her heirs, on condition they should quarter the arms of Lucy.

The houses are built of stone, and slated mostly with blue slate. They compose two streets, one above the river Cocker, in which part are the moor-hall, market house, corn market, and shambles. And in the other below, is the best market.

This borough returned two members to parliament in the 23 Ed. 1. to wit, William Bully and Peter de Hall. From which time it was discontinued till the year 1640, when its liberties, together with those of Okehampton, Honyton, Ashborton, Malton, and Northallerton were restored †. The bailiff is the returning officer, and the members of parliament are elected by about 300 burghers, who hold by burgage tenure ‡.

† Brown Well's Nat. Parl. ‡ For a list of the burgesses returned for this borough, see the Appendix, N^o. XXXVIII.