

THE ANCESTRY OF CUTHBERT HARRISON.

A SUBJECT of genealogical research for a number of years has been the ancestry of Cuthbert Harrison (1627-1681), the celebrated nonconformist minister in the Fylde (*See Transactions Lancs. and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 29, pp. 114-117, also "The Harrisons of Newton and Bankfield," by C. W. Harrison).

From the entry in the Kirkham register of Cuthbert's baptism, 5 Feb., 1626/7, we know his father to have been Richard Harrison of Newton, whose wife's name was Agnes.

"Cuthbert Harison s. Ric[hard] et Agnes de Newton,
5 February 1626/7."

It is generally agreed that this was the Richard Harrison who married Annes, or Agnes Hornby, at Kirkham, 7 October 1608.

Hitherto there has been no concrete evidence to support the many speculations as to the parentage of Richard. The agreement concerning the marriage of Richard Harrison to Agnes Hornby, recently discovered among a collection of Hornby documents in the possession of the Trustees of Newton Blue School, now shows his father to have been William Harrison of Newton, whose wife's name was also Agnes.

Searching among the entries in the Kirkham parish register for the marriage of a William Harrison whose wife's name was Agnes, and who might reasonably have been the father of Richard, we find, between 1539 and 1608, when Richard was married, only one entry of a William Harrison marrying a woman named Agnes, or Annes. The entry runs:—

"27 January 1571/2 W[illia]m Harison & Annes Diconson."

Whose son was William, who married Annes Diconson, we cannot tell. There are four entries in the register of baptisms, any of which might refer to this William:—

"20 March 1540/1 Will[iam] Harisson s. Richard"

"25 February 1544/5 Will[ia]m Harison s. Jhon"

"11 April 1545 Will[ia]m Harisson s. Richard"

"4 September 1547 Will[ia]m Harison s. Jhon."

The following is an abstract of the agreement for the marriage of Richard Harrison to Agnes Hornby:—

Articles of agreement between "Will[ia]m Harryson of Newton" husbandman and "John Hornebie th'elder of Newton" husbandman. William Harrison covenants "That Rychard Harryson sonne of the said Will[ia]m" shall, before the feast day of St Michael next ensuing, marry and "take to his wiff Agnes Hornebie doughtor of the said John." John Hornby likewise covenants that Agnes will take Richard as her husband.

In consideration William Harrison is to keep at his own cost Richard and Agnes, and their lawfully begotten children "w[i]th sufficient meate drinke lodging app[ar]ell, & all other necessaries" from immediately after the marriage until the feast day of St. Michael 1609.

William Harrison at his own cost to plough and sow the same area of his tenement as is customary, and reap the corn which is to be carried into the barn.

William Harrison covenants to deliver up to his son Richard, and the said Agnes, on the feast day of St. Michael 1609, the moiety or one half of his tenement in Newton, with one half of "all howses edific[e]s orchards gardins croffts & closes of land thereunto app[er]teynynge," also one half of all such "corne grayne & strowe" which may fortune to grow on the tenement.

After the death of William Harrison all the tenement to fall to Richard & Agnes, and their issue, (Interlined in lighter coloured ink) "the wydowe right of the said ten[emen]te and w[hi]ch shall or may fortune to ffall to Agnes Harrison wiff of the said Will[ia]m onely excepted"

Richard and Agnes to discharge one half of all rents, suits, and services due for the moiety of the tenement.

William Harrison not to marry without licence from Richard & Agnes. Witnesses: "Rob[er]te Myllner, Henrye Silcocke, Anthony Barton."

Date: 27 August 1608.

There is a similar agreement, with varied conditions, between the same parties, and bearing the same date, for the marriage of Robert Hornby, the son of John, to Elizabeth Harrison, the daughter of William. The Kirkham registers show both weddings taking place on 7 October 1608.

It is significant that the documents should be found among the papers of John Hornby of Newton who in 1707, by his will, endowed the charity school there. There is strong circumstantial evidence, but no conclusive proof, that John Hornby, the founder of the school, was descended from the John Hornby, party to the marriage agreements.

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