The Lordship of the MANOR of BLENNERHASSET in early mediaeval times - shown as a Pedigree of the Lords of ALLERDALE, in CUMBRIA

The earliest known references to Blennerhassett as a place name are "Blennerheisata" 1188 & "Blennerheieseta" in 1188

Blennerhassett Family Tree (BHF6_Manor_of_Blennerhassett_MB.xlsx) revised November 2012, copyright © Bill Jehan 1968-2012

MB 01 Thanks to all who have contributed to these pages - please send additions & corrections to email: bjehan@BlennerhassettFamilyTree.com

Lords of the Manors are among the oldest titles in Britain, pre-dating the Norman conquest of England in 1066. A county would contain within its borders many small Manors, each with a Manor House or Hall (often fortified) and surrounding village. Manors were the pivot of the English feudal system and in mediaeval times the "Lord of the Manor" possessed rights & privileges attached not to himself but to the land he held. These included the right to dispense justice through a manorial court. Manors were usually small and held individually, but some prominent men held many manors, using this landholding as a measure of their status.

The Manor of Blennerhassett was in Auckland (Allerdale), the northern part of ancient Cumbria, close to the border with lowland Scotland. Cumbria was then held by the Earl of Northumbria and at the Norman conquest was not yet part of England, so not accounted for in Domesday Book.

In 1072 William the Conqueror took from the Saxon Earl Gospatric (I) his Earldom of Northumbria and exiled him to Scotland, giving all of ancient Cumbria to Ranulf (Ranulph, Radulph, Radulf) de Meschins and all the land of Copeland between the rivers Dutton and Derwent to William Meschins, brother of Ranulf. NOTE: From Gospatric (I) the Cumberland town Aqstria, near Blennerhassett, takes its name.

Gospatric (I) had a son Waldeof or Waldeif (Waldeve in English) who was later to recover most of his ancestral estates in Cumberland & Westmorland, being granted by Ranulf de Meschins the whole of the Barony of Alnerdal (Allerdale) between the rivers Wampool and Derwent, and by William de Meschins, Lord of Copeland, all lands between the rivers Cockler and Derwent. This son Waldeof, became first Lord of Alnerdal below Derwent, which he held of the King by service of manorial court. His son Alan FitzWaldeof, second Lord of Allerdale, was benefactor of the Cistercian Abbey of St.Mary, Holm Cultram, restoring the manor of Blennerhassett, which he held the Manor of Blennerhassett, with Umpaby (then called Uckmanby or Uckmanby), to his brother-in-law Ranulf de Lindsey, on the occasion of Ranulf's marriage to Alan's sister Ethelreda (Octreda, Hectreda, Hectora). Ranulf was from that time styled "Lord of Blennerhassett and Umpaby", and from his family the property passed to the de Mukesasters, who held Blennerhassett for a long time. Ancient Cumbria became the English counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, these reunited in the mid-20th century as the modern English county of Cumbria.

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Lord of the Manor of Blennerhasset in Allerdale, Cumberland, as it passed through different hands

Blennerhassett Name and Origin

Harleain Ms.434 | Register of St.Bees, lib.I 22, lib.II 1 | [Scottish Docs (Chancery) file 9 No.3] | Register of Wetherhal p.386 | [N&B vol.1 p.70] | MB 03

Nicholas Stuteville (d.1218) who held it temp. Richard I (1189-1199); he m.1st Ethelreda (of Bolton) fl. 1154; he was granted Bolton, Bassenthwaite & Eastholm from his brother-in-law Alan FitzWaldeof, as dowry on his marriage to Uctred, son of Fergus, Lord of Galloway; he gave to Odard de Logis the Barony of Wigtown (5 manors) & the manor of West Newton (inc. Allowby), which Odard de Logis then gave to his 4th son Ketel, the father of Adam de Newton (d.1208) who was the first to use the surname Newton [N&B vol.2 p.163] [BROWNE p.4] 

Edith had married 1st to King Edmund II 'Ironside' b.c988/993; d.30.11.1016; was king of England 23.4.1016 - 18.10.1016; and King of Wessex 23.4.1016-30.11.1016; following his death, Cnut became King of all England

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Edith was grand-daughter of Lady Godiva of Mercia

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Gospatric (I) “the Earl” of Scotland
Feudal Lord of the Barony of Alnerdal (Allerdale);
m.2nd “a sister of Edmund” of Dunbar

to whose husband Orme her brother

Robert, Prior of Hexham

Gospatric (V) (of High Ireby)
Baron of Workington d.1200

m. Grace d.1210

Robert FitzOrm

Sir Gilbert de Lancaster

m. Sigrida of Allerdale

dau. of Styr, son of Ulf (MB 02)