

A manufacturing village on the heights betwixt the Tyne and Darwent.

Boldon Book.—Wynlakton and Berley ([fn. 75](#)) are on lease with the demesne and the villan service, and with the farm stock under 15*l.* rent. Besides, the tenants in villenage mow the Lord's meadows (each two day's work with one man), and then receive their corrody, and win and lead the hay one day's work.

The marsh, the meadow, and the wood (*nemus*), are reserved to the Lord. The mill pays five marks and a half.

Under Bishop Bury Winlaton had become the property of the Nevills, for an indenture of retainer betwixt the same Bishop and John Lord Nevill, of Raby, covenants, that Nevill shall hold his manor of Winlaton discharged of twenty marks rent due to the See. In 1368 Ralph Nevill, Chivaler, died seised of the manor, held by twenty marks Exchequer rent ([fn. 76](#)).

Hatfield's Survey states only, "that Lord Nevill holds the vill of Wynlacton by knight's service and 20*l.* rent;" and in Lord Nevill's family the manor continued (through a series of inquisitions which it is needless to repeat or anticipate) till the reign of Elizabeth, when, just before the forfeiture, Charles Earl of Westmoreland (by indenture 19 July, 1569), conveyed his manor of East and West Winlaton ([fn. 77](#)) for 2000*l.* to Richard Hodgson, Humfrey Scrivener, William Selby, and Robert Anderson, merchants, of Newcastle. The purchasers immediately after granted to trustees (Ralph and George Lawson), for the use of Selby and Hodgson, in equal moieties ([fn. 78](#)).

In 1613 William Selby died seised of half the manor, leaving George Selby his son and heir ([fn. 79](#)); which Sir George Selby died in 1625, and left six daughters his coheirs, married to Belasyse, Delaval, Curwen, Conyers, Fenwick, and Delaval. Yet the estate of Winlaton seems to have descended to Sir William Selby (brother and heir male of Sir George), sometime styled of Shortflatt, co. Northumberland; and in 1633 John Hodshon, Esq. and William Fenwick, Gent, had pardon for purchasing without licence the same moiety from Sir William Selbie, Knt. and William Selbie, Esq. ([fn. 80](#)) The alienation was probably on trust, for Sir George Selby, of Whitehouse (created a Baronet 1664), is sometimes stiled of Winlaton. (*See Pedigree of Selby.*) As to Hodgson's share, 8 Aug. 7. Car. 1631, George Hodgson, Gent, acquired *three eighths* of the manor of Sir Robert Hodgson, Knt. ([fn. 81](#)). William Hodgson, Esq. (brother and heir male of Sir Robert) is described of Winlaton 1661 ([fn. 82](#)); his daughter and coheir Alice became the wife of Sir Thomas Tempest, of Stella, whose representatives held a portion of the manor. Yet the Andersons also retained some share of the purchase; for, 14 April, 41 Eliz. 1600 ([fn. 83](#)), Robert Anderson, merchant, acquired *one fourth* of the manor from his father, Robert Anderson, Alderman, of Newcastle.

In 1644 an entry occurs in the Sequestrators' Books, "Letten to George Beadnell, all that *eighth part* of Winlaton Lordshipp, late belonging to Sir John *Mints* ([fn. 84](#)), 75*l.* per ann. 13 Mart."

A plan of the lordship of Winlaton, A. D. 1632, states—Sir William Hodgson's share, one thousand six hundred and one acres, two roods, and thirty-six perches; Sir William Selby, two thousand one hundred and twenty-one acres, three roods, and twenty-eight perches; and Robert Anderson, Esq. five hundred and nineteen acres and thirty-six perches.

The present proprietors of the manor and royalties are Peregrine Edward Townley, Esq. (as representative of Widdrington and Tempest) 36/96 ths; Miss Anne Simpson, 27/96ths; Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Esq. M. P. 24/96ths; the Representatives of the Earl of Strathmore, 7/96ths; the Marquisses of Bute and Hertford, 1/96th; and William Morton Pitt, Esq. M. P. 1/96th.

Winlton, however, is better known from the manufactory established here by Sir Ambrose Crowley, than by the history of any of its ancient proprietors. About 1690 Sir Ambrose fixed on this situation to establish the extensive iron works which still bear his name. He had first sat down at Sunderland, but was induced to remove his colony to Winlton, from the advantages of the situation betwixt the Tyne and Darwent, a cheaper country, and plenty of coal. The establishment extends to Swalwell. "The chief branches carried on at Winlton and Winlton Mill (on the Darwent) are the making and grinding of edge-tools, manufacturing files, and slitting bars of iron into nail-rods. The works at Swalwell are on a greater scale: anchors of the largest size, mooring-chains, pumps and cylinders for steam-engines, all kinds of cast metal utensils, agricultural implements, hoes, spades, shovels, &c. and in short, almost every form of which iron or steel is susceptible, is produced in these works. There is a warehouse of articles for country consumption at Swalwell. The company have also warehouses at Greenwich, and in Thames Street, London [\(fn. 85\)](#). Two vessels of three hundred tons burthen are constantly employed in the carrying trade." [\(fn. 86\)](#)

Sir Ambrose (notwithstanding the ridicule cast on *Sir John Anvil* [\(fn. 87\)](#)) was a worthy, honest, persevering man, with a sound head and good intentions, and he seems to have paid a very laudable degree of attention to the *bonos mores*, as well as to the "creature comforts" of his colony. "After the works were brought to answer the proprietor's view, a code of laws was instituted for the preservation of good order, and a court of arbitrators was held every ten weeks, to determine disputes and appeals. Schools were established at Winlton, Winlton-Mill, and Swalwell, where the workmen's children were taught reading, writing, and accounts. A surgeon also was appointed to attend the whole body. When any workman was ill he had money advanced; when superannuated or disabled he had a weekly maintenance; and at his death his family were provided for." [\(fn. 88\)](#) These charities all ceased in 1816, and the workmen are now on the usual footing of other manufacturers.

A Chapel [\(fn. 89\)](#) was built at Winlton in 1705 (said to be on the foundation of St. Anne's Chapel, destroyed in the rebellion of the Earls 1569), capable of containing three hundred persons, and a stipend was provided for the Minister [\(fn. 90\)](#). The Chapel (which had been previously abandoned by the Company) fell into decay in 1816, and upon the same scite a large School-room was immediately erected by subscription, aided by gifts from the National and Diocesan School Societies, and from Lord Crewes' trustees. The church service is *voluntarily* performed in this school-room (under the Bishop's sanction) by the Rector of Ryton or his Curate whenever other duties leave them disengaged; but there is no settled stipend or establishment at Winlton.

Sir Ambrose's descendants sold all their interest about 17 .. to Millington, whose son, Crawley Millington, is now at the head of the firm.