

*The Story of Dr Cradock: An Ill-Fated Churchman  
Adapted by David Man and taken in part from The Monthly  
Chronicle of North Country Lore and Legend, February 1890.*

**ROUGH DRAFT**

Society in the Northern Counties of England was scandalised during the reign of James the First by serious allegations against a clergyman who held high office in the diocese of Durham. The dignitary whose fame was so roughly handled was John Cradock, D.D. [Abt. 1565 - 1627], and he occupied the exalted position of spiritual chancellor and Vicar-General of the diocese. The narrative is not very pleasant reading, but it is a bit of local history that cannot properly be omitted from any representative collection of North-Country episode and incident.

Surtees ("History of Durham," Vol. iv.) prints a pedigree of the Cradock family, from which it appears that Dr. Cradock was a son of John Cradock, of Newhouses, in Baldersdale. Appointed vicar of Gainford, "the Queen of Durham villages," in 1594, he acquired property in the parish, and erected the mansion house of Gainford Hall, a picturesque roany-gabled building, over the north door of which his name and arms, with the date of erection (1600), may still be seen.



His promotion in the Church was rapid, and his preferments numerous and valuable. Upon the death or removal of Michael Colman, B.A, he obtained the living of Woodhorn, in Northumberland, another rural retreat, combining views of great beauty over both sea and land.

Bishop Neile, in 1619, made him Archdeacon of Northumberland, but this appointment he resigned a few months afterwards to become the bishop's spiritual chancellor and Vicar-General<sup>1</sup>. To heighten his dignity he was collated prebendary<sup>2</sup> of the fifth stall in Durham Cathedral, and made a Justice of the Peace; to increase his emoluments he was presented to the living of Northallerton.

Soon after Dr. Cradock's elevation to the spiritual chancellorship charges of a serious nature began to circulate in the diocese respecting the administration of his office. There were reports against him of extortion and abuse, if not of speculation and fraud.

On the 28th of May, 1621, his conduct, and that of a similar offender, Dr. John Lambe [chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough<sup>3</sup>], were brought before the House of Commons. The proceedings dragged on till May, 1624, when Sir Henry Anderson, one of the members for Newcastle, tendered another petition against him. Under the date of the 22nd of that month [May] the *Journal of the House* contains a portentous report, from which we learn the nature of the offences with which Dr. Cradock was charged. Written in the jerky style which the long-hand chronicler of the proceedings usually adopted, the report reads as follows:—

*Mr. Lenthall<sup>4</sup> reporteth from the Committee for Cradocke. That his [he is] a High Commissioner for Durham, a Justice of Peace, and a Chancellor: Found to be a great Offender in all these: Confoundeth these several Jurisdictions, making the one to help the other. A Sequestration of one Asher's Goods, worth 1,000 pounds which were ordinary there. A Sequestration granted to Two Strangers. They ransacked the House, seized upon divers bags: This was done at the Funeral sermon. The Will being found, and Hawden Executor of it, could not get the will proved. A second Sequestration granted. Cradocke, breaking open the House, as a Justice of Peace, ransacked it: Offered an Oath, ex-officia, to the Executor; and, upon that, asked him what he had done with the Bags of Money. New Sequestrators again appointed, his man Sompner, &c. These eat up all the Provisions of the House: Took Hawden, and sent him to the Gaol, for a Force: Could not be released till 20 Pieces given; and then fined him 50 pounds to the Bishop of Durham. This done out of any Sessions. 6 pound Fees paid. No Act of Sequestration in all this Time made. Thus also did in Rand's case. A forged Excommunication, as Mr.*

*Richardson offereth to swear; Bribes taken as a Justice of Peace; and all the Offences reported in Dr. Lambe. That the Opinion of the Committee led by Lenthall was, that this man (Cradock) deserved greater punishment than Lambe<sup>5</sup>.*

What punishment Dr. Cradock received, if any, is not recorded. Within a week from the presentation of this report Parliament was dissolved, and it did not meet again till the 21st of June, 1625, when Charles I had ascended the throne. The new Parliament had weightier matters to attend to, and, perhaps, they left this business to the ordinary tribunals.

Dr. Cradock's sons, however, kept the scandal alive. Resenting the allegation of Mr. Richardson (afterwards solicitor-general to Bishops Mathew and James) about the forged excommunication, they took a singular method of vindicating their father's reputation. On the 22nd of December, 1625, these youths and others, about nine o'clock at night, went, and kept such a rapping at the doors and lower windows of Mr. Richardson's house in the Bailey, Durham, as "frighted his wife," and "one Rangel going out of the house with a ruler in his hand to see what the matter was, the defendants took his ruler from him, and struck him therewith on the face, to the effusion of his blood," kicked him, spurned him, pursued him, and hit him again, saying that "if he had not enough he should have enough," Etc. For this offence, three of the Cradocks were committed to the Fleet, fined £50 a-piece, and bound to their good behaviour for a year. [No source is given in the original for this incident].

Some two years elapsed when a curious case is reported in the "Acts of the High Commission Court of Durham," and which illustrates the feeling entertained towards Dr. Cradock among his neighbours.

On the 19th January, 1627, as Dr. John Cradock was walking down the middle aisle of Durham Cathedral in his surplice and hood, with Charles Slingsby<sup>6</sup>, Rector of Rothbury, "whilst the Letanye [litany] was solemnly in reading and singing," there appeared before him his old accuser John Richardson; Thomas Gill, a well-known attorney; Mr. Timothy Comyn<sup>7</sup>, under-sheriff of the county; and Matthew Vasie, Richardson's clerk; and then and there "in contemple [contempt] of the place, the person, and the tyme," Gill delivered to the under-sheriff a writ of attachment against

the doctor and demanded his arrest, which the under-sheriff promptly performed. At the same time Vasie served him with "his Majesties writte of subpoena of the highe courte of Starre Chamber, which Dr. Cradocke dewtifullye and quietlye receyved."

[One would think at this point of the story it would continue with Cradock being brought to some account by his accusers but this did not happen. Instead those that had confronted him so impudently inside the cathedral were later placed under arrest and put on trial themselves. How Cradock managed to achieve this remarkable turn around we do not know but the fact is his accusers found themselves having to answer for there actions. Perhaps it was from this that the phrase 'Crafty as a Craddock' originated.]

First Gill was brought before the High Commission in October 1627 to answer for this offence against the Church [i.e. confronting Cradock inside Durham cathedral].

The proceedings were continued till December, when a tragedy occurred in the vicarage of Woodhorn which probably put an end to them. Dr. Cradock died there three days after Christmas, and upon investigation it was found that he had been poisoned. Suspicion fell upon his wife, Margaret, daughter of William Bateman, of Wensleydale, and she was accused of the crime and tried, but was acquitted. This is the last we hear of Dr. Cradock. Hodgson, following Hutchinson, states that he was buried at Woodhorn; Surtees represents him to have been buried at Durham. None of them mentions the erection of any monument to his memory.

Dr. Cradock was the father of a numerous family. Seven sons and three daughters came of the union which ended so dismally. One of the former became Sir Joseph Cradock, Knt., LL.D., Commissary of the Archdeaconry of Richmond; one of the latter, Margaret, married the Rev. John Robson, M.A., Rector of Morpeth, whose election, in 1620, as one of the members for the borough, led to a memorable parliamentary discussion, ending in a declaration that the clergy are ineligible for seats in the House of Commons<sup>8</sup>.

Here follows more details of the case against Gill, Richardson, and others found in:

**THE ACTS OF THE HIGH COMMISSION COURT WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF  
DURHAM.**

PREFACE.

In the Library of the Dean and Chapter of Durham, are contained two volumes, one of Acts, the other of Depositions, as recorded by the actuary of a branch of the celebrated High Commission Court which took cognizance of cases in the Diocese of Durham.

Every case in which the nature of the offence occurs is mentioned in its order of time, and is traced without interruption from its commencement to its termination [in the case brought by Cradock against Gill & Co.].

For economy of space, and facility of reference, each case is commenced by the name of the defendant in capitals, and then follows the nature of the case as briefly given in the margin of the book, and then the proceedings in chronological order, the depositions falling under their respective dates. The originals are clogged with the verbosity necessary to legal exactness, and frequently speak to the same facts and in the same language.

The name and age of every deponent is stated, as of the utmost importance to genealogical enquirers; and while one uniform mode of abridgement has been employed, the orthography, idiom, and order of the original language have been strictly observed. The only omissions are legal technicalities and repetitions, and in making these the general rule has been observed, that a verb without a preceding noun or pronoun is always to be understood as relating to the deponent.

W. HYLTON DYEE LONGSTAFFE.

Gateshead, 31 Dec. 1857.

([http://books.google.com/books?id=GVQJAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=%22Chancellor+Cradocke%22&source=bl&ots=y2CBsg0gsT&sig=EQ58\\_XDsUe02NcOKoC2KsW8eGEY&hl=en&ei=fzUgStWCKYPYzAXRqtirBg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=7#PPA1,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=GVQJAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=%22Chancellor+Cradocke%22&source=bl&ots=y2CBsg0gsT&sig=EQ58_XDsUe02NcOKoC2KsW8eGEY&hl=en&ei=fzUgStWCKYPYzAXRqtirBg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7#PPA1,M1))

**THE CASE AGAINST THOMAS GILL**  
**October to December 1627.**

THOMAS GILL<sup>9</sup> of the Chapelrye of Barton, diocese of Chester, gentleman. 1627. Oct. 5. Charles Slyngisbye<sup>10</sup> bachelor of Divinity, aged threescore and seven. Did repair to the Cathedral Church with Doctor Cradocke in the forenoon, Doctor Cradocke having then upon him his surplice and hood, and walking down the middle alley of the church to adjourn the Consistory Court, as he said, until Divine service should be done.

Thomas Gill being then and their present with John Richardson Esquire, Mr. Timothy Comyn under-sheriff of the county of Durham, and Mathew Vasie a servant to Richardson, the said Gill did deliver a writ or process of attachment to the undersheriff with some money, and thereupon in the time of divine service required the undersheriff to arrest Dr. Cradocke in the said place of the church, unto which Dr. Cradocke then and there submitted. Presently after which deponent did see Mathewe Vasie serve Dr. Cradocke there with his Majesties writ of subpoena forth of the high court of Star Chamber, which Dr. Cradocke then and there dutifully and quietly received.

Which process of attachment and subpoena were so delivered and served whilst the Litany was solemnly in reading and singing. Thinking that the said acts of Gill and Vasie were very irreligious and prophane, and in contempt of the place, the person, and the time of Common Prayer. Both a fortnight before and a fortnight after the said day and time, deponent did sojourn not far from the Cathedral Church, and did as usual, and almost daily, repair to divine service in the Cathedral Church, and in his going or returning from the divine service and sermons had in the church did often repair to Dr. Cradocke's house. During all which time Dr. Cradocke did walk abroad and at no time kept himself private, neither did he ever hear that Dr. Cradocke did at any time endeavor to hinder any process to be served upon him. Is verily persuaded in his conscience that Gill did make choice of the church for his serving the process, at that time of the day where many persons were assembled, of purpose to disgrace Dr. Cradocke then being in his prebendall habit, considering that he might as well have done the same in Dr. Cradocke his coming to or going from the church or in any other place. Hath credibly heard that

Gill is much blamed for using too much liberty of conscience. The premises are very offensive both to Almighty God and to all such as may be induced to commit the like. Is persuaded that Gill will not deny that he is of the jurisdiction of this court.

Char: Slyngisbye. - - Oct. 30. by James Cleasby of the chapelry of Cleasby, par. Set. Johns in Stanwiggs, gent., aged 53. Thinks that Gill does not repair to his own parish church chapel or any other usual place where common prayer or the service of God is used so often as by law he is bound, in regard that he travels to London and other places as well on Sundays and holidays as on other days in the week about his worldly business; neither does he know when Gill received the holy communion at any time. Is verily persuaded in his conscience that Gill makes no great conscience to procure a witness to swear falsely, as if the doing thereof were no sin or forbidden by the law of God; which deponent the rather conceives for that Gill and one Mr. Georg Middleton<sup>11</sup>, before the assizes at York in Lent last, came to deponent and earnestly entreated him to be a witness on the behalf of Mrs. Middleton late deceased, in a cause depending at York before the judges at the said assizes, and entreated deponent to depose effectually to some points for the benefit of Mrs. Middleton's cause, and they would give him 20s. in money, a cloak or a suite of apparel, besides his charges thither and home again. Deponent answered that he would discharge a good conscience touching any thing whereof he should be examined, and so repaired to York and was examined accordingly. After which Gill and Middleton perceiving that deponent had not deposed to certain pointes whereof deponent was ignorant, and could not depose with a good conscience, as that sixteen oxen were left by Mr. Robert Pepper<sup>12</sup> at Cleasby at his death, therefore grew very angry with deponent, wagging their heads at him, saying they little thought that deponent should have deceived them or that he would have made any such scruple in deposing. And thereupon Gill and Middleton detained 5s. part of the 20s. reward, and the suite of apparel or cloak, only for that deponent would not swear what Gill and Middleton would have him untruly depose.

James Cleasbie. Nov. 15. George Hutchinson of Middleton Tyas, yeoman, aged 55. Gill hath of late usually absented himself upon Sundays and holidays from his parish church or chapel, [&c.] partly by reason of some suites depending betwixt Christopher Gill

his father, and Mr. Mathew Rathmell, clerk and curate of the chapel of Barton and partly in regard he travails to London, [&c.] Knows Gill to be an attorney at London and solicitor of many causes within the counties of York and Durham for two years last past, and that he holds it no sin for a witness to depose untruly which purpose he came to deponent at the assizes held at York in Lent last with Mr. Middleton in his company, and gave him a particular in writing of all the manner or demeanes of Cleasby in Richmondshire, and of all the lands belonging thereunto and the yearly rent of every parcel thereof, saying to deponent that deponent well knew the same and what oxen and cattle were depasturing upon the said lands at the death of Mr. Pepper, and did earnestly persuade deponent to swear then and there before the judge that the same was true which he Gill and Middleton had so informed him and he should have good content for his so swearing, albeit deponent did then affirm to Gill and Middleton that he did neither know the true particulars of the lands nor what number of oxen, [&c.] Is persuaded that Gill hath no care of a good conscience in many of his dealings for that after Thomas Waggatt a bailiff of the weapontake of Gilling East in Yorkshire had returned a nihil habet upon a writ of execution awarded at the common law, Gill did alter the return and returned very untruly a devastavit as Waggatt affirmed to deponent. p. me George Hutchinson.

Nov. 22. Mathew Rathmell<sup>13</sup> clerk, curate of Barton, aged 72.

Gill hath not repaired to his parish church chapel, [&c.] so often as by law required in regard, [&c.] He received the Holy Communion at Easter last and at the Easter next before. Upon a Sunday about Michelmas term 1623, deponent having in the forenoon read divine service, Gill came presently unto him in the church, and served deponent with a subpoena forth of the High Chancery, which deponent took and said he would answer the same presently. Thereupon Gill and deponent a Curate of St. Cuthbert's, Barton departed thence homewards. Upon a Sunday or Holiday in the end of July or beginning of August 1626, deponent remembers Gill, being in the chapel of Barton, came to deponent where he was sitting in his pew where he had immediately before ended morning prayer, and told deponent that he had a prohibition forth of the Kings Bench to stay the proceedings in a cause then depending in the ecclesiastical court at Richmond betwixt deponent and Christopher Gill father of the articulate Thomas Gill, in a cause of

subtraction of tythes, and did then and there read the prohibition to deponent in the chapel which deponent thinks Gill did only in contempt of deponent and the function of the ministry and of the chapel. Math. Rathmell.

Dec. 13. Michael Kipling of the city of Durham, yeoman, aged 21 and upwards. Did see Gill in time of divine service the forenoon within the Cathedral church of Durham upon 19 Jan. last, viz., 1627, watch and attend John Cradocke, Doctor of Divinity one of the prebends, with the undersheriff; and in the middle aisle in time of divine service did deliver to the said sheriff an attachment against Dr. Cradocke, with money which deponent conceived to be his fee, upon which Gill said to the sheriff "Here is Doctor Cradocke, the attachment, and your fee; I require you to arrest him," or "do your office," or words to that effect. Whereunto Dr. Cradocke then standing in his surplice and prebendall habit did submit himself, "not willing," as he said, "to make any tumult or uncivil behaviour in the church, especially in time of divine service." Mich: Kiplinge.

And so the case against Gill would have proceeded but for the fact that the man who brought it, John Cradock, died two weeks after this last entry on 28 December 1627. It is said that he was poisoned and his wife stood accused of the crime but at trial she was acquitted. [No source for this has yet been traced]. But one has to wonder who would have benefitted the most by Cradock's sudden demise?

The case brought by parliament against Cradocke and Lambe found its way into popular early Stuart culture of the time (circa 1621) as the following epigram shows:

### **The Fall of Francis Bacon**

[Notes. This neat epigram connects the impeachment of Bacon with a number of other instances of corruption at court. The ironic closing couplet suggests that the movement towards reform will be short-lived.]

#### ***The measled Boare is frank't I tell no fable***

The measled Boare (1) is frankt (2) I tell no fable  
 The Headstrong horse (3) is shut up in the stable  
 The Kings whilome Attorney now condemned (4)  
 And A prime Pen of state his place suspended (5)

Bennet (6) is sick for fear, the Chancellor **Cradocke** (7)  
 And Lambe (8) stink worse than Mackerel or Haddocke  
 Nor place but innocence now keeps me safe  
 The Almanac foretells this storm must clear  
 Or offices will bear no price this year.

**1** The measled Boare: i.e. Bacon (Bacon's crest, worn on his servants' liveries, was of a boar). **2** frank't: shut up in a frank (an enclosure for feeding swine). **3** Headstrong horse: unclear; possibly another reference to Bacon, but more likely a coded reference to another man. **4** The Kings...condemned: Sir Henry Yelverton, Attorney-General from 1617, fell from power in 1620, when he was found guilty in a Star Chamber trial of having passed a charter to the city of London containing unauthorized provisions. **5** A prime ... suspended: possibly a reference to Sir Robert Naunton, Secretary of State, who was reprimanded and threatened with dismissal (though not suspended) early in 1621, for opening negotiations with the French, without the consent of James, for a possible marriage between Charles and Henrietta Maria. **6** Bennet: Sir John Bennet, Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, impeached for a range of corrupt practices in the 1621 Parliament. His case was seen by many as a signal instance of corruption within the judiciary. **7** Chancellor Cradocke: John Cradocke, Chancellor of Durham from 1619. **8** Lambe: John Lambe, an ecclesiastical lawyer who used the full rigour of the law to compel Church conformity in Northamptonshire. In 1621 the mayor and corporation of Northamptonshire presented a petition to parliament complaining about him; however, the king remained supportive, and knighted him in July of the same year.

[Source: Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 7r. Full reference: "Early Stuart Libels: an edition of poetry from manuscript sources." Ed. Alastair Bellany and Andrew McRae. Early Modern Literary Studies Text Series I (2005). <<http://purl.oclc.org/emls/texts/libels/>>]

---

<sup>1</sup> Actually this is not right as John Craddock's official seal as Archdeacon gives the date as 1604. If he resigned the post of Archdeacon in 1619 then he would have held the position for fifteen years and not a few months.

<sup>2</sup> Originally meaning the estate or portion of land from which a stipend is derived to support a canon of a cathedral or collegiate church, or a member of its chapter. The holder of a prebend; (formerly) a canon of a cathedral or collegiate church who obtained income from a prebend. Originally, each canon had a praebenda or share in the funds of the church to which the clergy-house was attached.

---

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Lambe studied at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1587. He then became a lawyer in the diocesan courts of Peterborough, where he displayed strong anti-puritan sympathies. He later became Chancellor of Peterborough Diocese, leading prosecutions against Northamptonshire puritans, found favour with Archbishop Laud, and became Chancellor to Queen Henrietta Maria. At the outbreak of the Civil War many of his verdicts were overturned by Parliament, and he was fined, before fleeing to royalist Oxford. He died on his return to London in 1646.

<sup>4</sup> William Lenthall (1591–9 November 1662), was an English politician of the Civil War period. He served as Speaker of the House of Commons.

<sup>5</sup> For Lambe, upon a Petition from Northampton. - This in hand the last Parliament. He now grown worse than before: Gotten now to be a Commissioner in the Town, by a Junct; whereby he disturbeth the Peace of the Town, The Sub-committee gathered together all the Charge, consisting of Three Heads: 1. Vexation: 2. Extortion: 3. Bribery and Corruption. In the 1. - Kept Two Courts at Two Places, distant one from the other; made the Inhabitants in One Place to come to the other, and excommunicated those, which were mistaken in the Place of coming to him: Made his Brother his Register, himself thereby having the Benefit: Exacteth new Fees: Taketh Conusance of Title of Lands: Enforceth Wills, proved here, to be proved again; Refuseth Wills, ready ingrossed, to be ingrossed, to the double Charge: Taketh of every Widow, Administratrix, 33 s. 4 d. Conventeth for frivolous Business; as, for coming to Church in a foul Band; ill Shoes; half-opening Shops on a Market-day, being an Holiday: Exerciseth the Oath ex officio, frequently : Delayeth Justice in Suits; as, for Repair of Churches, &c. keeping them there, till they spent 20, 30, or 40l. - For his Extortion: - Great, about Probate of Wills, Licences for Marriage, granting Administrations, Granting of Tutorships. - For Bribery : - One **Cradocke** having a Cause depending before [Lambe], would do nothing [about]... it, till he had Money for himself, his Clerks, &c. Taketh much Money for Commutation of Penance; taking Money for it, in Pretence, to pious uses, but, in Truth, to his own. 100 Marks paid by Buswell, for Commutation of Penance ; and 5l. given to his Wife, to buy her a Petticoat. - The Committee thought fit (the Time of our sitting being now so short) that Lambe might be excepted out of the general Pardon, and, at our next Session, be further examined, and be proceeded with. The Consideration thereof referred to the House. Mr. Solicitor; - That, in the general Pardon, Extortions, Briberies, and Corruptions, are excepted; which will reach Lambe, Resolved, To let this rest till the next Session.

<sup>6</sup> Charles Slingsby's great nephew Thomas Slingsby married in 1658 **Dorothy Cradock, the daughter of George Cradock of Caverswall Castle in Stafford.**

<sup>7</sup> He married Margaret Meynell widow of Thomas Meynell and daughter of Sir Henry Cholmley.

<sup>8</sup> He was installed sixth prebend at Durham cathedral on 1 August 1620 having previously been Rector of Morpeth in 1611 and Rector of Whalton Northumberland, 1615 and Chaplain to Charles I. He was returned as one of the members of parliament for Morpeth in the third parliament of James I, but as a clergyman, he was declared incapable of sitting. His will dated 9 April 1645 names his wife Margaret executrix. Robson died seized of lands at "Quasie Hill," Co. Durham. Of his two sons, John and Richard, only John survived him. His son Richard was the first to be baptised in the new font at the Cathedral on 24 March 1621. Richard was educated at the grammar school at Durham and graduated from Cambridge

---

university on October 22, 1638 and admitted at Gray's Inn on 13 June 1640. Richard died in 1644 and was buried at Durham Cathedral on 28 March 1644.

<sup>9</sup> Eldest son of Christopher Gill of Barton, and ancestor of the Gills of that place. See their pedigree, *Surtees' Durham*, iii. 338. He died before his father, and was buried at St. Mary-le-Bow, Durham, as " Mr. Thomas Gyll, vulgo dictus de Barton," 31 Aug., 1631. His son and heir, Thomas, seems to have been a posthumous child, being aged 34 at the Visitation of Dugdale, 6 Sept., 1666.

<sup>10</sup> Seventh son of Francis Slingsby of Scriven, Esq., by Mary daughter of Sir Thomas Percy, and sister of Thomas and Henry Percy, Earls of Northumberland. He was baptised at Knaresbro' 22 Nov., 1561. He was B.D., and on 12 April, 1584, he became rector of Rothbury in Northumberland, which living he held till he died in 1628. He married Eliz. daughter of John Ellis of Barnbro', co. York, and by her had Thomas, abt. 27 and unmarried in 1617; Margaret, the wife of Thomas Basset of York ; and Maria, set. 20 and unmarried in 1617. He was buried at St. Nicholas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In the Hall at Norton Conyers in Richmondshire, there is a portrait of Charles Slingsby in the stiff clerical attire of the period, with his name in the corner.

<sup>11</sup> The sister of Gill married George Middleton of South Shields, gent., and his cousin, John Gill of Haughton-le-Skerne, married a daughter of George Middleton of Silksworth.

<sup>12</sup> Eldest son of Sir Cuthbert Pepper, Attorney-General of the Court of Wards and Liveries. In 1606 his father made him his executor, and left him the residue of his lands and leases in South Cowton, Atley Cowton, Temple Cowton, Ravenswath and Cleasby. He enters his pedigree at the Visitation of Yorkshire in 1612, being then 29. On 12 Nov. 8 Jac., he purchases Farnton Hall in the Bishoprick. On 3 April, 1622, Robert Pepper, being then of Cleasby, Esq., makes his will, by word of mouth. In it he does little more than leave "the money he had received for Farrington (his debts being first paid) and the lease of Cleasby for the better preferment of his younger children." His widow, Margaret, administered to her husband at York on the 10th of May, seq. She was the only child of Robert Wytham of York, a younger son of the house of Cliffe. Their great great grand-daughter, Sarah Pepper, became the wife of John Arden, Esq., of Stockport, the ancestor of the Lords Alvanley.

<sup>13</sup> He made his will on 6 Mar., 1640-1, and was buried, as he desired, in his church on the 28th, his funeral costing £3. 6s. 8d. His inventory contains little of interest. The books were valued at 20s.