

The Strothers of Alnwick, Bilton, and Newton on the Moor, Northumberland.

FOR a long period before, and up to the commencement of the present century, the name of Strother was a familiar one in Alnwick, and it is doubtful if any one family was more numerously represented there and in the neighbourhood, than they were. Propinquity to the old paternal home at Kirknewton, the ancient inheritance of the heads of the family, doubtless caused Alnwick to be considered a desirable place for younger sons, who, having no prospects by inheritance, had to earn a living in business pursuits. To the credit of Alnwick as a commercial town, this opinion seems to have been well founded, as many of them appear to have acquired quite a considerable share of prosperity, and to have increased and multiplied, and even survived the old parent family, whose estates had passed into the hands of strangers at least seventy years before the last Strother migrated from Alnwick, to seek perhaps a wider scope for his energies.

The early connection of the Strothers with Alnwick is shewn by the following abstracts of wills, administrations, etc., at Durham, and other records; and for much information on the subject the writer is indebted to his old antiquarian friend, the late William Dickson of Alnwick, Esq.

A deed, published by Hodgson in his 'History of Northumberland,' shews that as far back as 1350 Alan del Strother,* by his marriage with Constance, daughter of William de Lyam, obtained three messuages in Alnwick as well as the manor of Lyam (ex orig. apud Capheaton).

* This Alan del Strother was son of William del Strother living in 1318, who, according to the Calverley MS. (Brit. Mus.), became of Kirknewton by his marriage with Johanna, daughter of Walter Corbet grandson of Patrick, 5th Earl of Dunbar, by his wife Ada, natural daughter of William the Lion. Hodgson has made a great hash of the Strother Pedigree, and it seems a pity not to correct the confusion he has made amongst the three Alan Strothers. The William above mentioned had sons Henry, who received a grant for his services at the Battle of Durham (French Rolls, 20 Ed. III.), and succeeded to the estates at Kirknewton; two sons of the name of Alan, who in deeds are distinguished as Alan senior and Alan junior. The former of these was Constable of the Castle of Roxburgh, and lived till 1408. The latter, who married Constance de Lyam, was progenitor of the Strothers of Wallington. His Inq. p.m. 1381. John was probably another son, but has not yet been proved so. William, another son, was Mayor of Newcastle several times from 1354. He married Matilda, daughter of Peter Draper, M.P. for Newcastle 1348, by Agnes, daughter of Richard de Emaldon, Mayor of Newcastle in 1376. Joan, apparently the only daughter, married 1st William, second son of William Sire de Coucy (see 'Genealogist'); 2nd, the famous John de Coupland. Alan junior had a son Alan who married Margaret Jadya, and died during the lifetime of his father. Hodgson has made Alan senior father of his brother Alan junior, and given Margaret Jadya to her husband's uncle.