

Richard Machell held three courts at Crackenthorpe, 10 Sept. 1556, 28 Sept. and 18 Nov. 1557, (a Henry Machell being among the tenants,) and outliving his son John,† died in 1577, leaving his Caldbeck estate to his son George.*

On 1 August 1567, a most lengthy document assigns the wardship, custody and marriage of Hugh, son and heir of the deceased John, to Richard Lowther, albeit it was not Richard Machell's to give, but Lord Cumberland's. A letter from Eleanor the mother exhibits the astute lady intent on suspending her signature from anything of which she did not clearly comprehend the purport.† Addressing her "good brother Richemont" from Crackenthorp, 1 August 1567, she writes that he had seen Lord Cumberland's secretary last Wednesday, for her answer to certain demands

As I Remember yf I would take Mr. Lowther pte yours and sett my hand to suche wryttinge as you should devyse and brynge to me for ye recoverye Agayne of my sonne from my Lord of Cumberland to your hands it 'twas very strange to me beyng but a poore woman and helpless without knowledge or any good counsell yt you should Request at my hands Any such thyngs knowyng yt to all effects bouthe wyllynglye and favourablye Rether and before all others I had comytted my said sonne unto you and to yor governans and tussyon upon ye pure part intend and effect of srtayne comands as my father in Law and my frends dyde covenant wth you in wryttings ye observation whereof in any pte prtaynyng unto me be not fullfyllid I shall be redye to do yt at your Request at all tyme and tymes when you shall demande and to sertfye further yt my good wyl and favour is as it was in ye begyngnyng and shall be to yt worshypfull man your Brother Mr. Lowther (and you) trustyng yt ye will be as your promysse was favourable to my said sonne and his inheritance and what Appetaynyth to be done my Lord of Cumberland it was ever

* John left a will (now missing), for an award of 17 Feb. 4 & 5 Ph. & Mary, at Appleby, says "Ricardus Adampson de Hoffe querit de Elionora Machell vidua & aliis executoribus testamenta Johannis M. Gen. defuncti" &c.

† See Appendix for his will.