

Lancelot's brother, Colonel Christopher Machell, (his son the late Rev. Robert Machell writes) "objected strongly to the sale of Crackenthorpe and when he found his elder brother determined to part with this ancient inheritance of his ancestors he wrote to him offering to buy in at least a part of the property, together with the Hall, but there is reason to believe that this letter was never delivered to Lancelot Machell till after the sale. . . . That the departure of the Machell family from Westmorland, was very generally regretted is evidenced by many letters from the gentlemen of that neighbourhood." Among these is a note from Charles, Duke of Norfolk, dated London, April 3rd, 1790, in which his Grace observes, "I presume by the date of your letter that you are removed into Yorkshire; the attachment I feel to ancient inheritance makes me not wonder that the alienation of yours should make your native country unpleasant. I beg to assure you that few of your friends would rejoice more to see you again at Crackenthorpe."

Major Christopher Machell of Beverley, deputy lieutenant for the east riding of Yorkshire, and representative of his family on the death of his brother Lancelot, was born at Asby, in 1747, and after seeing considerable service abroad, in the American war, during which he lost his left arm, settled at Beverley. His son the late Rev. Robert Machell wrote of him, "He was highly endowed with mental and personal qualities of no slight pretension, an admirable draughtsman, a good musician, a skilful botanist, and possessing a wonderful amount of varied and accurate information. In person he was above the ordinary standard being 6 foot 2 inches in height, and built in fair proportion, so that his strength and activity were very great, and even up to the time of his death he never was bowed down by decrepitude, nor did his sight fail him." He died in his 80th year in 1837, leaving by his wife Ann, daughter of Christopher Scott of Aldborough in Holderness, five sons,  
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