

## MILLOM CASTLE

At Millom Castle the speaker was Mr W T McIntire FSA of Milnthorpe, who after pointing out the natural strength of its site upon a rocky eminence formerly surrounded by marshes and further protected on the South by the estuary of the Duddo, proceeded to give an epitome of its history. William le Mischin, Lord of Egremont, granted Millom about the middle of the 12 Century to Godard de Boyvill. The tale of the Horn of Egremont, immortalised by Wordsworth, and of the hatterell or scale of the Huddleston crest was a traditional explanation of this grant. The descendants of Godard, who assumed the name of de Millom, held their lands for some seven generations, but about 1250 failed in the male succession, the heiress, Joan de Boyvill bringing Millom to John de Huddleston, a member of a Yorkshire family who derived their name from that of a Yorkshire village. Thus began the long reign of the Huddlestons at Millom.

## SCOTS INVASION

Nothing was known as to the nature of the original stronghold of the Huddlestons, and it was probably utterly destroyed in the terrible invasion of Furness by Robert Bruce and the Scots in 1322.

During the burst of activity in earth building which followed the accession of Edward III and the restoration of English power in the North, John de Huddleston, fourth lord of Millom, received in 1335 a licence to crenulate or fortify and surround with a ditch his mansion at Millom. To this period probably belong the ruined eastern gatehouse, the great hall to the north west and the range of buildings to the east.

The speaker described these ruined buildings, pointing out with regard to the great hall, certain apparently later alterations. From the levels of its windows, for instance, it would appear that the dias was originally at its eastern end, but what look like the kitchen and butlery doorways with the screens, are now at this end of the hall. The kitchen, moreover, to the east of the hall, has evidently been altered at a later date.

The eastern block, probably added soon after the building of the hall, contains a basement and a storey above with a fine room which must have been at one time "the great chamber" of the castle. There is a curious absence of internal stone collar of suns and older part of the in Millom church. By the marriages of his sons, the lord of Millom had become connected with the Nevill the "kingmaker," and Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. The principal feature of the tower, which consists of a vaulted basement and four storeys above, is the fine room on the second floor, evidently the courtroom of the castle. Over the fireplace of this room is a 17th century achievement showing the Huddlestone arms and the motto "Soli Deo honour et gloria."

## PRISONER FOR DEBT

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In 1622 Ferdinand Hudleston had received a further licence to crenulate his mansion of Millom but seems to have done little more than effect a few alterations and improvements to the great tower.

Lastly Ferdinand Hudleston, 15th Lord of Millom, began to rebuild the Castle, but according to the Buck's engraving published in 1739, cannot have done much more than add an ornamental railing on the Eastern front, rebuild the steps up to the gate house, and construct the fine 17th century pair of gates by which the enclosure is now entered. He dabbled with mining on his estate and got into financial difficulties. The 17th and last lord of Millom was Richard Huddleston, who died in 1718 and was buried in Millom Church.

In 1774, the estate was purchased by the then Earl of Lonsdale and disparted. Mr McIntire mentioned many other relics of the presence of the Huddlestons at Millom, among others the "Hangstone" on the Marsh recording the site of the gallows, where they exercised their Jural Regalia seigneurial rights.

J. McIntire  
9th class here  
Barrow

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