

The story of the Salkelds

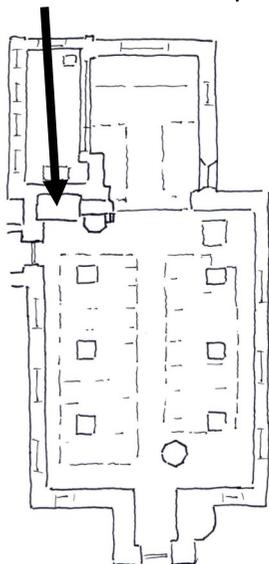
The Salkeld family has a 300 year association with Corby Castle across the River Eden.

The Salkeld tomb in Wetheral Church

The following inscription was formally on the arch over the tomb:

*Here lies Sir Richard Salkeld, that knight,
Who in his land was mickle might;
The captain and keeper of Carlisle was he
And also the Lord of Cozkebye
And now he lies under this stane
He and his lady dame Jane.
The eighteenth day of Februere
This gentle knight was buried here.
I pray you all that this do see
Pray for their souls for charitie
For as they are now - so must we all be.*

The Salkeld effigies are located on the north side of the pulpit.



More information about the Salkelds can be seen on this QR code



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Holy Trinity and St Constantine
The church is part of Eden Churches
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We are also part of Eden Wild Goose which is an initiative of the local churches. Our purpose is to explore different ways of celebrating and enjoying life in all its fullness.

Leaflet 3

The Salkelds of Corby Castle



Sir Richard and Lady Jane

The Salkelds of Corby

In 1323 the Manor of Corby, across the River Eden from the church, was owned by Andrew of Harcla, Earl of Carlisle. He was found guilty of high treason and executed. The Manor was later granted to Richard Salkeld, who was present at Harcla's arrest. Thus began the 300 year association between the Salkelds and Corby, granted as a king's reward for loyalty to the Crown. The Salkelds were Cumberland people of humble origins, owning small properties and farming in the Eden Valley north east of Penrith.

The original Pele Tower dates from the 14th century and for next 200 years the Salkeld family continued to consolidate their position in Cumberland and Westmorland. Sir Richard's son and grandson carried on the tradition of becoming MPs for Westmorland, and other Salkelds held the position of High Sheriff for Cumberland.

The tomb in the church and the loss of Corby

The oldest memorial in Wetheral Church today is the tomb chest bearing the effigies of a later Sir Richard Salkeld (1425-1501) and his wife Lady Jane. The monument is defaced but is notable for being a relic of pre-Reformation times here.

This Sir Richard, 'the wealthiest and most powerful Salkeld', made a good marriage to Jane Vaux, sole heiress of Roland Vaux of Triermain and Catterlen. Sir Richard and Lady Jane had six daughters and no male heirs. Their property was divided in such a way that two of the daughters each inherited half of Corby. However by 1604 one of the two branches holding Corby had become so poor they sold their half to Lord William Howard, then recently arrived in the North to take up residence at Naworth.

The other half of Corby was still owned by Thomas Salkeld (1567-1639). The story of the Salkelds at this point deteriorates into a rather unhappy struggle between two men: Thomas Salkeld and Lord William Howard (1563-1640).

A lawsuit between them dragged on for 20 years. Finally in 1624 Thomas gave in. Originally a wealthy man, he was in debt to the sum of over £2,000. Lord William had quietly held his own. A report at the time stated:

'Forseeing that a continuance of the said suits would bring him so low an ebb in his estate that he should be hardly able to subsist or maintain himself, his wife and children in the degree and quality of gentry, his ancestors having formally borne place and office and been in the county where they lived of equal reputation and estimation with the best of their neighbours, Thomas resolved to make an offer of sale...'

The Salkelds disperse

So the long Salkeld connection with Corby Castle ended on a rather sad note and their immediate descendants were very poor indeed: small farmers and craftsmen living in the villages around Windemere and Kendal in Westmorland.

Thomas Salkeld (1646-1700), cousin of the last Thomas of Corby Castle, began life as an apprentice joiner in Kendal, and was a prominent member of the Quaker Movement. He married the Quaker Ann Haygarth of Dentdale and ended his days farming there. His son William had a good education at the Dent Grammar School and went on to be a schoolmaster and the family fortunes took an upward turn once again.

In the 19th century William's great grandson Francis Salkeld (1781-1866) began a long Salkeld connection with Cheshire. He lived at Runcorn, owned land and property and ran a fleet of canal boats working between Runcorn and the Potteries, then a thriving industrial centre.

A return to Cumberland

One afternoon in June 1983, Mr and Mrs John Howard of Corby Castle received a visit from Mr Joseph Grange Moore and his sister Joan. Mr Grange Moor's mother had been Lillian Salkeld of Runcorn, descendent of the Salkelds mentioned above and the last of her line to bear the name. In his retirement from a career in the chemical industry. Mr Grange Moor spent 14 years tracing his Salkeld ancestry, and during his visit to Corby was delighted to see the last remnants of the old Pele Tower his medieval forebears had built.

Mr Grange Moor's book 'Salkelds through Seven Centuries' was published by a private subscription in 1988. Sadly, the author himself died in December 1987, at the age of 77; but it is pleasant to think that Salkelds and Howards met again in Corby Castle in more recent times, old feuds forgotten.

Please do not assume complete historical accuracy in this locally produced leaflet.

Thoughts for further exploration Reconciliation—old feuds forgotten

'The restoration of peaceful relations'

'To be at peace again'

This is a key theme in the Christian message.
Between each other and ourselves and God.