

Lady Anne Clifford 1590-1676

and her Great Books of Record

The Story of a Proud Northern Lady



Coat of Arms of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland



Coat of Arms of Lady Anne Clifford and her 1st husband Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset

Lady Anne was born at Skipton Castle on 30th January 1590. Her

Russell. George was Queen Elizabeth's Champion of the Tiltyard.

parents were George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, and Margaret

He also took part in many privateering adventures and captained the

Elizabeth Bonaventure against the Spanish Armada in 1588. However

these voyages and his tastes in horse racing, tilting, shooting and the

two sons, Francis, born in 1584, and Robert, born in 1585, but both

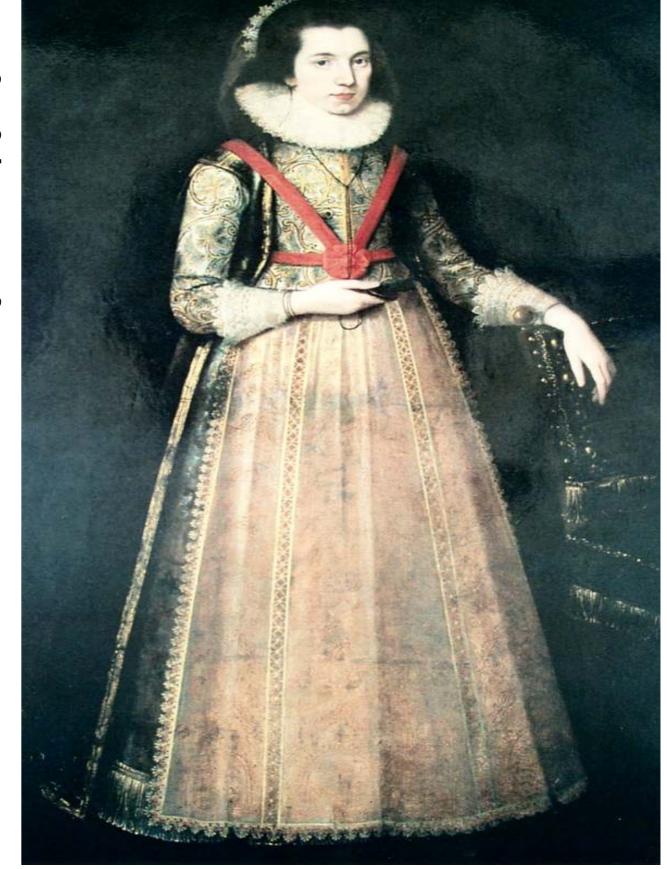
died in infancy, leaving Anne as their sole surviving child.

highlife meant that George Clifford incurred many debts. They also had

Lady Anne Clifford was a significant personality in seventeenth century Westmorland.

Her motto, "Retain your loyalty, preserve your rights", sums up her life, in particular her lifelong dedication to her ancient lineage and the glorification of her family line, her determination to regain her rightful inheritance even in the face of royal opposition, her restoration of the

Clifford castles at Brougham, Brough, Appleby and Pendragon, the rebuilding of churches, and her patronage of artists, craftsmen and writers.



Lady Anne Clifford aged 15. Taken from the Triptich of 1646

When George Clifford died in 1605 he left his Westmorland and Skipton estates to his brother Francis, who became 4th Earl of Cumberland. This was to have a profound effect on the rest of Anne's life. She was to spend the next 38 years fighting for her right to inherit the estates in the face of opposition from her first husband Richard Sackville and from King James I. In the end Anne inherited the Westmorland and Skipton estates on the death of Henry Clifford, 5th Earl of Cumberland in 1643.

Lady Anne Clifford's return to Westmorland and Skipton in 1649 ushered in a remarkable period of intense activity to restore her estates to their former glory. The Castles at Appleby, Brougham, Brough, Pendragon, Skipton and Barden Tower were rebuilt, as were the churches of St Lawrence and St Michael in Appleby, and St Mary in Mallerstang.

Lady Anne founded a hospital at Appleby comprising alms houses for a mother and twelve destitute sisters, a wash house and a chapel. The hospital continues to this day and it is in Appleby that much of Lady Anne Clifford's legacy has endured. Lady Anne's last memorial was to herself, her tomb in St Lawrence Church, Appleby.



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The Great Books of Record



Lady Anne Clifford spent much of her life fighting for her right to inherit her estates in Westmorland and Skipton.

The result of this endeavour was the Great Books of Record, part cartulary of all the documents relating to her family and her estates, many of which no longer survive, part family pedigrees, and part autobiography.

Much of their importance lies in the fact that they are remarkable and pioneering works of scholarship in themselves, tracing the descent of one of England's great landowning families from original sources.

At first sight the third set of volumes look very similar to the sets already held

by Kendal Archive Centre. However closer inspection revealed evidence of a

Lady Anne Clifford than is present in either of the sets held in Kendal. There

are certainly more pages where Lady Anne's unmistakable handwriting can be

annotations were also far more substantial, with some annotations up to 50

found. For example the third volume has about 45 such pages compared to 29

much greater personal involvement in the compilation of these volumes by

in the third Appleby volume and 25 in the third Skipton volume. The

Since the Great Books represented a major undertaking and Lady Anne wanted frequent access to them, three sets of these great volumes were prepared, one each at Appleby and Skipton Castles, and the third for her lawyer Sir Mathew Hale of Lincolns Inn. The Appleby and Skipton sets were deposited with Cumbria Archive Service in in Kendal in the 1960s and 1980s. The third set was to remain in private hands until 2005.

by George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, 1586 to 1595

words long.

List of ships commanded

Examples of Lady Anne's handwriting

Houve the Breafa of the Pladings in the

Corne of Warder- Ender Which o Presting Was

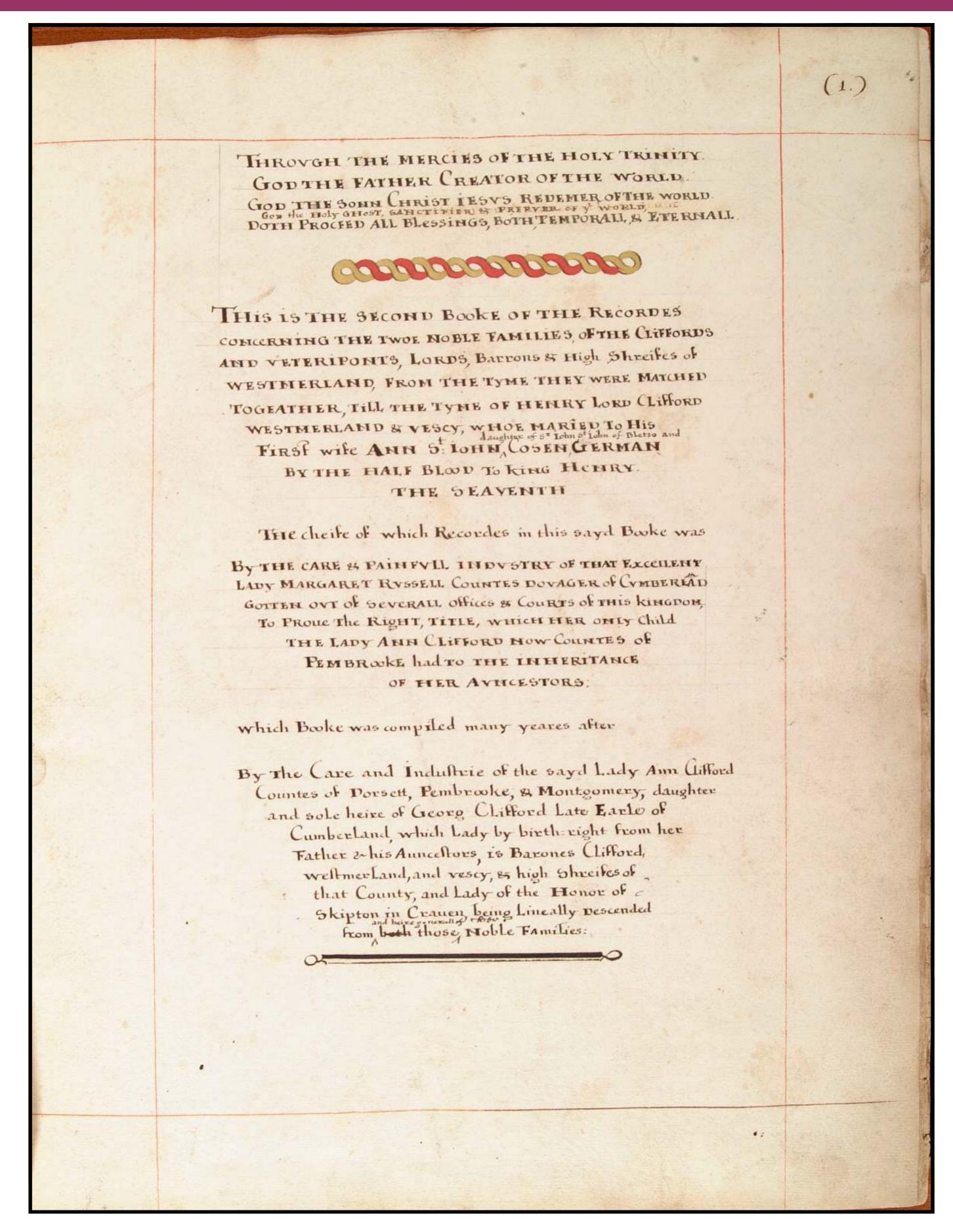
Cumbria Archive Service had a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase the third set of the Great Books of Record. Their acquisition will provide researchers with the first opportunity in over 300 years to compare all three sets and will be of much greater value to scholarship alongside the other two sets.

ED.	The names of the Shipps and Pinnaces with the expre	sse mention
	of their severall Burthens or Tonnadges, and the number	
	appoint to be in enery of the same vizti	
i	Imprimis the Malice Scourge of the Butthenof	Tomes and men
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6	The Consent of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
7	The Properous of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
8	The Gallyon Constance of the Burther of	Tonnes and men
9	The Centurion of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
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12	The Pegasis of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
13	The Frigatt of the Burthen of	Tonnas and men
	The Scowt of the Burthand	Tonnes and men
100	The Gwyana of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
16	The musketa of the Burthen of	Tonnes and men
	The names of the Adventuces in the victualinge and who	it somes of
mes	monie enery of them hath adventured for the Purpose vi	٤:/



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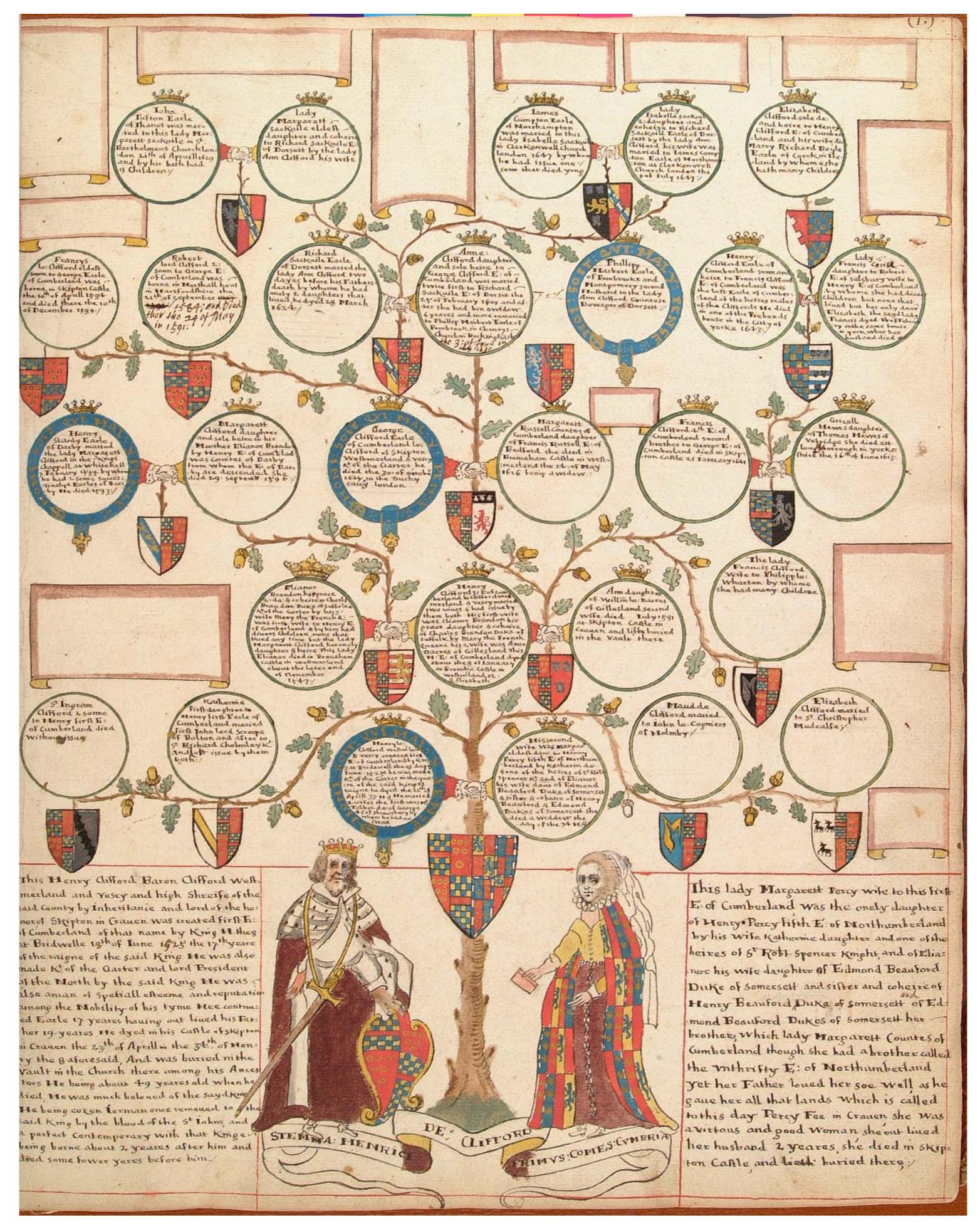
The frontispiece of each of the Great Books states that they are the Books of Record of the Cliffords and Veteriponts compiled "By the care and industrie" of Lady Anne Clifford, who also acknowledges her great debt to her mother, Lady Margaret, Countess of Cumberland.

Each book is devoted to the setting out of all the available historical documents relating to the title holders of each generation, both in the original Latin or Norman French, and in English translation. The records were "gotten out of several offices and courts in this Kingdom" and all correctly sourced in the margins of the text throughout all three volumes.



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The illuminated pedigrees are the most immediately striking aspect of the Great Books, providing splashes of colour at intervals throughout the text, and displaying the Clifford lineage at a glance.

Each book is prefaced with a full page tree tracing the generations covered by that volume. The tree displayed here, is from Book III and shows the descendents of Henry Clifford, who was created the Earl of Cumberland by Henry VIII in 1525, and his wife Lady Margaret Percy, down to Lady Anne herself and her children at the top of the page.



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		2
×		
	Hereditary Shereifo and Baron of Westmerland.	(4-)
	Carta Regis Iohamis, facta	
A total	Roberti de Veteriponte et hedi:	
	suis de Appelby et Bure do	
GA CLAIM IN VIEW	Balliuo sive Vice comitatu.	
	Westmorlandie	
In Castro de	Ionames dei gra Rex Anglie, Dis Hibernie, Dux Norm, Aquit, et.	
Skipton.	Comes Andy, Archiepis, Epis Abbibus, Somittibus, Baxonibus, Justic, Vicecomitibus	
	prepoitis, Ministris, et omibus Balliuis, et fidelibus suis Saltem. Sciatis nos -	
	dedifse, et presenti Carta nea confirmafse, dile et fideli neo Robto de	
	Veteri ponte, Appelby et Burc cum smibus appendicijs suis, et au Balliva,	
	et Redditu, Comitatus Westmerland, et ou servicijs omi mele Tenenciu, de	
	nobis, qui non Tenent p Servicia Militare. Henda et Tenenda de nobis et heredibus	
	nvis, sibi et Reved suis, qui de ipso et axore sibi desponsata exievint, p Servicia	
	quatuor militu y omi servicio, salvis, nobis et heredibus nris, plitis omibus que ad	
	Corona Regia prinent, et salva dignitate Regali, et eo salvo. Quod deus Robtus	The second section of the second seco
	vel sui, vostit neg exilit facere poterunt in Brullys de Ovynefeld, vel in ipin	
	Venari qua diu vixerimus sine Gorpore ipius Robiti Quare Volumus et firmite	
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	predicta, de nobis et hered nris, ot dictu est, in bosco, et plano, in vijs, et semite	
	in pratis, et pascuijs, in Moris et Marifices, in Stagais et Vinaxijs, in aquis et Molandi	pi)
	et m' omitus Locis, et titertatitus suis, et Literis Consuctudinibus sicut predetu.	The state of the s
	est, Teste Bald Comite Albemar witto de Brees, R. de Torneham, Petro de	
	Stock Alano Bafsett Endon de Bello Campo, Coline dico; Dat p manus Huy	
	de Ovett apud Froure Vicesimo Octavo die Octobris Amo regni nei quinto.	
	Thus Englished.	
	The Charter of King John made to Robert de Veteri ponte	
	and his heires of Appleby, and Burgh, and the Baylyshipp	
	ox Shreivalty of Wortmorland, -	
King John of Apleby &	John by the grace of God king of England, Lord of Groland, Duke of Normandy	
thereof to Robert De	And Aquitaine & Earle of Elise, To all Archbishopps, Bishopps, Olbotts, Earles Barons,	
of this often exposed	Judges, Sheriffs Provests Ministers and to all Baylives and show his Longo people sondethe	
Regauching Inheritance of wortmore Land.		

The very first document in Book I sets out the style and layout that is to be followed: a descriptive heading with the full Latin text followed immediately by an English translation ("thus Englished"). Key words are picked out in red ink. The location of the original document is given in the margin ("In Castro de Skipton").

This charter of King John in 1203 was of fundamental importance as it granted Robert de Veteripont and his heirs the towns of Appleby and Brough and the Shrievalty of Westmorland, a right inherited by Lady Anne and her descendents until the death of the last Earl of Thanet in 1849.



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Sumary of the L'ecords concerning Walter de Clifford the first Bord Clifford of Clifford Castle in Hereford stire w. Walter was some of Lichard fitz Juns', who came into England. Awith w. the Conqueror and this walter married Margaret Se Concy.	(165)
of walter Sort Clifford;	
Shis Walter and Clifford of Clifford Castle in Soveford shire Lied in Jung Serry the Seconds tyme as a quares by the Socke of the Songhit fees in the seched of the first spine him had also by the Socie of the Songhit fees in the seched in the Castle of the first spine when and Walter de Clifford is found in thency the feeders tyme, to hold the Castle & Manne of Corsham in the County of Sudope of the Sing. Which Walter de Clifford (as the antient frederees and writeings afforme) Did maying Margaret de Toney Danghier & Henre to Ralph de Toneye and she it was fas the said auntient frederives and Writeings de declared While Brought that astle and the Said auntient frederives and there is an Inheritance to him the said Italie of Clifford from her father. Which Wilter de Clifford had by the said Margaret Silvers Chiloson But the three which are most comarkable in Records, there Which Wilter de Clifford of Clifford Castle of westerd. Which Walter them eldest some who enceeded them in their Landes and known and was vos somes for of Clifford of Clifford Castle of westerd. And the third was the second some and from him are disconded the Clifford of the wife was their to be continued the Clifford of the proparate the Clifford of the shire was their Day was trener marryed but was sufferent in Being beloved of King Henry, the second to hos third was their was sufferent to wooth a Complyance, and so phaled as that by him shee had William Re Long's per Earle of Salishary & other inform By veason schooler shee had William Re Long's per Earle of Salishary & other inform Dy veason schooler, shee became ofterward a Sacrefize to the Brace of the offended to her the three those and twentieth geave of the Same Sing Henery, put a period to her the Which shee effected Cas is supposed) by froyson) Shee was Buryed to her the life.	
In the Church of Godstowe in Excford Shire of a charter made by him It seemes her ffather out lived how as may apeare by a charter made by him Wherein her gives The Mill of Frampton with all the appurtnances (Hivee & quet) of all payements, to the Church of Godstowe aforesaid and to the Xunnes thereoff of all payements, to the Church of him and his wife Margarett de Clifford and his to pay for the Soule health of him and his wife Margarett de Clifford on Margarett and Daughter Rosamond and their predecessors.	
Sour Daughter Rosamond and their appeale of the It alter de Clifford on Margaret Swee finds no Certeintie of the time of the death of the It alter de Clifford on Margaret his wife. But certaine it is her was a great man in his tyme, and was the first that tooke upon him the Surname of Olifford and her founded the firyorie new his Castle of Olifford in the Very ford shire, where it is serie likelie heis body was interved.	

This page from Book I is a good illustration of the summary section that followed the full documentary transcriptions relating to each Veteripont and Clifford title holder.

Here the family of Walter Clifford of Clifford Castle, Herefordshire, is described. He was the first to take the surname Clifford, but it was his daughter Rosamund who achieved greater fame or notoriety as Henry II's mistress, "the unparalleled beauty of her time". The King's "unlimited power was sufficient to work a compliance and so prevailed that by him she had William de Longspee, Earl of Salisbury and other children. ... she afterwards was a sacrifice to the rage of the offended Queen". She is said to have been poisoned in 1176.



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This page from Book III depicts an exceptionally fine example of the Great Seal of England from the time of Elizabeth I.

Representation of seals occur throughout the Great Books and are yet further indication of the degree of authentication which Lady Anne was prepared to invest in her project. The Great Seal was appended to royal charters and letters patent, as here with the Queen's grant to her parents for the foundation of Beamsley Hospital near Skipton in 1593. This, of course, proved the prototype for Lady Anne's own foundation of St Anne's Hospital in Appleby in 1652.



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		(.)
	Who maried the lady Margarett Russell youngest Child to Francis Russell Second Earle of Bedford By his first wife Margarett St John Countosse of Bedford	(81)
mark.	frincly imparted unto me by others and as faithfully as I could collect them comended by me in all humble duty unto	
	. I humbly beseech your Honno to	
	ing simple and sincere good will vader the shadowe of your gratious Gotgon soe as God .	
	and for your most honorable demanity A to self and the Mankfull by all meanes of	
	and for your most honorable demarritts. As knoweth the Almighty and exectiveing God unto whos most grations and blessed prefernation and protecon I humbly and hartily comend your Honorable	
	good lordshipp in my dayly and faithfull prayres, london this twentith of aprill anno Christ -	
	1599 in Christ Church parish:	
	your honorable good lordshipps	
	most humble salutifull Orator	
	Richard Robinson Citizen of london:	
	V7. 1	triel the
	Vt desunt vices tamen est landanda voluntas	A selection of the
	Magnanimi honi conculas The	amendy A
The same of the sa	Oro et Tudicio me tuo Subijcio; Ry: Ro:/	
The same of the same	8	"一连五乘
The state of the s	At a 1 to C III Co	THE STATE
dance.	A true relation of your Honnors first seaven voyages	
	as I gathered them breifely anno Christi 1894	
	It may please your Honnor to understand that in the years of our lord God 1894	of signs party
	after the comeing home of that manly and learned Courteous, Captaine william Middleton (whom	a Nell publish us
	I presented with one of my Teanslations upon certaine Isalmes) was ont only gratified me there:	
	fore but also Voluntarily offered me (if I could or would procure the printing thereof) aswellth	
0	braife Collection of theis scauen Voyages, from the years 1588. Vntill the years 1594 oforeset as	
Spleasure therem; where for	also adeclaracon of of the Eight voyages (then newly accomplished) at large, I granted him	
now crant you Hono! I Leane	Trould not be resolved of your nine Voyages, if it be your Honno's good pleasure see to clos 1:	
· ·	will have acare that they shall come forth with all possible Honno to yo lordshipp and credit	
	to the Severally sett downe:	
To Brafile	Inprimis his honorable lordshipp made his first preparation to the Coast of Brasile with his-	1
1585:/	Imparce of Restraint mode by the Spanish King upon our Spalish Shing some the	
	Imbargo or Restraint made by the Spanish King upon our English Shippy necre the Conste of Spaine Anno predicto 1885:	1
2	In the second voyage his Honno Victualled manned and equipped the Golden lion her ~	
To of further Southward	Maiesties the Shipp Royall wherein he ventured his noble person to the father southward	Harris Contract
15887	and that with noe small percill to his Honnors person with was in the years of o lord 1888 &	and probably destroy
The same place 1790	In the third voyage his lordshipp adventured the second time personally in her Maties	
104 341112 1-1304	Shipp Royall Victory to the southward agine in the yeare 15891/	
To the yours 4	In the fourth his Monnor agains adventured personally the third time in her Maiesties Royal	X TARREST
To the yours	Shipp the Gazland attended upon with his owne Shipp the Sampson aforesaid and other good	
	shipps of landon to if who was in the years of our lord of	
	In the Fifth his Flonnor furnished and sent out to the the greate Tigre ar	
To the	French shipps and the sampson with three other good shipps which was in the years	
	In the Voyage his Honnot adventured his person the fower time in two souteran shipps	
To the	of the Queenes named the lion and the Bonquenture attended upon with his owne Shipp the	
	Sampson aforesaid and other shipp the of his frainds to the which was in the years of our lord;	
7	In the seaventh Voyage his Honorable good lordshipp sent forth to the Indies the Anthony	
	of two hundred and fiftie Tonnes, and the Pilgrime of one hundred Tomes, also arew shipp	
1893	built at Hampton and a linnace which was in the years of our lord one Thousand five hunder	
the said days of	ad minety three	
	Thus	
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		the state of the s

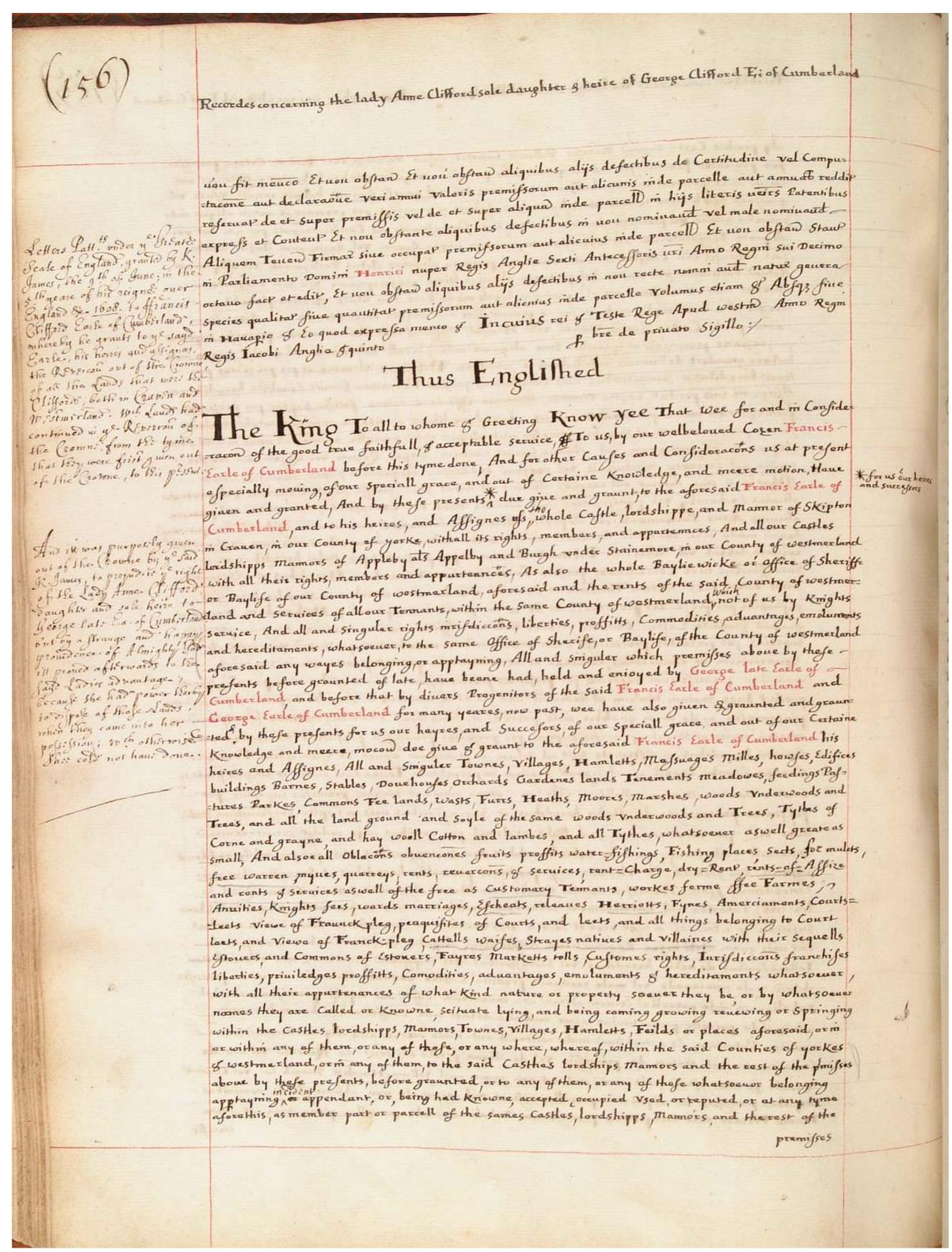
Not all the material in the Great Books relates strictly to setting out the evidence of proving Lady Anne's right and title. Book III in particular, as it moved into the contemporary age, becomes more diffuse, though it still follows the same format as the first two.

The section on Earl George, her father, strays from the highly structured presentation by including many pages on his voyages from Richard Robinson's descriptions (which also survive in a separate volume). This filial tribute ensured that his maritime exploits were not forgotten. This page lists his first seven voyages between 1585 and 1594, the second of which involved him in the Spanish Armada of 1588.



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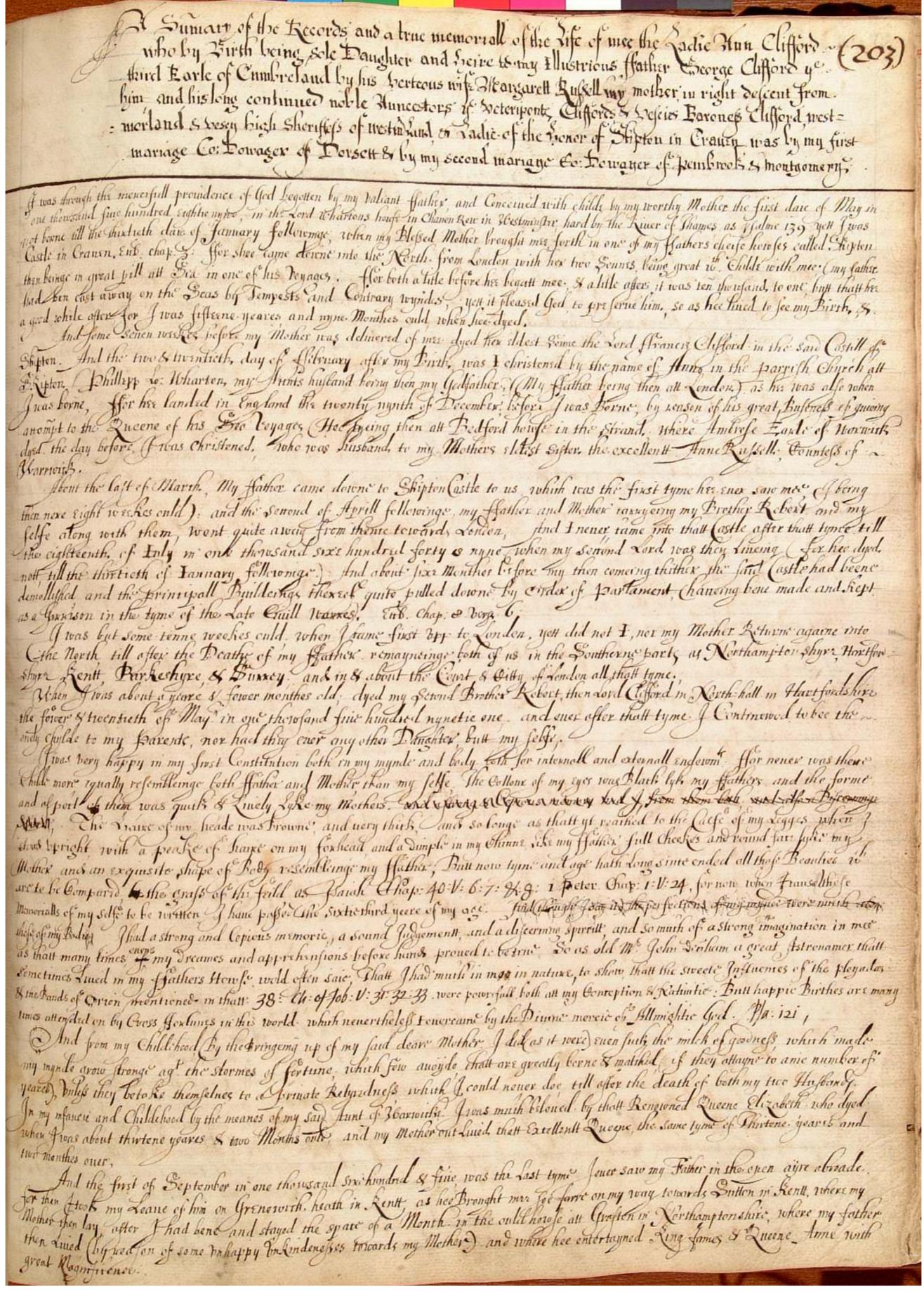
This page from Book III comes from the section dealing with Lady Anne's own records, and concerns one of the many documents involved in the inheritance dispute. The legal process is not easily summarised, but the Fine and Recovery of 1591 which enabled George to bar the entail making Anne the successor to his estates and settle them on his brother Francis, in Fee Simple, was, as he believed invalid since the reversion had never been taken out of the Crown.

James I's Letters Patent of 9th June 1608 granted Francis the reversion out of the Crown of all the Clifford Lands in Craven and Westmorland, including the Shrievalty, and so weakened Lady Anne's position. Only the failure of Francis's heirs in 1643 eventually brought the estates to Lady Anne, when this Grant worked in her favour. She now had the power to dispose of the lands, the entail of which she had argued made her the rightful heir in the first place.



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Book III concludes with "A Summary of the Records and a memorial of the life of Mee the Ladie Ann Clifford...", in effect her autobiography. The first page deals with her early childhood up to the death of her father George Clifford in 1605 and sets the character and tone ("I had a strong and copious memorie, a sound judgement and discerning spirrit") which is sustained throughout. The sections on her mother and other relatives continue the chronology of summaries from Books I and II up to 1650.

However the memorial to her life to 1675 was a contemporary compilation, not a diary, and was written up annually and characterised by Lady Anne's own additions and insertions, leaving her mark in no uncertain manner. This is also one of the earliest known autobiographies by a woman.