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By Llewellyn Frederick William Jewitt, John Charles Cox, John Romilly Allen [Page 207](#).

TOM TINKLER TO HIS COUSIN,¹

Dear Cousin,

- (1.) As I promised in my last to be a correspondent of yours, I have delayed longer than I would have done thinking to get you some news material, and some particulars of what has happened in and about Penrith. As a great many places in this nation had raised numbers of men in arms, the gentlemen of Penrith, to show themselves loyal subjects among the rest, associated and raised about eighty as a guard for the town, and to distinguish themselves, and had been exercising near a fortnight.
- (2.) On the 9th of November, when the rebels appeared before Carlisle, all their intentions were laid aside and as silent as if there had been nothing to do; but, however, as there's bad persons in every place, and for doing all the prejudice they can, some had informed the rebels of everything that had been carried on at Penrith.
- (3.) On the 18th their vanguard, composed of 100 horse and several of them quarter-masters, came to Penrith. The 19th they made a demand of 1,000 sts. of hay and 10 loads of oats each from Lowther Hall, Ednal Hall, Dalemmain Hutton John, Hutton Hall, and Greystoke Castle. They all complied with their demand except Lowther, who would not bring them anything. The 20th the said horse left the town and took up their quarters at Lowther Hall: the same evening Lord George Murray arrived with 600 Highlanders, and as many more lay at Plumton Wall: these marched over Eamont Bridge by six o'clock. The 21st in the evening their prince, as they called him, arrived, and great Lords who had marched on foot from Carlisle at the head of their regiments, who came straggling in all that night. 22nd they halted; several of them put their linen out to wash, and made the same demand as above, and 10 bushel of oats from Langwathby and all the towns as near Penrith, and billets for a great

¹ A copy of this letter was given to me by Mr. John Powley, of Langwathby, to which village the writer belonged; it was written to a cousin in London. The original draft or a contemporary copy (which I have seen) is in the possession of Mr. William Hodgson, of Langwathby, who is descended from the writer. From the absence of date, signature, or address, and the presence of numerous corrections and interlineations, I feel convinced Mr. Hodgson's document is the original draft of the letter. Richard and Thomas Tinkler were in 1745, well-to-do statesmen (yeomen) of Langwathby. The baptism of Thomas, the son of Thomas Tinkler, and Elizabeth, his wife, is entered in the Langwathby register for February the 17th day, 1697-8. Thomas Tinkler, of Edenhall, and Isabel Barrow were married at Langwathby, May 19th, 1734; they had a numerous family, some of whom were baptised at Langwathby and some at Edenhall, which are contiguous parishes always held together, Langwathby being originally a chapel to Edenhall.

number of men likewise. This made everyone think they had been for staying some time, because General Wade was at Hexham. 23rd they all marched out of town; they behaved better than was expected, and most of them left something. Every (one) was cheerful and thought they had got well quit of them: they kept 150 in Carlisle.

(4) 28th, 20 horse of those came and demanded quarters for 2,000 more; the townsmen did not credit this, and resolved to take them; some let them know what designed against them; they mounted and rode out of town in great hurry; they went but to Lowther Hall, and took up their quarters, begun very rude, forced open all the doors. At this Mr. Armitage rode to Penrith for aid. He no sooner made it known, than there was 60 to assist him with 20 guns only. They advanced to Lowther in the best order they could, and at the first fire they drove the rebel guard from the gates. Another party rushed into stables at backside and seized some of them, while the rest fired so briskly at those making for the kitchen and others in the inside that they wounded eight of the rebels; then they called for quarter. In the meanwhile eight had made their escape through the garden (this happened at ten o'clock at night). One man from Penrith shot through thigh, but recovered soon.² As this was the first defeat the rebels had met with, they returned like victors to Penrith that night. This so incensed the rebels at Carlisle that they threatened to burn Penrith and Lowther. Circular letters were sent all the country round desiring assistance in case of an attack; the beacon was to give the signal where a guard was kept. The townsmen began to wear their cockades again, and raised all their force, which was 50. In the meanwhile they carried the prisoners to General Wade, who was then in Yorkshire. At the instance of this he sent them 120 soldiers to their assistance, so they were not afraid of anything from those at Carlisle.³

(5) The 10th of December, news came that the Rebels was retreating back again which put all in a great stickle. Again 14th, express came that a 1,000 were near Shap, all their armed men were called up and soldiers' were resolved to resist; they lined the lane at proper distances between the town and Bridge,⁴ and orders were to be dressed when to begin the attack. The beacon was fired, and several country fellows went to assist, and all the country arose and went on to Penrith Fell. In the morning express arrived signed Duke of Cumberland, that the rebels that were seen night before were only 116 horse, the Pretender was amongst, and the Duke of Perth, Lord George Murray, and others of their chiefs, and supposed to have half-a-million of money with them, desired to take care of them, and for the rest they were all surrounded at Lancaster. At 10 o'clock word came they were at Cliburn, same number as mentioned in the express. This made the country in greater spirits than ever. A great number of horse rode to Udfit (Udford) expecting them there, word came they were going over Eden Bridge;⁵ some crossed the water into Mickleton's, others over our bridge,⁶ horse and foot expecting battle upon our moor.⁷ They met at

² An account of this exploit is in Ray's *History of the Rebellion*. See also a letter from Mr. Nicolson to Dr. Waugh, printed in Mounsey's *Carlisle in 1745* p. 116. Mr. Armytage was the steward at Lowther.

³ I do not recollect these soldiers being mentioned in any other account.

⁴ Eamont Bridge.

⁵ At Temple Sowerby.

⁶ Langwathby Bridge over Eden.

Appleside hill within pistol shot. Thos. Teesdale,⁸ of Ousby, was the first that fired at them, they returned and rode back up the moor by Culgaith, country pursuing through Newbiggin up-moor through Kirkby-thore, still firing when near; Jack Boucher⁹ standing upon what design I cannot tell was desired to keep out of their way; they seized him for a guide; he answered he would go for his horse and accordingly he did. He has been imprisoned since. He conducted through the water, Bolton, Morland, Newby-Mill-flat, up a narrow lane near Reagle, and were pursued so close they were forced to quit two horses with something like large cloak bags on them, some attempted to take them off, but they were heavy. The rebels were no sooner out of the lane then they faced about and sent a shower of shot amongst them, which hurt none, but made the country retreat in confusion coming at so great a disadvantage. Thos. Teesdale was forced to quit his mare of £7 value, which fell into their hands, and (he was) ill put to it to save himself. This gave them time to recover their bags. As soon as the rear of the cavalry came up made a push and shot a horse under a hussar and took him a prisoner, they were put to flight again as far as Orton Scar; then night coming on and horses so much fatigued they were obliged to leave the chase for the day. The Rebels refreshed at Orton two hours, and went quite back to Kendal, where the rest of the army was.

- (6) The 16th, all the bottom of Westmorland was up in arms thinking to (get) this rich prize, but it was a day too late, otherwise they could not have escaped. News came in the morning to Penrith that the whole rebel army was at Shap, this put all in confusion. The soldiers came to Gamelsby that night and scarce a man was left in town. 17th, the rebels entered the town at two o'clock afternoon, threatening to burn it and all the country round, for Sunday Hunting¹⁰ took all horses they could meet, and stripped any one of their shoes, they also forced open all doors that were shut. 18th, they seemed to halt until four o'clock when they all got to arms, our army had been seen by them. Half of them marched over Eamont Bridge and lined all the lanes and hedges about Clifton to Brougham, the rest made for Carlisle. Five o'clock Duke of Cumberland arrived at Clifton with part of the army.

⁷ Langwathby Moor.

⁸ "Thomas, son of Thomas Teasdale and Isabel, baptised Oct. 9, 1748," Ousby Register: the father in this entry is probably the hero of Appleside Hill.

⁹ The name of Boucher does not occur in the Kirkby-thore register, but Bowser does: John Bowser was churchwarden in 1742, and married Margaret Hutton in 1743. In 1741 he executed a conveyance in which his name is spelt Boushar, and Boushur, though he signs John Bowser. He must be the Jack Boucher of the letter: he was father of General Sir Thomas Bowser, commander-in-Chief Madras Army, see Atkinson's "Worthies of Westmorland," vol. ii., p. 229. John Bowser was a substantial yeoman: the family estate was sold by the general.

A local tradition, of which Mr. Jamieson, of Crackenthorpe, informs me, says that four of the Duke of Perth's hussars, who had lost their way, were guided through Belton by one Bowsher, of Drybeck, just as people were going to church. Drybeck is a village 3½ miles S.S.W. of Appleby, where the Bowshers had property, which was sold about 35 years ago.

¹⁰ The 15th, the day of the great chase, was a Sunday.