**HISTORY**

Of

**The United Parishes**

Of

**KIRKANDREWS – ON- EDEN**

**WITH BEAUMONT**

BY THE

REV. T. OWEN STURKEY, M.A.,

RECTOR

WRIGHT, PRINTER, BEVERLEY

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Preface

In writing the History of these Parishes, I have to acknowledge the kindness of the Reverend Canon Ware, Vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, in allowing me to take some ideas out of his excellent “Letter to the Parishioners of Kirkby Lonsdale, concerning the Endowments of their Parish Church.”

I am also indebted for the History to “Hutchinson’s History of Cumberland,” also to “Nicholson and Burn’s History of Cumberland.”

It will be seen that hardly anything is known of Kirkandrews’ Old Church. Had Tamar Irving, who died in 1821, one hundred years old, been asked she might have been able to give some information about the Church, because in 1778 Dorothy Hodgson died, ninety-seven years old, which takes us to 1661; but it is to be feared that when Tamar Irving died, with her died the History of Kirkandrews-upon-Eden Old Church.

T.O.S.

Kirkandrews-upon-Eden

March 19th, 1887.

**History of the Parish of Kirkandrews-on-Eden**

Chapter I.

At the present time there is thought to be great ignorance concerning the History of the Church and the Origin of her Property. So it has been urged upon us lately by our Bishops that Church People ought to be instructed more fully with regard to the historical grounds upon which the Church holds her present position. For this end it has been thought well to give a short History of the Parishes of Kirkandrews-on-Eden with Beaumont.

Before proceeding to give a history of these two individual parishes, there are one or two points which we ought to consider.

How does it come about that there is a Church and a Clergyman in every parish – almost in every village - in England? And how are the Clergy paid? – *Canon Ware*.

“In very ancient times, 1100 or 1200 years ago, when the English nation was being gradually converted to Christianity, there were of course at first no parishes: the clergy worked, as missionaries among heathen tribes may do now, going from place to place, and their only home was with the Bishop who sent them out to their work. But as, one by one, the nobles and great landowners became Christians, they desired to have a resident priest for the benefit of themselves and their dependents. Each one built a Church on his own property, the estate became the parish, and the owner became the patron of the living.” – *Canon Ware*.

This mapping out of England into parishes is said to have been chiefly done under Archbishop Theodore, a Greek of Tarsus, who was the first Archbishop to whom the whole Anglo-Saxon Church submitted.

“Thus the varying size of the parishes is explained. In each the owner gave a piece of land as a site and built a Church, and gave some glebe land for the use of the Priest. The Payment of tithe (i.e. the tenth part of the fruits of the earth and of the produce of the cattle) had been commanded by God in the Old Testament as a religious duty. Leviticus xxvii. 30, &c.”

And thus it passed in very early times into the Christian Church being looked upon as a matter of conscience, which we gather from writers of Saxon times. But it was regarded rather as a religious duty enjoined by the Church, universally acknowledged, and generally observed, than as a law. At all events no state enactment creating it has evert been produced; in fact, there could be none such for there was no Parliament, and no one realm of England to enact it. Long after Christianity had spread throughout England, long after England had been mapped out into dioceses and parishes, and organized into one Church, the bishops and clergy of which met in synods or councils, there was not one united kingdom of England. England was broken up into seven or eight little principalities, each with its own petty King. Far then from the State establishing the Church, it would be much more correct to say that the Church made the State. For it was in a great measure through the influence of the Church, that the enmities of these various tribes were reconciled, and the whole land became gradually welded into the one state and realm of England.”

How are the Clergy paid? By tithes and offerings. It has been said that the Endowments of the Church were given to it by the *State*, if so, can the State refer the Church to the Act of Parliament which gave the tenth of the income of the land-owners in a parish for the preaching of the Gospel therein, and for the maintenance of Divine worship.

“The Church was in this land long before there was any Parliament, and when there were seven or eight kings and queens, so that we may search for ever in the records of Parliament, and we shall not find that the State gave the Endowments to the Church, any more than the State has given all the private property to all the private individuals in the parishes of Kirkandrews and Beaumont.

Tithes were given to the Clergy from the very earliest of times, as we have seen from Leviticus xxvii. 30, &c., and was introduced here probably by S. Augustine. All the chroniclers say that King Ethelwulf, 855, gave “the tenth of the whole kingdom, or the tenth of all his possessions,” to God and the Church for ever.

The fact of the gift of Ethelwulf is undoubted, but what did he give? He could not make a new donation of the tenth of lands and goods, inasmuch as this has been given long before, was probably introduced by S. Augustine, was certainly regulated by Theodore, was accepted as part of the law of the Church by the Council of Chelsea, 787, and had been given by King Offa. Before this, probably, the Church had but little power of enforcing that which was hers by law and custom. Ethelwulf supplied this power. It is said that the King himself was an ordained priest, so that this care for the interests of the clergy would be all the more natural in him. – *Canon Percy*.

It is known that from early times the endowments were the gifts of private individuals. The Law says if a private individual gives land as a site for a Chapel or School, or for any other worthy purpose, his right to it is gone for ever – he cannot re-take it. Is there any reason who Parliament should be held to be exempt from this Law? When Lord of a Manor in early times, built a Church, he endowed it with tithes of the lands in his own occupation or in the occupation of his tenants. *W. Clayton Clayton, M.A., Barrister-at-Law*.

Thus we find that tithes are, as it were, the first charge upon land, and private property, and like ordinary rent.

Moreover, we shall see by and bye that parishes like these two often have had sums of money given, from which the Clergy may draw interest.

There is another statement which I must pot pass over. It is said, “Yes, all that about the original building and endowment of Parish Churches may be true enough; but before the Reformation it was the Roman Catholic Church which was here in England: Henry Vlll, and his Parliament overthrew it, and set up a new Protestant Church in its place.” One answer is given: it is utterly and wholly untrue. This is what really happened: For a long time certain errors and corruptions had been gradually creeping into the Church of England, as elsewhere. At the Reformation the corruptions were swept away, and the usurped power of the Popes was successfully cast off. But no new Church was founded. At the Reformation the Church of England went on as she had done before, with her uninterrupted succession of Bishops and Clergy, with the same faith, the same creeds, even in substance the dame services, which she had from the beginning. There was no new Church founded any more than your house is a new house if you clean and white-wash it. The Church of England then washed her face. There was then at the Reformation no transfer of property from one Church to another. It is quite true that a good deal of the old Church property was plundered, and fell into the hands of the King and the nobles; but no new property was then given. – *Canon Ware.*

In fact some of the property which now belongs to some of the nobles, was once the property of the Church, so that if the Church is plundered again of her income, the incomes of these nobles must go, too.

It is proposed by the Liberation Society that all Churches existing before the year 1818, *i.e.* Beaumont Church, should be vested in a Parochial Board to be elected by the rate-payers, having power to deal with them for the general benefit of the parishioners, and turn them, perhaps, into Concert Rooms, &c., and having power of sale at a fair valuation. What do you of Beaumont think of that? You who are proud of your old Church, built perhaps of the stones from the Roman Wall? How many thousand pounds should you think it fair to pay to the Local Board or the County Board to buy back your own grand old Parish Church, upon which your forefathers spent their money, where your forefathers prayed to their God, and where your forefathers are buried, and upon which we hope soon to spend £600 or £700 more?

It is proposed that the Clergy “should be released from obligation to the State to discharge their present duties, and to be dealt with in the same way as other public officials whose services are no longer required by the State.” Thus I, your Parish Priest, should have a pension, and be at liberty to retire back again to my home in Wales. Then I should not have the many calls upon my purse as I have now. It would to me be a gain. “Here is half or two-thirds of the income of your living; take it away, and live where you like.”

But *you* would be left to find a Clergyman yourselves, and to provide him a house (for the Rectory will be taken, too), and to pay him such salary as you could raise by subscriptions; while the Tithe, and Rent of the Glebe Lands, would still have to be paid, not to the Rector but to the Tax-gatherer. I should be no loser, but you and your children would. Parliament has the power to do it, but would it be just?

This money has been given to God’s service, would it be *right* to apply it to “objects of a secular character?” Might not He say to England, as He said to the Jews of old, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings ye have robbed Me, even this whole Nation.” – Malachi iii. 8-9.

Ponder, you people of Kirkandrews and Beaumont, and try to guard well your ancient rights, which your fathers loved much.

Chapter II.

Having spoken on the Church as a whole in England, our next thoughts must be bent on the individual Parishes, Kirkandrews with Beaumont.

First as regards Kirkandrews-upon-Eden.

It is bounded by the river Eden, and the Parishes of Grinsdale, Burgh, Beaumont, Orton, and S. Mary’s.

The Parish parcel of the barony of Burgh, and there is nothing in the civil state to distinguish it from the rest of that barony.

The Church of this place, as the name imparts, was dedicated to S. Andrew, though there has not been a Church standing for many years. As this Church, like all the Churches in this district, is built on the site of the Roman Wall, it may be supposed that the Church at Kirkandrews was built of the stones of the old wall. These stones, the foundation stones of the old Church, are sometimes found in large clusters when digging graves in the Churchyard, but so far no Inscriptions are to be seen.

At Kirk Steads, about one mile S. of the village, there was anciently a Church, which is said to have served the Parishioners of Kirkandrews, Beaumont, Grinsdale, and Orton, and there is still the appearance of the Churchyard, in which free-stones, curiously carved, and human bones have been frequently dug up.

In ancient times, the inhabitants of the parts were heathens. When they were converted to Christianity, their places of worship were often turned into Churches.

Some years ago, an old Roman Alter, now the property of Mrs Norman, Kirkandrews-on-Eden, was found at Kirksteads, which, taken together from what has been said, might go to prove the existence of an ancient Church at Kirksteads. There is no account how long ago the said Church fell or was taken down, but it must have been very long since, as the Church, built afterwards at Kirkandrews, has disappeared many years ago, the principal part of its dilapidated walls having been removed about 100 years ago for the erection of the old Rectory, and the outbuildings belonging to the present Rectory may be part of those stones taken from the old Church.

The burial ground is still used, and in 1777 the site of the Church was conspicuous.

In ecclesiastical matters, this parish has since 1692 been united with Beaumont.

In Pope Nicholas’s Valor in the year 1291, this Church is not rated, because it did not exceed four marks (£2 13s. 4d.), and the Rector had no other benefice. Also in Edward the Second’s Valor it is not rated. In Henry the Eighth’s taxation, it is rated at £3 11s. 5 1/2d. It was certified to the governors of Queen Anne’s Bounty at £9 9s. 8d.

In 1777, the Living was worth about £70 a year together with Beaumont, part of which arose from land in the parish of Stapleton, purchased in 1740, Queen Anne’s Bounty giving £200, and part of which arose from land at Sedburgh, in Yorkshire, purchased in 1772, with *£200 given by the countess Dowager Gower*, (see ch. I.) and £200 obtained from Queen Anne’s Bounty.

The Rectory appertained to the prioress and convent of Marrig or Maryke, or Meyrick, in the County of York, but the advowsons and right of presentation have passed through many hands, till we find that in 1692, Sir John Lowther, Bart., was the Patron, to which family it still belongs. (See list of Incumbents).

Chapter III

Nature of the Parish, etc., in 1774

*(From “Housman’s Notes.”)*

Extent. – From S.N., two miles; from E. to W., one mile.

Soil and Produce. – The soil is various; near Eden is some excellent holm land, which produces luxuriant crops of wheat, and other grain; and for a considerable distance on the N.E. and W. sides of Kirkandrews the land is good, and crops equally so. Towards the south the land is bare, Moorish, and barren; the soil is a cold, blackish mould, mixed with little white stones and gravel; the produce is light crops of barley, oats, &c. In the south-west corner of the parish is a quantity of coarse, rushy meadow-land. The rest of the parish is a bare and barren common, which constitutes near one-third part thereof.

Sheep and Cattle. – A few sheep are kept upon the common, but it is chiefly stocked with young cattle, though these are neither numerous nor well fed.

Roads. – The roads are from Carlisle to Sandsfield, Burgh, and Bowness.

River. – Is Eden.

Buildings. – Buildings in this parish were originally clay, but most of them have been lately rebuilt with stone and brick in an elegant manner.

Situation and Appearance. – The land to the south is high. The town and its neighbourhood lie low upon the banks of the Ede, and have a pretty appearance. The lands there are fertile, hedges clothed with wood and thorns. The inhabitants ae people of good circumstances.

Antiquities. – The Piets’ Wall ran originally through this parish. The altar, belonging to Mrs. Norman, was found about a mile south of the Wall. It has been cut down and shaped for use as a building stone. What remains of the inscription may be translated – “Lucious Janious Victorinus Coelianus, Imperial Legate, (belonging) to the sixth legion, (styled) the victorious, the dutiful, and the faithful, (erected this altar) on account of achievements prosperously performed beyond the Wall.” – *J. C. Bruce, L.L.D.*

About 118 years ago, on opening a new gravel pit, upon the common, in this parish, a number of urns were found, one of which contained a human skull, which however mouldered away on being exposed to the air. In the rest was mothing but a black substance, supposed to have been ashes.

There are also on the above mentioned common three very distinct circular ditches, of an ancient appearance, close together, of the respective diameters of 5, 6, and 9 yards. The earth which has been taken out, is laid round on the outside of the ditches.

The Old Rectory. – The Old Rectory stood on the site of the present Rectory, only a little further back.

It was a long row of low buildings of clay, improved by the Reverend George Bowness, Rector, a little over a 100 years ago, who was allowed by the Bishop to use the stones that were the ruins of the old Church, and according to “Bishop Nicholson’s Visitation” the Timber belonging to the old Rectory at Beaumont was brought for “ye Improvement of ye Parsonage House here.”

The present Rectory has been built about 36 years, in the time of the Reverend William Benn.

The Old Font, or Mill-Stone. Nobody seems to know very much about the old stone, which is at the Rectory. Until a little over 20 years ago it served as a Font in Beaumont Church, but it must have been cut down to suit the size of the Church. Whether it came out of Beaumont or Kirkandrews Church yard, no one seems to know. R. S. Ferguson, Esq., thinks it has been a Roman Mill-stone and probably came out of the Mile-castle, which is now the Church yard at Kirkandrews.

It is very shallow, and could not possibly have been first intended for a Font. It is in three parts. It is a great pity that no one knows where it came from; it may perhaps have been in Beaumont Church a great number of years.

Pitch Pipe. There is an old pitch pipe belonging to the Parish. It is marked off into Notes. But it is certainly not Concert pitch, some of the oldest inhabitants remember it being used.

In 1855, according to Whelan’s History of Cumberland, p.170, at Kirksteads, there was found “an earthenware vase containing about 1,000 Roman denarii (?) The coins were of bronze (?) and principally of the reign of Constantine and Diocletian.”

There is a School at Kirkandrews, being the only one in the two parishes at this time, in which from 20 to 40 scholars are taught.

Thomas Pattinson of Easton, by will, dated March 16th, 1785, bequeathed the following amongst other legacies out of his personal estates, and appointed the Rector of Bowness, for the time being, together with Mr. John Hodgson, of Easton, and Mr. John Wilson, of Burgh, to be trustees.

“The interest of £50 to be paid annually to the Schoolmasters of the parishes of Beaumont, Kirkandrews-upon-Eden, and Grinsdale, share and share alike if more than one, for teaching the children of those parishes who should not receive relief.

It appears that the above sum now yields £1 18s. 6d., annually. By an order of the Charity Commission, dated 21st February, 1868, the respective Incumbents and Churchwardens of the parishes of Beaumont, Kirkandrews-upon-Eden, and Grinsdale, were appointed to be the local trustees for the administration of the respective shares of the income of the Charity, applicable for the benefit of our within such parishes, and the general trustees of the Charity, (viz., the Rector and Churchwardens of the parish of Bowness) were directed to pay such shares of income to such local trustees to be applied by them in accordance with the trusts of the Founder’s Will.

Wages, &c., in 1774. The usual wages for servants half-yearly are, for a man from £5 to £6, and for a woman from £2 to £2 10s. There was no trade carried on here, except a joiner and a clogger, or clogg-maker. 1794, the wages for husbandry are, from 8d., to 10d., for mowing 1s 2d. per day; a carpenter’s wages 1s 4d., with victuals. The common price of butter about 7d., and cheese 3d., per pound. A stubble goose 1s 8d., a duck 8d., a chicken 6d.

The annual value of land is from 6s., to £1 10., per acre. The poor’s rate is about 10d., per pound per annum. There is no workhouse, no do any of the poor live in the parish, but receive a weekly allowance at their own houses..

The Common is of a bad quality, being a brown heath, and contains about 200 acres. (This was inclosed in 1857, the living of Kirkandrews receiving 4ac. 2r. 7p.) The usual fuel is peat from Rockliff-moss, at three miles distance; the price of the moss being 1/6 per cart-load. Turf from the common; and coals from Tindale and Bolton, which are delivered here at 4/6 and 5/- per cart-load. The usual fuel for ovens is whins or furze. The best land in the parish, viz; the Holm, lying by the side of Eden, is subject to land-floods; but the water, not being rapid, or running with a channel, usually leaves a mud which fertilizes the land. It is frequently covered three or four times a year. The most remarkable inundation in the memory of man, was in November, 1771, at the time of Solway moss breaking out. The greatest since that time was on February 1st 1794. The Holm was inclosed about 94 years ago. Most of the hedges are quicksets, though several are of furze where the ground is of little value. There is very little timber. There is a very fine spring of excellent water near the Church yard, called S. Andrew’s Well, running for the side of a hill with a copious stream, which is not affected by the most intense frost or the longest drought. The land is chiefly arable; very little meadow. The manure consists of dung or lime, the latter brought from Warnell-fell, Rosley, Parson-bridge, &c., at various prices, from 6d. to 9d. a bushel at the kilns. The game are partridges and hares, the latter scarce. In the river are ducks of various kinds, widgeons, cormorants, sea-mews, king-fishers, and various others common to the country. We have also fieldfares, woodcocks, thrushes, and a variety of other birds. The River produces great quantities of excellent salmon (which are taken in draw-nets since the destruction of the stell at Kings-garth), trouts, whitings, smelts, and many other sorts of fish. The salmon is sold at different seasons from 2 ½ d. to 7d. per lb.

Chapter IV

The Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Eden

The Registers of this Parish do not go so far back as those of Beaumont. The Reverend Richard Burn, Junr., Rector of Kirkandrews, copied them from an old book into a new one in the year 1819, as we shall see further on. This old register book, from which Mr. Burn made his copy, is now in the possession of the present Rector. It is very dilapidated, all the pages being separate. It is 1 foot long by 5 ¾ inches across, the cover and pages all of parchment. Most of the writing is very legible. The entries are, of course written in many different hands, very irregular up to 1763, from that date to 1772, December 28th, in an extremely good English round hand. On the first page of Mr. Burn’s book, is the following; “This Book contains true and correct copies of Baptisms, Burials, and Marriages, belonging to the Parish of Kirkandrews-on-Eden, in the County of Cumberland, and Diocese of Carlisle, beginning in the year of our Lord 1746, and correctly copied from an old Register Book completely tattered and torn to pieces, as witness my hand, this First day of January, 1819. Richard Burn, Junr., rector of Kirkandrews and Beaumont.”

The first entry of Baptism in this Parish Register is not till 1723, and the entries are continued up to 1787, when they are continued in another book, which commences in 1763, and some few of the former are to be found in the latter.

This second Book contains the Registers of Baptisms up to 1802, when they are continued in a third Book.

This third Book ends on October, 15th 1812, and the rest are to be found in the Book which is still used. The same may be said with regard to Marriages and Burials. The first Book contains Marriages, Births, and Deaths, all mixed together.

In the second Book, at one end we find Baptisms and Burials, at the other end we find Marriages. The first Marriage in this second Book is dated 21st December, 1758, but some of the entries on this page have been cut out. Other pages have been so badly kept that the writing is fast fading away.

The entries in the third Book are in the same manner. The names in all the Books are the same as in these days, except a few, such as Wilson, Atkinson, Liddal, or Lyddall, Glaister, and Lawson &c.

In the first Book in the Burials no age is given.

The first age in the Burials in the second Book is not until Aug. 8, 1769, that of Jane the wife of Thomas Bone, of Beaumont, aged 65.

The longevity of the people is to be noted in the Register, for instance, Dorothy, wife of William Hodgson, of Beaumont, buried June, 26th, 1778, aged 97. A short time afterwards there is one of 95. Also Tamar Irving, Sept. 16, 1821, 100 years old. A very few young people or people of middle age are registered in the Burials. For example, that of 1769-65, 80, 95, 1 month, 75; and the last one in the second Book, of 1802-67, 69, 73, 52, 79; in 1805 they are – 86, 74, 88, 81, 83.

Perhaps this arises from the quiet peaceful country, and the pure air.

Chapter V.

And now having given a short account of the Registers, we will proceed to give a list of the Incumbents. The list is not so complete for this parish as they are for Beaumont, neither does it go so far back.

In the year 1361, on the resignation of Sir John Palmer, Rector of this Parish Church, the Convent of Marrig, in York, presented Sir John de Bempton, who was thereupon instituted by Bishop Welton. And the former of these Rectors had a certificate from the Bishop of his voluntary resignation and fair demeanor in the diocese of Carlisle, and the latter a dispensation for one year’s absence. Thomas Watson, Rector of Kirkandrews, (died) 1576.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Christopher Lowther | Presented by Queen Elizabeth | 1576 |
| William Whitton | Presented by Bishop Meyr | 1587 |
| George Milliken | Presented by George Rumoney | 1611 |
| Richard Wilson | (died) | 1692 |
| George Hume | Presented by Sir John Lowther | 1692 |
| Gabriel Trant | Presented by Richard Viscount Lowther | 1703 |
| Thomas Lewthwaite | Presented by Richard Viscount Lowther | 1705 |
| George Bowness | Presented by Sir James Lowther | 1762 |
| Richard Burn, Sen., | Presented by Sir James Lowther | 1780 |
| Richard Burn, Junr., | Presented by The Earl of Londsdale | 1815 |
| William Benn, B.A. | Presented by The Earl of Londsdale | 1846 |
| John Brown, B.A. | Presented by The Earl of Londsdale | 1852 |
| Thomas Owen Sturkey M.A. | Presented by The Earl of Londsdale | 1886 |
|  | The following have been the Curates since 1761 |  |
| Thomas Byers 1761 |  John Dimglinson  | 1784 |
| William Shepherd 1772 |  Thomas Lowry | 1789 |
| John Brown \* 1773 |  Robert Robinson | 1840 |
| William Taylor 1778 |  Isaac Dodgson | 1843 |
| Jeremiah Reed 1779 |  John Wallis | 1846 |
| William Mark 1783 |  Joseph Twentyman | 1850 |
|  | Richard Wm. Gleadowe, B.A., 1872 |  |
|  | Joshua Tyson, 1874 |  |
|  | William Minniken, B.A., 1884 |  |
| \*He officiated at the wedding of Sir Walter Scott. |  |  |

This ends the History of Kirkandrews-on-Eden, we shall proceed now with that of Beaumont.

**History of the Parish of Beaumont**

Chapter VI.

Beaumont is a village township and parish situated on the west side of the Eden, 4 miles N.W. of Carlisle.

The town stands upon a fair hill, from whence lieth every way, a good prospect, which gave occasion to the name. It was anciently a manor belonging to the Bruns, lords of Bowness, who were also patrons of the Church; but before the year 1380 it was come into the hands of the Dacres, lords of the barony of Burgh, occupied by customary tenants.

As this Parish has been so long united to that of Kirkandrews a great deal of the history of one, applies to that of the other.

The Church is dedicated to S. Mary, valued in the King’s books at £8 1s. 8d. The clear yearly value, as certified to the governors of Queen Anne’s bounty, £18 1s. 6d. In 1772, it received an augmentation of £200, from the governors of Queen Anne’s bounty in conjunction with £200 given by the Countess Dowager Gower; where with lands were purchased in the parish of Sedbergh, of the present yearly value of £14. In 1692 this small Rectory was presented jointly with Kirkandrews and hath ever since been so held.

In 1747, it was certified that in this Parish there were 34 families; of which, one Quaker and one Presbyterian. The Presbyterian families in this, and all other like places in the borders, are chiefly farmers, that come out of Scotland; who resort, as to their places of worship, to a Presbyterian meeting-house at Carlisle, or else go over on Sundays into their native country of Scotland.

About the year 1680, when the commons in Burgh barony were allotted, divided and inclosed by agreement with the lord of the manor, a portion of land called Priest’s hill, containing about 30 acres, was assigned to Mr. Wilson, then Rector, and to his heirs for ten years after his death. The said Mr. Wilson, when he died, was indebted £20 to Mr. Read, who entered upon the premises for his security. Afterwards Mr. George Hume, Mr. Wilson’s successor, gave bond for the said £20, and had thereupon possession of the said Priest’s Hill. Mr. Hume’s widow keeping possession of the land as her husband’s inheritance, it hath never yet been recovered back to the Church.

In 1365, Thomas de Sourby, Rector, bequeathed £1, to find Candles, in the Church of S. Mary of Beaumont.

Chapter VII

Nature of the Parish &c., in 1794.

Soil and Produce. – The land from Sandhill to Beaumont is (1794) lately improved common, opposite to Rockliff is some fine holm land, of an excellent soil, producing grain, clover and grass.

Situation and Appearance. – The town of Beaumont stands rather high upon the banks of the Eden, and has an agreeable appearance. Towards the sea, the lands look wild and naked.

Fuel. – Coals from Tindale-fell, and Bolton, with some peats.

Agricultures. – Agriculture is here in pretty good perfection, most part of the land-owners occupying their own estates, and people of considerable property. The parishioners are wealthy, but in general great economists, and value themselves much on their riches; but upright in their dealings, and hospitable to strangers. Cattle are here of a large size, being partly of the Lancashire and Westmoreland breed.

Commerce. – Sandsfield is an old Port, where vessels of 60 Tons, could receive and discharge their cargoes, but the water has long ago receded, yet the old warehouse still remains, (1887). The imports were quantities of fir timber, iron, flax, tar, rice and merchant goods; the exports are small, a little wheat, butter, alabaster, &c. In 1721, Thomas Pattinson, John Hicks, and Henry Orme, of the city of Carlisle, procured an Act of Parliament to deepen, cleanse, and more perfectly make navigable, the River Eden from Ellen Foot to Bank End, and to keep the same clean, and at their own proper costs and charges, and for the great expense, attending such an undertaking, they were allowed for thirty-one years, a certain duty upon coals, lime, &c.

Antiquities. Hadrian’s Wall, built about A.D. 120, passes through Beaumont. In crossing the beck, before approaching Beaumont, the fosse of the Wall is well developed. In a wall at Beaumont is the larger part of a somewhat ornamental inscription, commemorating the doings of the fifth cohart of the twentieth legion, which was surnamed the Valerian and Victorious. This stone was found about 50 years ago in the River Eden, by Mr. Thomas Hodgson, brother of the present Mr. John Hodgson, of Beaumont.

In the Church wall, by the gate, is the top of one of the old windows of the Church.

In the Churchyard are some fine fourteenth century sepulchral slabs, one to the memory of a harper, found in 1872, by Mr. James Clark, when digging a grave for the late George Armstrong, of Beaumont, another to a Deacon, as it bears the clasped Book, found about 15 years ago by Mr, James Clark and Mr. John Bulman, when digging a grave.

There is another, lying against the North Wall of the Church, in the Churchyard. I was originally in the North Wall, of the Chancel, half of it projecting from the Wall. It may have been a Credence Table. It has four distinct circles upon the part, which projected from the wall. What these were intended for I have not yet discovered. There are other two stones, parts of the old East Window. And the other stones were found when digging graves, and are, I fancy, stones belonging to the old Roman Wall.

The Parish Church. The Parish Church is dedicated to S. Mary the Virgin. At Beaumont there is a Well, called after S. Ann, who was the mother of the Virgin Mary. The Church occupies the site of one of the mile castles on the Roman Wall, which was afterwards made into a Saxon or Danish Camp; it is of Norman origin, and built of Roman materials, perhaps out of the stones from the old Roman Wall.

The East end was restored in 1872, when fragments of an older East Window was discovered. Bishop Nicholson, in his Visitation, says “The East Window in ye Quire wonts Glass. The Parishioners desire that hose of Kirkandrews may contribute to ye repair of this Church, since they have none of their own, and come constantly hither.”

It is thought, that the Church has been wider at one time than it is now. This is a disputed point, and it is very difficult to determine whether it has been so or not. A few years ago, on breaking through the North wall to make the present windows, it was thought that the wall had not the appearance of being an old one as that on the South. The present rafters, they say, in the roof show, by the holes and marks, that they must have been on a wider Church, this will be looked into, when the Church is restored. Again, new walls are never built so thick as old ones, yet this North wall is about the same thickness as that on the South. The windows in the East wall are not in the centre, therefore, it is said, that when the North wall was re-built, it was put more towards the North than it ought to be. This may, or may not be so. If the windows were ever in the centre of the East wall, the middle window (for there are only three) would now be under the apex, but it is far from being so. There is another argument which tends to show that the windows in the East wall have never been in the centre. In early times, the Architects of Churches often placed that part of the Church more towards the North, representing our Blessed Lord hanging on the Cross, with His Head inclined to the right. This seems more likely, when we consider the opinion of Bp. Nicholson, that the Church (like Kirkandrews and Grins-dale.) was originally a small Oratory, supplied by the Religious of Carlisle. The question may be settled when the Church is restored, because the new Vestry will be built on the North side, and it may be possible to come across the old foundation of the original North wall, if there ever was one.

Mr. James Clark, of Beaumont, was told by Mr. Robert Hodgson that he, Mr. Hodgson, remembered the present seats being put into the Church in the year 1784, before that they were mere benches without backs.

The Piscina. – The Piscina in Beaumont Church was made and put in by Mr. David Brown in the year 1872. It is not a copy of the old one, which was of a semi-hexagonal shape, very plain, and shallow. The design was taken from a picture of a 14th century Piscina, figured in a book called “Old England.” The old one was very badly damaged and broken. It was placed outside the Church, but has since been lost.

The Old Rectory. – Bishop Nicholson, in 1703, says that the Rectory is a pitiful Clay-House, but the walls were then laid flat, and the Timber a Nuisance in the Church; this seems to show that it must have been very near the Church, and probably in the Churchyard. The Timber was brought for the improvement of the Parsonage-House at Kirkandrews. Where is this place now? It must have been a small place, as Bishop Nicholson says, “should it be re-built, there is no room for a Garden, nor, indeed, so much as “for a Stable or Hog-stye.”

I copy the following from the Parish Terrier of 1828, “First one houstead, or a parcel of Ground to build a House apon, situate at Beaumont, intermixed with the ground belonging to Geo. Henry Hewitt, Esqre.” This land can hardly have been on the right-hand side of the Church, because that land belonged to the Reverend John Hodgson, and the land on the left-hand side belonged to Geo. Henry Hewitt, Esq, so I fancy it must be on the left-hand side, but the question is, where is it? Surely some of the old people ought to know something about it, because there must be many in the Parish who were born before the year 1828.

This Terrier also states that there is a Chest with three locks and keys belonging to the Church; what has become of it? There is a very small iron safe at the Rectory at Kirkandrews, but this has only one lock and key.

The Beaumont Hoard. Mr. R. S. Ferguson says, that in 1884, two labourers, while engaged in cutting a main drain through a field, came upon a stone, about nine inches below the surface of the ground, and below this they found a mass of silver coins. These coins consisted in all of 2,000 pieces. One piece was a penny of Henry III., the rest belonged to the first three Edwards. Mr. R. S. Ferguson also says that between 1819 and 1823, in cutting the canal of Carlisle to the Solway, a hoard of Roman coins was found. Also that about forty years ago, a hoard of silver coins was found at Sandsfield, they were pennies of the first three Edwards. I should have thought that the Lord of the Manor would have had a claim on these coins.

Chapter VIII.

The Registers of Beaumont. There is little more to be said of these, than what has been said of the Registers of Kirkandrews, as they are written in the same books, only they commence a little earlier. The oldest entries were copied by the Reverend Richard Burn, Junr., into another book. From that new book, I quote the following:- “This Book contains true and correct copies of Baptisms, Burials, and Marriages belonging to the Parish of Beaumont in the County of Cumberland, and Diocese of Carlisle, beginning in the year of our Lord, 1692, and correctly copied from a very old Register Book completely tattered and torn to pieces, as Witness my hand this first day of January 1819, Richard Burn, ;Junr., Rector of Beaumont and Kirkandrews.” This old Register contains separate leaves, except one which is double. This double leaf, Mr. Burn received from Mr. John Hodgson, of Beaumont, November 7th 1825, found among his father’s papers. I find Mr. Burn has omitted to copy one page of this into his book, and this page contains the earliest entries. The first is that of Isabella Liddell, daughter of John Liddell, Baptized October, 28th, 1679. Nearly half of this page contains the Baptisms of the Liddells, written in an extremely good hand. The second Burial of 1703 is that of George Hume, Rector of Beemond. Bishop Nicholson, writing of Kirkandrews Churchyard, says “The late Rector (Mr. Hume) lyes bury’d sub Dio in ye Quire.” This is that Mr. Hume who gave Bond for the £20, which Mr. Wilson, a former Rector, was indebted to Mr. Reed, and had there upon possession of Priest’s Hill Farm. No more need be said of these Registers, as the Registers of Beaumont and Kirkandrews are contained in the same Books, till the year 1813, since that date, separate Books have been kept for each Parish. For a further account of these Registers, see Chapter IV.

Chapter IX.

The following have been the Rectors of Beaumont:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rector | Patron | Year of Institu-tion |
| Sir Elias de Thirlwall | Robert de la Feritate | 1296 |
| Adam | Sir Richard le Brun |  |
| Walter de Arthuret | Do | 1336 |
| William Browne | (Died) | 1339 |
| Richard Browne | Matilda Brun, lady of Beaumont | 1339 |
| Thomas de Sourby |  | 1365 |
| Adam de Caldbeck | (Died) | 1366 |
| Walter de Ormesheved | Trustees | 1366 |
| Robert Croft | Sir Hugh de Dacre, Lord of Gilsland | 1380 |
| Robert Chapman was Rector of | Beaumont in the year | 1490 |
| Thomas Thompson, deprived for | Refusing the oath of supremacy | 1560 |
| Henry Haselhead | Sir William Dacre | 1562 |
| Sir Lancelot Wilson | Philip Earl of Arundel | 1581 |
| Edward Johnston | Resigned | 1611 |
| Thomas Thompson | Anne, Countess Dowager of Arundel | 1611 |
| Sir John Wilson | Do | 1615 |
| Thomas Robinson | Do | 1616 |
| Thomas Warwick | A Citizen of London for this turn | 1625 |
| Andrew Smith | Thomas, Earl of Arundel & Surry, Earl Marshall of England | 1634 |
| Patricus Hume | Countess of Arundel and Surry | 1663 |
| Richard Wilson (1) | Died | 1692 |
| George Hume (2) | Sir John Lowther, Bart | 1692 |
| Gabriel Trant (3) | Richard Viscount Lonsdale | 1703 |
| Thomas Lewthwaite (4) | Do | 1705 |
| George Bowness | Sir James Lowther, Bart | 1762 |
| Richard Burn, senr. | Do | 1780 |
| Richard Burn, junr. | Earl of Lonsdale | 1815 |
| William Benn, B.A. | Do | 1846 |
| John Brown B.A. (5) | Do | 1852 |
| Thomas Owen Sturkey M.A. (6) | Do | 1886 |

*(The following information was handwritten)*

Vicars of Grinsdale

Joseph Chapelhow D.D. 1897

John Alfred Kitchin 1914

Reginald Samuel Edward Oliver 1926

1. Richard Wilson was the first Rector of Kirkandrews with Beaumont. He died, owing Mr. Reed £20, for which Mr. Reed entered upon Priest’s Hill as his security. The next Rector, Mr. Hume, gave bond for the £20, and it has never since belonged to the Living.
2. He lies buried in the Choir of Kirkandrews Churchyard.
3. He was a Frenchman, and one of the Masters at Lowther School.
4. He was Rector of these Parishes for 57 years, his wife died only four years before him, at their deaths they had a son 56 years old.
5. Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A., 1828. Curate of Bowness, 1828-51.
6. Pembroke College, Cambridge, B.A., 1881, M.A., 1885. Curate of Barton 1882-85. Curate of S. Mary’s, Carlisle, 1885-86.

For the list of Curates see Chapter V.

Chapter X.

The Terriers belonging to this Parish, copies of which are at the Rectory, are dated 1749, 1777, 1828, and 1881. Some years ago, the Tithe was allowed to drop into disuse, although the Terriers fixed the Old Tithe on beasts, &c., so there was an Act of Parliament passed which fixed the Tithe as at present. It is to be noted that Parliament did not give a *new* thing, but merely insisted on an old one. The Act simplified the way of paying Tithe. This Act was passed 14th June, 1827, and in I think, 1836, a similar Act was passed for the whole of England.

I intended stating what these two livings are worth, but the Tithe has been allowed to fall into much disorder, that it is impossible to state the amount. I fancy after deducting Rates, &c., it is about £210. We thus come to the end, so far as it is known, of the History of the Parishes of Kirkandrews-on-Eden with Beaumont. When we restore the Church at Beaumont, something of interest may come to light, if so, it shall be treasured up, and will be published in the Parish Magazine.

It is hoped that they who read this history, will be as much interested, as he has been, who has written it.

FINIS.