

ART. XXV.—*Notes on the Parish Registers of Crosby-on-Eden.* By T. HESKETH HODGSON.

Communicated at Kir by Stephen, July 7, 1887.

IN the note of his visit to Crosby on 6th Oct. 1703, Bishop Nicolson observes that “the Register book (if it may be called so) is most scandalous, being loose, in paper, and of no age.” This seems to have stimulated the parishioners to an attempt to amend matters, for in the oldest book now existing the following memorandum appears at the head of the second page (first of entries):

This Rigister Booke was bought at Carlisle ye second day of May in ye yeare of our Lord God 1704 at ye cost of ye p.ish of Crosby. By Chrofer Wannop, Roger Linton, John Teasdaile and John Dalton Allyson Johnes Clk Churchwardens ye price was Six shillings and Threepence

by me Henry Pearson.

Henry Pearson as appears from Bishop Nicolson’s notes was then schoolmaster.

The book is a folio of foolscap size, of leaves of parchment, bound in vellum, much the worse for damp and neglect. The ink is often much faded, which with the stained and greasy state of many of the leaves makes the entries often difficult to decypher. Nearly three pages have been transcribed by Pearson, who writes a somewhat formal though sufficiently legible court hand with frequent abbreviations, from an older book which is not now existing. He appears to have taken his own birth as the period from which to begin his transcription, the first entry being:

Sept. ye 24th 1649.	Henricus Pearson fillius Jacobi baptizatus erat vice- simo quarto die mensis Septembris Anno Dom. 1649 Scriptu manu mea.
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The

The next entry is :

June ye 26 1650.	Rowlandus fillius Rowlandi Nicholson baptizatus erat vicesimo sexto die Mensis Junii Anno Dom. 1650.
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The Nicholsons were a family of yeomen of some consequence in the parish. Entries relating to them are of frequent occurrence. Rowland is a common name with them, in fact it appears to have been a popular name in the parish. They were considerable landholders, and their descendants still hold the small estates of Holm End and Batt House. It is a tradition that they were descended from or related to Bishop Nicolson, and that Crosby, or rather Linstock being an episcopal manor they got beneficial leases of Church land from him. But the above entry shews that they were established in the parish at least 50 years before Bishop Nicolson's episcopate. The Nicholsons of Holm End were till quite recently lessees of the tithes, and they still retain possession of the site of the old tithe barn in Crosby Holm, on which they have built a cottage.

These entries are a fair specimen of those in this book, which are for the most part strictly confined to the business of the register. The transcript made by Pearson goes on, with an occasional lapse into English, to 1704, when original entries begin. These appear to have been made by Pearson for the most part, if not altogether, and he continued to make them till 1723, his last entry being as under :

Nov. ye 29th day.	Rogerius fillius Johannis Bell baptizatus erat vice- simo nono die Novembris at Wetherhill and grand- child to me Henry Pearson Anno Dom. 1723. Scripta per me.
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Henricii Pearson.

His hand has become very feeble and shaky, very different from the firm neat hand in which the transcript is made.

On

On the same page as and above the entry given above is the following, in Pearson's writing :

Cumb. &c. At the Generall Quarter Sessions holden at Carlisle the 24th day of July in ye thirteenth year of ye reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne Queen of Great Britain & Anno Dom. 1714. Before John Aglionby, William Osborn (?) John Briscoe and others of Her Maj^{ties} Justices of the Peace &c.

Whereas the Churchwardens and Overseers of ye Poor for ye p^{ish} of Crosby ypon Eden made their complaint to the Worshipful John Aglionby and Richard Goodman Esq^{rs} two of Her Maj^{ties} Justices of the Peace for this county whereof one of ye corum (*sic*) That Ales Pickson wife of Thomas Pickson came lately to live in the said p^{ish} of Crosby not having gained a legall settlement there according to the Laws in that case made and provided nor produced a certificate to them owning her to be settled elsewhere And that the said Mrs. Pickson is likely to become chargeable to ye said p^{ish} of Crosby whereupon examination thereof they the said Justices did adudge the same to be true and the last place of her settlement was in Brampton p^{ish} in this County They ye said Justices by Warrant under their hands and seals dated the third day of April Anno Dom. 1714 did require the said Churchwardens of the p^{ish} of Crosby to convey the said Ales Pickson from Crosby to the said p^{ish} of Brampton thereby also requiring the Churchwardens and Overseers of ye p^{ish} of Brampton to receive her as an inhabitant there by virtue of which order the said Churchwardens and Overseers of Crosby did convey the said Ales Pickson to ye Churchwardens of Brampton aforesaid and the said Churchwardens of Brampton thinking themselves grievously oppressed by the said order appealed to this Quarter Sessions from the said order whereupon reading the said order and upon hearing Counsel on the side of the Churchwardens of Crosby and noo defence being made by the Churchwardens of Brampton notwithstanding due notice given to them This Court doth adudge the order soo made by the said Justices to be confirmed and it is hereby confirmed. Dated the day and year abovesaid.

Hugo Simpson.
Ch. Dacre.

It would seem that the parishioners of Crosby desired to place on record their triumph over their neighbours of Brampton.

Towards

Towards the end of the book occurs another entry of some interest, also in Pearson's handwriting. The page is filled up with entries in the writing of the Rev. H. Shaw, who became vicar in 1758, as appears from a somewhat curious entry which will be quoted presently. The entry mentioned above is as follows :

The Comon of Pasture for ye Barrony and Manor of Linstock was concluded and agreed upon and cast into Townships and afterwards divided into Tenants Shares each alike apportionably. By Mr. Richard Aglesfield of ye city of Carlisle in ye yeare of our Lord God 1690 & 1691 And every one got his share where his lott fell. And written by me

Henry Pearson.

It would appear that the tenants were able to agree among themselves on a division without an Inclosure Act. At any rate it is believed that no award exists.

Pearson's entries are made without any attempt at classification; baptisms, marriages, and burials, being entered as they occur. There appears no entry of his burial, but his writing appears to cease in 1723, and the entries are continued in a large straggling hand of somewhat the same character, still in the order of their occurrence. Probably it is the writing of the then vicar, Mr. Fenton, as it ceases just before the appointment of Mr. Gibson, who has entered his appointment thus :

Gulielmus Gibson Vicarius de Crosby super Eden Vicesimo Septimo die Quintilis 1730.

Mr. Gibson separates the entries, but he rarely or never made them himself; they are in a variety of hands, mostly very bad. They are usually signed by Mr. Gibson at the end of each year. He, however, seems always to have himself noted the date of the Bishop's or Chancellor's Visitations—which, it may be remarked, are very carefully noted all through the books.

Mr.

Mr. Gibson was succeeded in 1758 by the Rev. H. Shaw, who made the following rather curious entry on the first (a blank) page of the register.

Dr. Richard Osbaldeston late Bishop of Carlisle and now Bishop of London gave y^e vicarage of Crosby on Eden to Hen. Shaw lt. of Folkton near Scarbrough in Yorkshire on New Years Day 1758. The said Hen. Shaw came to reside at y^e vicarage on May y^e 10th following and could have no dilapidations for want of effects issuing from the late Vicar the Rev. Mr. William Gibson.

Mr. Shaw appears to have been a careful and accurate man; his entries are made in a neat somewhat formal hand. They are classified, but he has not shewn much judgment in the space assigned to each class, as a foot note "Cont^d 3 pages on" or "turn 4 pages back" and such like frequently occurs. He sometimes enters the trade or business of a person buried. Weavers are rather common; two are described as "dealers in black cattle." Here is one—

BURIALS.

1770. Joseph Jackson of Walby a dealer in black cattle commonly called a jobber aged 27. 7th Sept.

It is noticeable that no entry occurs in these Registers of any one of rank superior to yeoman. The only appearance of any thing like a title is the following—

32rd Oct. 1727. John Dalton of Walby Laird Sepult.

The Daltons appear to have been yeomen of much the same standing as the Nicholsons with whom they frequently intermarried. The name is now extinct in the parish. Indeed, with the exception of the Nicholsons, none of the old land-holding families are now represented, unless it be Wright and Bell, but the connection of the present yeomen of those names with the older families of the names cannot be traced from the registers.

The

The principal land-holding families of the 17th and 18th centuries were, besides the Nicholsons and Daltons noticed above, James, Palmer, and Phillips; all have now disappeared. The name of Phillips is still in the parish, though not as a landowner, but they were landowners till very recently. James and Palmer have totally disappeared.

Many names of the tenant farmer and labourer class are still numerous represented; *e.g.* Wannop, Haugh, Noble, Little, Baty, and Johnstone. The name of Hetherington, blacksmith, frequently occurs; one of that name, probably a descendant, was in business as a blacksmith on Crosby Moor within the last three years; he is still living, and has a family, though none, I believe, continue the trade.

Illegitimate births are creditably few, and many of those entered are out-parishioners, often from Carlisle.

There are few entries which are worthy of notice; some which appear rather curious are here given.

1722. James Blacklock of Dalby Buried y^e 29th day of July Anno Dom. 1722 who was drowned at Liddail.

BURIALS.

1768. James McKeith a travelling boy seemed to be 11 years of age July 24th

Was the poor little lad wandering about the country friendless? It is a pathetic entry.

1774. James Harrow of High Crosby, a servant in husbandry born in North Britain and who was at the parish charge during a long sickness aged 22, Feb. 23rd

Notices of paupers or at the parish charge are rather frequent. Many of those so distinguished are from Carlisle.

1774. James Dalton of Brunstock Batchelor often called for distinction's sake Silver or Siller Jimmy aged 82. July 11.

This is the only instance of a nickname given.

Here

Here are two baptisms of out-parishioners from Scotland. It does not seem clear why they should have been baptized at Crosby*

1792. Sept. 3. Kenith the son of Lieutenant Aulay Macaulay of Dyke End in Scotland and Rachel his wife (late Room)
 1797. Jan. 22. William illegitimate son of Jane Richardson of Gretna in Scotland.

One more quotation will finish our extracts.

1790. May 9th Joseph Gibson aged about 8 years a poor boy kept for and on account of charity at Scaleby Castle whose parents are dead. (baptized).

The entries in the book described above end with 1779. In 1780 a new series was begun in two books one of which contains baptisms and burials, the other, marriages. The first is a folio of foolscap size, consisting of parchment leaves bound in calf—the only entries of any interest are the few quoted above. The second is a quarto of rough hand-made paper, bound in rough calf; it contains the marriages and the publication of banns, which is always carefully registered; when a marriage is by licence it is so stated. This book also contains the entries of the visitations. These continue the register till 1812, when the statutory form still in use was adopted.

*Several instances occur in the register of Kirkandrews-upon-Esk. These Transactions vol. iii pp. 282. The parents were probably Episcopalian.

EDITOR.