

ART. XVIII.—*The Kirkby Lonsdale Parish Registers, 1538-1812.* By EDWARD CONDER, JUN., F.S.A.

PARISH registers in England, as we know, were introduced by Thomas Cromwell, the vicar-general, in 1538. In his early life Cromwell spent some years in the low countries, where the Spanish clergy had brought in the custom of baptismal registers, which had been commenced in 1497 by order of Cardinal Ximenes, Archbishop of Toledo. This reformer, finding at that period divorce scandalously frequent on the score of some pretended spiritual relationship arising out of the act of sponsorship, directed that a register of baptisms, with the names of the godfathers and godmothers, be kept in each parish, in order to correct a great laxity of morals.\*

Realising the importance of this custom, Cromwell was not slow to adopt it for England, and to add the registration of marriage and burials to those of baptism. In 1536 his views had evidently been ventilated at Lambeth, as several London parish registers begin in that or the following year.† It was not, however, until 1538 that a general order was issued to the Church respecting such registration.

By an injunction dated 29th September, 1538, Cromwell ordered that

The curate of every parish church shall keep one book or register, which book he shall every Sunday take forth, and in the presence of the churchwardens, or one of them, write and record in the same all the weddings, christ'nings, and burials made the whole week before; and for every time that the same shall be omitted shall forfeit to the said church iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>. ‡

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\* *Parish Registers in England*, by R. E. Chester Waters, 1883.

† *London and Middlesex Archaeologia*, vol. iii., part x.

‡ Twelfth article of the injunctions.

This order was generally complied with by the clergy; and, notwithstanding loss and careless guardianship, no less than 812 parish registers are extant beginning in 1538, including Kirkby Lonsdale.

The extensive parish of Kirkby Lonsdale embraced an area of over 35,000 acres. It was more than ten miles in length north and south; it had a width of three to six miles east and west, and it contained four-fifths of the Lonsdale ward. Within the parochial limits were the townships of Kirkby Lonsdale, Hutton Roof, Lupton, Mansergh, Casterton, Barbon, Middleton, Killington, and Firbank. At the Reformation, besides the parish church at Kirkby Lonsdale, there were small chapels at Barbon and Hutton Roof, and a private chapel attached to Killington Hall, used by the inhabitants of Firbank and Killington. At the present day, the parish of Kirkby Lonsdale includes the chapelries of Firbank with a small church rebuilt in 1842 on a new site. The former chapel, which stood on "the Fell," is mentioned in the life of George Fox, the Quaker, as existing before 1652. The early registers are at Kirkby Lonsdale and later transcripts to 1812.

Killington has the old private chapel of Killington Hall still in use. It contains a stoup for holy water, and the arms of the founder, Pickering of Killington—ermine, a lion rampant, crowned—in a window.

Priestfield is at the end of Killington adjoining Firbank, and is not the site of the present chapel. I am informed that there is still a tradition that a chapel once stood in or near it. About forty years ago, when the plough went over the burial ground, several tombstones were taken up and removed.\*

In 1585 Bishop Chadderton granted a licence and faculty for celebrating the sacraments, marrying, and burying at Killington Chapel, on a petition from the inhabitants of

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\* I am indebted to the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness for this and other information respecting the chapelries, taken from his pamphlet on the *Parish of Kirkby Lonsdale: its Churches and Endowments*, 1890.

Killington and Firbank, it being provided that the curate should be paid at their expense. The register and transcripts are at Kirkby Lonsdale.

Middleton township was without a chapel of ease until 1634, when the inhabitants erected a small building upon ground given by the Rev. Dr. Bainbrigg of Hawkin Hall. This chapel was rebuilt in 1812-15, and again rebuilt in a more substantial manner in 1878-9. The registers are at Kirkby Lonsdale and transcripts up to 1812.

Barbon doubtless had its chapel at an early date. Speed marks one on his map of the county A.D. 1610. A faculty was obtained in 1813 for pulling down the old chapel, and a new one was built with a rising floor, underneath which was the village school. A new church, on a site given by the Misses Gibson of Whelprigg and their married sisters, was erected in 1893. During the alterations on the old site a twelfth century cap of a pillar came to light, showing a pre-Reformation building at one time had been demolished.

At Hutton Roof, the old pre-Reformation building was pulled down in 1757 to make way for a new chapel. This was replaced in 1882 by a handsome church built on the same site. In the churchyard are fragments of old fourteenth century window tracery from the first chapel. The early registers are at Kirkby Lonsdale and transcripts of later ones down to 1812.

Lupton Chapel of ease dates from 1866. The registers are included in those of Kirkby Lonsdale.

Casterton Church was founded under the Church Building Act of 1831, and is vested in trustees. The building was consecrated in 1833. All the registers are included up to 1812 in those of Kirkby Lonsdale. Casterton became a separate parish for ecclesiastical purposes in 1888.

Mansergh, also formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1888, has a new church built in 1880 on the site of a former chapel erected in 1726 on land given by Mr.

Jacob Dawson of Nether Hall. The old register and later transcripts are at Kirkby Lonsdale. We find, therefore, at Kirkby Lonsdale a complete register of all baptisms, marriages, and burials for the whole parish down to 1812, containing over 30,000 entries.

These registers are contained in three books, known to the clerk as,—the old book, volume ii., and volume iii. At first entries were made in paper books of various sizes and degrees of security. In 1597 new ordinances respecting registers were made, and minute regulations for their preservation laid down. These were afterwards embodied in the 70th Canon of 1603. Every minister at his institution was to subscribe to this protestation :—

I shall keep the register book according to the Queen's Majesty's instructions.\*

Every parish was to provide itself with a parchment book, in which the entries from the old paper books were to be fairly and legibly transcribed, each page being authenticated by the signature of the minister and churchwardens† —

So far as the ancient books thereof can be procured, but especially since the beginning of the reign of the late Queen.

The oldest register books now extant are usually transcripts made in pursuance of the injunction of 1597 or 1603. Such is that of Kirkby Lonsdale; it is dated 1601. This old book of registers is a small folio containing 200 parchment leaves, measuring 12 inches by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , bound in parchment. It includes all baptisms, marriages, and burials from November, 1538, to February, 1649. The following is the title :—

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\* "And for further security," a true copy of the names of all persons christened, married, or buried in the year before was to be transmitted every year to the bishop of the diocese within a month after Easter, to be preserved in the episcopal archives.—70th Canon.

† This was not followed at Kirkby Lonsdale.

## KIRKBY LONSDALL.

A register booke of all the weddinges Chrysteninge and burryinge w<sup>th</sup>in the p<sup>th</sup> of Kirkby lonsdall maide the ffir<sup>st</sup> day of December in the xlii year of rayne of our Souereigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England ffrance and Ierland Defender of the ffaith Anno Dni 1601 by me John Willinson Clark . . . . Kirkby lonsdall and nicholas Layfeld Xpofer geslinge . . . . gibson Willim Jacson Rowland Lucas Xpofer Conder . . . . Harling Richard holme Willim Dixson John Applegarth . . . . garnet Edward Addeson Joseph Burrow Samuel . . . . Jefferey Borret and Thomas ffawcet Church wardens of the said p'she accordinge to the Queenes Ma<sup>tie</sup> g<sup>vn</sup> at the comandement of the Right Reuerend ffather in God (Rich<sup>d</sup> ?) by godes Deuyne p'uidence Bushopp of Chester.\*

(1601)

The transcript begins with a register of the marriages from 1538 to 1555-6. On the first page is the following:—

Weddings Anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1538

In Tempore Rob'ti Applegarth Cler' Vicarij  
 . . . . xxiiij<sup>o</sup> Die Nouembris . . . . seq

John Dickson of tonstall Jenet Atkinson	}	xxvi Die Nouemb <sup>r</sup>
Homfra Atkinson Jenet Dawson	}	xxx <sup>o</sup> Die Noumb <sup>r</sup>
Edward Dunwede Julyan Sewart	}	xxxix <sup>o</sup> Die Nouemb <sup>r</sup>
Thomas Smith Agnes Applegarth	}	Primo Die Januarye
John Woodhouse Mabell Mansergh	}	

Anno Dni 1539.

Richard Sander of Warton Agnes Whitell	}	v <sup>io</sup> Die july
Willm Rigg, Sebill Dickson	}	

In all, over 180 entries to February, 1555-6.

Baptisms begin in December, 1538, thus :—

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\* Kirkby Lonsdale was in the diocese of Chester until it was transferred to the diocese of Carlisle in 1856. Richard Vaughan was Bishop of Chester from 1597 to 1604, when he was translated to London.

## Christynnages Anno Dni 1538

John Ward son of Willm	}	primo Die mens December
Robert garnet son of Willm		xi <sup>o</sup> Die mens Decembr <sup>r</sup>
Wilm hardye son of lenard		xij Die mens December

followed by over 1,000 entries down to January, 1556-7.

Then follows the register of burials from November, 1538, to February, 1556-7, containing about 750 entries. It begins :—

## Burials Anno Dni 1538.

Willm Manser son of Roger	}	xviiij Die Nouember
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One of the Mansergh family of Mansergh Hall, lords of the manor.\*

Among early surnames in the district recorded from 1538 to 1556 may be found the following place-names :— Hutton, Holme, Lupton, Bethom, Mansergh, Lonsdall, Middleton, Thornton, ffribanck, Whittington, Farlton, Tebay, Burrow, Kendall, Aycrig, Garsdall, Cansfield, Staveley, &c. Other names, such as Applegarth, Achieson, Atkinson, Addison, Askwick, Anderson, Baynes, Bains, Backhouse, Browne, Bowness, Bouskell, Byndloss, Bayliffe, Bourdall, Bland, Baynbrigg, Beck, Barker, Bullock, Cleasby, Cort, Colling, Cowper, Cowert, Carr, Carter, Cooke, Caton, Conder, Dawson, Dickonson, Dixon, Dodgson, Denny, Dunwede, Ewen, Eskholm, Fawcet, Foxcroft, Fysher, Fishwick (Physic), Glover, Gybson, Gybsonson, Grene, Gardner, Greenwood, Grave-son, Greenbank, Gesling, Garnet, Gray, Harling, Hardye, Hucheson, Hayber, Huitson, Huddlestone, Hyne, Jenkinson, Jackson, Johnson, Kyching, Leyke, Lucas, Langrige, Layfield, Lynsay, Lyster, More, Moore, Nicholas, Nevell, Otway, Plumer, Prieston, Priestcousin,

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\* See "Some Account of the Manors of Mansergh and Rigmaden," by the writer, in these *Transactions*, vol. xiv., p. 450.

Partridge, Peyrson, Pearson, Pattenson (Patterson), Rigg, Robynson, Richardson, Redman, Rolykson, Readman, Symson, Smith, Sowermire, Sigeswick, Speight, Stockdall, Talboys, Toppin, Toluson, Tomson, Thomson, Thirnbeck, Taylor, Ustonson, Ullathorns, Venn, Ward, Warrener, Wadeson, Willan, Witton, Woodhouse, Whithead, Wedlake, Walker, Wilson, Whytwell, Whittell, Wright, &c.

Few entries call for special notice before 1556. It was sufficient at baptism to enter the father's name only. Very frequently, however, this was omitted.

1538—Ellen Jackson	}	...	...	...	xiiij die Martij
1539—John Ewen	}	...	...	...	vij die Aprilis

Some few marriages have particulars of the contracting parties, as

1546—James Lynsay, Alice lat wiffe of Peter	}	xxvii Nov
Middleton	...	...
1549—John Talboys of Tunstall Kateryn	}	x die Oct
Otway	...	...

The burials vary considerably in the information given concerning the deceased.

1538—Katherne the wiffe of Roger Middleton	}	v <sup>o</sup> die Januarij
1538—Margaret late wiffe of John Gibonson	}	xvii die ffeb.

A young person has usually the father's name given for identification.

1540—Alice Glover doughter of John	}	xv <sup>o</sup> die Junij
1543—Edward Mansergh, son of Xpofer	}	xvii die Junij

If an elderly person, the name only occurs as

1542—Edward Conder	...	...	...	viii die ffebruarij
1544—Anthony Hardye	...	...	...	vltimo die Dec
1545—Elizabeth Moore	...	...	...	vlt <sup>o</sup> die Dec

Among the burials, the following is of interest :—

1545—S<sup>r</sup> Jefferay Middleton Knight ... .. xxix<sup>o</sup> die Augustij

This is the Sir Geoffrey Middleton of Middleton Hall who heads the pedigree entered in the visitation of 1664, stated there to have been "Major Generall to K. Henry viii. in his expedition to Bulloine." No date, of course, is given in the pedigree.

After the dissolution of the monasteries at the Reformation, a number of the older inhabitants were scattered all over the county living on small annuities. The following were doubtless of this class :—

#### BURIALS.

1539—S <sup>r</sup> Richard Eglysfeld prest	...	}	xvi die Maii
1539—S <sup>r</sup> Roger Ward prest	...	}	xxi <sup>o</sup> die Octobris
1539—S <sup>r</sup> Thomas Wright prest	...	}	xiiij die ffebruarij
1543—S <sup>r</sup> Richard Thomson	...	}	xxij die Maij
1549—S <sup>r</sup> Nicholas Borheed Prest	...	}	xxvii die Maij
1550—S <sup>r</sup> willm helme prest	...	}	xxv <sup>o</sup> die Augusti

The prefix "S<sup>r</sup>" stands for "Dominus." No register was kept from March, 1556, to April, 1561. This may be explained by the unsettled state of the Church during the reign of Queen Mary.

In 1555 Cardinal Pole caused a synod of both the convocations to assemble before him as legate in the Chapel Royal at Westminster. Their deliberations were published February, 1556. Among other things, Pole required the names of the godfathers and godmothers to be added in the register of baptisms, according to the practice of Italy and Spain. This addition enjoined by the Council of Trent never became law in the Anglican church except during the reign of Queen Mary, and Cardinal Pole's injunction was then only partially obeyed.



At Kirkby Lonsdale they evidently decided to "wait events." Hence the break in the register. In 1560 John Williamson succeeded Robert Applegarth as vicar. The register is carefully kept from April, 1561, by the new vicar, but as much as possible in Latin. He begins:—

Incipit Tem<sup>e</sup> Magistri Johis willmson vicarij ibidem Primo die Aprilis Regni dni Elizabeth Dei gra Angliæ ffrancæ et Hibnæ Regina ffiddei defensor . . . secundo Anni Dni 1561.

Bap <sup>t</sup>	Sibella Banes	...	...	}	xxix <sup>o</sup> Aprilis	
„	Xpofer stockdall fil leonardi	...	...		}	vii die Maij
„	Elizabeth Atkinson fil <sup>a</sup> Edwardi	...	...			}
Sepult.	Joh'is Mathew	...	...	}	xxi <sup>o</sup> die „	
„	Joh'is holme fil Johis	...	...		}	
Nupt.	Georgii Middelton	...	...			

It would be interesting to know the name of the wife of this George Middleton for the purpose of completing the pedigree given in the visitation of 1615, supposing him to be of the Middleton Hall line. There were several branches of the Middleton family in the parish, and it is difficult to trace their connection with the chief.

As will be noticed above, baptisms, marriages, and burials follow one another. They were not kept separate as before.

1561

Sepult—M<sup>ri</sup> Jacob Ward ... .. xxvii<sup>o</sup> die Octobris

Of Rigmaden. The Ward family had been in possession of the manor of Rigmaden since the time of Edward III. By Inquisition post mortem for 18 Edward III. [1344], after the death of Thomas Ward, it appears he held the manor as of the lands of William de Coucy—the Richmond fee. The Wards remained at Rigmaden until 1661.

The following entry shews the difficulty of pedigree making from parish registers alone.

1561

Nupt—Georgij Middleton ... .. xxi<sup>o</sup> die Novembris

No name given of the wife. See above on June 16th.

1564

Bap.—fil M<sup>ri</sup> Ward ... .. xx<sup>o</sup> die Octobris

No name is given to this child of the Wards of Rigmaden in the register.

From April, 1565, to May, 1570, there are no entries. The following note explains the omission.

Heare wants May 66. May 67. May 68. May 69. and the rest of the months accordingly, this want and oversight came through the curate, the benefice then being in formynge.

The old style of Dominus for a cleric is still used.

1578

Sepult—D<sup>ni</sup> Xpofer Wilson vicarij de Mellinge... x.die.Sep

1580

Sepult—M<sup>ri</sup> Joh'is Middelton. Ar ... .. xv<sup>o</sup> die ffeb.

He was son of Sir Geoffrey Middleton of Middleton Hall, and succeeded his father in 1545.

1581

Nupt—Richard Otway ... .. ii die Novembris

Bap —Maria Middelton filia M<sup>ri</sup> Edward ... ix<sup>o</sup> die „ .

Her father was of Middleton Hall, her grandfather having died the preceding year.

A change in the title of the clergy occurs here :—

1581

Nupt—M<sup>r</sup> Thoma shott Clerici ... .. xiiij die ffeb

And again :—

1583

Bap.—Elizabethæ shott filia M<sup>r</sup> shott Preacher xxiii die Junij

1584  
Sepult—D<sup>ni</sup> Oliveri heiber [Hayber] ... iii die Junij

Doubtless a priest of an earlier day.

1586  
Sepult—M<sup>r</sup> Ellis ... .. xviii die Januarij

I am unable to trace any of this family until a much later date—1726.

1587  
Sepult—Egedij Moore ... .. iii die Maij  
Sepult—U<sup>x</sup><sup>is</sup> M<sup>ri</sup> Edward Middleton ... .. xii die augusti

According to the visitation of 1664, Edward Middleton married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Carus, Kt., widow of Sir ——— Kighley of Kighley, Co. York, Kt., by whom he had eight children.

1590  
Sepult—U<sup>x</sup><sup>is</sup> Georgij Rigmayden ... .. xv. Maij

Possibly a descendant of the Rigmaden family who alienated their estated to the Wards in the fourteenth century.

1594  
Sepult—Hamlati fil M<sup>ri</sup> Ricardi Maffey ... .. vii die Julij

The play was not published until 1603.\* I am unable to find any other particulars of the Massey family in the register. Richard Massey must have been a man of some position in order to have the prefix “M<sup>ri</sup>.”

Vagrants are noticed thus:—

1596  
Sepult—filii paupris advenæ ... .. xviii die Januarij

1599  
Bap. —Thomæ Middleton fil Joh'is Ar ... .. iii Feb  
Bap. —Xpoferi Stockdall fil Georgii ... .. xv die Junii

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\* The story of Hamlet was, however, translated from Belleforest's novels about 1570.—ED.

The Stockdales of Casterton entered their pedigree at the visitation of 1615, but without arms. In 1664 they were, however, "disclaymed."

Before quitting the sixteenth century, it is well to notice the principal families then in the parish.\* According to the register, the Middletons of Middleton Hall ranked first, followed by the Wards of Rigmaden, the Stockdales of Casterton, the Otways of Beckside Hall in Middleton, and the Manserghs of Mansergh Hall. Other families long seated on their estates were the Wadesons of Killington; Hardyes of Beckfoot; Bainbriggs, Bouskells, Moores, and Riggs of Middleton; Foxcrofts and Burrows of Lupton; Garnetts, Glovers, Whiteheads, and Gibsons of Barbon; Gesslings, Redmans, Ustonsons, Applegarths, and Wilsons of Kirkby Lonsdale; and Conders of Old Town and Mansergh. From the numerous branches of these families in the early part of the register, it is clear they had been settled in the district long before the year 1538.

The transcript ends in 1601.

1603

Sepult—Xpofer Middleton de Deansbiggin ... viii die Mar'ii  
Nupt —Magister ja Readman et Agneta Otwaye xvii<sup>o</sup> Novem  
Nupt —Brian Warde et Alice Eskrigg ... xx die Novembris

1604

Sepult—Ux Jo Middleton apud Sedberg ... secundo die Martii

1607

Sepult—Henricus Wilson [probably of Underley] xiiiij die Dec

1616

Bap —Samuelis Readmayne fil Jacobi ... xxi<sup>o</sup> Nov  
[In a later hand] Who gave 10<sup>lib</sup> p. ann to the church for ever  
1618 January

Bap. —Hamo benson fil M<sup>r</sup> benson Cler. tertio  
die apud Killington

1619 February

Nupt. —Dict. Hen. Park Cler. et Vicarii et Alice  
Segswick ... .. vii die

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\* At the visitation of 1615 these families only are entered — Middleton of Middleton Hall, Middleton of Kirkby Lonsdale [Deansbiggin], and Stockdale of Casterton. It is remarkable that the Wards of Rigmaden and Manserghs of Mansergh Hall were not included.

1620 July.  
 Sepult—Edward Moore of Bensbank ... vii die  
 1621 April  
 Sepult—Brian Mansergh gen. ... xii die

The last to reside at Mansergh Hall.

1622 Octobris  
 Sepult—Ux M<sup>r</sup> Edwardi Middleton ... xiii die

Probably Bridget, the wife of Edward Middleton of Middleton Hall. According to the pedigree entered in the visitation of 1664 she was the daughter and heiress of Robert Bindloss of co. York.

1623 Augusti  
 Sepult—M<sup>r</sup> bainbrigge vidu de Gilfoot ... ix die  
 1623 September  
 Sepult—Edw. Otwaye fil M<sup>r</sup> Roger ... xxvi die

On the edge of this page in the register is the following:—

James ffowler wrote this Ano Dni 1628 Aprilis xxviii.  
 1633 July  
 Sepult—M<sup>ri</sup> Joh'is Williamson Vic de Tunstall ... xxvi<sup>o</sup>

The township in which the deceased lived is now frequently entered in the register, and occasionally the name of the residence.

1640 October  
 Incipit—M<sup>ri</sup> Buchanann Vicar de Kirkby Lonsdale ... ii<sup>o</sup>

George Buchanan, a Scotch divine who had been driven out for refusing the covenants, was befriended by Archbishop Laud, who gave him a living in Essex. This he exchanged for that of Kirkby Lonsdale in 1640. He was most unjustly persecuted during the Civil War by two of his parishioners, captains in the Parliamentary army. It

is said \* they managed to get the living sequestrated and Buchanan placed in gaol more than once. On one occasion he was hurried out of bed, on another out of church during divine service. At the restoration of Charles II. he returned to Kirkby Lonsdale. He soon afterwards obtained preferment.† The first period of the vicar's imprisonment was evidently in 1642, as there is a break in the register from March, 1642, to April, 1643.

1643 August

Bap—Cavendish Middleton fil M<sup>r</sup> William ... .. viii<sup>o</sup>

A son of William Middleton, fourth son of John Middleton of Middleton Hall, colonel of horse in the service of King Charles. Cavendish Middleton became a student of law at Grays Inn, London. He was aged twenty-two at the visitation of 1664-5.

The next period of incarceration of the vicar is marked by a break in the register from November, 1644, to April, 1645.

1647 October

Sepult—M<sup>r</sup> Edwardi Bainbrigge de Middleton ... .. ix<sup>o</sup>

1648 November

Bapt—Deborah Wilson filii John Wilson Mansergh Fish monger of London.

1649

Edward Mansergh entered to be Clerke in y<sup>e</sup> Pische Church April 23 1649

About the commencement of the Civil War the Manserghs of Mansergh Hall appear to have alienated their estates, and the old hall, where they had been seated for centuries, became tenements for labouring families. It was ultimately demolished, and a modern farmhouse now occupies the site. The Manserghs migrated to Ireland, where their descendants are still to be found. Like the Manserghs, the Otways of Middleton about the same

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\* Nicolson and Burn's *History*.

† Nicolson and Burn's *History*.

time, or perhaps later, leave the old home in Middleton and follow their neighbours to Ireland, where their descendants are also still flourishing.\*

About this period one Cole occupied the living. He was doubtless one of Cromwell's "godly men;" the vicar being still in gaol. The register is very carelessly kept during the interregnum.

1650—September came in on Sunday

Prissylla Boothe fillie M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Boothe de Deansbiggin... 7<sup>o</sup>

The Middletons of Kirkby Lonsdale were seated at Deansbiggins at the visitation of 1615. They had left ere this.

— July

Sepult—A boye and a Girle drowned at y<sup>e</sup> scar brow

— Dec

Bap.—Maria Cole filii M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>l</sup>m Cole Cleri

February came in Saterdag

[Last line in the "old book."]<sup>†</sup>

Towards the middle of the century the following families appear in the register in addition to most of those already mentioned in 1538-40 :—Batty, Boothe, Bower, Bell, Briggs, Broadgate, Banks, Birkbeck, Beethom, Charlton, Cummins, Crakell, Cowperthwait, Dawson, Docker, Farthwait, ffoster, Greenwood, Grainger, Godderhead, Godsalue, Guy, Hebblethwait, Harrison, Jagger, Lightborne, Mann, Nelson (Nealson), Overend, Noddle, Nicholson, Newton, Procter, Preston, Parker, Percival,

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\* Manserghs of co. Tipperary. Bryan Mansergh obtained a grant of lands under the Act of Settlement in cos. Meath and Kilkenny. Two of his brothers, Robert and James, also obtained grants of land. Otway of Castle Otway, co. Tipperary; John Otway obtained this estate by a patent dated October 10th, 1665.

† It is to be regretted that this "old book" of registers has at some former time been allowed to remain unguarded, and has fallen into the hands of unscrupulous persons, who have added names and inserted particulars of residences. Fortunately the marked difference in the colour of the ink used is sufficient to enable the reader to detect such additions.

Pricket, Ridley, Read, Russell, Saull, Smorthwait, Skyringe, Sutton, Spencer, Tatham, Troughton, Towers, Townson, Wearing, Wetherhead, Wildman, Washington, Waitman, Walker, Yeats, &c.

The second book of the register is a tall folio containing 92 parchment leaves, 1 fly leaf blank, all the others closely written, measuring 24 inches by 10½ inches, bound in calf. It begins March, 1650-1, and ends March, 1750-1. It is kept with care, and in most instances the township and sometimes the residence and occupation follow the family name.

1650. Feb 12

Nupt—Captain Willm Garnet et M<sup>rs</sup> Carr de Casterton.

1651. July 11

Sepult—Thomas Barden de Essex a stranger.

It is possible that this "stranger" was hoping to meet with Mr. Buchanan, who had left his Essex living for Kirkby Lonsdale in 1640.

1651 December

Bap. John Aplegarth fil Cap<sup>tain</sup> Aplegarth de vnderlay

1652 July 26

Sepult. M<sup>r</sup> John Ward fil Henery de Rigmaden.

1652 Aug<sup>st</sup> 22

Bap—a poore child from ye Biggins

1652½ Ffebruary

Sepult—Elizabeth Middleton fil John Middleton Esq<sup>re</sup>, Middleton.

["Esquire" here takes the place of "armiger."]

1652 Feb. 13

Bap—Will<sup>m</sup> Smith fil John Smith Clerck Kerby.

[Smith replaced Cole as "minister."]

1653. July 18

Sepult—Uxor James Moore de Middleton Carpenter

[This is the first notice of a trade.]

1653 December 12

Sepult—Mary Middleton uxor John Middleton Esq<sup>re</sup> of Middleton.



A careless register of Killington for the year 1653 is here transcribed. No dates are given :—

Sepult—Ye Mother in Law of John Broadley

Bap —Ye son of Oswald Ayrey

„ —Ye daughter of Brian Walker

„ —Ye son of Humphray Drew

„ —Ye son of John Pearson

Sepult—Ye wife of W<sup>l</sup>m Neelson

„ —Ye widow Otway

„ —M<sup>rs</sup> Knipe

The first private baptism of infants is here recorded :—

165<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub> February 12

Bap—Robert Conder son of Christopher de Mansergh at house.

1657 August

Sepult Margaret Wilson daughter of Henry Wilson of vnderlay Gener.

1659 May 28

Sepult—Miles Mann gent de Hutton Roof

1660.—Mr. Buchanan is said to have returned to his vicarage.

ffor christinings fines Tho Bainbrigg became Clerk for the Pishe of Kirkby Lonsdale

August the 19<sup>o</sup> 1660 . . . . Registerer 15 leaves forward.

1663.—Henry Hoyle, vicar.

166<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Ffebruary

Bap. Margareta Godsalve fil Johannies de Rigmaden

Henry Ward sold Rigmaden Manor to Thomas Godsalve in 1661.

1669 January vi

Bap.—Edward Hoyle fil Hen. Vic Eccles

1671 Aug<sup>st</sup> xxvii

Bap—Willm Godsalve fil Thoma de Rigmaden.

The youngest son ; afterwards of Kirfit Hall, Casterton.

1672 March xxv<sup>o</sup>

Sepult—Jennet Washington ux. Lawrence et Infante

1673 June xxii<sup>o</sup>

Sepult—James Ackeroid fil Johannis Clerc de Mansergh

It would appear that a curate was living in this township, although the chapel was not built until 1726.

1673 september xx<sup>o</sup>

Nupt—William Gibson de Killington et Margaret Bainbrigg

1674. October iii

Sepult—Edward Middleton of Middleton Hall Armiger

He was the last of the Middletons of Middleton Hall, where they had been seated since the reign of Edward III. His three sons died without issue, and the male line ended. He left two daughters co-heiresses—Bridget, who married Joshua Heblethwait of Dent, and Mary, who married James Cragg, also of Dent.

1675 May xvi

Sepult—Isabell Hardkurr.

[Possibly Hardacre.]

A short terrier follows :—

Kirkby Lonsdale Anno Dni 1676

Johannes Briggs Clericus Inductus fuit in Possessona Ecclesiæ de Kirkby Lonsdale vigesimo die mensis Decembris Anno Regni Caroli Secundi dei gratia, Anglia Scotia, ffrancia et Hiberna, Regis vigesimo octavo.

A Terrier of the Gleb land houses orchards-garden belonging to the vicaridge of Kirkby Lonsdall

Imp. The Church yard

- „ One Close on the back of the Vicaridge house containing one Acre
- „ One Close beyond Vnderley two Acres
- „ One Close called Cross flatt two acres
- „ One Close called Kew Close four Acres
- „ One Close called Dalliker four Acres and a half
- „ One Close called by the name of Seven Acres
- „ One rood of Land in Edward Leightbound Land near Dallikar

- Imp. Three rood in a Close opposite to the tythe Barn in Mr Wilson ground
- „ A rent to bee paid . . . . by Mr. Booth of London for Dodshon close due at Michaelmas } 00 09 04
- „ „ given to Kerby Church by the Will & Teftament of Colonell Redman late deceafed of Ireland. In Land of the value of ten Pounds P. annum which Lyes in Borienboully in the County of Keelkenny Ireland the days of paiment are May day and Michaelmas.
- „ The Vicaridge House w<sup>th</sup> low doble Cowbarn adjacent to church yard & the brow at y<sup>e</sup> end of y<sup>e</sup> Orchard.
- „ One Orcharde & two Gardens.

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1680 March xxii

Sepult—Richard Hutton de Lupton Generosus armiger de Grays Inn in London.

There were no Huttons in the parish. He was perhaps a visitor.

The Act for burying in woollen, passed in 1667 for the purpose of encouraging the woollen manufactures, was not noticed at Kirkby Lonsdale. No entries of such a custom are found in the register.

1682 april xxv<sup>o</sup>

Sepult—Leonard Stockdale de Casterton, a poor man.

The Stockdales, like the Manserghs, Otways, and Middletons, had now parted with their estates.

1683 Dec xii

Bap. Brian Mansergh fil Gulielmi Mansergh de Casterton

168 $\frac{3}{4}$  January xi

Sepult—Robert Whitehead de Whelprigg in Casterton.

This estate was soon afterwards purchased by Joseph Gibson.

1686. December 25.

Nupt—Mr Edward Tong & M<sup>rs</sup> Susannah Godsalue de Riggmaiden.

1685 November 6

Bap. Jacobus fil Jacobi Harrison J<sup>unr</sup> de ffell House in Barbon.

- 1689 april 30  
 Sepult.—John Lawson fil Johis alias Lickbarrow  
 1690 May 25  
 Sepult—John Jackson fil M<sup>rs</sup> Susanna Jackson de Ireland  
 1690 July 2  
 Bap—Rogerus Wilson fil Rogerii de Casterton Hall Gent  
 1693 Dec 30  
 Bap—Thomae Bayliffe }  
 — Sarah do } fil Joh'is Bayliffe de Barbon  
 — Agnes do }  
 1693<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> January 11  
 Sepult—M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Godsalue de Rigg-Maiden Hall  
 1695. april xvi  
 Sepult Roger Moore de Holme House Sergeant at Law  
 1703 november 25  
 nupt—Robert Panther Curate of Keyton and Sarah Gibson of  
 Barbon  
 1708<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feeb 10  
 Nupt—Giles Moore of Middeton and Mary Cragg of Sedbergh.  
 1707—Nov. 10  
 Sepult—M<sup>r</sup> Philip ffoster Sen<sup>r</sup> of Kirkby Lonsdale.  
 1708<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feeb 27  
 Bap—Margaret dau of Thomas Godsalue of Rigg-Maiden Hall Gent  
 1711<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Jan. 13  
 nupt—Edmund Garnett and Margaret Gibson of Casterton behind  
 ffell.  
 1711<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> March 4  
 Sep<sup>t</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> Henry Wilson who died at Sellett Hall in Lancashire  
 1711<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> March 20  
 Sep<sup>t</sup>. Mr William Godsalue of Kirfitt Hall in Casterton

He was second son of Thomas Godsalue, who purchased the Rigmaden Hall estate.

1711. november  
 Sept—Ann wife of M<sup>r</sup> Rowland Godsalue of Kirkby Lonsdale

A distant relative of the above. His name does not appear in the pedigree at the visitation of 1666.

- 1711 Dec  
 Bap—Rebecca dau of M<sup>r</sup> Park Reader of Hutton Roof Chapel

1718 august 16

Bap. Joseph son of Joseph Gibson Jun<sup>r</sup> of Whelprigg yeom'  
baptized aug 16. 1718.

1718

D . . . .

At the foot of this page a strip has been cut away from the parchment, so that a line or two of inscription is thereby lost excepting the letter "D."

1719 June 24

Bur. John Wheatley of Kirfitt Hall in Casterton Formerly of Peckham near london. Gent.

1719 Sep 5

Bap—Margaret dau of George Hayward Serjt in Major Gen<sup>l</sup>all Evans Troop

1720 July 14

Bur—M<sup>r</sup> Rowland Godsalue of Kirkby Lonsdale.

1720 Nov 2

Bap—Mary dau of Robert Burrow of Badger-Gate in Hutton Roof

The old family of Burrow disappears shortly after this death. They had held land in Lupton and Hutton Roof for generations.

172<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Ffebruary 4

Sep<sup>t</sup>. Elizabeth Otway of Tearnside Pauper.

1721-4.—A regiment of cavalry was quartered in Kirkby Lonsdale about this time.

1721 Sep. 23

Bap—Ann dau of Samuel Foley Coll or Major in L<sup>d</sup> Carpenters regiment of Dragoons

1721. Nov. 24

nupt—Edward Wilson of Casterton Esq<sup>r</sup> and Barbary Wilson of Underley Widow by Lycence from the Comisary the 24th day of November.

1722 April 19

Bap. George son of Ralph Sigswicke behind Casterton ffell.

1723 March 19.

nupt—William Gregg of Lupton Yeom' and Mary Hathornwait

1724 March 21  
 Sep<sup>t</sup>—Edward Conder of the Old Town in Mansergh  
 1725—sep 4  
 Bap—Jonathan son of Joseph Gibson of Whelprigg  
 1725 Dec 17  
 Sep<sup>t</sup>. Barbara. Wife of Edward Wilson Esq<sup>re</sup> of Casterton Hall  
 1726 April 11  
 Bap—William son of M<sup>r</sup> Ellis Supervisor of Kirkby Lonsdale

[See before in 1586.]

1726 May 18  
 Sep<sup>t</sup>—M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Gladwell from Kirkfitt Hall in Casterton  
 1726 July 3  
 nupt—M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Ashton of Bispham in Lancashire and M<sup>rs</sup> Susannah  
 Godsolve of Riggmaiden  
 1726 oct 6  
 sep<sup>t</sup>—Edward Wilson Esq<sup>r</sup> of Casterton Hall.  
 1729 aug 31  
 Bap<sup>t</sup>. Richard son of M<sup>r</sup> Myles Gathorn Curat of Kirkby Lonsdale.  
 Born the 22 day. Baptized the aug 31. 1729.  
 1730. July 11  
 Bap—John son of Edward Battersby of Upper Biggins.  
 1735—aug 3  
 Bap. Margaret dau of M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Maudesley  
 1736 aug 23  
 Bap—Frances dau of M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Ashton of Underley Hall.  
 1737 april 18  
 sep<sup>t</sup>—M<sup>r</sup> John Briggs Vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale aged 91 in the 61  
 year of his residence at the Church.  
 1737 June 19  
 Bap—Martha dau  
 Leonard son of Miles Weatherhead of Kirkby Lonsdale

[In a note lower down.]

N.B. The name inserted three lines above is upon the  
 evidence of one of the Godmothers confirmed to be a  
 mistake of the Clerk by the assurance that the above  
 named Miles Weatherhead had no son.

Test. T. Croft Vicar

Transcripts of the registers of Firbank, Killington,

Middleton, and Mansergh now appear in the register. They were furnished once a year.

Killington 1737.

[No date of month, &c.]—Anne dau of Captain Morland

[He was of Capplethwait Hall.]

1740 July 18

Sep<sup>t</sup>—Hannah Gibson of Whelprigg in Barbon Widow.

1742 May 15

Sep<sup>t</sup>—Elizabeth Townson als Salisberry Ale-Pott, Poor House

1744—July 24

Sep<sup>t</sup>—Agnes. Wife of M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood of Hutton Roof aged 102

The rebellion of '45 is marked by the following notice:—

Firbank 1745.

No transcript was sent or could be gott from firbank

The inhabitants probably left their homes in fear on hearing of the approach of Prince Charlie and his wild Scotch followers. The following entries at Kirkby Lonsdale are sidelights on the “passing through” of his army:—

1745<sup>8</sup> Ffeb 6

Bur—Elizabeth dau of William Hopkins a soldier

1747

Bur. Thomas Martin a Scotch man and Traveller

Perhaps a straggler left behind after the retreat from Derby.

1747

Bur—Ann Wife of John Singleton a Soldier

1750 May 21

Bur—Thomas Godsalue of Riggmaiden Hall aged 82

This second volume of the register ends in 1750. The last few leaves were blank, but in 1798 they were filled in with a terrier of the living and some particulars of the tithe, &c. I extract the following as being of interest:—

## Tythe and Oblations

4<sup>thly</sup>—There hath not (to our knowledge) been any Tythe paid in our parish for . . . . . on agistments, mortuaries are due to be paid equally to the Vicar and Impropiator the Custom for oblations is Three half-pence for every person above the age of sixteen years in the parish—for every Aicheld or new Calved Cow two pence for every Shyil milk Cow one penny & for a garden one penny, for a hen or hens one penny—for hemp one penny except in Middleton where Hemp and Hen is paid to the Impropiator and Hemp in Barbon—For every Swarm of Bees one penny—For every plow Two pence For every ffoal under five four pence, For the ordinary every person Sleeping house in the Parish one halfpenny which he pays to the Bishop for proclamations; and every Person sleeping house in the parish pays two pence to the Clerk which is called Smoak money; these to be paid to the Vicar and Clerk at this parish Church in Easter week yearly. There are no Beast pasture or Right of Common belonging to the Vicar that we know of, he hath all the fees for marriages, Burials & Churchings throughout the Chapelrys and the whole Parish.

Beside this the vicar had the tythe of pigs and geese, except in Middleton only; also a portion of the tythe of hay in the townships of Hutton Roof, Lupton, Mansergh, and Barbon, also all the hay tythe in Killington.

The third volume of the register begins March 31st, 1751. It is a tall folio bound in calf with brass clasps, containing 157 parchment leaves, measuring 22 inches by 12 inches—1 blank fly leaf, 134 closely written pages, and 22 blank.

1752 January 17

Burial—Giles Dodgson of Barbon Beckfoot. aged 104.

June 28

„ Alice Middleton of this town aged 101

1753 Nov. 28

Bap—Samuel son of Female negro Slave call'd Powers a native of Carolina in North America.

1754 July 13

Buried—Mary Crosfield widow of Mr Robt Crosfield Late Parish Clerk



1755 Feb. 25  
Buried—Elinor Thompson widow of Lupton aged 101  
Buried Aug<sup>st</sup> 7  
„ Roger Wilson Esq<sup>re</sup> of Casterton Hall one of his majesties  
Justices of the Peace and Quorum for the County of  
Westmorland.

KILLINGTON TRANSCRIPT.

1755 sep. 14  
Bur—Lancelot Hall. Chapel Clark at Mansergh

KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1756 april 12  
Bap—Mary dau of M<sup>r</sup> John and Ann Wilkinson of Rigmaiden.  
1757. July 17  
Bap—Marmaduke son of Marmaduke and Mary Redman of Caster-  
ton ffell gate.

The Redmaynes were once lords of the manor of  
Mansergh.\*

1758<sup>g</sup> January 29  
Buried—M<sup>r</sup> James Place of Barbon Beckfoot Surgeon.  
„ April 6  
„ Elizabeth wife of M<sup>r</sup> William Scott Surgeon of Kirkby  
Lonsdale.  
„ May 10  
„ John Beck of New Hutton in Kendall Parish drowned in  
Lune

FIRBANK TRANSCRIPT.

1758 Dec 17  
Buried—Luke Fawcett Buried at Grey-rig Meeting House

KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1761 sep 20  
Bap—William son of James and Mary Gibson of Fellgarth in  
Casterton  
1761 April 24  
Bur.—John Frankland, a Stranger, killed by a fall into a Coal Pit  
near Barbon.

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\* In 1584 the fee simple of Terry Bank was obtained by payment of £15 to  
Marmaduke Redmayne.—Conder Family Papers.

July 11

Bur. Nathan son of James and Margaret Harrison of Low fields

176 $\frac{3}{4}$  January 15

Bur. M<sup>rs</sup> Ottway wid<sup>w</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Ottway of London apothecary.

1765 March 30

Bur.—M<sup>rs</sup> Godsolve of Rigmaiden

— Nov 20

Bur.—James Ashton Esq<sup>r</sup> of Underley Hall

1766 April 6

Bap.—Roger son of M<sup>r</sup> William & M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Carus of K.  
Lonsdale

#### MANSERGH TRANSCRIPT.

1768—Dec 12

Bap—Alice dau of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> William & Margaret Sedgwick born  
10th

#### KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1769 May 3

Bap—Elizabeth Dau of M<sup>r</sup> William & M<sup>rs</sup> ann Birdsworth of this  
town born apl 4

#### KILLINGTON TRANSCRIPT.

177 $\frac{1}{2}$  Feb 17

Bap. Jacob son of Jacob Morland of Caplethwait gentlemen

#### FIRBANK TRANSCRIPT.

177 $\frac{2}{3}$  Feb 22

Burials Abigal. Wife of Richard Woofe Buried at Grayrigg Meeting  
House

„ March 4

„ Margaret Herdson Buried at Grayrig Chapel.

After entering the transcripts they are signed by the vicar  
or curate and churchwardens.

	W. Pearson, Curate
Churchwardens	{ Thomas Lawrans
	{ Richard Middleton
	{ Joseph Gibson
	{ James Hopkind

#### KIRKBY LONSDALE.

177 $\frac{6}{7}$  March 13

Bur—Richard son of Seth Physick of Casterton

[The surname was Fishwick.]

KILLINGTON TRANSCRIPT.

1778 Dec 24  
The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Sclater, buried.

KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1779 april 9  
Bap—John Scott Lawrence son of J<sup>no</sup> Scott Lawrence of the Island  
Tortola in the West Indies 10 years old.

Oct 6  
„ George son of Thomas and Mary Lawrence of Underley  
1779. Dec. 17  
Bap.—Edward Jackson son of Miles North Esq<sup>re</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Susanna  
North of Jackson Hall

1779 oct 18  
Bur M<sup>r</sup> John Tomlinson of Biggins aged 44 Buried at Melling  
1780 May 6  
Bap—John son of Richard Gathorne Esq<sup>re</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Gathorne  
of K Lonsdale

KILLINGTON TRANSCRIPT.

1780 April 14  
Burials—William son of M<sup>r</sup> John & M<sup>rs</sup> Jane Wadeson

KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1781 July 20  
Bap—John son of M<sup>r</sup> Henry & Elizabeth Bickersteth of K Lonsdale  
born 19 June.

178 $\frac{1}{2}$  Feb 27  
Bur.—M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Maudesley of Rigmaiden Hall. Widow

178 $\frac{3}{8}$  March 17  
Bur—Miles Craston Sexton of K Lonsdale 46 years.

1783 aug<sup>st</sup>  
An Act for granting to his Majesty a stamp duty on the Registry of  
Burials, Marriages, Births, and Christenings, commencing  
the 2<sup>n</sup> day of October 1783. 3<sup>d</sup> each.

This was known as the “Stamp Act.” It was repealed  
in 1794.

In 1785 there was an outbreak of smallpox. Numerous  
deaths occurred in the Kirkby Lonsdale Poorhouse from  
April to November.

240 THE KIRKBY LONSDALE PARISH REGISTERS.

179 $\frac{3}{4}$  March 7

Bur—Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> John Wilson, late Master of the Free school in Kirkby Lonsdale for 50 years. aged 77

179 $\frac{3}{4}$  January 3

Bap—Roger son of William Wilson Carus Esq<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Carus of Kirkby Lonsdale born Oct 11 1792

1793 Nov 3

Bap. Robert Carus son of William Wilson Carus Wilson Esq<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Carus Wilson of K Lonsdale. born oct 26<sup>th</sup>

1797 Aug<sup>st</sup> 27

Bur—William son of John & Dinah Foxcroft of Casterton, Postboy that was killed

1801 July 26

Bur. Nicholas Fenwick of K Lonsdale. Gentleman aged 69

1803 June 30

Bur—Robert Bateman of Lupton schoolmaster and Clerk. 40. died 27 June

1804 oct 12

Bap—Edward son of Edward Tomlinson of Biggins in Lordship of K Lonsdale, yeoman and Elizabeth his wife born Dec 7 1803.

HUTTON ROOF TRANSCRIPT.

1804 May 1<sup>st</sup>

Marriage.—George Atkinson Stonemason Bachelor to Bella Rawlinson spinster by Licence by John Dobson Clerk Curate of Hutton Roof in the presence of Ewan Rawlinson and Mary Wadeson

MANSERGH TRANSCRIPT.

1804 sep 12

Bap—Robert Atkinson son of the Revd. Edward Gorill and Alice his wife born Aug 20.

KIRKBY LONSDALE.

BAPTISMS FOR THE YEAR 1806

January 1—Robert Atkinson son of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Edward Gorill of Kirkby Lonsdale Clerk and Alice his wife born 20 aug 1804 Baptized January 1.

There is a curious mistake in the date and place of the baptism of this child.

## HUTTON ROOF TRANSCRIPT.

1807 Sep 27

Bap.—Archibald Blair of unknown Parents born in Berbice Guiana  
South America

## KIRKBY LONSDALE.

1812 Dec 6

Bap. Edward Ridge Reeves son of Edward Ridge Reeves of K  
Lonsdale Captain of Army in India and Louisa his Wife  
born 16 oct.

1812 November 28

died.	Bur.	age
_____	_____	_____

Bur—Richard Reynolds of K Lonsdale

Late of London 23 . 28 . 58

J. Sharp. Vicar. Miles Craston John Pollard

Churchwardens

In 1811 the Government proposed to place the registers in each province under the control of a Register-General, but the bill was allowed to drop. In 1812 an Act was passed for “the better regulating and preserving registers of births, marriages, &c.” This Act, known as Rose’s Act, enforced the annual transcript being sent to the bishop’s registry. In 1833 a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the state of the parish registers, and to devise an improved scheme of general registration.

In 1836 an Act was passed by which the registers of baptisms and burials were left undisturbed to the care of the parochial clergy, whilst the State assumed for the first time the duty of registering in one public office the births, marriages, and deaths of the whole population irrespectively of their religious belief.

With regard to fees for searching parish registers, it was assumed, before the Act of 1836, that the public had no right at all except by the favour of the clergyman and churchwardens, and Chief Justice Tenterden judicially declared :—\*

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\* *Rex v. Smallpiece*, 2 Chitty’s Reports, p. 288, vide *Parish Registers in England*, by R. E. Chester Waters, London, 1883.

I know of no rule of law which requires the parish officers to show the books in order to gratify the curiosity of a private individual.

The Act of 1836 fixes a uniform scale of fees both for searches and certificates, but the case of extracts not certified by the minister is not provided for. It is enacted that :—

Every rector, vicar, or curate, who has the keeping of any register book of births, deaths, or marriages, shall at all reasonable times allow searches to be made of any register book in his keeping on payment of one shilling for a search of one year, and sixpence for every additional year, and two shillings and sixpence for every entry certified under his hand as a true copy of the register.

The transcript, containing about 30,000 entries, of the Kirkby Lonsdale registers from which I have extracted the foregoing entries in this paper was made for me some years ago, with the kind permission of the present vicar, the Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Davies, by Mr. Thomas Jennings of Kendal.

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