



THE PULPIT, WABERTHWAITE  
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ART. XVI.—*Notes on Waberthwaite.* By the late REV.  
CÆSAR CAINE.

*Read at Carlisle, April 6th, 1922.*

WABERTHWAITE Church was visited by this Society in September, 1884. Concerning the pulpit, at that time, Mr. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., said (these *Transactions*, O.S. viii, p. 67)—

The pulpit is of seventeenth century work, and is dated 1630, and is the gift of Abraham Chambers. There is an inscription carved on the front of the pulpit, in raised wooden letters, which runs as follows:—

THE GIFT OF ABRAHAM CHAMBERS GENT. VÆ MIHI SI NON  
VERUM PRÆDICO. S R 1630.

The inscription is carved in three lines, and the last line, bearing the words DICO · S · R · 1630, is a separate strip of wood, as if that inscription had been at some time or other restored.

The late Dr. C. A. Parker, in *The Gosforth District*, p. 223, repeats the substance of this statement; but Mr. Charles Ferguson and Dr. Parker were mistaken in saying that the third line is on a separate piece of wood. It is, however, possible that the panel containing the whole of the three lines of the inscription is an addition or a restoration. I only mean that it looks newer than the rest of the work.

I consider that the two initial letters before the date have been misread. They can refer to none other than Charles I, and stand for "Carolus Rex." The carving of these letters shews either blundering or mutilation. The top half of the so-called s is larger than the top curve of the same letter elsewhere in the inscription. Possibly the carver's mind was intent on c but for some reason changed the letter. Possibly it has been tampered with at a

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later date. Even the photograph suggests the letter was altered after the c had been completed. This suggestion is very definite in some lights under which I have viewed the work.

The motto is most appropriate to a pulpit, but I do not find the words in any Latin version of 1. Cor. ix, 16,—“Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.” The Vulgate reads—“Vae enim mihi est, si non evangelizavero.” There can be little doubt that the words on the pulpit are an adaptation of this Pauline passage.

In the same book (*Gosforth District*, p. 225), Dr. Parker referred to the tombstone in memory of William Grainger, which has long been much defaced, and suggested a restoration which, however, did not fully explain the incomplete phrase “ET NOST.” I venture to submit the following criticisms and suggestions, remembering that any restored letters ought to fill the gaps on the stone.

Line 3: after ANI part of M remains. The word must be completed as ANIMARUM.

Line 2: NOST. . . must be completed as NOSTRARUM, agreeing with ANIMARUM; and these letters fill the lines.

Line 4 ought to supply the missing verb, and to restore HA, as HALL does not fill the space, I suggest HABUIT, which satisfies the requirements.

Line 5: the first letter in the last word of the line is A. The third letter in the word has also been A, and a large part of it is still decipherable. Though the second letter is scaled off, a careful rubbing shows that it has been v. I know of no word which answers the requirements of these three letters, so well as AVARUM, “avaricious, covetous, stingy,” agreeing with QUEM.

Line 1 has not space for DOM, as formerly suggested, and the Register shows that the surname was spelt GRAINGER, which just fills the space. The first word would be DS., a common contraction of “Dominus.”

I would therefore restore the inscription thus:—

DS. G[VLIELMVS : G[RAINGER  
HI]C : IACET : ET : NOST[RARVM  
QVI : CVRAM : ANIM[ARVM  
IN : MONCASTRE : HA[BVIT  
QVEMNVLVS : DIXIT : AVA[RVM  
OBIIT : MAII 15, 1698:

“ Sir William Grainger lies here, who also had the cure of our souls in Muncaster, whom no one called covetous. He died May 15, 1698.”

It may be noted that the legend is rhymed, and the second part of it makes a hexameter. The first part looks as though a verse had been attempted, but it is far from satisfying prosody. Such verses, sometimes better, and sometimes worse, are often found in epitaphs or in MS. books of the seventeenth century. One can only regret in this case that the fetters of rhyme did not leave the composer free to tell us a little more about the Rev. William Grainger of Muncaster and Waberthwaite.

We know from the Chester Diocesan Registers that he was presented to Waberthwaite in 1677. From the Waberthwaite Registers we gather that he married on July 11th, 1682, Frances Casson; the name is that of a local family. In 1702, April 15th, occurs the marriage of “Mr. Henery Holmes and Mrs. Frances Graineger,” no doubt the widow of the vicar. Henry Holmes was William Grainger’s successor in the rectory of Waberthwaite (*Chester Diocesan Registers*).

The oldest Register of Waberthwaite is of parchment, in quarto, and fairly preserved except that the first leaf is missing and the next page is consequently dirty and rubbed. The earliest entries are—baptisms, 1656; burials, 1658; marriages, 1659. The volume contains a quaint certificate of burial in woollen, of October 19th, 1678, and a number of notices of the Penningtons of

Muncaster and their household, as well as of other names well known in the district.

The list of incumbents, as supplied by the Chester Diocesan Registry, is as follows. Presentations to Waberthwaite:—[Date?] Nicholas Laurenson. 1580, Christopher Troughton (on resignation of Laurenson). 1608, William Troughton (on resignation of C. Troughton). [Date?] Christopher Stockbridge. 1677, William Grainger (on death of C. Stockbridge). 1698, Henry Holmes (on death of W. Grainger). 1704, Robert Mawson (on cession of H. Holmes). 1708, John Steel (on death of R. Mawson). 1737, John Steele (on death of John Steel). 1776, Thomas Nicholson (on death of John Steele). 1826, J. Stanley (on resignation of T. Nicholson). 1847, T. Molineux (on death of J. Stanley).

Nominations to Muncaster:—1774, T. Nicholson (on resignation of J. Steele). 1826, Joseph Stanley (on death of T. Nicholson). 1844, Thomas Robinson (on resignation of J. Stanley).

Before leaving Waberthwaite, I should like to mention a large axe-hammer, found lately by a small boy in the bed of a watercourse in the parish. The material is a fine and hard micaceous sandstone, such as is seen in the Carboniferous deposits of Whitehaven: weight just over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and measurements about 8 inches by 5 inches. It is fractured at the axe end and slightly broken at the hammer end; the patination shows that these breaks are ancient.

Mr. Reginald A. Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, kindly informed the writer that, from a sketch, he judged this to be a mining tool of the Bronze Age, in spite of the hour-glass perforation, which is usually neolithic. The system was to heat a piece of rock, dash cold water on it, and knock away the shattered face with hammers.

The stone is now in the possession of Sir John Ramsden, Bart., of Muncaster Castle.