

ART. VIII.—*Scroggs Baptist Chapel, Broughton-in-Furness.*
By WILSON BUTLER.

Read at Kendal, April 22nd, 1931.

ABOUT a mile and a half from the Town of Broughton, on the left hand side of the Coniston road shortly before you come to Aulthurstside Farm will be observed a building used as a shelter for cattle. This is all that remains of the Baptist Chapel known as Scroggs.

Scroggs according to Evans (*Furness and Furness Abbey*), was erected by Roger Sawrey of Broughton Tower though it was not so in fact, and was then in the year 1842 in a state of dilapidation. It is also marked on the Ordnance Map, 1847 as a Baptist Chapel in ruins. Roger Sawrey was a Colonel in Cromwell's Army and had received the nickname of "Praying Sawrey." He bought Broughton Tower from one Edward Lee who had in turn bought it from the Commissioners appointed by the Commonwealth on the attainder of the then Earl of Derby, who was a Royalist. Colonel Sawrey was one of the foremost in the formation of Baptist Communities in Furness and Cumberland.

The old "Church Book" of Tottlebank Baptist Chapel in Colton records

"The 18th day of ye sixth month called August 1669 a Church of Christ was formed in order and sate downe together in the fellowship and order of ye gospel of Jesus Christ att the house of William Rawlinson of Tottlebank in Colton in Furness. There were present and assisted Mr. George Larkham Pastor of a Church of Christ in Cumberland and Mr. Roger Sawrey of Broughton Tower a member of Christ and off that particular church in London of which Mr. George Coackinge is Teaching

Elder. The persons joining themselves at this time were Gabriell Camelford, Hugh Towers, William Towers, James Towers, Joseph Towers, James Fisher and Henry Jackson."

Gabriell Camelford and George Larkham were Clergymen who had both been ejected from their livings by the Act of Uniformity.

Gabriell Camelford had been Curate of Staveley Chapel belonging to the Parish Church of Cartmel. He was the first Pastor of Tottlebank Chapel. George Larkham had been Vicar of All Saints Church, Cockermouth, and was afterwards Pastor of the Congregational Church at Cockermouth. After his ejection from his Church at Cockermouth, Larkham moved about to escape his persecutors. On July 17th, 1663 he states "understanding there was a warrant forth against me to hand me over to the Assizes I took my journey to Broughton Tower in Lancashire."

Another extract from the Tottlebank Church Book states:---

Jan'y. 15 1696/7

"Part of the Church met at Broughton Tower and broke bread and at the same time Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson upon manifestation of her union with Christ was received and added to the Church with free consent of her husband."

In the Daniel Fleming Diary it is recorded under date June 1st, 1672 describing the victory over the Dutch Fleet.

"We have undoubtedly lost many stout and noble gentlemen and commoners never more lost yet in an engagement." "They say Lampitt preached last Sunday at Broughton Tower and proclaimed there among his proselytes the great loss of men we had and the great press at London for more men."

Lampitt was the ejected Minister of Ulverston who had many controversies with George Fox. Dr. Nightingale in his work *The Ejected of 1662 in Cumberland and Westmorland*, says that he was B.A. from Gloucester Hall,



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Oxford and that he was in the year 1650 previously ejected from the Rectory of Aikton, Cumberland, by Sir Arthur Hasling and other Commissioners upon account of his not having been legally presented thereto.

Dr. Nightingale spent some time amongst the records of Quarter Sessions which were held at Wigan, Preston and other places and amongst them he found the following:—

Lancaster July 10th, 1694

“Ye dwellinghouse of William Towers of Ble-shy and Levens (“Bleasley and Low Moss) within Broughton-in-Furness (which said Towers is son-in-law of Colonel Sawrey) is appointed and desired by the Court admitted and recorded accordingly a meeting place for Protestant Dissenters.” I. Carrington. Recorder.

In the year 1663 there is a record

“I present for not coming to the morning Prayer Mr. Roger Sawrey.

Hugh Towers of Meanfield for the like.

Henry Jackson of Boothwaite Nook for the like.

Joseph Towers for the like.

Joseph Ralling Schoolmaster for the like.

These being presented to the Comisery before for the like.”

It will be observed that the first four named were members of the Church at Tottlebank when it was formed. The following recently discovered extract from the Court Rolls of the Manor of Broughton fixes with certainty the date of the building of Scroggs Chapel and shews that Mr. Evans was not accurate in his assumption that the Chapel was built by Roger Sawrey. Roger Sawrey's death being recorded in the Church Book of Tottlebank “Mr. Roger Sawrey departed his life to be and for ever with the Lord Aug. ye 6th 1699.”

The extract is as follows:—

“Signed one Deed from James Askew of Whallenrigg of a parcel of his tenement there to Hugh Towers of 24 yards square to build upon for two pounds. Redeemable with £50 at anytime by and by the said Hugh Towers assigned to be built upon to worship and serve

“ God in. To Mr. David Crosley, John Pennington, James Pert
“ and John Brockbank. Dated Decr. 12th 1701.”

This shews that Scroggs was built two years after Roger Sawrey's death.

Another extract is given by Dr. Nightingale from the Quarter Sessions Records which clearly refers to Scroggs Chapel:

“ These may certifie the Court that a house newly erected
“ at Whallenrigg within the Lordship of Broughton-in-Furness
“ is appointed and set apart for a publick Meeting house of
“ Protestant dissenters in religious worship in the room of
“ several private houses formerly certified and allowed to that
“ end according to an Act of Parliament in that case provided
“ Intituled an Act to exempt his Majesty's Protestant subjects
“ dissenting from the Church of England from ye penalty of
“ certain Laws.” Witness our hands this 4th day of April 1703
“ David Crossley James Pert John Pennington George Brockle-
“ bank.”

David Crosley succeeded Gabriell Camelford as Pastor of Tottlebank in 1695. He was formerly of Cripplegate Baptist Church, London. In 1714 he left Tottlebank and migrated to the Rossendale Valley, where the present strong position of the Baptist cause owes much to his labours.

Scroggs Chapel had formerly square windows similar to Tottlebank. Some spade-ace guineas were found in the sill of one of the windows many years ago by one Thomas Riley. In the Schoolroom belonging to the Wall End Chapel at Kirkby-in-Furness remains the old table belonging to Scroggs, and Mrs. Casson of The Low, Ulpha, Cumberland a Member of an old Baptist family possesses a Bible formerly used there. The inscription in the Bible reads “ 1812 The Gift of Mr. David Park to Scroggs Meeting and is to be lodged in the hands of Joseph Wilson.”

About the year 1854 a Baptist Chapel was erected at Ulpha, Cumberland in lieu of a room at the Low used

from the year 1823 for Meetings and it is believed that this place of worship was used in lieu of Scroggs which then fell to decay. Baptisms took place in the River Duddon near the Ulpha Chapel. Were they the Baptisms that are mentioned in the Tottlebank Church book?

There is a field curiously called "Absolution" adjoining the River Duddon near Broughton. Were the Baptisms from Scroggs performed there?

In writing this article I have obtained certain information from a privately printed article on the "Old Baptist Meeting Houses in Furness," by F. N. Richardson.

The higher building in the photograph was formerly used as a stable for those worshippers who attended the Chapel on horseback.