

ART. XIX.—*Grave Slabs in the Diocese of Carlisle.* Part
I. By the REV. CANON BOWER.

INTRODUCTORY.

I HAVE often been asked the question, “What are grave slabs?” They are sometimes the lids of stone coffins, often the covers of graves (either bricked or earthen), and one I have found, which rests on four pillars, and forms a table tomb. They are in all sizes. One of the smallest is at the Cathedral, and the largest at Cross-canonby.

Usually these stones are flat, but sometimes they are coped. The flat stones may be either (*a*) incised—*i.e.*, when the cross is merely outlined on the stone, and these lines have been filled with lead or white or coloured plaster. Sometimes the whole of the device has been cut away to the depth of $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch, and the matrix filled with plaster or pitch.

Again, there is another kind, (*b*) where the cross and other symbols are raised and stand in bold relief.

Others come in between these classes; the crosshead is in relief, the stone being dug out between the cross and the circle, and the rest of the design being simply incised.

CROSS HEADS.—It is very rarely that two are found alike. The commonest form is the floriated cross, or cross fleurie—the cross adorned with garlands. In ancient Gothic work the plain cross is rarely seen, being considered the cross of shame.

A circle is usually found round the cross head (standing for a nimbus), but there are exceptions—*viz.*, at Crosby Ravensworth, where the cross is in a square. Sometimes a smaller circle runs through the cross to represent the crown of thorns (Melmerby).

CROSSES are of many different kinds—viz., at Over Denton, a cross pommée; Brampton Old Church, cross botonée with eight arms; Lowther, a crosslet, &c.

STEMS.—In the fourteenth century we find the stem of the cross composed of leaves and branches, as at Dovenby, where there are oak-leaves and acorns.

At the FOOT of the cross is usually found either a flight of steps or a mound to represent Mount Calvary, and called a Calvary. Sometimes within the steps or mound is a device like a trefoiled window, and within this again a plain cross, rose, or other design.

SWORDS.—These weapons are very common emblems of a knight, esquire, or man at arms.

SWORD WITH BELT.—Great Salkeld, Carlatton, &c.

SHEARS.—These are found either sharp-pointed or square-ended. The latter may represent the burial-place of a clothier or wool-stapler. But the shears usually stand for a female—for instance, a slab at Holme Cultram has sharp-pointed shears, with inscription “Hic jacet Juliana de Redsyke.” Some say that the shears mean that the cord of life has been cut. Shears with the book of the Gospels are found at Dearham.

SHEARS with the BOOK of the GOSPELS and CHALICE are found on a stone at Melmerby. The Rev. T. Lees (these *Transactions*, o.s., vol. viii., p. 55), writing on this and similar slabs, says that the sharp-pointed shears combined with chalice and book may indicate the burial-place of an archdeacon (or rural dean), one of whose functions was to clip the locks of his clergy.

CHALICES.—These are found of different shapes at different periods. Frequently a book of the Gospels accompanies a chalice, and proves that the tomb is that of an ecclesiastic. Examples—Bromfield, Lazonby, Irthington, Brampton, Hutton-in-the-Forest, Great Salkeld, Melmerby, Carlatton, and Uldale Old Church, where the slab rests on four hexagonal pillars, and forms a table tomb.

SHIELDS are found at Ainstable, Melmerby, Hutton-in-the-Forest, Newton Reigny, and Bromfield.

KEYS at Papcastle. T. SQUARE at Dearham.

TWO CROSSES on one STONE are seen at Lazonby, HUNTING HORN at Great Salkeld and at Hutton, HORSE SHOE with pincers and hammer at Great Salkeld, BOOK of the GOSPELS without chalice at Beaumont (Kirkandrews-on-Eden) and Dovenby (from Dearham), CROSIER of pastoral staff is at Shap Abbey, something very like a FISH at Bromfield, and BUST of a lady above a cross at Appleby.

INSCRIPTIONS occur on slabs at Carlatton, Brampton, Dearham, Irthington, Aspatria, Bassenthwaite, Great Salkeld, Bromfield, Ainstable, and Ireby.

I wish here to thank the clergy for much kind help and sympathy in the preparation of this paper, and also the Rev. John D. Henderson, rector of Fetcham, for assistance in drawing the illustrations.

GRAVE SLABS IN THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CARLISLE.

In this catalogue it may be taken for granted, unless otherwise specified, that the slabs are all of red sandstone, that they are three or four inches thick, and that the drawings are all to the scale of half an inch to the foot.

RURAL DEANERY OF APPLEBY AND KIRKBY STEPHEN.

APPLEBY ST. LAWRENCE.

- 1.—In porch, elaborate cross head. On each arm is a double trefoil, stem rope pattern, with a trefoil at foot, Calvary steps; on both sinister and dexter sides, a rose or circular shield, shears on dexter, bevilled edges. I 1
- 2.—Under an arch on south side of sanctuary, a white stone female veiled head in relief. 6 inches thick. Beneath a floriated cross, also in relief. Analogy,

Lympley Stoke, Wilts. (*Archæological Journal*, vol. iv., p. 206). Fifteenth century. I 2

3 and 4.—Fragments of incised crosses, one with shears.

APPLEBY ST. MICHAEL.

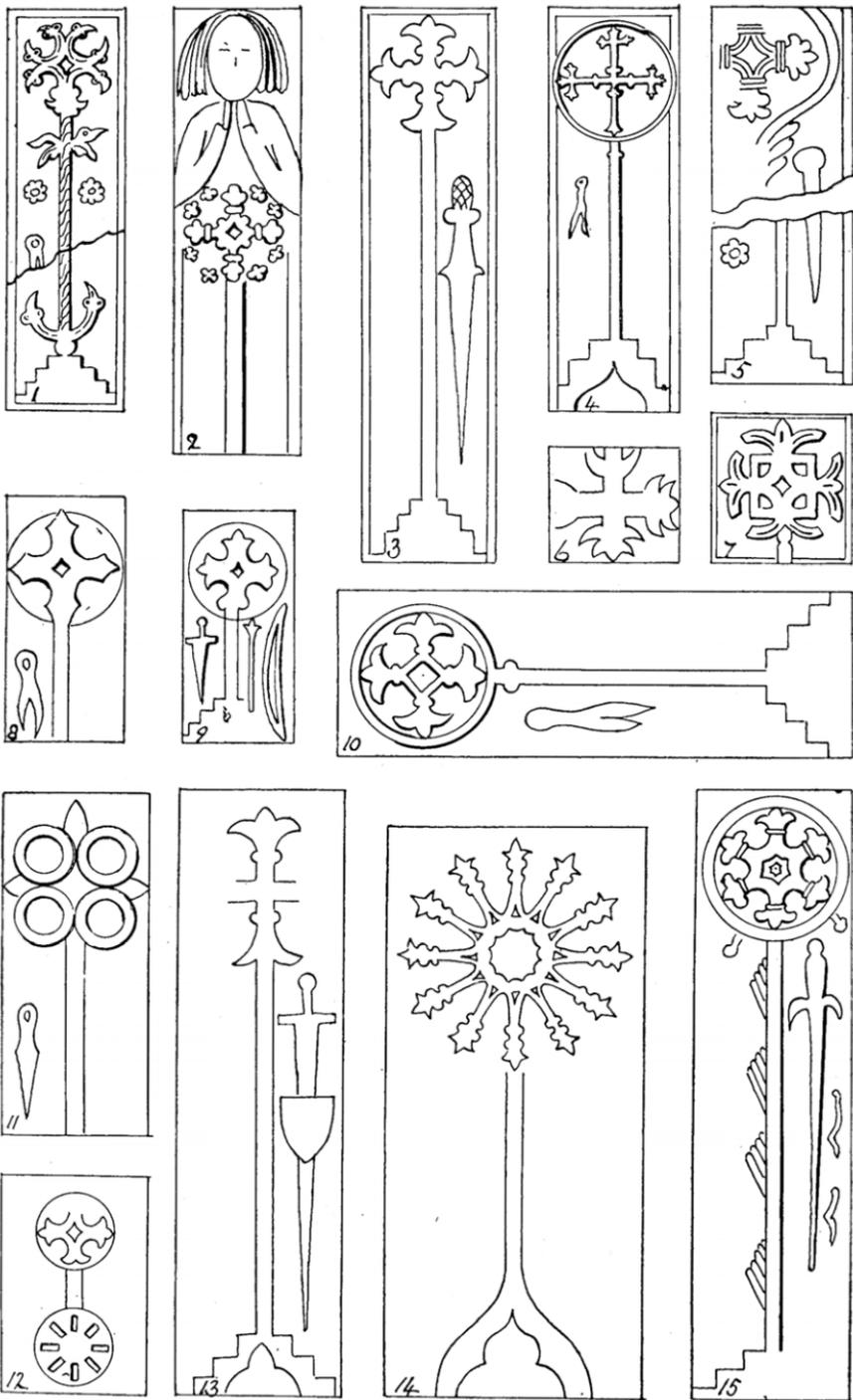
- 1.—At west end, resting on a window seat, 4 inches thick. Incised floriated cross; sword, with ornamental hilt on sinister. I 3
- 2.—Built into west wall of tower high up. Triple trefoil at each arm of cross, all in relief; shears on dexter, Calvary steps. I 4
- 3.—Two fragments, cinque-foiled arms of cross; rose on dexter and sword on sinister. I 5
- 4.—On north wall of tower, about 7 feet long, in relief; joined together, three fragments make a cross like the last, with shears and rose on sinister and rose on dexter.

BROUGH.

- 1.—In porch, 27 inches by 11 inches, plain cross in sunk disc; stem and shears on dexter. Incised. I 8
- 2.—Fragment in porch, east side. Cross head has a five-leaved branch at the end of each plain arm. Incised. I 6
- 3.—Ditto. Cross in sunk base, with a square frame intersecting the arms. I 7
- 4.—On north side of porch. Cross composed of four circles with leaf between, in sunk base; pointed shears on dexter. Thirteenth century. I 11
- 5.—In tower, cross fleurie in sunk base. Fragment, 23 inches by 9 inches.

DUFTON.

On the west outside wall of nave to right of tower, 27 inches by 12½ inches. Floriated cross in sunk base; on dexter a sword, on sinister a bow and arrow (a forester's grave). Calvary steps. I 9



I.—GRAVE SLABS AT APPLEBY, BROUGH, DUFTON, KIRKBY STEPHEN, LONGMARTON, MILBURN, GREAT MUSGRAVE, AND NEWBIGGIN.

KIRKBY STEPHEN.

In Musgrave Chapel, in high relief, 6 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 9 inches. Floriated cross; sword, with plain shield upon it, on sinister; Calvary steps with trefoil under. I 13

LONGMARTON.

In porch, a slab much worn, with sword on dexter side, and a plain shield on the stem of the cross.

MILBURN.

- 1.—Against east wall of porch. Floriated cross in circle, lozenge shaped in centre, shears on dexter side. I 10
- 2.—All in relief. Plain floriated cross; at the foot a wheeled circle with eight spokes, book of the Gospels on sinister. I 12

GREAT MUSGRAVE.

On east wall outside, white stone, 5 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 5 inches, in relief. A six-branched floriated cross within a circle; four leaves like the fins of a fish on dexter, sword on sinister and two small snakes. I 15

NEWBIGGIN.

On the floor, close to the Crackanthorpe vault on the south side of chancel, 5 feet 7 inches by 33 inches; the cross has twelve arms ending in trefoils, Calvary mound, with trefoil window-tracery within; all incised. I 14

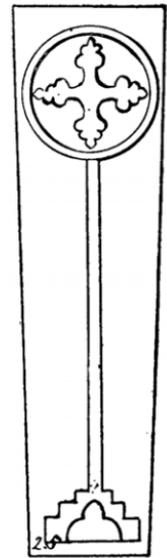
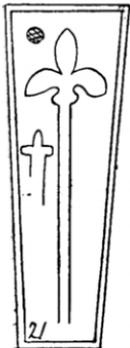
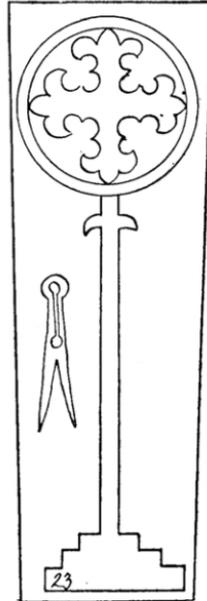
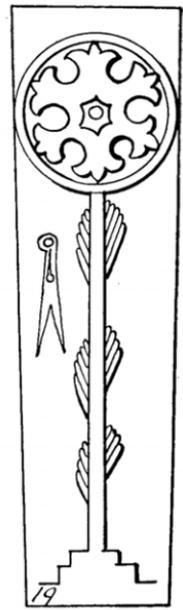
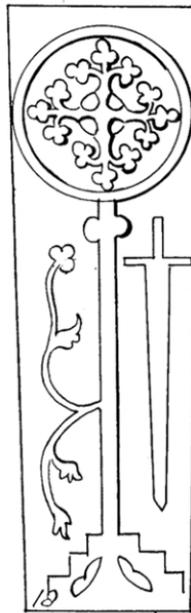
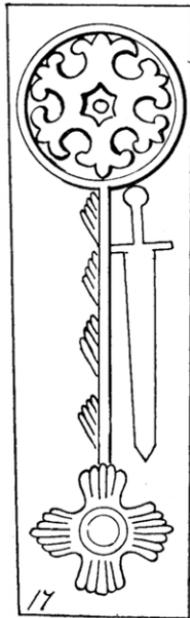
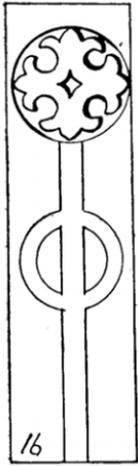
ORMSIDE.

- 1.—On outside of the north wall of nave, 3 feet 6 inches by 10 inches, white stone with bevilled edges. A simple three-leaved cross on plain stem, the foot being worn away; hilt of sword on dexter. II 21
- 2.—Fragment of slab with cross fleurie, white stone, 16 inches by 5 inches; incised. II 24

WARCOP.

- 1.—In Burton Chapel, 4 feet 4 inches by 12 inches. All four arms of cross fleurie in relief on sunk disc; incised stem passing through a circle representing a garland or wreath. II 16
- 2.—In churchyard, six-branched cross in high relief; stem with four leaves like fins of fish on dexter side terminating in a circle, the centre of a four-branched star; large sword on sinister. II 17
- 3.—Outside on south side against wall, 72 inches by 22 inches. Cross head in sunk disc, each arm breaking out into three crosses (botonée); on sinister an incised sword, and on dexter a branch dividing into two arms; Calvary steps, with cusped tracery. II 18
- 4.—In churchyard, 68 inches by 18 inches, in relief. Cross head as No. 2; fin ornament on both sides of stem, on dexter shears; Calvary steps. II 19
- 5.—In Burton Chapel, 48 inches by 14 inches, white stone in high relief with bevilled edges. Cross fleurie; on dexter sword, on sinister a leafed branch; Calvary steps. II 20
- 6.—In churchyard, 72 inches by 20 inches, high relief, an eight-branched cross fleurie; the stem is ornamented with three branches on either side, each one dividing out into three other branches; bevilled edges; Calvary mound, with window tracery. II 22
- 7.—Against south wall outside, 72 inches by 22 inches, all incised. Plain cross fleurie; Calvary steps; on dexter shears. II 23
- 8.—In Burton Chapel, 66 inches by 18 inches. Cross head in sunk disc; all four arms end in five-leafed ornament; Calvary steps with trefoil. II 25

I have old drawings of two others which could not be found.



II.—GRAVE SLABS AT ORMSIDE AND WARCOP.

DEANERY OF BRAMPTON.

BEWCASTLE.

- 1.—Leaning against the west wall of the church, 62 inches by 16½ inches, tapering to 9 inches at foot, grey freestone, 8 inches thick, bevilled edges, incised; fourteenth century. III 26
- 2.—On west wall of church, grey freestone, 58 inches by 15 inches, tapering to 13 inches, 6 inches thick, in relief. Rude cross. III 27
- 3.—Over washhouse door, grey freestone, incised, 60 inches by 7 inches by 6½ inches; a sword on a split stone.

BRAMPTON.

(OLD CHURCH.)

- 1.—On south edge of churchyard, 6 feet by 18 inches, tapering to 16 inches, incised. A plain Latin cross, with Calvary steps; sword on sinister, and "A. M." under the arms of the cross. III 28
- 2.—In south side of the porch, 6 feet 4 inches by 2 feet. On sinister large bevilled edge, cross with eight arms of iron-hinged pattern in relief in sunk disc, rest incised; chalice and book on sinister; Calvary mound, with window tracery. This is the tomb of Richard de Caldecotes, vicar 1334 to 1346. Inscription as follows—"Hic jacet dominus Richardus de Caldecotes qui fuit vicarius istius eccl." (these *Transactions*, O.S., vol. iv., p. 49, and vol. x., p. 166). III 29
- 3.—Under arch on south side outside, 5 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 3 inches, in high relief. Cross fleurie, with chalice on dexter, Calvary steps; two branches from stem support the cross, and give it a thirteenth century look.
- 4.—Another by its side, much worn, chamfered edges, 4 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 3 inches; fourteenth century.

CARLATTON.

(Was once a parish, these *Transactions*, o.s., vol. iv.,
p. 252.)

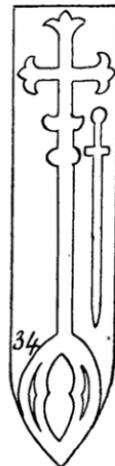
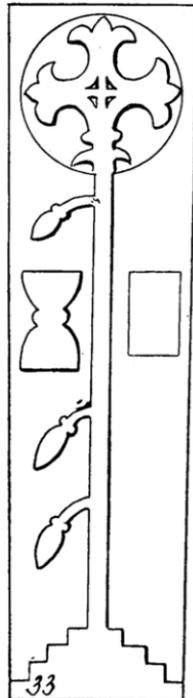
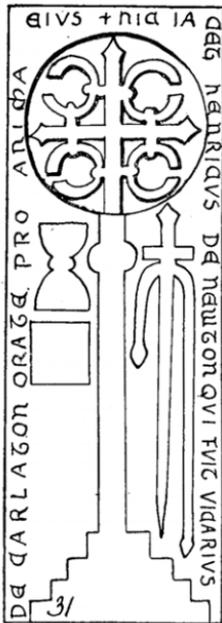
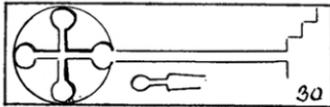
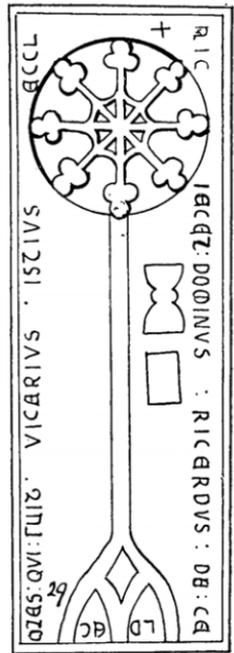
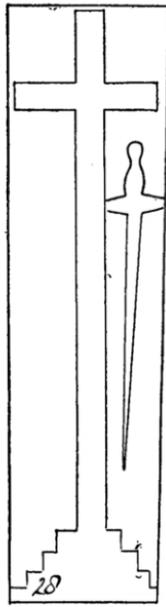
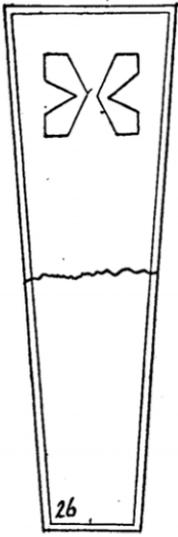
- 1.—Resting against garden wall, 6 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 3 inches, 14 inches thick. Cross fleurie in relief on sunk disc, the rest incised; on dexter chalice and book, on sinister a sword with belt; date 1344. Inscription—"Hic jacet Henricus de Newton qui fuit vicarius de Carlatan orate pro anima eius." III 31
- 2.—Over the barn door at the same farm is another similar stone 6 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 7 inches, and 7½ inches thick; the surface of sinister side is chiselled away, but the rest is as last slab. Inscription—"on istius ecclesie v orate p aia eivs pat." The late Chancellor Ferguson suspects this to commemorate Robert de Loudon, Newton's predecessor.

OVER DENTON.

On the north wall of interior of church, 3 feet 3 inches by 11 inches, white stone. Cross pommée in relief on sunk disc; stem, Calvary steps, and sword on dexter, all incised. Twelfth century. III 30

IRTHINGTON.

- 1.—Outside on path on south side of chancel, 4 feet by 16 inches, in relief, chamfered edges; arms of cross have five leaves, shears on sinister and, though much worn, traces of sword on dexter; the stem ends in a triple cinque-foiled foot. III 32
- 2.—Another of white stone, sculpture all gone.
- 3.—On north side of chancel on path, 7 feet by 22 inches to 15 inches, all in high relief. Cross fleurie in circle, bevilled edges; stem has three leaves on dexter with chalice, sinister side worn, but easily might once have had book; Calvary steps, with trefoil ornament. III 33



III.—GRAVE SLABS AT BEWCASTLE, BRAMPTON, CARLATON, OVER DENTON, AND IRTHINGTON.

- 4.—Another on north side, 4 feet 6 inches by 12 inches, incised cross fleurie, slab curiously chiselled to a point at the foot, with corresponding Calvary mound; sword on sinister; thirteenth century. III 34
- 5.—Near the last one, 4 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 3 inches to 1 foot 1½ inches, cross head obliterated; stem with seven garlands in relief on sunk base, a pellet in each corner; thirteenth century. IV 35

LANERCOST ABBEY.

(See these *Transactions*, o.s., vol xii., p. 317.)

- 1.—On the east wall of north aisle of the north transept, 5 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 5 inches, a floriated cross resting on a Calvary of seven steps, all incised; on sinister is a sword, and on dexter a very small Latin cross. Inscription, much effaced, is—"Here lieth the Body of Barbary Harding C elt hil, who died Dec 1740 aged 55 y"—evidently an old slab used for Barbara Harding in 1740. Similarly on an old effigy is cut "John Crow Longlands, died March 23 1708 aged 25 years." IV 39
- 2.—Near the last slab is one of grey freestone, 5 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 2 inches, incised. Floriated cross with broad stem or shaft, nearly half the breadth of the stone; shears on dexter; Calvary steps.
- 3.—Used as a coping stone on a blocked doorway in south transept and visible from cloister garth, 4 feet 8 inches by 1 foot 9 inches, incised; the cross head consists of eight floriated arms; sword on sinister, and book on dexter; sword and book may represent two persons, but more probably one, who was first a soldier, then an ecclesiastic. (See Carlattou and Newbiggin in Northumberland.) IV. 36
- 4.—A fragment near No. 2, 20½ in height, with incised floriated cross on short stem, ending in a Calvary of three steps; a single scallop on the dexter shows

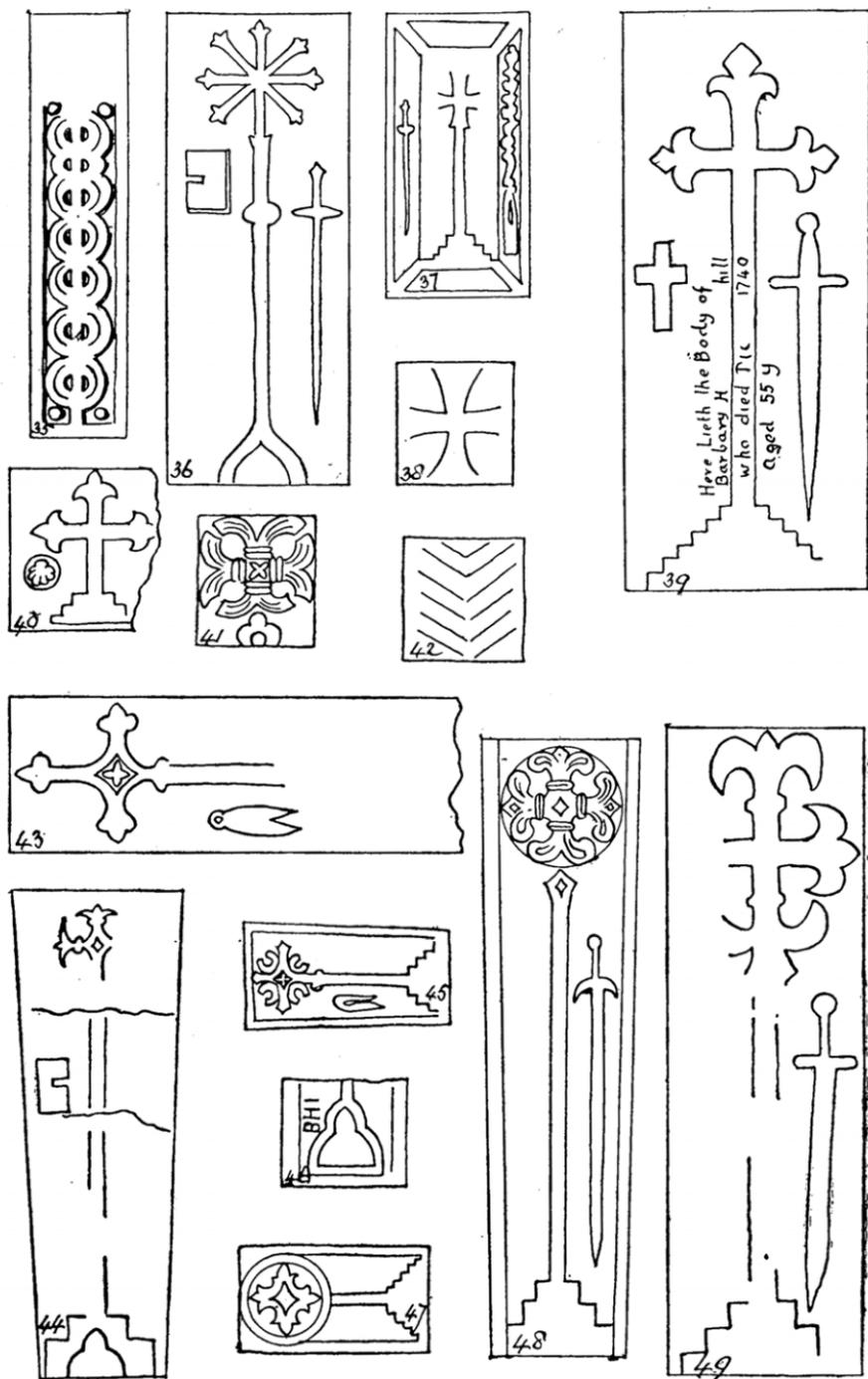
- that the grave is one of the Dacre family who came into possession in 1317, so the date of the stone may be late fourteenth century. IV 40
- 5.—Another fragment, 15 inches by 11½ inches, grey freestone, a cross fleurie of elaborate design, but of rough workmanship. IV 41
- 6.—In north transept, 2 feet 10 inches by 1 foot 4 inches, grey freestone, coped, the central portion with the cross being flat, while the four sides slope away; a simple cross, on dexter side a sword, while on the sinister is a pilgrim's palm and scrip; fourteenth century. IV 37
- 7.—In transept now, was formerly in crypt, 13 inches by 13 inches, incised; a very early stone, probably eleventh or twelfth century. IV 38

RURAL DEANERIES OF CARLISLE.

(NORTH AND SOUTH.)

CATHEDRAL.

- 1.—A small stone now in Fraternity, 22 inches by 12 inches to 10 inches. On bevelled edges are nail heads; in relief on sunk base. Cross fleurie; Calvary steps, shears on dexter, deeply incised. IV 45
In chamber over St. Katherine's Chapel, three fragments, viz. :—
- 2.—About 20 inches square, a floriated cross head, incised, somewhat elaborate.
- 3.—Another in two parts, about 5 feet long, incised stem and Calvary steps, book on sinister and portion of chalice on dexter.
- 4.—A third, the foot of which is 9 inches wide, tapering to 10½ inches. The fragment is 2 feet 3 inches long and 8 inches thick. The stem ends in a cinquefoiled ornament, and trefoiled leaves occur on stem. The whole is in relief on sunk base.



IV.—GRAVE SLABS AT IRTHINGTON, LANERCOST, CARLISLE, KIRKLINTON, BEAUMONT, SCALEBY, STANWIX, AND GREAT ORTON.

KIRKLINTON.

All built into the inside wall of belfry, and difficult to see and measure.

- 1.—An incised slab, 4 feet 6 inches by 18 inches to 15 inches; a clear cut and interesting cross head, with shears on dexter. IV 43
- 2.—A second, 62 inches by 18 inches to 14 inches; heavy cross fleurie, with sword on sinister. IV 49
- 3.—Also fragments of cross head on a slab, with deep splayed edges, 4 feet 3 inches by 7 inches.
- 4.—A herring-bone marked slab. IV 42
- 5.—A St. Cuthbert's cross. (The church is dedicated to St. Cuthbert.)

KIRKANDREWS-ON-EDEN.

(BEAUMONT CHURCH.)

- 1.—A slab in four portions, built into the west end wall of the church inside, the foot being placed on a stone pedestal, 6 feet by 18 inches to 10 inches; beyond these measurements there is a chamfer of 2 inches all round, in relief; book on dexter; Calvary steps with trefoil ornament of window tracery. IV 44
- 2.—Adjoining this is a slab with something like a manche upon it.

SCALEBY.

- 1.—Against the west wall of the interior of the church, 1 foot 9 inches by 11 inches to 10 inches, in relief on sunk base, small border all round, cross fleurie in circle; Calvary steps. IV 47
- 2.—A fragment built into east wall of porch, 1 foot 4 inches square. Floriated cross, with small sword on dexter side.

STANWIX.

All on south side of the church resting against the exterior wall.

- 1.—6 feet by 1 foot 6 inches, bevilled edges, 3 inches wide. Handsome cross fleurie in relief on sunk disc, the rest incised; sword on sinister, Calvary steps. IV 48
- 2.—Another, 6 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 7 inches; this has been very like No. 1 except shears take the place of sword.
- 3.—Adjoining No. 2, 6 feet by 3 inches by 1 foot 2 inches; all sculpture worn away except on bevilled edges, where is a well-cut dog-tooth ornament; Early English; thirteenth century.

GREAT ORTON.

Two fragments built into churchyard wall. (1) 1 foot 4 inches by 1 foot, Calvary trefoil foot, with letters "B.H.I.;" (2) 7 inches square, steps with circular ornament. IV 46

