**Excerpts from various documents relating to the parish, by date order.**

**CW2 xxiii, 235**

Re: Kirkandrews. “Church now destroyed; the 12th cent. Chancel-arch was standing early 19th cent. Ancient graveyard ...... well of St. Andrew, on the shore at foot of village.”

**CW2 xxx1, 24-5**

“Gives details of early history of the church.”

**CW1, viii, 510 (quoting Bishop Nicholson’s ‘Visitation’, 19)**

Bishop Nicholson visited Kirkandrews on 29 June 1703 and finding the church there “quiet demolished.... I have moved the parishioners here to a compliance with the men of Beaumont, rather than run the hazard of being put upon the expense of repairing their own church.

**1703, Bishop Nicholson**

“.... the church here at Kirkandrews in quite demolished. The parishioners bury their dead in the churchyard, and the late Rector, Mr Hume, lies buried, sub Dio, in ye Quire; but the divine service is at Beaumont, almost half a mile off. The parsonage-house is a long row of low buildings of clay, improved by the late incumbent, who was at about £10 charges in walling in an orchard. The glebe is about four acres of good land. The value of this and Beaumont (jointly) not above £30. I moved the parishioners here to a compliance with the men of Beaumont, rather than run the hazard of being put upon the expense of repairing their own church; offering, that towards the making all things the more easy for them, the old timber in that church should be bought for the improvement of the parsonage-house there. They seemed to like the proposal well, and, I believe will peaceably comply.”

**1702 Bishop Nicolson’s Visitation, with comments by Chancellor Waugh, 1749**

Beaumont. Ditto.

This poor Rectory with that of Kirk Andrews following was presented to the last week by the young Lord Lonsdale; and Mr Gale-Franks (a Frenchman and one of the Masters of the new school at Lowther) instituted into both. The Church is in as good repair as could be expected but has not a letter on the walls. Floor or Church yard, the East window in ye quire wants glass. The Parishioners desire that those of Kirk Andrews may contribute to and repair of this Church since they have none of their own and come constantly hither. The Rector has neither house nor Glebe. A pitiful clay house there has been, but the walls are now laid flat and by timber is a nuisance in the Church should it be rebuilt there’s no room for a garden nor indeed so much as for a stable or hog stye [sic]..

Kirk Andrews on Eden. Ditto.

The Church here is quite demolished. The parishioners bury their dead in the Church yard and the late Rector Mr Hume (lyes buryd) [sic]sub dio, in the quire; but the divine service is at Beaumont about half a mile off. The Parsonage House is a long row of low buildings of Clay improved by the last incumbent who also was at about 10s charged in walling in an orchard. The Gleab is about four acres of good land. The value of this and Beaumont (jointly) not about 30s. I moved the parishioners here to a compliance with the men of Beaumont rather than run the hazard of being put upon the expense of repairing their own Church, offering that towards the making all things the more easy to them, the old timber in that Church should be brought for e improvement of the parsonage house here. They seemed to like the proposal well and I believe will peaceably comply. They have tradition that the three little neighbouring Churches of this town, Beaumont and Grinsdale were built by three sisters who I must say were not too generous in subsisting their Chaplains. I rather think they have been (originally) small oratories, supplied by the Religious of Carlisle. How the Reverend of Grinsdale came into lay hands I know not but they all pay prescriptions instead of tithes in kind.

The friends and convent of Mary (or Marijke) in the Diocese of York presented to this Church in 1361 – R.W. (?) [sic]

Beaumont – Mr. Thomas Lewthwaite (who has bought up a large …. upon this small preferment) was instituted in 1704. The Church and house at Kirk Andrews were in pretty good repair when I saw them b.. . Beaumont …. returned by the com-as? at 18.01.06. Kirkandrews at … work now together about 30s. Since this valuation made in 1730.

Kirkandrews is augmented by lot. Families 34 1747. Dissenters 2 … viz. Quakers and Presbyterians 9 papists. Patron My Lord Lonsdale

Beaumont 18 – 1 - 6

Kirkandrews 5 - 9 - 4

…………. 14 - 0 - 0

 37 – 10 -10

What it makes more than this not paid.

 Kirkandrews – families 17. Dissenters -. Vis Quakers and Presbyterians and papists.

Parishes some with Beaumont …. to be in the c … …. the money laid out with Grinsdale and see page 7

**1777, Nicholson and Burn**

Beaumont.

“In 1747, it was certified that there were in this parish 34 families, of which, one Quaker, and one Presbyterian. (Note, the Presbyterian families in this and all other like places in the borders, are chiefly farmers that come out of Scotland; who resort as to their places of worship, to a Presbyterian meeting-house in Carlisle, or else go over on Sundays into their native country of Scotland.)”

“Here is a small church at Beaumont, which serves both the parish and Kirk Andrew; for there is no church at Kirk Andrew. But the rector lives at Kirk Andrew, where there is a small house and glebe, and none at Beaumont; which house was built by the present rector, the reverend George Bowness, for which the bishop permitted him to take the stones that were the ruins of the old church there.”

Kirkandrews

“There is now no church remaining. The parishioners have long attended at divine service at Beaumont, but they still continue to bury in the churchyard here. There are only about 26 families in this whole parish.”

**1785, Pattinson’s Charity**

The parish of Beaumont and Kirkandrews is entitled to share the interest of £50.0.0 left by Thomas Pattinson in 1785 for teaching poor children; the money is used for the education of children with a view to assisting them to learn a trade or business. (Grants are still available for students, resident in the parish, who receive further education after leaving school.)

**1794, Hutchinson, vol. II, 521-2**

Re: Kirkandrews

“There is a small rectory house here.....built....out of stones recovered from the ruins of the church (which)....has now been in ruins a great number of years.”

**1817, from the diary of the Revd. Richard Burn**

“I reside in the parish and perform all the duties thereof. I read Prayers at Burgh once a fortnight, in the evening, after I have read Prayers in my own church, about a mile distant.

The accustomed service is duty once every Sunday in the morning, and prayers in the Evening a few weeks in the summer season. This service was performed.”

**1829, Parson and White**

Beaumont parish. Beaumont is a village, township, and parish including the hamlets of Monk Hill, and Port Carlisle and situated on the west side of the Eden, 4 miles N.W. of Carlisle. The parish, which is about 2 miles long and 1 broad, was anciently a manor belonging to the Bruns Lords of Bowness but in the 14th century it became the property of the Dacres, and is now part of the barony of Burgh, occupied by customary tenants. The church, which is in good repair , is dedicated to St. Mary, and since the year 1692 has served as the parochial place of worship both for this parish and that of Kirk –Andrews, where the ruined church, which gives name to the place, has long been in a state of dilapidation. The Earl of Lonsdale is patron of the now united Beaumont and Kirkandrews, and the Rev. Richard Burn is the incumbent. A small modus or prescript rent is paid to the rector by each parish in lieu of tithes, so that the sum total of his yearly income is only about £100.0.0; part of which arises in Sedberg in Yorkshire, purchased in 1772, with £200, given by the Countess Dowager Gower, and £200 obtained from Queen Anne’s Bounty. There is a small piece of glebeland in Kirkandrews parish, where the rectory house is situated. The great Roman Wall crossed this parish, (see page 90).

School endowment- vid p34. About 30 acres of land, called Priest-hill, was allotted to the rector at the enclosure of the common, in 1680, but Burns says it has been withheld from the church.

Sandsfield, or Port Carlisle, is a hamlet opposite to Rockcliffe, on the west bank of the Eden, where vessels of 60 tons burthen can lie to receive and discharge their cargoes. (see page 151).

Beaumont Parish Directory

Bainbridge John, shop keepier.

Barnes Nancy, Vict. Lowther’s Arms.

Elliott Christopher, joiner, Monkhill;

Jollie John, gentleman;

Norman William, shoe mkr.;

Pearson John, joiner;

Pearson Joseph, blacksmith.

Farmers Blaylock John, Brayton Richard, Priesthill, Clark John, Port Carlisle, Davison John, Monkhill Hall, Gilkerson William, Graham John, Hodgson John, (yeoman), Irving John, Johnson William, Langcake Wm. (and miller), Monkhill, Liddle John, Sewel James.

**1829, Parson and White**

Kirkandrews on Eden. Another small parish, comprising only 751 acres, rated at £539. 15s. Is bounded by the River Eden, and the parishes of Grinsdale, Burgh, Beaumont, Orton, and St. Mary’s, and contains 142 inhabitants resident in 24 houses, forming the village of Kirkandrews, and the hamlet of Hosket Hill, situated near the ship canal, 3 miles W.N.W. of Carlisle. The principle proprietors of the soil (which is generally a dry loam) are Mr. John Bowman, Mr. J. Hind and the Misses Blamire. It is a parcel of the barony of Burgh, but all the land is now freehold. At a place called Kirksteads, about one mile S of the village, there was anciently a church, which is said to have served the parishes of Kirkandrews, Beaumont, Grinsdale and Orton. “There is no account how long ago the said church fell, or was taken down, but it must have been very long since, as the church built afterwards at Kirkandrews has been in ruins a great number of years since.” All traces of both the church and church yard have long since disappeared, the principle part of its dilapidated walls having been removed about 80 years ago, for the erection of the rectory house, which occupies a pleasant situation near its site, where free stones curiously carved, and human bones have frequently been dug up. In ecclesiastical matters this parish has long been united to that of Beaumont, and the two livings are in the same parsonage and incumbency. A number of urns were found about 60 years ago, on the common, where there are three circular ditches. The school here was built by the joint subscription of the inhabitants of this parish and the parishes of Beaumont and Grinsdale, and the master receives £1. 18s. 6d. yearly, from Pattinson’s Charity, for which two children are instructed free.

Directory

Rev. Willm. Benn B.A. Rectory;

Misses Blamire;

Robert Blayton, blacksmith;

Robert Newman, gent,;

Willm. Sowbery, shoemaker:

Farmers John Beswick, Willm. Burton, (yeo), John Hind, (yeo), Joseph Hind, Adam Hownam, Cobblehall; Thos. Norman, John Richardson, Hoskethill; Thos. Thomlinson, and George Tutner, Hoskethill.

**1847, Mannix and Whellan,**

Beaumont Parish.

It is about two miles long and one broad, and contains the villages of Beaumont and the hamlets of Monk Hill and New Sandsfield, on the wets side of the Eden and four miles N.W. of Carlisle. It contains 288 inhabitants, and 1429 rateable acres of land, chiefly the property of G. H. Oliphant Esq., Messrs. William Jackson and John Hodgson. The land which is now nearly all freehold, is generally fertile and the parish is rated at £1288 10s. The parish was anciently a manor belonging to the Burns, lords of Bowness, but it became the property of the Dacres, in the 14th century, and is now part of the barony of Burgh. Population in 1841, 288.

The church dedicated to St. Mary, is in good repair, and since the year 1692, has served as the parochial place of worship for both this parish and that of Kirk Andrews, where there was once a church, that gave its name to the place, but all traces of it have long since disappeared. The earl of Lonsdale is patron of the united rectories of Beaumont and Kirk Andrews, and the Rev. William Benn B.A. is the incumbent, for whom a good rectory house was erected in 1847, in a beautiful situation on the banks of the Eden. The living is worth about £270, a year, part of which arises from land at Sedberg in Yorkshire, purchased in 1772, with £200 given by the countess dowager Gower, and £200 obtained from queen Anne’s bounty. The tithes of the united parishes were commuted about 20 years ago, £191. 5s. 9d. viz., Beaumont £134. 2s. 9d. and Kirk Andrews £57. 3s. About 30 acres of land, called Priesthill, was allotted to the rector at the enclosures of the common in 1680, but Burn says it has been withheld from the church. The parish was entitled to a share of the interest, of £50, left by Thomas Pattinson, in 1785, for teaching poor children. (see Kirk Andrews)

Directory

Barnes Hannah, victualler, The Lowther Arms,

Clarke James, joiner,

Elliot Christopher, joiner, Monk Hill

Forster William, victualler, The Drover’s Inn, Monk Hill

Hodgson Mrs Henrietta,

Morton Jno, weaver, Monk Hill

Norman William, shoemaker

Pearson Jno, joiner

Pearson Joseph, blacksmith,

Farmers

Dand William, Monk Hill, Edge Thomas (and corn miller) Monk Hill, Gilkerson William, Graham John, Haugh Jno, Holmes Mill, Hodgson John, Irving Edward, Irving James and Jane, Little Dav., New Sandsfield, Mounsey William, Pearson Jno, New Sandsfield, Richmond William, Monk Hill Hall, Sewell James, Wilson Mary, Priesthill.

**1847, Mannix and Whellan,**

Kirk-Andrews on Eden is another small parish without a dependant township and containing only 141 inhabitants resident in 24 houses forming the village of Kirk-Andrews and the hamlet of Heskit Hill, situated near the Ship canal, 3 miles N.N.W. of Carlisle. It is bounded by the river Eden and th parishes Grinsdale, Burgh, Beaumont, Orton and St. Mary’s. It is a parcel of the barony of Burgh, but part of the land is freehold. The customary tenure is the same as at Burgh. Vide p 363-4.

At Kirksteads, about 1 mile south of the village, there was anciently a church, which is said the have served the parishioners of Kirk-Andrews, Beaumont, Grinsdale, and Orton, and there is still the appearance of the church-yard, in which free-stones, curiously carved stones, and human bones have been frequently been dug up. “There is no account how long ago the said church fell, or was taken down but it must have been very long since, as the church built afterwards at Kirk-Andrews has been in ruins a great number of years,” and has now nearly disappeared, the principle parts of its dilapidated walls having been removed about 60 years ago, for the erection of the Rectory-House. In ecclesiastical matters this parish has been long united with that of Beaumont, and the two livings are in the same patronage and incumbency as has been seem in page 361. About 40 years ago a number of urns where found in a gravel pit on the common, where there are three very distinct circular ditches.

Kirk-Andrews parish Directory.

Blamire Miss Isabella,

Brayton Robert, blacksmith;

Burn Rev. Richard, Rector;

Elliott Christopher, joiner;

Kennedy Francis, clog and patten maker;

Norman John, land surveyor;

Norman John, Jn., land surveyor;

Norman Robert, gent.

Farmers, Burton William, Hind John, Sn. Yeoman, Hind John, Jn. Hind Stephen, Williamson Jacob, Heskit Hill.

**1847, Mannix and Whellan, “Directory of Cumberland”, 179**

Beaumont “the Church .... is in good repair and since the year 1692, has served as parochial place of worship for both the parish and that of Kirkandrews, where there was once a church ..... but all traces of it have long since disappeared.”

Beaumont: 288 Inhabitants, 1429 rateable acres. Two pubs (Drovers, Lowther Arms at Beaumont). 3 Joiners, 1 weaver, 1 shoemaker, 1 blacksmith, 14 farmers including 2 yeomen; Wm David, Monkhill, John Hodgson, also Thos. Edge, corn miller. Pattinson’s charity 1785 mentioned.

**1847, Mannix and Whellan, “Directory of Cumberland”, 197**

 Grinsdale: 115 Inhabitants, 719 acres. Brief History of Church – rebuilt at sole expense of Joseph Dacre Esq., about the year 1743 being of white free stone is a pretty object on the banks of the Eden.

**1847, Mannix and Whellan, “Directory of Cumberland”, 198**

“All traces of both the church and churchyard have long since disappeared, the principle part of its dilapidated walls having been removed about 80 years ago, for the erection of the rectory house, which occupies a pleasant situation near tits site.”

Kirkandrews: 142 Inhabitants 751 acres. “There was anciently a church at Kirksteads…” Blacksmith, shoemaker, 9 farms including 2 yeomen (Robert Norman, gent).

**1858, From the Post Office Directory**

Beaumont is a township, small parish and village 4 miles N.W. of Carlisle, in the Carlisle union, Cumberland Ward, Eastern Division of the county, and the deanery, archdeaconry and bishopric of Carlisle and archbishopric of York. The church dedicated to St. Mary, and situated in the middle of the village, is a small picturesque and in good repair, and serves as the parochial place of worship both for this and the adjacent parish of Kirk Andrews. The living is a rectory, united with that of Kirk Andrews, worth about £250 per annum (part of part of which arises from land at Sedbergh, in Yorkshire, purchased in 1772, with £200 given by the Countess Dowager Gower, and £200 obtained from Queen Anne’s Bounty), with a good residence (recently erected , and situate in Kirk Andrews), and 11 acres of glebe land in the patronage of earl Lonsdale, now held by the Rev. John Brown, B.A. The tithes for the united parishes were commuted, in 1827, for £199. 5s. 9d. – viz., Beaumont £134 2s. 9d>, and irk Andrews £57 3s. The great Roman Wall crossed this parish. The manor formally belonged to the Bruns, lords of Bowness, but is now part of the barony of Burgh. Population, in 1851, 204. And the area 1420 rateable acres. The parish is entitled to the share of the interest of £50left by Thomas Pattinson in 1785 for teaching poor children. Bricks and tiles are made here.

Directory

Brown Rev. John, B.A. (Rector), Kirk Andrews

Hodgson Mr John,

Wilson Mrs Mary, Priest hill

Commercial

Barnes Hannah, (Mrs), Lowther’s Arms,

Blenkin John, Farmer

Brayton James and John, Millers and farmers, Monk hill mills

Clarke James, joiner

Carlisle Joseph, Veterinary surgeon, Monk hill hall

Edger John, farmer and miller, Holmes mill

Gilkerson William, farmer

Hodgson John, Jun., farmer

Irving James, farmer

Irving John, drover inn, Monk hill

Johnson William, brick and tile manufetr.

Little David, farmer, Castle Dyke

Mein Robert, Parish Clerk

Mounsey John, farmer

Norman William, shoe maker

Pattinson John, farmer

Pearson John, farmer, Sandsfield

Pearson John, joiner

Pearson Joseph, blacksmith

Wards Edward, farmer

Letters are delivered by foot messenger from Carlisle, which is also the nearest money office.

**1860, Whellan History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland. 171**

“The church which formerly stood here was dedicated to St. Andrew, from which the parish takes its name. No part of it is now in existence, nothing save the undulations in the green sward remains to show the site where it stood. There are some persons yet living who recollected the old chancel arch which remained for many years after the other portions had been removed.. It was used to perform the burial service under, and from what we can learn it was a Norman arch, and the church, in all probability, would be in that style of architecture. Bishop Nicholson in his Itinerary through the diocese in 1703 says, “.... the church here at Kirkandrews is quite demolished. The parishioners bury their dead in the churchyard, and the late rector (Mr Hume) lies buried, sub Dio, in ye Quire; but the divine service is at Beaumont, about half a mile off. The parsonage-house is a long row of low buildings of clay, improved by the late incumbent, who also was at about £10 charges in walling in an orchard. The glebe is about four acres of good land. The value of this and Beaumont (jointly) not above £30. I moved the parishioners here to a compliance with the men of Beaumont, rather than run the hazard of being put upon the expense of repairing their own church; offering, that towards the making all things the more easy for them, the old timber in that church should be bought for the improvement of the parsonage-house there. They seemed to like the proposal well, and, I believe will peaceably comply.””

**1860, Whellan**

(Re: Kirkandrews)

“There is a most excellent parsonage-house adjoining the churchyard which commands a most beautiful view to the east and north over the rich and fertile vale of Eden, whose winding course may be traced to a considerable distance. The house was erected in 1847 by the Revd. Mr Benn, Rector, at the cost of £800, borrowed of the governors of Queen Anne’s Bounty. It is a plain substantial building of brick and the interior accommodation appears to have been more aimed at than any architectural beauty.”

**1888, Extracts from “The Dawn of Day”, parish magazine**

Loaned by Jenny Read, to whom it was given by Lydia Waite.

History of the parish of Beaumont Chapter VI, p 97 (July 1888)

“The Church is dedicated to St. Mary, valued in the King’s books at £8.1.8. The Clear yearly value, as certified to the governors of Queen Anne’s bounty, £18.1.6d In 1772, it received an augmentation of £200, from the Governors of Queen Anne’s bounty, in conjunction with £200 given by the Countess Dowager Gower, wherewith lands were purchased in the parish of Sedbergh, of the present yearly value of £14. In 1692 this small Rectory was presented to jointly with Kirkandrews and hath ever since been so held.

In 1747, it was certified that in this Parish there were 34 families; of which, one Quaker and one Presbyterian. The Presbyterian families in this, and all other like places in the borders, are chiefly farmers that come out of Scotland; who resort, as to their placed of worship, to a Presbyterian meeting-house in Carlisle, or else go over on Sundays into their native country of Scotland.”

“In 1365, Thomas de Sourby, Rector, bequeathed £1, to find candles in the church of St Mary of Beaumont.”

Nature of the Parish etc in 1794 Chapter VII, p 113 (August 1888)

SOIL AND PRODUCE – The land from Sandshill to Beaumont is (1794) lately improved common, opposite to Rockcliff is some fine holm land, of an excellent soil, producing grain, clover and grass.

SITUATION AND APPEARANCE – The town of Beaumont stands rather high upon the banks of the Eden, and has an agreeable appearance. Towards the sea, the lands look wild and naked.

FUEL – Coal from Tindale Fell, and Bolton, with some peats.

AGRICULTURE – Agriculture is here in pretty good perfection, most of the land owners occupying their own estates, and people of considerable property. The parishioners are wealthy, but in general great economists, and value themselves much on their riches; but upright in their dealings, and hospitable to strangers. Cattle are here of a large size, being partly of the Lancashire and Westmoreland breed.

COMMERCE – Sandsfield is an old port, where vessels of 60 tons could receive and discharge their cargoes, but the water has long ago receded, yet the old warehouse still remains (1887). The imports were quantities of fir timber, iron, flax, tar rice and merchant goods; the exports are small, a little wheat, butter, alabaster etc. In 1721, Thomas Pattinson, John Hicks and Henry Orm, of the city of Carlisle, procured an Act of Parliament to deepen, cleanse, and more perfectly make navigable, the river Eden from Ellen Foot to Bank End and to keep the same clean and at their own proper costs and charges, and for the great expense attending such an undertaking, they were allowed for thirty one years a certain duty upon coals, lime, etc.

ANTIQUITIES – Hadrian’s Wall, built about AD 120 passes through Beaumont. In crossing the beck, before approaching Beaumont, the fosse of the Wall is well developed. In a wall at Beaumont in the larger part of a somewhat ornamental inscription, commemorating the doings of the fifth cohort of the twentieth legion, which was surnamed the Valerian and Victorious. This stone was found about 50 years ago in the river Eden, by Mr. Thomas Hodgson, brother of the present Mr. John Hodgson of Beaumont.”

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW VESTRY Chapter VII, p 129 (Sept 1888)

“On August 9th, Mr Saul of Brunstock, laid the foundation stone of the new vestry. The work of restoration has revealed the existence of a leper-window in the south wall of the Church; in the north wall there was found part of the remains of a very ancient tomb stone; and in the north wall also there was found a pigeon’s nest with an egg, which must have been there for many hundreds of years. Three spring (?) of window arches were found in the wall and three parts of the shafts of the doorway were found in the south wall.

We were sorry to see so few of the parishioners at the Service, only six, surely 280 could not have been at their hay. It is rather a pity that the parishioners do not take more interest in the restoration of their church….

In a cavity beneath (the foundation stone) there was placed a sealed bottle containing a history of the parish and a copy of the current number of the parish magazine…..”

Chapter VII, p 130

“In the Church wall, by the gate, is the top of one of the old windows of the Church.

In the Churchyard are some fine fourteenth century sepulchral slabs, one to the memory of a Harper, found in 1872, by Mr. James Clark, when digging a grave for the late George Armstrong, of Beaumont, another to a Deacon, as it bears the clasped book, found about 15 years ago by Mr James Clark and Mr. John Bulman, when digging a grave.

There is another, lying against the North wall of the Church, in the Churchyard. It was originally in the North wall, in the Chancel, half of it projecting from the wall. It may have been a Credence Table. It has four distinct circles upon the part which projected from the wall. What these were intended for I have not yet discovered. There are two other stones, parts of the old East Window. And the other stones were found when digging graves, and are, I fancy, stones belonging to the old Roman Wall.

THE PARISH CHURCH. The Parish Church is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin. At Beaumont there is a wall, called after St Ann, who was the mother of the Virgin Mary. The Church occupies the site of one of the mile castles

On the Roman Wall, which was afterwards made into a Saxon or Danish Camp; it is of Norman origin, and built of Roman materials, perhaps out of the stones from the old Roman Wall.

The East end was restored in 1872, when fragments of an older East window was discovered, Bishop Nicholson, in his Visitation, says “The East Window in ye Quire wants Glass. The Parishioners desire that those of Kirkandrews may contribute to ye repair of this Church, since they have none of their own, and come constantly hither.”

It is thought that the Church has been wider at one time then it is now. This is a disputed point, and it is very difficult to determine whether it has been so or not. A few years ago, on breaking through the North wall to make the present windows, it was thought that the wall had not the appearance of being an old one as that on the South. The present rafters, they say, in the roof show, by the holes and marks, that they must have been on a wider Church, this will be looked into when the Church is restored. Again, new walls are never built as thick as old ones, yet this North wall is about the same thickness as that on the South. The windows in the East wall are set in the centre, therefore, it is said, that when the North wall was re-built, it was put more towards the centre of the Church, and thus throwing the East window more towards the North than it ought to be. This may or may not to be so.”

Chapter VII (continued), p 145 (Oct 1888)

If the windows were ever in the centre of the East wall, the middle window (for there are three) would now be under the apex, but it is far from being so. There is another argument which tends to show that the windows in the East wall have never been in the centre. In early times, the Architects of the Churches often placed that part of the Church more towards the North, representing out Blessed Lord hanging on the Cross, with His Head inclined to the right. This seems the more likely, when we consider the opinion of Bishop Nicholson, that the Church (like Kirkandrews and Grinsdale) was originally a small Oratory, supplied by the Religious of Carlisle. The question may be settled when the Church is restored, because the new Vestry will be built on the North side, and it may be possible to come across the old foundation of the original North wall, if there ever was one.

Mr. James Clark, of Beaumont, was told by Mr. Robert Hodgson that he, Mr. Hodgson, remembered the present seats being put into the Church in the year 1784, before that they were mere benches without backs.

THE PISCINA. The Piscina in Beaumont Church was made and put in by Mr. David Brown in the year 1872. It is not a copy of the old one, which was of a semi- hexagonal shape, very plain and shallow. The design was taken from a picture of a 14th century Piscina, figured in a book called “Old England”. The old one was very badly damaged and broken. It was placed outside the Church but has since been lost.

THE OLD RECTORY. Bishop Nicholson, in 1703, says that the Rectory is a pitiful Clay House, but the walls were then laid flat, and the timber a nuisance in the Church; this seems to show that it must have been very near the Church and probably in the Churchyard. The timber was bought for the improvement of the Parsonage House at Kirkandrews. Where is this placed now? It must have been a small place, as Bishop Nicholson says, “should it be re-built, there is no room for a garden, nor, indeed, so much as for a stable or hog sty.”

I copy the following from the Parish Terrier of 1828, “First one house stead, or a parcel of ground to build a house apon situate at Beaumont intermixed with the ground belonging to Geo. Henry Hewitt, Esquire.” This land can hardly have been on the right hand side of the Church, because that land belonged to the Reverend John Hodgson, and the land on the left hand side belonged to Geo. Henry Hewitt esq. so I fancy it must be on the left hand side, but the question is where is it? Surely some of the old people ought to know something about it, because there must be many in the Parish who were born before the year 1828.

This Terrier also states that there is chest with three locks and keys belonging to the Church; what has become of it? There is a very small iron sake at the Rectory at Kirkandrews, but this has only one lock and key.

THE BEAUMONT HOARD. Mr. R S Ferguson says that, in 1884, two laborers, while engaged in cutting a main drain through a field, came upon a stone, about nine inches below the surface of the ground, and below this they found a mass of silver coins. These coins consisted of all of 2,000 pieces. One piece was a penny of Henry III, the rest belonged to the first three Edwards. Mr. R S Ferguson also says that between 1819 and 1823, in cutting the canal from Carlisle to the Solway, a board of Roman coins was found. Also that about forty years ago, a board of silver coins was found at Sandsfield, they were pennies of the first three Edwards. I should have thought that the Lord of the Manor would have had a claim on these coins.”

Chapter VIII, p 161 (Nov 1888)

THE RESGISTERS OF BEAUMONT. There is little more to be said of these, than what has been written of the registers of Kirkandrews, as they are written in the same books, only they commence a little earlier. The oldest entries were copied by the Reverend Richard Burn, Jnr., into another book. From that new book, I quote the following:- “This book contains true and correct copies of Baptisms, Burial, and Marriages belonging to the Parish of Beaumont in the County of Cumberland, and diocese of Carlisle, beginning in the year of our Lord 1692, and correctly copied from a very old Register Book completely tattered and torn to pieces, as Witness my hand this first day of January 1819, RICHARD BURN, Jnr., Rector of Beaumont and Kirkandrews.” This old register contains separate leaves except one which is double. This double leaf, Mr. Burn received from Mr. John Hodgson of Beaumont, November 7th 1825 found among his father’s papers. I find Mr. Burn has omitted to copy one page of this into his book, and this contains the earliest entries. The first is that of Isabella Liddell, baptized October 28th 1679. Nearly half of this page contains the baptisms of the Liddel’s, written in an extremely good hand.

p 177, (Dec 1888)

The following have been the gifts to the Church, since the commencement of the Restoration Fund; Sister Isabel, altar linen; Sister Ellen, white marker for the book of the Gospels; Mr. R L Blomfield, Brass Altar Cross; Miss Sturkey, Brass Altar Book Stand The Rector and Church wardens of Wetheral, Lectern; The Rector and Mrs. Sturkey, Altar Vases, two pairs of Candlesticks, and Font Ewer.

RE-OPENING AND HARVEST FESTIVALS. The re-opening of the Church and Harvest Festival were held during the octave of All Saints. The architect, Col. Walker, has exercised much are in converting every architectural detail of character in the building, and the work has been completed in such a manner as to provide a most attractive and comfortable Church, in every way suitable to modern necessities, while retaining all the features which are of value to the antiquarian.

In the Churchyard have been found some fine sepulchral slabs of the fourteenth century. One is to the memory of a harper, and another to a deacon, the figure bearing the clasped Book. These after the alternations, have been placed inside the Church, against the wall at the west end. A very fine lepers window was discovered in the south wall on the outside. This has been retained. In addition to these, numerous incised stones and others with mason’s marks, found during the piercing of the massive walls for the new windows, have been introduced into the window jambs and dressings. Seven new, first pointed lancet shaped windows, of an early character, have been inserted, and a tall double light window has been placed in the west gable. These take the place of several of the old windows, which appeared to have been made without any regard for symmetry of taste.

A new vestry, the foundation of which was laid by Mr Saul in August, has been built on the north east side of the Church, and close to it is the heating chamber.

**Letters from Bounty Offices 30.12.1930**

2 payments collected on account of Tithe of Fish and Fishing,

2/4d from Carlisle Corporation

£2.17.0 from Mr. T Robinson

Corporation ‘desirous of paying a lump sum in redemption’ to produce income of 2/4 per annum in Government security.

‘I have recollection that your predecessor, the Revd. J A Kitchin informed me a good many years ago that some earlier Incumbent used to spend a good deal of time by the river seeing that he received all that he was entitled to and that there had been, in the past, much controversy about the matter generally’.

**Extracts from letters written by Rev. H Whiteley, 1935**

“As to the history of this tithe, the traditional is that the Rector was at one time entitled to one in every tenth fish taken and that he used to collect his portion whenever fishing was going on ..... I have a recollection that your predecessor the Rev. J A Kitchin, informed me a good many years ago that some earlier incumbent used to spend a good deal of time by the river seeing that he received all that he was entitled to and that there had been, in the past, much controversy about the matter generally....

When this fishery tithe was collected by myself, the late Mr Robinson always kept me waiting but never failed to pay – invariably enclosing a strong letter of protest, but he paid and nothing else mattered. The present owner would not seem to be similarly minded.”

**Letter from Tithe Collection Committee, Newcastle 13.2.1939**

Can’t get Fishing Tithe paid by Mr T Robinson of Cargo – 3 years owing at £2.17.0 p.a.

Mr. Whitely’s reply 14.2.35.

Mr. Tom Robinson, the former owner of the Eden Fishery, died 5 years ago. His son is now in possession but I should like to make some enquiry as to the actual ownership at the present time and will let you know the result as soon as possible.

As to the history of this tithe, the tradition is that the Rector was at one time entitled to every tenth fish taken and that he used to collect his portion in person whenever fishing was going on.

As to documentary evidence, the Terriers of 1749, 1881, 1894, 1908 have the following entry (here follows copy of entry).

At one time part of this Fishing Tithe was paid by the Corporation of Carlisle.

The Groat or Goat – precise spelling unknown. This paid “Tyeth” in kind and I called the attention of the late Mr Robinson to it. I still have his reply; “The Goat ceased to exist 200 years ago or more owing to the river changing its course and leaving the Goat dry so that the tenth of the fish killed there is nil. I wonder whether the amount of £2.17.0 is the survival of it”. The extracts from these Terriers show that other parts of the river besides the Goat are concerned.

When this Fishery Tithe was collected by myself the late Mr Robinson always kept me waiting but never failed to pay – invariably enclosing a strong letter of protest but he paid and nothing else mattered. The present owner would not seem to be similarly minded.

I hope my letter may be of some use and shall be glad to know what you can do.