

ULPHA CHAPELRY

Extends along the Cumbrian side of the river Duddon, a distance of about eleven miles, and comprises nearly one-third of the parish. The lower part is very woody and contains some good land, but the upper part is rocky and barren.

The chapelry is thinly inhabited, and the population has decreased during the past ten years; in 1871 there were 351 souls, and in 1881 only 294. The total area of the chapelry, including mountain and common, is 13,092 acres, and is assessed for the county rate at £2,276. By the re-arrangement of wards, made at the October quarter sessions, 1857, this chapelry was transferred to the new-formed Bootle Ward. The northern part of Ulpha partakes of a decidedly Alpine character, though wanting in those features which are so attractive to the tourist. The mountains are bleak and sombre looking, relieved only by the silvery streaks of the mountain torrents as they dash down the sides of the huge masses. The higher lands are chiefly devoted to sheep farming, but a large part of the chapelry is covered with woods and coppices which are periodically cut to supply material for the bobbin mills. Copper was extensively worked on Hest Fell, but the ore is now exhausted at that spot, and an attempt is being made to obtain it near Long Garth. Zinc has been found, but not in sufficient quantities to be profitably worked.

The most interesting physical feature of the chapelry is the river Duddon, whose beauties have been wedded to immortal verse by Wordsworth.

Ulpha is said to have derived its name from Ulf, son of Evard, whose posterity enjoyed it till the time of Henry III., after which it passed to the Huddlestons, lords of Millom, by whom it was inclosed for deer, and is still known as Ulpha Park. It continued a demesne of Millom until it was sold by Sir Hedworth Williamson and his wife (heires of the Huddlestons) to Mr. Singleton, of Drigg. It has since passed through various hands, and is the property of Lord Lonsdale, the present lord of the manor. The *Old Hall*, now a farm-house, bears marks of great antiquity, and was probably the residence of the lords of Ulpha in days long gone by. Near to it is a well, called *Lady's Dub*, where tradition tells us a lady was killed by one of the numerous wolves that formerly infested this region.

Ulpha Kirk is a small hamlet in this chapelry, where old world manners and primitive usages still linger among the inhabitants.

Odd sprinklings of learning are sometimes found in these out-of-the way places as in Scotland. Some years ago the Plough Inn was kept by Mr. John Gunson, who was a good classical scholar. Some students from St. Bees, on a tour through the district, stayed at the Plough. When they were about to depart they sent in a note to the

landlord in Latin requesting him to send in their bill. Mr. Gunson replied by sending it in written in Greek and Hebrew. This was too much for the St. Bees men; they were nonplussed, and confessing their ignorance of the two languages, asked for the account in English.

THE CHAPEL of Ulpha, dedicated to St. John, is distant seven miles north from the mother church, and was certified to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty as of the annual value of £5, of which £3 6s. 8d. was the ancient chapel salary. It has since been augmented by donations from the same fund, and in 1835 it was returned as worth £49 per annum. The registers commence in 1703. When the chapel was consecrated the small tithes of the district were allotted to the minister for his support; or rather a modus in lieu of them, as it is a fixed annual payment from every landowner and tenement on the chapelry. The benefice is a perpetual curacy, now worth £218 a year, and in the gift of the vicar of Millom. The chapel was restored and re-seated at a cost of £200 in 1882. A Lych gate and new porch were also added, the cost of which was defrayed by Dr. Danson.

Wordsworth makes this little church the subject of one of his beautiful sonnets:—

“ Kirk of Ulpha to the pilgrim's eye
Is welcome as a star, that doth present
Its shining forehead through the peaceful rent
Of a black cloud diffused o'er half the sky;
Or, as a fruitful palm-tree, towering high
O'er the parched waste beneath an Arab's tent;
Or the Indian tree whose branches, downward bent,
Take root again, a boundless canopy.
How sweet were leisure I could it yield no more
Than mid that wave-washed churchyard to recline,
From pastoral graves extracting thoughts divine;
Or there to pace, and mark the summit's hoar
Of distant moonlit mountains faintly shine,
Sooth'd by the unseen river's gentle roar.”

The Wesleyans have a place of worship here; and a Baptist school was erected in 1855 by Mrs. Wilson. Ulpha school was built in 1874.

CHARITY.—William Danson, of the parish of St. Clement Danes, London, left by will dated Nov. 17th, 1798, £3 per annum, chargeable upon the Folds estate, to be distributed among the poor of Ulpha, his native place.

On the summit of the first ascent of Hard Knott, a mountain in the northern part of the parish, are the remains of a British or Roman fort, known as Hard Knott castle. Some writers have supposed the ruins to be those of some little chapel or cross erected upon the mountain at which the traveller, whose route was over the wilds, might pray for the safe completion of his journey. A cross on Cross Fell gave its name to the mountain. Situated at a height of 800 feet above the sea, Hard Knott castle commands a magnificent view of the surrounding mountain scenery, embracing within the range of vision some of the highest peaks of the lake district, and also the Irish Sea.

ULPHA

Recent investigations tend to the belief that the ruins are the remains of a Roman camp, and as such the position was possessed of several strategic advantages. The walls are constructed of the stones found lying around, and in several places rest upon the bare rock. In one corner are the foundations of what appears to have been a circular tower, and on either side of the north-east entrance may be detected the remains of the guard chambers. Facing the north-east is a cleared space called the Bowling Green, which was probably used for drill purposes.

Scattered over the mountains are numerous remains of the Ancient Britons, who probably lived here in security long after the rest of the island had been brought under Roman subjection. These consist of cairns and tumuli, or sepulchral mounds, some of which have been opened and found to contain a rudely formed chamber, enclosing calcined human remains and the horns of stags and other animals.

Letters via Carnforth.

Atkinson James, joiner, builder, and saw mill proprietor, Beckfoot
 Casson David, waller (j.), Hole house
 Casson Robert, waller and builder, Pike side
 Dawson Thomas, assistant overseer, collector of income and assessed taxes, and shoemaker, Bridge end; and grocer and general dealer, Moor house
 Dawson Mr. Wm., The Retreat, Lowhurst
 Dodgson John, vict., Travellers' Rest, and slate merchant
 Hutchinson C. & Sons, bobbin manufacturers, Ulpha bobbin mills
 Hutchinson Isaac Beetham (C. Hutchinson & Sons); h. Bridge end
 Hutchinson Robert (C. Hutchinson and Sons); h. Moss cottage
 Kewley Rev. Wm. A. K. C., The Vicarage
 Poole Miss Hannah, River bank
 Tyson Jane, grocer, Church house
Ulpha School; Joseph Shackley, master
 Williams Mrs. Sarah, Low

Casson Sarah, Birks
 Casson William & Joseph, Pike side
 Dickinson Robert, Stainton
 *Graveson Robert, Biggardmire
 *Gunson Joseph (and miller), Oak bank
 *Gunson Samuel, The Crook
 Hodgson John, Logan Beck
 Kendall Samuel, Brackenthwaite
 Kirkby Roger (and shoemaker), Brow foot
 *Kitchen Henry, Low
 Newby Richard, Whinfield ground
 Parker William, Birks
 *Robinson James, Woodend
 *Sawrey Joseph Casson, Grass guard
 *Sawrey Myles & Robert, Stoneythwaite
 Shepherd James, Hole house
 Simpson Joseph, Pannelholme
 Southward Andrew Herbert, Falls and Cragg hall
 Southward Ferdinando, Booth holmes
 Stephenson Casson, Crosbythwaite
 Stephenson Joseph, Biggardmire
 Stephenson Thos., High Wallabarrow
 *Stephenson Thomas, Crosbythwaite
 Tyson Edward, Hazel head
 Tyson Ralph, Black hall
 Walker John, Holme cottage
 Warriner Jeremiah, Longgarth & Frith hall
 Wilson Ellen, Old hall
 *Wilson Susannah, Low
 Yondall Joseph, Baskell

Farmers.

(Thus * are yeomen.)

Bell John, Beckfoot
 Birkett Wilson, Low Wallabarrow

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