

This is a parish in Bootle ward, petty sessional and electoral divisions, poor law union and rural district; the deanery of Gosforth; and the county court district of Whitehaven. It extends from the coast eastward to the confines of Millom, and as far north as Whitbeck. Its entire area is 7,502 acres, of which 4,883 are ratable. The assessment value is estimated at £3,546, and the population at 300. It contains the village of Silecroft, but has not one of its own name. The soil towards the sea is fertile, but eastward the parish stretches over hilly ground, which is better adapted for sheep pasture than any form of tillage. Part of the parish is within the lordship of Millom; the remainder is held of the Earl of Lonsdale. Whicham Hall is now occupied as a farmhouse; and near it is a field known as Scots' Croft, where, according to tradition, a battle was fought between the English and Scotch in the turbulent days of border warfare.

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The Manor, which has been variously called *Whittingeham*, *Whitcham*, and *Wicheham*, was formerly held as a fee of Millom, and is said to have received its name from one Wyche, its possessor, in the reign of Henry I. In the time of Henry III. Ralph de Bethern held land in Whicham. In 1315 the manor appears to have been held by another family. It was subsequently divided into severalties, and passed through many hands, but all account of these transfers appears to have been lost. Whicham and Silecroft are now held by the Earl of Lonsdale, the former estate having been purchased by Sir James Lowther, Bart., from Mr. Henry Fearon and others. The principal landowners are the Earl of Lonsdale, W. B. Walker, Esq., J.P., John Caddy, and J. E. Brockbank.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, is a plain ancient structure, consisting of chancel, nave, north transept, and belfry containing two bells. In 1858 it underwent reparation, when new windows were inserted and the transept added. There are several fine stained-glass windows. It is proposed shortly to thoroughly restore the edifice, the cost of which will be about £900; the architects, Messrs. Austin & Paley, of Lancaster. The church was given at an early date by "Reynard the Fewer," to St. Mary's Abbey, York, to which it remained attached until the Dissolution of Religious Houses, when the patronage was granted to Hugh Askew, Esq. It subsequently passed to the Penningtons, but the time and manner of the transfer are alike unknown. The advowson remained in this family until sold by Lord Muncaster to the Earl of Lonsdale, to whose descendant it now belongs. The benefice is a rectory valued in the King's Book at £8 15s., and certified to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty at £49 13s. 3d. The tithes were commuted in 1838 for £160 per annum, and there are also 84 acres of glebe belonging to the living, which is now valued at £200. The oldest registry in the church bears the date 1569. The present rector is the Rev. William Pelisier Ingledow.

The School, formerly the Whicham and Millom Grammar School, was rebuilt in 1862 and consists of two departments with an accommodation of 150.

CHARITIES.—Whicham and Millom Grammar School is supposed to have been founded by a person of the name of Hodgson, a native of this parish, who endowed it with £16 a year, which from 1540 have been regularly paid out of the revenues of the Crown, in the county of Cumberland. In a Chancery suit which continued from 1687 to 1691 between the parishes of Whicham and Millom, it was contended by the latter that the school was founded by one of the Kings of England prior to the reign of Elizabeth. It is now a public elementary school.

There was formerly a poor-stock of £33 belonging to this parish, viz., £3 left by Daniel Mason, the interest thereof to be distributed to six poor widows; £5 given by the Rev. Robert Crompton, rector of the parish in 1630, the interest to be distributed annually amongst the poor. The remainder was left by unknown donors, half the interest thereof to be applied to the repairs of the church and half to the poor.

Silecroft is a neat village near the sea, four miles S. by E. of Bootle, and about eight miles S.W. of Broughton-in-Furness. It is on the Furness Railway, which company have a station here. This little place is every way fitted for a seaside resort, possessing not only a splendid beach, but being in close proximity to the sombre looking height of Black Combe (1,969 feet), part of which is situated within the confines of the parish. (See Whitbeck.)

About three quarters of a mile from the village is a bed of clay, 40 feet deep, from which bricks, tiles, drainpipes, etc., are made by patent machinery. It is the property of W. B. Walker, Esq., and worked by Mr. James Lings.

WHICHAM PARISH.

Letters via Silecroft.

Post, Money Order, and Telegraph Office at Mr. Wm. Knight's, Silecroft. Letters arrive at 6-10 a.m., and are despatched at 6-45 p.m. No Sunday business at office. Letters can be posted in Mail at Station at 6-45 p.m.

Atkinson William, joiner
Broadbelt William, Kell Bank
Carter William, Mountain view
Case James, vict., Miners' Arms
Cockerton Mrs. Hannah, grocer

Coward Thomas Holford, J.P., LL.M. (Camb.),
barrister-at-law, Court End
Cross Hugh, beer retailer, Fox and Goose
Dodd Rt., road surveyor (divisional) under C. C.
Flaming Mr. William, Crossville

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WESTERN OR EGREMONT PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

WHITCHAM

Helme Mr. Thomas, Mountain view
 Ingledow Rev. William Pelisier (St. Bees
 College), The Rectory
 Ivison Wm., blacksmith and implement agent
 Jackson Arthur, commercial traveller, Mur-
 thwaite Green
 Knight William, shoemaker and postmaster
 Lings James, manager, Brick and Tile works
 Lings Thomas, Brick and Tile works
 Lowery The Misses, apartments, Orton view
 Mayson William, vict., John Bull Hotel
 McCann Francis William, police constable
Mechanics (I.U.O. of), Black Combe Lodge;
 held at Royal Albert Hotel; A. Jackson, sec.
 Myers Mrs. Elizabeth, Bowes house
 Myers John, Manor house
 Myers Mr. John Postlethwaite, Fairfield
 Nevison Wilson, cowkeeper, Summer Hill
 Postlethwaite William, ship owner, Camp-
 stones; office, *Millom*
 Richardson Mrs. B., vict., Royal Albert Hotel
 Rodgers Albert Ellison, The Bungalow
 Sandwith Mrs. Elizabeth, Fell brow
 Shepherd Thomas, porter, Commerce terrace
 Smith Mrs. Hannah, Commerce terrace
 Stephens Thomas, shoemaker
Tomlinson George, grocer, draper, and
 general dealer
 Walker William Brockbank, Esq., J.P., Kellet
 house

Whicham and Millom Grammar School; R. E.
 Woodhouse, master
 Wilson Thomas, station master, Silcroft
 Woodhouse Richard Edward, schoolmaster,
 assistant overseer, Kellet cottage

Farmers.

Bolton Thomas, Rallis
 Brockbank William, Beckside
 Brown Samuel, The Hall
 Case William (and malster), Croft house
 Cottam William, Hall Beck
 Coward James, Sledbank
 Crank James, Septimus, Baldmire
 Dixon Edward, Hodgson Green
 Hudson William, Parsonage
 Jackson Joseph, Mire Mouth
 Jackson William, Baystone bank
 Johnson William, Southfield
 Jones William (and vict.), Plough Inn
 Lowery William, Foreslack
 Lowther Andrew, Cross
 Preston R. H., Southfield
 Richardson John Moses, Bowes house
 Rowlandson Thomas, Hill End
 Shepherd James, Whole Pippin
 Taylor Robert Casson, Kellet farm
 Troughton Kendal, Whole Pippin
 Woodend William, Chappels