

Kirkby Ireleth

Is a parish lying within the rural deanery, petty sessional division, and poor law union of Ulverston, the county court district of Barrow, and the electoral division of Low Furness, and covers an extent of 9,702 acres, of which the assessable value is £8,416, and population 1,477. It is divided into Low Quarter, Middle Quarter, and High Quarter, or Woodland and Heathwaite.

LOW QUARTER contains the villages of Kirkby Ireleth, Beckside, Sandside, and Soutergate—all on Duddon Sands, near the mouth of a rivulet, where vessels were laden with slate previous to the opening of the Furness Railway in 1847.

The principal landowners are—Lord Richard Cavendish, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Robert Mason, Marsh Grange; George Coulton, Sandside; Mrs. Mason, Bolton-le-Sands; Joseph Barton, Gargreave; Wm. Barton, Gill End; A. H. Fox-Brockbank, Kirksanton; Wm. Watters; Wm. Mason; James Tyson, the Kirkby Ireleth Co-operative Society, M. J. A. Dickinson, Thos. Newby, Mrs. Chamley, J. Postlethwaite, T. Woodburn, J. Gunson, Miss Knight, &c.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, stands in the hamlet of Beckside, six miles north-west of Ulverston. Some attribute its foundation to Alexander de Kirkby, who, in the 2nd of Henry III., conveyed it with 40 acres of land to the Abbey of Furness; but from the Dano-Saxon etymology of the name Kirkby, *i.e.*, Church town, it would appear to be of much greater antiquity. By some historians, a church is supposed to have stood here during Saxon times; but, though the village is named in the Domesday Book of the Conqueror, yet no mention of a church is made, nor is it named in the ecclesiastical valuation made during the pontificate of Nicholas IV. in 1291. Speaking of the Saxon origin of this church, the learned and accomplished author of the History of Richmondshire says, "The word Kirkby, which is expressly mentioned in the Domesday Book, though without any designation of a church as then existing, proves beyond doubt that a church had previously existed there, and, as there is in that record no hint at any other place of Christian worship in the whole peninsula, it might lead to a bolder conclusion than I shall adopt, namely, that Kirkby was the mother church of Furness. This is negatived, in my opinion, by the remote and inconvenient situation of the place; but when we consider it with reference to Ireleth itself, the inference is irresistible that, in this warm and fertile bottom, sheltered at once from the breeze, but placed upon a creek opening into the estuary of the Duddon, some Saxon lord had placed his hall, his kirk, and his bell, while all the wild country around lay uncultivated and unpeopled. Under his influence, or that of his posterity, and by their allotment, population would gradually creep up the vale of Lickle. Seathwaite and Dunnerdale would be essarted from the eastern bank of Duddon and Cockley Beck, while during the spread of population, and the progress of husbandry, the Danish inundation swept all before, and left little more than the names of the dilapidated villages and churches destroyed. But the idea of local sanctity is so deeply planted in the heart of man, that the sites of these last would be long remembered; their cemeteries would continue to be burial places of their few remaining inhabitants; mass would sometimes be repeated on their sites by the few itinerant or unendowed priests, who are known in those days to have performed divine offices under every disadvantage; and all these circumstances would operate, when the country acquired that wonderful stability and consistency,

which it did under the first Norman kings, to the restoration of ancient churches on their original foundations. Their sites were always commodious, many of the most durable materials would remain, and the relics of their ancestors, unprotected and abandoned, would form another powerful inducement to the restorers."

The church is built of stone, and cased in rough-cast, and appears to have been erected about the time of Henry IV. (1399-1413). It is of the late Perpendicular style, which prevailed at that time, but the north aisle was added in the time of Henry VIII., probably by one of the Kirkbys. During the same reign, a side chapel was added, and in it Henry Kirkby, Esq., founded a chantry, where a priest was to say or sing mass daily for the soul of the founder. This foundation took place previous to 1523, as the said Henry Kirkby died in that year. He was succeeded by his brother Richard, who endeavoured at the time of the spoliation of chantries by Henry VIII., to get back the endowment. He was, however, unsuccessful in his application, for in 1553 we find Robert Burrowes, the chantry priest, pensioned by the Duchy with £6 a year, which would not have been given had the pension lapsed to the family of the founder. The side chapel has been removed. The church was restored and enlarged, the nave and chancel thoroughly renovated, and re-opened on October 17th, 1884. The tower was restored in 1903, and the peal of five bells rehung, and a new one added in 1908, the cost being defrayed by subscription. There are several beautifully coloured memorial windows; also brasses to the memory of the Rev. Charles H. Lowry, vicar, from 1879 to 1895, and George Ashburner, for 32 years churchwarden of the parish. In the interior of the church are preserved a few ancient monuments. The most notable of these is a thirteenth-century tombstone, bearing a sword and cross, and also the mutilated arms of the Kirkbys. There is also preserved in the church a silver paten, taken by Colonel Kirkby from the French after they had plundered Carthagera.

The living, the value of which is about £280, is held by the Rev. Arnold Partridge, M.A. (Jesus College, Camb.).

The *Manor* belonged for many generations to a family of the local name; but in 1719 Colonel Roger Kirkby mortgaged the estate to a banker, who was also agent to the Duchess of Buckingham. The mortgagee became insolvent, and the manor became the property of the Duchess as part payment of her claim on the banker. The Duchess left it to Lord Musgrave, who, in 1771, sold it to the Right Hon. Lord John Cavendish, in whose family it still continues—the present owner being Lord Richard Cavendish. A court baron is held yearly at the Commercial Inn, Sandside. The following are the feudal customs attaching to this manor:—The widow is entitled during her widowhood to the moiety of the estate whereof her husband died seized; but forfeits her right thereto

upon re-marriage or breach of chastity. Every tenant, upon being admitted to a tenement, pays to the lord of the manor a fine of 20 years' quit rent. Every entire tenement was formerly obliged to keep one horse and harness for the king's service, on the borders or elsewhere. These were called "summer (? sumpter) nags," of which 30 were kept at Kirkby. The tenant was also to furnish a boon-plough and a boon-harrow, that is a day's ploughing and harrowing; and no tenant is to let his land for any term exceeding seven years without a licence. Tenements in this manor are forfeited to the lord by treason or felony. A tenant convicted of wilful perjury forfeits to the lord 20 years' rent, and for petty larceny 10 years' rent.

CHARITIES.—In 1670 William Chamney, of Burney, left the interest of £4 to be distributed annually among the poor on Good Friday; and in 1680 John Kirkby, of Coniston, bequeathed the interest of £60 to the minister, and £40 to the poor of this parish. In the same year, John Woodburn, of Dove Forde, left the interest of £5, and in 1681 Roger Kirkby left the interest of £10 to the poor. John Askew left £3 6s. 8d., the interest thereof to be divided yearly amongst the poor; and £25 was given by Mrs. Agnes Kirkby. In 1684 the Hallstead's estate in this parish was purchased with £220, ancient parish stock. The charity is under the management of four trustees. The proceeds are distributed to the poor of the parish three times a year, viz., April, October, and December. In 1769 Samuel Wilson bequeathed the interest of £30 for the education of poor children, and £20 to the poor of Middle and Low Quarter. In 1774 Thomas Holme, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, clerk, left the interest of £50 to be distributed to the poor in bread on the first Sunday after the 18th May. The proceeds of the two last-named charities are distributed together on the first Saturday after the 18th May. In 1832 John Dodgson, of Trinkeld, left £300 to the divisions of Low and Middle Quarter, and Heathwaite and Woodland, one-half the interest of which was to be applied to the education of children of poor parents, residents in these districts, and the other half to be distributed annually on Christmas Day to four poor inhabitants of the said places who have never received parochial relief. This is now applied to educational purposes. Miss Margaret Postlethwaite left the sum of £200, the interest of which is to be divided yearly among the poor of Woodland and Heathwaite.

MIDDLE QUARTER contains the hamlets of Chapples, Dovebank, and a part of Grizebeck, about three miles south from Broughton; also the hamlets of Beanthwaite, about five miles south, and Bolton Grounds, five miles south-east of the same town. At Marsh Side is a Wesleyan Chapel, erected in 1870, at a cost of about £400. It is built of slate stone, and will accommodate 250 persons.

The principal landowners are—Lord Richard Cavendish, Thos. Butler, Esq., Broughton; Wm. Wayles, Doveford; Trustees of Hall steads, Kirkby Charity; Wm. Sykes, Thos. Postlethwaite, David Kendall, Mrs. Johnson, &c. A ridge of hills runs through the district, from north to south, giving a wild and uninviting aspect. They contain an almost inexhaustible supply of slate of a rich dark blue colour and high quality. The Burlington Slate Quarries extend more than a mile in length, and their vast heaps of

debris, rising tier above tier for about 700 feet, are a sombre appendage to the hills in which they are situated, and form a very prominent object of view from the railway, here skirting the base of these hills. The quarries were for many years the property of successive Dukes of Devonshire, but are now owned and worked by the Right Hon. Lord Richard Cavendish. The average weekly yield is about 175 tons, which are forwarded by rail to all parts of the kingdom.

Near Wall End are the Burlington Schools, erected in 1877 by the then Duke of Devonshire, principally to accommodate the children of the men employed at the quarries. The schools are in two departments (mixed and infants), and have an average attendance of 145 and 57 respectively. The buildings are of slate stone, with red sandstone facings, and present a fine appearance.

A little more than a mile from Beekside is *Kirkby Hall*, once known as Cross House or Kirkby Cross, from a cross which formerly stood before it, and which was partly demolished by Archbishop Sandys. From what remains it appears to have been of the Tudor style, and was the residence of the Kirkby family for ten generations. Once ranked among the most important residences of Furness, it is now a farmhouse—*sic transit gloria mundi*. There is a singular apartment in the upper portion of the house called the *Chapel*, with an antique roof of oaken cross beams, much dilapidated. The entrance to the chapel is through a trap door; and at one end of the room is a closet, and behind this a secret hiding place, where priests were concealed in penal times. The wainscotting and oak carvings of the Kirkby Arms, which formerly adorned the banqueting hall and other rooms, have been removed to Holker Hall. It is the property of Lord Richard Cavendish.

It may be of interest to remark that the office of bellringer of the parish was held by Mr. Matthew Deason for the long term of 52 years. He retired in 1909, receiving as a mark of esteem from the parishioners the gift of a handsome timepiece.

HIGH QUARTER OF WOODLAND AND HEATHWAITE is another division of the parish, a woody and picturesque district, three miles east from Broughton.

The principal landowners are—Major Brougham, Richard Grice, Cross House, Bootle; John Barwick, Heathwaite; Messrs. Nelson, Heathwaite; Mrs. Ann Stephenson Raisthwaite; George Frearson, Ford Park, Ulverston; E. W. Wakefield, Kendal; Mrs. Woodburn, Thurstonville; George Coulton, Broughton; James Riley, James Postlethwaite, H. Johnson, Mr. Horsfall, &c.

The *Church* was built in 1865 on the site of the old chapel erected in 1568. It is in the Gothic style, and cost about £1,000, raised by subscriptions, donations, and grants from the Diocesan and Church Building Societies. In the chancel is a stained-glass

Tyson Mrs. Nancy, Herschell terrace
Walker Richard, beerhouse, *Sun Inn*,
Soutergate
Watson Mr. Peter, Headgate, Souter-
gate
Watters Mr. William, Soutergate
Wilson Henry, butcher, Bank house
Winder Mrs., Soutergate
Woodhouse John, secretary, Co-op.,
Beckside

Farmers.

Barton Joseph (yeoman), Gargreave
Barton Mrs. Thomas, Mere beck and
Brig house
Barton William (yeoman), Gill end

Briggs Thomas, Lane Hoad farm
Brocklebank John, Low Mere beck
Cartmell Richard, High Gill house
Corkill John, The Guards
Coward James (yeoman), Cart house
Coward John, Bank house
Coward William, Rectory farm
Duckett Charles, Cross beck
Fisher Mark, Cross Beck
Martin John, Bailiff ground
Pearson John Sharp, Low hall
Satterthwaite William (& corn miller),
Beckside mill
Sewell Jonah, Pear tree
Tyson Richard (& butcher), Soutergate
Wearing Ernest Alfred, Headgate,
Soutergate
Youldell Joseph, Bank house

MIDDLE QUARTER.

Post Office at Henry Tyson's, Grizebeck. Letters arrive *via* Kirkby-in-Furness at 7-50 a.m. and 4-30 p.m., and are despatched at 7-55 a.m. and 5-0 p.m. No Sunday business.

School Managers (Burlington Schools) *Foundation*—Col. Higson, J.P.; James Postlethwaite; Miss M. Ashburner; George Trenwith, J.P. (honorary correspondent); *County Council*, William Coward; *Parish Council*, Joseph Barton.

Kirkby Ireleth Floral and Horticultural Society (established 1879)—Roger Briggs, secretary.

Kirkby-in-Furness Choral Society—President, Col. Higson, J.P.; conductor, Alex. Jenkin; hon. secretary and treasurer, John B. Daniell, Marsh Side.

Kirkby Cricket Club—M. Stables, secretary, Beckside.

Kirkby Football Club—William Fell, secretary, Sandside.

The Athletic Sports, held yearly in August, are now very popular.

Abbotson Mr. Charles, Fern cottage,
Grizebeck
Barnes William, slate river, Pearl
Syke, Grizebeck
Barr George, timekeeper, Marshside
cottages
Barr John, market gardener, Wall end
Bird Miss Frances, beerhouse, Chapples
Bowes William, saw mill proprietor
and wood turner, Grizebeck Saw
Mills
Brownlee George, slate river, Marsh-
side cottages
Burlington Slate Quarries, general
manager, Colonel J. Higson, J.P.;
commercial manager and cashier,
George Trenwith, J.P.; works
manager, Hugh Jones

Burlington Schools, Edward N. Lewis,
head teacher; Wilfred L. Arnold,
Eleanor Smith, Jessie Davis, Mary
A. Barr, assistants. *Infants*, Edith
E. Pennington, head teacher; Lillian
Johnstone, assistant
Carter Mr. Matthew, Pearl Syke,
Grizebeck
Daniell John B., honorary secretary
and treasurer Kirkby Choral Society,
Marshside
Daniell Thomas, blacksmith (quarry),
Marshside
Deason Matthew, joiner, wheelwright,
& machinist, Wall End; h. Mill view
Fielding John, clerk, Marshside
Fox Edward Park, station master,
Kirkby-in-Furness station

Heaton Robert, roadman, Pearl Syke,
Grizebeck
Hewitt Tom, clerk, Slate Works
Hill Mr. William, Fair view
Hume Herbert, engineer, Friars
ground
Jenkin Alexander
Johnson John, slate river, Grizebeck
Johnson Mrs. Sarah, Dovebank
Jones Hugh, works manager, Burling-
ton house
Jones Josiah Gibbons, foreman dresser,
Burlington cottages
Kewish Rev. W. C., Wesleyan minister,
Wesley villa, Millom
Lecce John and Harry, quarrymen,
Sturdy bank
Lewis Edward N., L.T.S.C., head
teacher, Burlington Schools
Marr Benjamin, railway clerk, Head
cragg
Mawson Wm., wagon builder (F.R.),
Burlington cottages
Postlethwaite Mr. James, Bank End
house
Postlethwaite John, vict. and farmer,
Bridge Inn, Grizebeck
Rawes William, quarry inspector,
Marshside
Rawlinson Robert, bootmaker, Stone
Arthur
Rawlinson Mr. William, Stone Arthur
Rawlinson William, victualler, Buck
Horn
Shepherd Miss Isabella, dressmaker,
West view

Stables Mrs. Sarah, caretaker, Marsh-
side cottages
Sykes David, slate loader, Marshside
Sykes John, cartor, Well house
Sykes Leonard, slate river, Friars
ground
Trenwith George, Esq., J.P., Duddon
view
Tyson Elias Noble, weighman, Foul-
bridge
Tyson Henry, grocer and postmaster,
Grizebeck
Tyson Myles, roadman and poultry
farmer, Grizebeck
Woodend William, waller, Annescroft
Woodend Wm., quarryman, Croglin

Farmers.

Barr David (and builder), Beanthwaite
farm
Cartmel John & Thomas, Head Cragg
Irving William, Doveford
Kendall David, Chapples Farm (and
yeoman), Sturdy bank
Knight John, Hill farm
Mason George & William, Bell Hole
and Skell Hill
Postlethwaite Thos. (yeoman), Bolton
ground
Sykes William (yeoman), Low Gill
house
Tyson Thomas, Hallsteads
Wayles William (the late) (yeoman),
Doveford
Winder William Benson, Kirkby Hall
Wood James, Croglin

WOODLAND AND HEATHWAITE QUARTER.

Managers of Grizebeck Council School—Rev. J. Park, B.A. (chairman), Miss Ashburner, George Trenwith, J.P., John Cranke, H. D. Deason. Clerk to the Managers, M. J. A. Dickinson, solicitor.

Post Office at Woodland Station. Letters, *via* Broughton-in-Furness, arrive at 8-40 a.m., and are despatched at 6-41 p.m. in summer and 4-43 p.m. in winter. Postal Orders are issued and cashed.

Post Office at Henry Tyson's, Grizebeck. Letters, *via* Kirkby-in-Furness, arrive at 7-50 a.m. and 4-30 p.m., and are despatched at 7-55 a.m. and 5-0 p.m. No Sunday business.

Bateman John Robert, station master
Woodland Station (Furness Railway)
Black James, forester to Lord Richard
Cavendish, Woodman's cottage
Dawson Joseph Arthur, gardener, The
Lodge, Woodland Hall
Dodgson Mrs. Ann, Moor house
Garnett Mr. Thomas, Bow Bridge
house

*Kirkby Ireleth Grizebeck Council
School*—Mrs. Mary Edith Garde,
mistress; Miss F. E. Atkinson and
Miss L. B. Stamper, assistants
Kitchen Mr. Henry, Woodland grove
Jobson John, platelayer, Greenmoor
cottage
Lees Miss Mary Ellen, Woodland Hal
Nelson Mr. Wm. Henry, Heathwaite

Newby George, parish clerk and sexton,
Thompsteds

Park Rev. James, B.A. (Camb.), rector,
The Rectory

Postlethwaite Mrs. Isabella, Bank end
Riley James, builder, Bank end

Rushforth Mrs. Elizabeth Jane, florist,
Browfoot cottage

Rushforth William, quarryman, Tenter
Bank cottage

Stables Mr. John, Malt Kiln, Grizebeck

Farmers.

Barwick John (yeoman), Fell gate,
Heathwaite

Briggs John, Spunholme

Clark John Forrest, Heathwaite yeat

Coward John & Son (Timothy), Ring
house

Cranke John, Ellermire and Coal Ash

Dare John Thomas, Far Houses,
Heathwaite

Dixon William, The Hawes

Garnett John, Bridge end

Hadwen Richard, Knittleton

Irving Thomas Casson, Ashlack Hall

Jackson Daniel, Burney

Long Mrs. Mary Denny, Beckstones

Marr Robert Kendall, Row Ridding

Myers Mrs. Mary, Haverigg Holme

Nelson Robert and Matthew James
(yeomen), The Hill, Heathwaite

Parkinson Robert, Bank end

Phizacklea William, Wellwood

Prickett Christopher, Moor house

Proctor John, Thornthwaite

Redhead John, Climb stile

Shuttleworth Edward, Tenter bank

Stephenson Mrs. Ann (owner), Raisth-
waite

Taffs, William, junr., Knott end

Waring William Henry (and yeoman),
Low Heathwaite and Cat Nest