

## Victoria County History of Cumbria Project: Work in Progress Interim Draft

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Parish/township: KILLINGTON

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## INTRODUCTION

### Description and location

Killington is a small rural township of 4875 acres (1973 ha.) eight kilometres north of Kirkby Lonsdale. Firbank lies to the north, Mansergh to the south, Old Hutton and Holmescales to the West; to the east its boundary is the Lune river, which divides it from Middleton. The name Killington derives from an Old English personal name - 'Cylla's farmstead'.<sup>1</sup> The soil is mainly sandstone and siltstone, covered on the lower slopes near the river with a deep fine loamy soil good for dairying and beef cattle and also for cultivation.

### Landscape

It is an unevenly hilly area, rising westwards from the river to a ridge of high land reaching in some places to 750 ft. (230 m.). The hamlet of Killington itself, containing the hall, the church and some dozen houses, lies in a steep-sided pocket carved out by the Hall Beck as it runs down to the Lune. Further south, another beck runs from Roantree Syke through Beckside to the river.

Land suitable for settlement was near the river and in the valleys of the two becks; all the original dwellings were established here, with the exception of Mutton Hall, High Bendrigg and Hastends in the north-west of the township.

In the north-west of the township lie two large areas of water. Lily Mere is a natural lake at the centre of a private estate, which has been artificially enlarged for sporting activities and now covers 36-acres (14.6 ha.).<sup>2</sup> Killington Reservoir covers 140 acres (57 ha.) and was formed in 1819 for the Lancaster Canal Company, who had obtained the Canal Act in 1807. It originally covered 86 acres (35 ha.), and was subsequently enlarged in several stages.<sup>3</sup> The Killington boundary with New and Old Hutton bisects the lake from north to south. In the seventeenth

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<sup>1</sup> A.H. Smith *The Place-names of Westmorland* (Cambridge 1967), 39-40.

<sup>2</sup> Davis & Bowring, estate agents, Kirkby Lonsdale.

<sup>3</sup> C. Hadfield and G. Biddle *The Canals of Northern England* (1970), 192-3.

century Lily Mere, or ‘Lilly Tarn’, was estimated at 200 yards (183 m.) broad and as much long, or about eight acres, and neighbouring ‘Lang Tarn’ near the north-eastern boundary of the township, at about 220 yards (200 m.) by 120 (109 m.) or about three acres.<sup>4</sup> The latter was drained in the early nineteenth century as part of the operation to establish the Killington Reservoir, although local people can point out its position.<sup>5</sup>

## Settlement

Killington seems always to have been an area of scattered habitation without a central village. Killington itself was never more than a hamlet, showing six dwellings in 1674. At that time there were 64 dwellings in the township under the headings of Halbecke, Felside, Parkside (Killington Hall), Beckside, Akerigge, Benridge, Stonegarthwaite, Bradraine, Walkeryaes, Coxthwaite, Crybecke and Harprigge, each hamlet with between two and ten households.<sup>6</sup> Of these, only four remained by the beginning of the nineteenth century - Killington Hall, Beckside, Felside and Hall Beck - the others having shrunk to detached houses.<sup>7</sup> In the twenty-first century several of the original list were once more in multiple occupancy, as disused barns and other buildings were brought back into use as permanent dwellings or for rent to holiday visitors.<sup>8</sup>

Three previously important houses, Killington Hall of the fifteenth, Hallbeck of the seventeenth, and Capplethwaite Hall of the eighteenth centuries have long been reduced to farms.<sup>9</sup>

## Communications

Apart from a short stretch of the Sedbergh-Kendal road at the north edge of the township, all the roads in Killington are single track. The road known as the Old Scotch Road, for the most part with wide verges between walls, runs through the township from north to south. In later years an important drove road, this has been identified with the road called Galwathegate in the late twelfth century.<sup>10</sup> Most of the dwellings in the township are served by another north-south road on lower ground parallel to the Lune, and the two are linked by the narrow lane which serves Killington hamlet. A few farms are reached by dead-end branches from one or other of

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<sup>4</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, ed. J.M. Ewbank (CWAAS Extra Series XIX, Kendal, 1963), 38.

<sup>5</sup> SD589890. Inf. M. Wild, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> C. Philips, C. Ferguson, A. Wareham Westmorland Hearth Tax (British Record Society/CWAAS, London and Kendal) 2008, 208. The two largest groups, Walkeryaes (9) and Coxthwaite (10) have not been identified.

<sup>7</sup> Parson & White, *Dir. C & W* (1829), 691.

<sup>8</sup> In 2014 a local inhabitant reckoned that five bungalows and 24 barn conversions had been added to the ancient housing stock within her memory.

<sup>9</sup> Since 1829 at least: Parson & White, *Dir. C & W* (1829), 691-2.

<sup>10</sup> *Cockersand Chartulary* (Chetham Soc. Vol. 57, 1905), 976-9, where its modern name is given as ‘Scotch Lane’.

these throughways. In the extreme south of the township, a road branches to the west from the Old Scotch Road towards Old Hutton. The Ingleton to Lowgill railway, built in the 1860's, follows the Lune Valley on the opposite side of the river (see MIDDLETON). Local tradition says that a ferry crossed the Lune at Low Hallbeck, sited directly opposite the Middleton station and goods yard, for Killington people to use the railway, and that the track to the ferry position was still clear in the 1930's, though the ferry itself had not worked within living memory.<sup>11</sup>

### **Population and Social Character**

Estimated population in 1674, from the Hearth Tax figures, is 300 persons.<sup>12</sup> In 1695 the tally was said to be 219 but it would seem that this did not include younger children.<sup>13</sup> In 1801 there were 301 inhabitants. In 1811 this had dropped to 252<sup>14</sup> but rose again in 1821 to 335, the township's highest recorded population, probably owing to the reservoir works.<sup>15</sup> The population remained at about 280, until an unexplained drop at the end of the century to about 200, a decline which continued through the twentieth century to a low point 106 in 1971.<sup>16</sup> The decline was then reversed to some extent, and in 2012 there were 124 names on the voters' list. Whereas in the nineteenth century every house was a farmhouse, even the mill and the public houses having some farmland attached,<sup>17</sup> the later population showed few farmers. The majority were commuters to Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, or even further afield,<sup>18</sup> retired persons, or, with the rise in modern technology, workers from home.

### **LANDOWNERSHIP**

Killington appears to have been part of the demesne of the barony of Kendal until 1246, when William de Lancaster enfeoffed John de Brus, a minor.<sup>19</sup> This feoffment was shortlived, as in 1259-60 Peter de Brus, who was possibly John's father,<sup>20</sup> enfeoffed William de Pickering of the manor by the service of a pair of gilt spurs or sixpence at the feast of Pentecost and the twentieth part of a knight's fee.<sup>21</sup> The Pickering family held the estate for the next three hundred years from their manor house, Killington Hall. The family was of some national importance and

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<sup>11</sup> Local inf. No supporting evidence has been found for this statement.

<sup>12</sup> *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, 208.

<sup>13</sup> CAS (Kendal) WDRY Box 32 File 1 4/4/39. Lonsdale Ward.

<sup>14</sup> No explanation has been found for this sharp fall.

<sup>15</sup> Census returns.

<sup>16</sup> London HMSO. Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys.

<sup>17</sup> Census returns.

<sup>18</sup> In 2014 one inhabitant commuted to Blackburn.

<sup>19</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 416.

<sup>20</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 416.

<sup>21</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 416.

held posts at different times which would have demanded residence in London as well as Killington. James Pickering was knight of the shire for Westmorland in 1362 and 1365. His grandson, another Sir James, was knight of the shire in 1377, 1378 and 1382.<sup>22</sup> Towards the end of the fourteenth century Edward Pickering was Comptroller of the King's household.<sup>23</sup>

The Pickering line ended in 1548. In that year Anne, at the time widow of her second husband, Sir Henry Knevett, inherited as the only child and heir of Sir Christopher Pickering.<sup>24</sup> She died in 1582, and the estates descended to her son by her third husband - Francis Vaughan, who lived in Yorkshire on the estate he had inherited from his father at Sutton-upon-Derwent. In 1585<sup>25</sup> he conveyed his Killington and Firbank lands to trustees to release the tenements to their tenants, subject only to the annual quit rent of 6s 8d, which worked out at one penny per house.<sup>26</sup> He died in 1597, having sold Killington Hall to Robert Wadeson gent., who about 1602 sold it to Radcliffe Ashton gent. of Preston, who in 1618 sold it again to Thomas Kitson of Warton in Lancashire.<sup>27</sup> At that time Killington was one entire lordship and consisted of freehold and customary tenants - but those that were customary were all purchased free of the Lord of the Manor excepting one who held from Thomas Heblethwaite, grandson of Thomas Kitson.<sup>28</sup>

Killington Hall as it stands today was built probably in the fifteenth century, no doubt on an earlier site which is very defensible, above a stream running in a deep ravine. It consisted of a hall block with two cross wings. The north wing had vanished by 1692;<sup>29</sup> some walls and two fine windows remained in the south wing, which was restored in the twenty-first century to make two apartments. The central block of the house was largely altered in 1640.<sup>30</sup> At one time there was a deer park attached to the lordship, the leaps being still visible in the late seventeenth century, but it had not been stocked 'in the memory of man'.<sup>31</sup> In the eighteenth century the township was still largely the province of small landholders - the 1773 Land Tax lists 34 out of

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<sup>22</sup> N&B, I, 262.

<sup>23</sup> N&B, I, 263.

<sup>24</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 423.

<sup>25</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 416.

<sup>26</sup> N & B I, 263.

<sup>27</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 416.

<sup>28</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, 37.

<sup>29</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, 38

<sup>30</sup> *RCHME Westmorland*, 132. By Thomas Kitson the second who inserted a datestone in the left-hand gable. His initials and those of his wife (Lettice?) are set in a diamond inside a square which has the unexplained letters RI

<sup>31</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, 37.

39 paying less than 14s. It also shows that Jacob Morland esq. had acquired three sizeable estates, Killington Hall, Capplethwaite and Stangerthwaite, for which in all he paid over seven pounds.

Morland was the son of a London merchant, also Jacob (1668-1751) who had acquired Capplethwaite by marriage in 1704 to Anne Ward. He rebuilt the house with a fine range of farm buildings (dated 1713) and later bought Killington Hall from Thomas Heblethwaite.<sup>32</sup> The estate was sold again about 1828, to John Upton of Ingmire Hall near Sedbergh. Uptons were a Devon family, but had been at Ingmire Hall since the marriage of William Upton to Catherine, daughter of Sir John Otway of Middleton (d. 1693).<sup>33</sup> John Upton steadily enlarged his estate. He acquired the Killington portion of Lilymere,<sup>34</sup> 785 acres, by 1821, improved and adapted it as a sporting estate, which his descendants held until 1922.<sup>35</sup> In the twenty-first century the Lilymere estate extended to 700 acres with sporting rights over another 800.<sup>36</sup>

A third house originally of more than yeoman status is Low Hall at Hallbeck, still with its ornamental porch dated 1684, owned by the Cooke family, sometimes called yeomen, sometimes gentlemen, landowners of some importance from at least the early seventeenth century<sup>37</sup> until the death of John Hunter Cooke in 1822. William Thompson of Underley in Kirkby Lonsdale (see [KIRKBY LONSDALE](#)) had by 1841<sup>38</sup> acquired about 800 acres of land in Killington. In 1910, Uptons owned 1850 acres, Lady Henry Cavendish-Bentinck of Underley (the inheritor of William Thompson) 800,<sup>39</sup> and Christopher Hulme Wilson of Rigmaden (see [MANSERGH](#)) 1000 acres, mainly open land for shooting. At this date only two cottages were listed as being occupied by their owners. All these estates had been enlarged in 1821 at the enclosure of Killington Common, a stretch of land running from north to south through the township, for much of its extent defined by the Old Scotch Road as its eastern boundary.<sup>40</sup> The Upton estate was dispersed in 1922,<sup>41</sup> the Underley holding in 1943 (see [KIRKBY LONSDALE](#)), after which the land mainly reverted to owner-occupiers.

## ECONOMIC HISTORY

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<sup>32</sup> AWL, 209.

<sup>33</sup> AWL, 303-4.

<sup>34</sup> See 'Introduction'

<sup>35</sup> AWL, 104.

<sup>36</sup> Inf. Davis & Bowring, estate agents, Kirkby Lonsdale.

<sup>37</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 429.

<sup>38</sup> CRO (Kendal), WDRC/8/232 (Tithe Map 1841).

<sup>39</sup> CRO (Kendal), WT/DV/2/51.

<sup>40</sup> CRO (Kendal) WQ/R/I/46 (Killington Enclosure Award 1821)

<sup>41</sup> AWL, 104.

In a township without a village, agriculture was the only occupation, apart from the associated trades of blacksmith and miller. (From at least the seventeenth century, there was a smithy at Stangerthwaite, worked for several generations by the Atkinson family.<sup>42</sup>) The nineteenth century saw some diversity: in 1829 52 households were listed,<sup>43</sup> of which 28 were farms,<sup>44</sup> but some at least among the other trades, such as alehouse keepers, blacksmiths, butter merchant and shoemaker, will have had some small amount of agricultural land.

Two farm diaries surviving from the later nineteenth century illustrate the difference between the upland farms and those near the river. Robert Kendal of Killington Hall was a tenant of the Upton family.<sup>45</sup> He had no arable land,<sup>46</sup> but the hay harvest was of great importance: the writer details every load brought in between the start of mowing on July 4 and the last load on July 25 - 152 carts from the lower fields and 92 sledges from the uplands. There was not a large number of sheep - clipping took only one day, June 10, and dipping also one day on two separate occasions, August 4 and October 9. The main work of the farm was in its cattle. The young cows were put out at the end of April, the milk cows at the end of May. All were brought in on October 10. Milking and butter making were important, as was the trading of cattle, which were frequently taken by ones or twos to markets at Sedbergh (5 miles), Kendal (11 miles) or Milnthorpe (11 miles). There was no bull on the farm, cows being taken to various neighbouring farms.

At the same period, at Drybeck in the south of the township, near the river,<sup>47</sup> William Blacow's land was largely cultivated for turnips and potatoes, but corn was also important. No quantities are mentioned, but harvest began at the end of August and ended on September 19. A hundred years later there were 21 farm holdings in Killington,<sup>48</sup> of which twelve were under 100 acres in extent, although some had access to grazing on common land.<sup>49</sup> The two farms on the high land to the west of the township, High Bendrigg and Mutton Hall, were each over 230 acres. A small amount of the lower land near the Lune was ploughed,<sup>50</sup> usually for oats, but the farms were mainly for sheep rearing and to a lesser extent cattle. All had more poultry than needed for

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<sup>42</sup> CRO (Preston) WRW/L Inventory of Gilbert Atkinson, 1623, Gilbert Atkinson 1723.

<sup>43</sup> Parson & White Gazetteer 1829, 686.

<sup>44</sup> Parson & White Gazetteer 1829, 696-7.

<sup>45</sup> *A Year at Killington Hall: the 1876 diary of Agnes Ann Kendal*, ed. J.M.S. Robinson (Kendal 2004)

<sup>46</sup> *Killington Hall*, 92. Visiting her sister at Skelsmergh, the writer comments 'dressing corn - quite new work to me.'

<sup>47</sup> Agricultural Diary of William Pooley Blacow of Drybeck, Killington. Transcribed by J.A.Goulding. Excerpts published *Sedbergh Historian*, Vol. 2. No. 4 (Spring 1989).

<sup>48</sup> TNA, MAF 32/198/82.

<sup>49</sup> The presumed interpretation of acres of 'rough' listed separately from 'grass'. The total number of sheep held on Killington farms was nearly 4000.

<sup>50</sup> This may have been a temporary measure, encouraged during wartime.

domestic use, nine keeping more than 100 hens, Three Mile House nearly 600. There is no evidence of horse breeding, farms keeping between one and four horses for their own use, with the exception of High Stangerthwaite which had abandoned horses in favour of a Rover car converted to a tractor. Drybeck also had a farm engine of some sort. Most of the houses had water laid on, but none of the farm buildings. There was no electricity.<sup>51</sup>

By the beginning of the twenty-first century the number of working farms had been reduced to eleven, their acreages much enlarged. Only two had dairy herds.<sup>52</sup> Of those farm houses abandoned, some had fallen into disrepair, some were private dwellings, some housed businesses, such as the hiring of tents and marquees from Killington Hall, agricultural building at Light Oaks, a florist and a photographic business.<sup>53</sup>

At different times there were various mills in Killington. In 1639 there was a water grain mill at Bondsholme,<sup>54</sup> a name not now found, but perhaps at Beckside, on a minor watercourse running to the Lune. It is not certain when a mill was built at Broadrairie on the Lune, probably in the late seventeenth century. The inventory of Thomas Borrett in 1698 shows him to have been the miller, and a spice cupboard in the miller's cottage carries the initials of William and Ann Bowman and the date 1706, the same year as the will of Hugh Bowman, miller of Broadrairie. In 1972 the weir was demolished, the mill machinery removed, and the building altered to a dwelling.<sup>55</sup>

In the eighteenth century an ancient mill called Capplethwaite Mill, run by water from the Firbank and Killington becks, at first for grinding bark and later for corn for the owner's family, was the subject of a dispute between John Morland, its owner, and Bryan Moore who had diverted the water to his own mill at Gillhouse Style. The matter was settled by arbitration and an award in 1741.<sup>56</sup>

No woodland is mentioned in seventeenth century inquests,<sup>57</sup> and none shown in 1770, apart from a scattering of trees in Killington Park.<sup>58</sup> The Tithe Map shows some in the Beckside valley; about fifty acres between Harprigg and Oakrigg are shown on the map as woodland but parts are

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<sup>51</sup> TNA, MAF/32/198/82.

<sup>52</sup> Local inf.

<sup>53</sup> Local inf.

<sup>54</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 437 IPM Thomas Kytson gent. of Killington Hall.

<sup>55</sup> Inf. M. Lamb, Mill Cottage, Broad Raine.

<sup>56</sup> CRO (Kendal), WPR 34/3/2/2/3 (Award 20 Feb. 1741).

<sup>57</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 424-438.

<sup>58</sup> Thomas Jeffreys *Historic Map of Westmorland 1770*.

listed as pasture. At that time there was no evidence of new plantations.<sup>59</sup> In the western part of the township large areas of conifer woodland were first established during and after the Second World War, regularly cropped and replanted, originally for pit-props, later for woodchips for boilers.<sup>60</sup> In 1980 considerable woodland was planted as cover for pheasant and roe deer shooting on the Lylmere estate, mostly round Lylmere lake, with half a dozen smaller stands in the New Park to the south.<sup>61</sup>

## SOCIAL HISTORY

The presence of Killington Hall may have encouraged the building of larger dwellings in the township - in 1674 there were eleven other dwellings out of a total of 64 which had three or more hearths,<sup>62</sup> a relatively greater number than in neighbouring townships. Nevertheless in 1695 it was noted 'We have no Esqr. or so reputed, No Gentl: or so reputed. No prson of £50 p. Annum or £600 prsonall estate nor no other prson so high charged within our Townshippe.'<sup>63</sup> At a later date the community consisted almost entirely of tenant farmers,<sup>64</sup> to be replaced in their turn by middle-class incomers, retired, working at home or commuting to Kendal.<sup>65</sup>

The township seems always to have enjoyed a vigorous social life. The earliest social event in Killington is the Sports Day which takes place at Beckside Farm on the Thursday of Whitweek, and dates from the time when this was the annual hiring day for farm servants.<sup>66</sup> It has been for many years an important venue for Cumberland wrestling.

In 1945 a committee was set up for the purpose of building a parish hall, but when the school closed two years later the fund was diverted to buying the school building from the diocese and converting it by adding an extra room. In 1962 a government grant was secured for fifty per cent of the cost, and the building finally reopened in 1970, with charitable status. It was further renovated and refurbished in 1999 at a cost of £35,000, mainly secured from the Lottery Fund, and was thereafter well used for social events such as domino drives and children's Christmas

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<sup>59</sup> CRO (Kendal) WDRC/8/232 *Tithe Award* 1841.

<sup>60</sup> Local inf.

<sup>61</sup> Inf. Davis & Bowring, estate agents, Kirkby Lonsdale.

<sup>62</sup> *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, 208.

<sup>63</sup> CRO (Kendal) WDRY Box 32 File 1 4/4/39 Lonsdale Ward. In spite of Fleming's statement, Thomas Heblethwaite is listed as 'Gentl. A Batchelor', possibly because he lived at Killington Hall. His inventory of 1710 (Preston R.O.) indicates a very prosperous farmer.

<sup>64</sup> Mannex *Directory 1851*, 361. Three of 25 farms owner-occupied.

<sup>65</sup> See 'Economic History'.

<sup>66</sup> Local inf.



parties as well as meetings of the parochial church council and Killington Sports Committee.<sup>67</sup> Killington has no Women's Institute, the nearest being in Sedbergh. The township's millennium project was the production of a printed map of Killington identifying the names and residences of all the inhabitants, every household receiving a copy.

At various times there have been three public houses in the township. Three Mile House on the Old Scotch Road was listed as a farm in 1829,<sup>68</sup> but probably held a licence then and much earlier, as it was an overnight stop for the cattle drovers.<sup>69</sup> It had a licence in 1851<sup>70</sup> but appears to have lost it by 1906,<sup>71</sup> perhaps because droving had stopped with the coming of the railways. In 1804 Thomas Sisson of Killington Hall applied for a licence;<sup>72</sup> this was probably the Red Lion in Killington hamlet, beside the school and church, still listed in 1906,<sup>73</sup> but which had given up its licence by the 1930's.<sup>74</sup> The Black Horse, first shown as licensed in 1851, was almost certainly earlier, having regard to its position on the Sedbergh-Kendal road and the fact that it carried the Upton family crest. It too had lost its licence by the 1930s, since which time there has been no licensed house in the township.

In 1667 Richard Walker left his house and land to benefit the poor of Killington, a quarter of the annual proceeds being allocated to the school.<sup>75</sup> In the early eighteenth century it was noted that the school and its teacher received the interest on a sum of £60, and a further £100 left by Edward Cook of London, presumably a member of the family at Hallbeck.<sup>76</sup> There was no schoolhouse. School was taught in the chapel, the master being 'chosen by the inhabitants',<sup>77</sup> a phrase that seems to indicate that he was not usually the parson. During the long incumbency of William Slater, father and son,<sup>78</sup> the younger William is listed as schoolmaster for one year, 1719-20.<sup>79</sup> In 1778 the annual endowment was no more than £4.<sup>80</sup> In the early nineteenth century the Rev. Robert Wilkinson was curate and schoolmaster, and James Bainbridge was also listed as a

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<sup>67</sup> Inf. Parish Hall Minute Book and J. Mather, Hon. Sec.

<sup>68</sup> Parson & White *Dir. C. & W.*, 697.

<sup>69</sup> *Rec. Kend.* II, 417.

<sup>70</sup> Mannex, *Directory*, 1851, 361.

<sup>71</sup> Bulmer, *Dir. Westmd.* 509.

<sup>72</sup> CRO (Kendal) WQ/SR/596/130 Alehouse Recognizances 15 May 1804.

<sup>73</sup> Bulmer *Dir. Westmd.* 509

<sup>74</sup> Local inf.

<sup>75</sup> CRO (Kendal), WPR/34/ Feoffees. The phrasing seems to show that the school was already in existence, but no earlier reference has been found.

<sup>76</sup> See 'Introduction'.

<sup>77</sup> *The Cumbria parishes 1714-1725 from Bishop Gastrell's Notitia with additions by Bishop Porteus 1778-9* ed. L.A.S. Butler (CWAAS Record Series XII, Kendal 1998), 134.

<sup>78</sup> See 'Religious History'.

<sup>79</sup> *Cumbria Parishes*, 135.

<sup>80</sup> *Cumbria Parishes*, 222.

teacher.<sup>81</sup> The earlier endowments appear to have been lost, as in 1851 the school, taught by John Bousfield, had only small endowments left by Thomas Hebblethwaite, Jacob Morland and Thomas Sharp totalling £7 a year.<sup>82</sup> Later inspectors' reports underline how much rural schools depended on the efficiency of the single teacher. In 1876 the report was favourable, but the teacher, John Schofield, was moved for two years to another school which was in trouble.<sup>83</sup> His replacement arrived after a gap of several weeks, and after two months in post left under some sort of cloud.<sup>84</sup> In 1877 the standards had fallen off in almost all respects, and in 1878 were even lower, and the school lost part of its grant. In 1878 John Schofield returned,<sup>85</sup> and was still in post in 1906, assisted by his daughter.<sup>86</sup> After much discussion the school closed in 1948<sup>87</sup> and the pupils removed to Sedbergh in Yorkshire, for primary education, choosing between Sedbergh and Kendal at secondary school age.<sup>88</sup>

As well as the parish hall, mentioned earlier, Killington has two older charitable organisations,<sup>89</sup> United Charities and the Educational Charities<sup>90</sup>, both drawing their income from various land holdings, including Shacklabank farmhouse, which belongs to the Killington Charities Trust although it stands just within Firbank. Other money comes from fishing rights in that part of Killington Reservoir which falls within the township. In the twenty-first century the former charity distributes money at Christmas to the over-sixties, and helps with medical problems, such as the purchase of a wheelchair or taxi fares to hospital.<sup>91</sup> The latter gives money to local children for secondary school uniforms and in answer to other educational requests.<sup>92</sup>

## RELIGIOUS HISTORY

The site of the first chapel, serving the combined townships of Killington and Firbank, lies within Killington township, its position traceable by the field names of High Priestfield, Low Priestfield,<sup>93</sup> Chapelgarth,<sup>94</sup> and Under Chapel,<sup>95</sup> lying north of the Sedbergh-Kendal road in an

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<sup>81</sup> Parson & White Dir. C. & W., 696.

<sup>82</sup> Mannex Directory 1851, 355.

<sup>83</sup> 'It has been decided today that Mr. Schofield is to have Old Hutton school'. (*A Year at Killington Hall*, 15 Jan.)

<sup>84</sup> *A Year at Killington Hall* 20 Apr., 23 Jun.

<sup>85</sup> *A Year at Killington Hall*, 46.

<sup>86</sup> Bulmer, *Dir. Westmd.* (1906), 509.

<sup>87</sup> Meeting of the Kendal and District Planning sub-committee 22 Dec. 1947 resolution, noting that 'the Ministry of Education was not prepared to allow further postponement of a final decision on the future of the school'

<sup>88</sup> Local inf.

<sup>89</sup> No information has been found concerning their origins.

<sup>90</sup> Formerly called the Children's Charity.

<sup>91</sup> Inf. Brian Woof, ex-chairman United Charities.

<sup>92</sup> Inf. John Mather, ex-chairman Educational Charities.

<sup>93</sup> *Antiquary*, 39.

area of about 90 acres which shows on the map as an intrusion into the Firbank boundary.<sup>96</sup> This chapel was the subject in 1585 of a petition to Bishop Chadderton by the inhabitants of the two townships, who, 'by reason of their distance from the parish church (some of them being distant ten miles and none less than six), and by reason of inundations and of storms frequently raging in those parts in the winter season, they cannot carry their dead to be buried without great trouble and inconvenience, nor their children to be baptised without great peril both of soul and body, nor resort thither to hear divine service and receive the sacraments as becometh christians, and by right they are bounden.'<sup>97</sup> The bishop granted the facilities for which they had previously had to travel to Kirkby Lonsdale.<sup>98</sup>

This chapel was demolished, and a replacement built within Firbank, because, it is said, the original site was claimed by a different lordship.<sup>99</sup> With the building of the new Firbank chapel, the townships divided and Killington also acquired its place of worship. The exact date is not known, but it was not later than 1612.<sup>100</sup>

A Killington chapel already existed, a few yards from the Hall. Parts of this building date from the fourteenth century,<sup>101</sup> as does the fragment of coloured glass with the Pickering arms<sup>102</sup> in the middle window of the north wall, noted by Machell<sup>103</sup> in 1692, when it was in the east window. This however had been a private chapel to the Hall. The Pickerings, who were of status and education to provide two knights of the shire for Westmorland in the fourteenth century,<sup>104</sup> would have had a resident priest to serve their chapel and educate their children. With the demise of that family, the building must have stood unused, and possibly ruinous, until called back into service when the shared chapel was abandoned.

Owing to the date of the rushbearing, Machell concluded that the dedication at Killington was to St. James,<sup>105</sup> but at the present time it is to All Saints. In 1633 the chapel was subject to a diocesan visitation which found that Thomas Heaton was ministering but it was uncertain

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<sup>94</sup> N&B I, 264.

<sup>95</sup> CRO (Kendal), WDRC/8/232.

<sup>96</sup> SD616929.

<sup>97</sup> N&B, I, 264.

<sup>98</sup> N&B, I, 264.

<sup>99</sup> *Antiquary* 38.

<sup>100</sup>

<sup>101</sup> RCHME *Westmorland*, 131.

<sup>102</sup> AWL, 232, Ermine a lion rampant Azure crowned Or

<sup>103</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, 36.

<sup>104</sup> See 'Manors and Estates'.

<sup>105</sup> *Antiquary on Horseback*, 36.

whether he was licensed or not.<sup>106</sup> Other early incumbents were Richard Benson (1618-23), Samuel Harrison (1634-5), John Wood (1674). There followed a father and son who held the living for 103 years. William Slater or Sclater was a licensed deacon appointed in 1675 and raised to the priesthood in 1691.<sup>107</sup> He was one of the signatories of the Association in 1696.<sup>108</sup> His son, another William, followed him from 1724 to 1778.<sup>109</sup>

In the eighteenth century the endowment was generous compared to that of some neighbouring chapelries. The stipend recorded for 1704 was £8 10s. per annum, though this was less than the 'ancient chapel salary' of £9 6s. 8d.<sup>110</sup> At that time the priest preached every Sunday. A first augmentation about 1748 of £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty was laid out in buying a plot of land upon which the curate lived. Further augmentations resulted in an income of somewhat more than £40 p.a.<sup>111</sup> At one time the church's income had been as low as six guineas a year. During the interregnum revenues were sequestered from Sir Henry Bellingham and Captain Thomas Wilson, delinquents, but they compounded with the powers that be and kept their money, so £40 was taken from the rectory of Thornton-in-Lonsdale, sequestered from the estates of Sir John Canfield, papist.<sup>112</sup> By the mid-nineteenth century as well as twenty acres of glebe adjoining the parsonage house and two thirds of a field in Chapel-le-Dale, the chapelry had been allotted eleven acres of the common under the Enclosure award, and had investments of £1277 from the Bounty Fund and £55 from the Charity Commission.<sup>113</sup>

At some time after 1778 the chapel was closed, probably because of the condition of the building. It was opened again in 1824,<sup>114</sup> having been partially restored.<sup>115</sup> This marked the beginning of another long incumbency: Robert Wilkinson served until 1876. The parsonage was enlarged and improved for his successor, Horace Thompson,<sup>116</sup> but in 1906 was again in such a poor state that R.S. Fausset was given leave to live in Sedbergh,<sup>117</sup> as were his successors. In 1977 Brian Levick was inducted to the combined parishes of Killington, Firbank and Howgill, Killington retaining a service every Sunday until 1987, when the number declined to three a

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<sup>106</sup> Borthwick Institute York. 1633 CB2 f. 161.

<sup>107</sup> Nightingale, *Ejected of 1662*, 1006.

<sup>108</sup> *Rec. Kend.*, III, 55.

<sup>109</sup> CRO (Kendal), Killington Parish Register

<sup>110</sup> *Cumbria Parishes*, 134-5.

<sup>111</sup> *Cumbria Parishes*, 134, 222-3.

<sup>112</sup> *Ejected of 1662* 1004-1008.

<sup>113</sup> CRO (Kendal), WPR/34/4/4/2 (Terrier 1847)

<sup>114</sup> Mannex *Dir.* (1851), 355.

<sup>115</sup> RCHME *Westmorland*, 131.

<sup>116</sup> *A Year at Killington Hall*, 96.

<sup>117</sup> Bulmer, *Dir. Westmd.*, 509.

month. After 2004 services were held in Killington twice a month, by various celebrants, alternating with the other two churches, attendance barely reaching double figures except for occasions such as a carol service or harvest festival.<sup>118</sup> Killington was transferred to the Bradford diocese in 1951 as a united benefice with Sedbergh.<sup>119</sup> In 2012 negotiations were under way to return it to Carlisle.<sup>120</sup>

The church took its present form when the west tower was added; this was probably in 1711, as the two bells in the small gallery are so dated. The Morlands of Cappelside have several eighteenth century monuments,<sup>121</sup> but the largest and most handsome, designed by the Websters of Kendal in black marble,<sup>122</sup> is to Jane wife of Robert Cooke of Hallbeck, who died in 1771 aged 27.<sup>123</sup> After the re-opening of the church in 1824, there were further partial restorations in 1868 and 1895.<sup>124</sup> The east window, by Christopher Whall, dates from 1907.<sup>125</sup> Two embroidered hangings showing the passing of the seasons, designed by a twentieth century parishioner, Rosemary Darby, and worked locally, hang on either side of the altar, and a set of altar kneelers, from the same source, depict the main buildings of the township.

In 1667 there were 22 names on a list of nonconformists who did not come to divine service.<sup>126</sup> In 1696 there was a lawsuit between the curate, William Slater, and various Quakers in the chapelry who refused to pay their dues towards his salary: in 1701 he finally recouped five guineas.<sup>127</sup> The house of Joseph Baynes of Stangerthwaite was licensed in 1706 for Quaker meetings, and that of Robert Richardson in 1761.<sup>128</sup> By 1778, out of 80 families in the township, there was only one Quaker family and no Papists.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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<sup>118</sup> Inf. from service registers, thanks to J. Mather, churchwarden.

<sup>119</sup> CAS (Kendal), WPR/34/2/3/1.

<sup>120</sup> Inf. E.Scott and J. Hardman, Church House, Carlisle.

<sup>121</sup> One shows a link to the wider world typical of the time; to Captain Briscoe Morland, who died 'at sea on the passage from Bengal' in 1804.

<sup>122</sup> A. Taylor and J. Martin *The Websters of Kendal: A North-western Architectural Dynasty* (CWAAS Record Series XVII, Kendal 2004), 170.

<sup>123</sup> See 'Landownership'.

<sup>124</sup> RCHME *Westmorland*, 131.

<sup>125</sup> Hyde and Pevsner, *Cumbria* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London 2010), 453.

<sup>126</sup> *Lancashire Archives*, ARR 15/40-76.

<sup>127</sup> Rev. Canon Ware 'Killington, its chapel salary No 1' (CW1, VIII 1886), 93-108.

<sup>128</sup> *Rec. Kend.*, III, 53. Probably at Harprigg, which carries a Richardson datestone of 1851.

No records of manorial or township government have been found before the parish meeting set up in 1895.<sup>129</sup> At that time it elected a District Councillor, but later this post was shared with Whinfell. Originally two unpaid overseers were elected, later joined by an assistant at £10 a year, but there was little demand for their services. Between 1932 and 1946 only one meeting was held.

With the advent of motorised transport and a different type of resident, greater interest was shown, although the councillors have never applied for a precept on the rates, paying their own expenses. A telephone kiosk was installed by subscription of the ratepayers, but was later removed. The old school was bought from the Ministry of Education and funds raised to enlarge it to a parish hall.<sup>130</sup> In 1969 a site for 270 caravans at Hills plantation on the western side of the township, abutting on the old Scotch Road, was planned at district level but later abandoned. In the 1970's the inhabitants protested at the number of car rallies taking place, which frequently blocked the roads and caused disruption. The police intervened and the number was reduced to two a year. In 1971 a new reservoir was planned which would have drowned five Killington farms and taken land from a number of others. The plan was abandoned in 1974 owing to the expense.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, a proposal for twenty chalets to be built by Killington New Bridge was withdrawn in the face of fierce opposition. The problem of receiving Broad Band in such a remote area received much consideration, as did the possible installation of a small hydro-electric plant in the river at Broad Raine, and proposals for a windfarm, the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the setting up of a First Response unit.

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<sup>129</sup> Minute book 1895-2014 held by I. Dawson, chairman

<sup>130</sup> See 'Social History'.