

The Kirks of Ballantrae

A Survey of the Buildings

K. G. AND M. M. WHITE

The first Statistical Account of Scotland for Ayrshire describes the 'only ruins' within the parish of Ballantrae as being the remains of the original parish church at Kirkcudbright [Innertig] in the north-east of the parish. It states that it was deserted after a new church had been built in Ballantrae. This church was built in 1604 and the manse in 1736. The second and third Statistical Accounts and the other main secondary authorities² add little to these statements except to say that the mediaeval church was dedicated to St. Cuthbert,³ as the name Kirkcudbright indicates⁴; that in 1617 the new church became the parish church, by Act of Parliament⁵; and that in 1819 a third church was built to replace the second⁶. This article is an attempt to amplify and criticise that account of the history of the ecclesiastical buildings in the parish.

THE MEDIAEVAL CHURCH

We have noted only two documentary references to the parish church. Firstly, 'Bagimont's Roll' of 1275 includes the *vic[aria] de Innertig*, valued at £2 13s 4d (=4 merks), in the Deanery of Carrick⁷. Secondly, a grant (or more probably a confirmation) of the church of St. Cuthbert de Innertig to Crosraguel Abbey is dated 1404⁸. It seems likely that at the earlier date the parish church had already been appropriated to Crosraguel, possibly from the latter's foundation earlier in the 13th century.

The Act of 1617⁹ states that 'of lang tyme bygane and almaist evir sen the reformatione of religioun the Paroche Kirk of Innertig

1 *Statistical Account*, I, pp. 110-111.

2 Chalmers (New Edition), VI, p. 543; *New Statistical Account*, V, p. 422; Paterson, II, p. 87; *Fasti*, II, p. 331; *Third Statistical Account*, pp. 856-867.

3 *Fasti*, *ibid.*

4 J. M. Mackinlay, *Ancient Church Dedications in Scotland*, 1914, p. 256.

5 *New Statistical Account*, p. 422.

6 *Ibid.*

7 *Charters of the Abbey of Crosraguel*, 1886, Vol. I, p. 11.

8 *Ibid.*, p. 37.

9 A.P.S., 1617, Vol. IV, p. 555.

in carrick has been altogedder ruinous and decayed sua that now thair is scairse a monument to be sene quhair the samen was foundit . . . the parochoneris thair off hes resoirted and repaired [to the new church in Ballantrae] this dyuers yeiris bygane.' With the excambion of the parish church the former glebe land of Innertig might be expected to revert to secular use. There is no evidence of this having happened in the years subsequent to 1617, though when the Bargany Muniments become available for consultation such may be revealed by the tacks and leases. In 1693 The Hearth Tax Roll¹⁰ includes John Syme in Kirkholm—as the site had evidently become known and still is. Blaeu's Atlas, 1654, shows the church and the name 'Kirkoubri'; Roy's survey, 1755, 'Old Kirk of Kirkobry'; Armstrong, 1775, simply 'ruins.'

The standing remains at Kirkholm (Map Reference 115839), near the confluence of the River Stinchar and the Water of Tig (whence the name Inner—or Inver—Tig), hardly bear out the statement of the Act of 1617 that there is 'scairse a monument to be sene quhair the samen was foundit. The remains of the church (Fig. 2, p. 224) stand within an irregular walled enclosure south-east of the farm, and measure about 100 by 35 feet, oriented slightly north of east. Most of the outline of the church is represented by earth baulks, at the east end up to 5 feet high, but parts of the north and south walls are still standing, the former up to 10 feet high and 2 feet 8 inches thick. Twenty feet from the west end are the remains of a wall built up against (*i.e.*, not bonded into) the south wall. Apart from this there are no signs of any divisions within the church, which thus appears to have been a plain rectangular building like many churches in Scotland before and after the Reformation.¹¹ A hole in the north wall appears to be quite recent; in any case the north wall of the church would probably have been blind.

An odd feature of the kirkyard area is the presence of three baulks (*v. plan*), slightly over 1 foot high, to the north and east of the church; at the north-east angle of the latter the spread of the collapsed wall and the baulk merge. The gap in the baulk to the east of the church looks modern, as a path passes through it. The purpose of these features is obscure; superficially they suggest collapsed walls of the kirkyard (on this view, later enlarged)

but the oval baulk in the north angle of the enclosure can hardly be thus explained.

To the south of the church there are three gravestones—two at least relatively recent, one of them being clearly inscribed 'Thomas McCredie.' The kirkyard was evidently used for burials after the abandonment of the church, though no record of this appears to exist.

Since it is unlikely that further documentary material relating to Innertig church will come to light, more details of its history could probably only be obtained by excavation, which might well be a difficult task as the interior of the church is likely to be occupied by burials of various dates.¹² Excavation should reveal the earliest occupation of the site. The dedication to St. Cuthbert suggests the period of Anglian ascendancy in Kyle and Carrick in the 7th and 8th centuries.¹³ On the other hand devotion to St. Cuthbert was popular during the Norman penetration of Scotland in the 12th century.¹⁴ The present structure can hardly be that of the earliest church, which would be more likely to be wood or turf. The 15th century, when the Kennedy ascendancy in the area began,¹⁵ seems a likely time for the present building; the embellishment of a parish church, especially if collegiate (*v. below*), would certainly have been as typical an act of piety in the 15th century as the endowment of a monastery in the 13th. It would be of interest to know what were the internal fittings of the church. It might be expected to have a chancel screen, probably wooden. If so, it would certainly be removed at the Reformation but might leave traces. Excavation might also disclose the function of the cross-wall, which may have been a blocking-wall erected because the west end of the building had collapsed, and the function of the mysterious baulks.

THE 'COLLEGE'

A regrant of the Barony of Ardstinchar in 1541¹⁶ is made [*cum*] *advocatione ecclesie sive collegii de B[allantrae].* A sasine of the Barony to Thomas Kennedy in 1564¹⁷ is in

¹⁰ Hearth Tax Roll, 1693 (in Scottish Record Office).

¹¹ George Hay, An Introduction to Scottish Post-Reformation Churches, *Trans. Scottish Ecclesiological Society*, Vol. XIV, Part 3, 1951, p. 10.

¹² W. D. Maxwell, *A History of Worship in the Church of Scotland*, 1955, p. 25.

¹³ Mackinlay, *ibid.* Kirkeudbright-Innertig was one of a group of churches dedicated to St. Cuthbert, with Girvan, Stralton, Maybole and Monkton. For cross at Girvan *v. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, Vol. XLVII, 1912-13, pp. 175-7.

¹⁴ R. L. G. Ritchie, *The Normans in Scotland*, 1954, Ch. II, 10.

¹⁵ H.K., p. 4.

¹⁶ R.M.S., Vol. III, p. 549.

¹⁷ E.R., Vol. XIX, p. 531.

almost identical terms ([*cum*] *advocatione, donatione et jure-patronatus ecclesie sive collegii de Ballintra.*) It may be assumed that '*collegium*' means a collegiate church but there is no other record of a church (collegiate or otherwise) in Ballantrae itself before the 17th century. It would seem in any case to be more likely that '*ecclesia[a]e sive collegii*' means the 'church or college' and refers to the parish church at Innertig. In this case it is peculiar that it is described as '*de Ballintra*' instead of '*de Innertig*.' These documents, however, presumably refer primarily to the Barony of Ardstinchar, of which Ardstinchar Castle—at Ballantrae—was the *caput*. It therefore seems preferable to regard them as referring to the parish church rather than to erect another—hypothetical—church at Ballantrae.

The erection of collegiate churches was a popular form of piety, especially in Scotland, in the 15th century.¹⁸ In any case '*Collegium*' need not mean anything very elaborate. In England even two priests might constitute a 'college,' as at Towcester.¹⁹ It is, of course, possible that this foundation was abortive, wherever it was intended to be.

THE SECOND CHURCH

The erection at the beginning of the 17th century of a second church within the parish of Kirkcudbright-Innertig, this time at Ballantrae itself, is vouched for by the Act of Parliament of 1617 referred to above.²⁰ The Act states 'that of late the Laird off Barganie vpoun ane verie religious and gryit zeale and affectioun vpon his lairge and sumptuous chairgis and expenss has caused builde and edefie ane kirk wtin the toun of Ballintrae . . . lyand maist eweft and contigue to the said parochin callit Kirkcudbright-Innertig.' It makes it clear that this church had already been in existence for quite a number of years before 1617, by adding that the parishoners had resorted there (v. above) 'this dyuers yeiris bygane for heiring of the worde and vse of the sacramentis.'

By the Act this new church at Ballantrae was made the parish church instead of the one at Innertig—'Thairfore oure Souerane Lord and estaittis fairsadis ratifies and appraves the dedicatioun and erection of the said kirk of Ballintrae . . . to be the onlie

18 Annie I. Dunlop, *The Life and Times of James Kennedy, Bishop of St. Andrews*, 1950, p. 402.
19 A. Hamilton Thompson, *The English Clergy and their Organisation in the Late Middle Ages*, 1947, p. 151.
20 A.P.S., 1617, Vol. IV, p. 555.

paroehe kirk of the said parochin of Kirkcudbright-Innertig and of the ten pund land of Ardstincher.'

We learn of the circumstances of its building from the contemporary *Historie of the Kennedys*. Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany was mortally wounded in a battle with the Earl of Cassilis and his followers near Maybole on 11th December, 1601,²¹ and temporarily buried in the kirk at Ayr. For his permanent resting-place his wife proceeded to have a new church built near their castle of Ardstinchar at Ballantrae. This was presumably in accordance with the Kennedy policy of making Ballantrae, near their castle, a place of importance²² and the focal point of the parish. Lady Bargany died at Stilton in England on 16th August, 1605,²³ was brought to Ayr and subsequently buried at Ballantrae along with her husband. An account of 'the buryiall of the Laird of Bargany and his wyff . . . on the XV day off Sept [] yeiris in the new kirk of Ballantry: quhilk the Lady had caussit built for her husband quhair scho had gartt sett wp an glorieous towme'²⁴—with grand ceremony—is given in the *Historie*.²⁵ It will be seen from this that the burial aisle was from the first an integral part of the whole church. It is unfortunate that the year of the funeral is omitted, but it can hardly have been long after 1605. The church therefore was built some time between 1601 and 1605.

Gilbert Kennedy's son, Thomas, referred to in the Act of Parliament (v. above) as the Laird of Bargany who had caused the church to be built, was only a child at the time of his father's death.²⁶ In reality it was his mother who had carried out the building, as his '*tutrix testamentar*.'²⁷ On her death the tutory passed to her brother, Josie Stewart of Bonnington,²⁸ who carried out the funeral arrangements.

The remains of the church which have survived (v. Figs. 3 and 4) consist mainly of the aisle; it is approximately 22 feet square and contains against and recessed into the west wall the 'glorious towme,' already referred to, which has been described elsewhere.²⁹ It has a window in the south side, round-headed

21 H.K., p. 51.
22 cf. creation of Ballantrae as Burgh of Barony in 1541—R.M.S., Vol. III, p. 550.
23 H.K., p. 67.
24 H.K., p. 68.
25 H.K., p. 68.
26 *The Scots Peerage*, 1905, Vol. II, p. 488. The date of Thomas' birth does not appear to be known. His parents were married January, 1597—H.K., p. 24.
27 H.K., p. 51. cf. S.R.S. (Ayrshire), Vol. III, fol. 173.
28 H.K., p. 67. cf. S.R.S. (Ayrshire), Vol. I, fol. 83. J.S. of Bonnington as *curator et negotia*.
29 H.K., p. 135; MacGibbon and Ross, *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, 1889, Vol. III, p. 304; *Ayrshire Collections*, Vol. IV, p. 234-235.

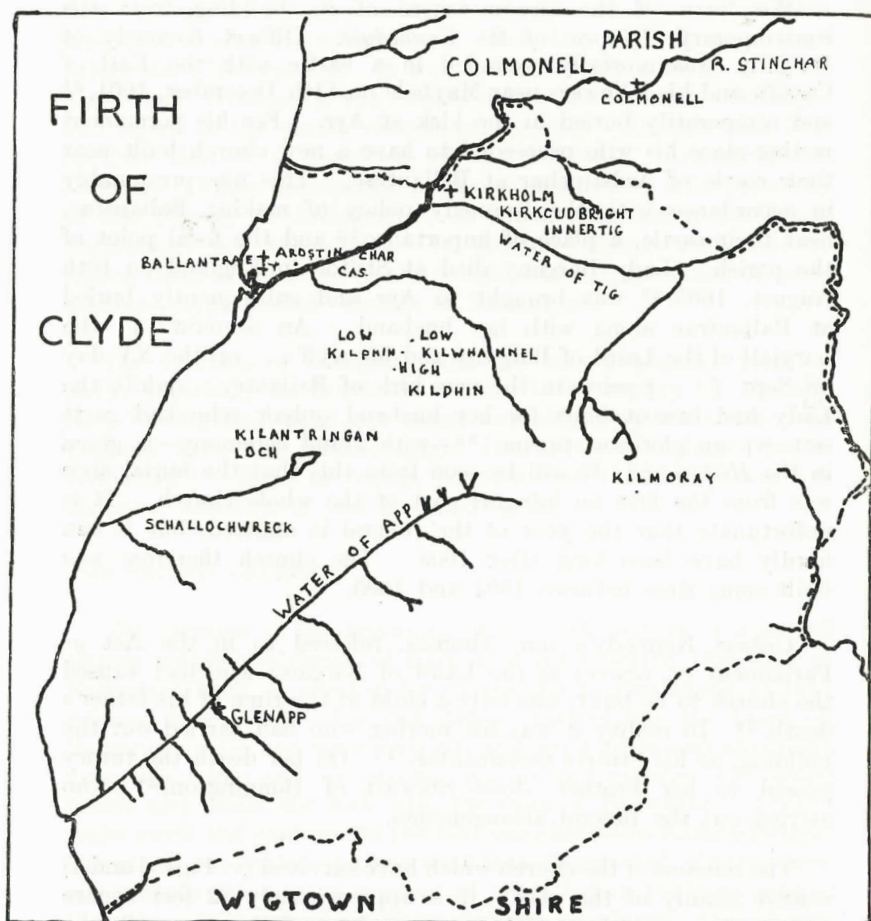
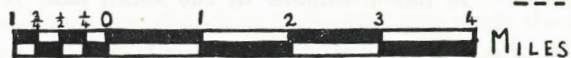


FIG 1 BALLANTRAE PARISH



but with 'survival Gothic' tracery (v. plate) and a blocked window in the east wall. Also on the east side there is a blocked door and on the north an arch which has been filled in except for a door opening. The north wall extends to the west as far as two other burial enclosures and to the east a baulk (containing wall-foundations) is visible on the ground for about 7 feet (Fig. 4). The building is roofed with slates and has crow-stepped gables, with a fleur-de-lys at the north end of the ridge (v. plate).

Immediately to the west of the Kennedy aisle and built against it is a burial yard. It is also built against the more westerly of two filled-in windows in the extension of the aisle's north wall. (The filling-in of the windows is apparently contemporary.) It is unroofed and has a pilaster at the south-west corner and a blocked door at the south end of the west wall. Above the existing door on the north side there is an inscription bearing the date 1620 and the names of Fergussons of Finnart. The erection of this and the cutting of the door were in fact authorised by the Heritors in 1854 at the request of Captain Kennedy, the Fergussons' successor at Finnart.³⁰ 'In consequence of the entrance to the burying ground belonging to the lairds of Finnart being interfered and built around Captain Kenned[y] states that it was his wish to make an entrance through the wall of the old church and to place a mural tablet over it.'

Further to the west is a second but smaller grave enclosure, similar but more ruinous than the first, built against it and against the extension of the aisle's north wall. There is an opening in its west side.

The general form of the church (v. plan, Fig. 3) can be deduced as a Tau-cross—a common post-Reformation plan³¹—from the description given in Pitcairn's Introduction to the *Historie of the Kennedyis* and based on the information of a local inhabitant³²: the aisle 'was attached to the S. side of the old kirk . . . exactly in its centre . . . it stands south and north with the roof, three or four feet above the true pitch, and is slated.' Further evidence for the north wall of the aisle being a wall of the church is provided by the entry for 1854 in the Heritors' Records, already quoted, dealing with Captain Kennedy's request 'to make an entrance through the wall of the old church.'

30 H.R.B., 22nd June, 1854.

31 Hay, *op.cit.*, p. 11.

32 H.K., p. 135.

The probable dimensions of the church are not easy to determine, since the position of the north wall is uncertain. There is a tombstone recording a burial of 1811, though the stone itself is later. This is only about thirty feet from the south wall, which would make the church very narrow, but not impossibly so. Its possible length is limited at the west end by the falling away of the ground towards the probable site of the former manse (v. below) and at the east by the road, which is shown in Roy's Survey more or less as it is now. Unfortunately that Survey is not very helpful with regard to the church and manse buildings themselves.

We know that the church had an east door from the estimates for repairs reported in the minutes of the Presbytery of Stranraer for 1777,³³ where mention is made of enlarging it. There was obviously also another door, for later in the same estimates 'two doors, hinges, locks and bars' are included.³⁴ It seems likely that the east door would be for the congregation, the other door (perhaps at the west end since it was probably nearest the manse) for the minister, and the blocked door in the aisle the laird's entrance.

The existence of windows both in the north and south walls is attested by the Presbytery report on the fabric in 1818.³⁵ From the two blocked windows in the south wall it may be conjectured that there were more to correspond on the other side of the Kennedy Aisle.

There are three possible ways in which the aisle could have been related to the church; in the first of these the walls of the church and aisle and their roof-ridges would have been of the same height. This is unlikely because the two blocked windows in the south wall of the church (which is standing to the same height as the aisle wall) are not preserved to their full height. Secondly, the church wall might have been as high as the ridge of the aisle, but this would make the church proportionally very high and is inconsistent with an entry in the Presbytery Minutes for 1752.³⁶ Estimates were to be made on the assumption of the aisle's either being retained or removed and it is reported by Bargany's factor 'that he had no particular instruction from Bargany anent the Isle which was found to be necessarily

33 M.P.S., 18th June, 1877.

34 *Ibid.*

35 M.P.S., 22nd January, 1818.

36 M.P.S., 14th July, 1752.

connected with the roof of the kirk as it now stands.' The third possibility is that the church wall was somewhat higher than the aisle but that the roofs were connected, perhaps with the ridges of the same height. This would agree with the statement of Bargany's factor just quoted and would also probably account for Pitcairn's description 'the roof three or four feet above the true pitch.'³⁷ Furthermore, it would explain why, at the demolition of the church, the north gable of the aisle above the blocked arch was filled in. (The stonework here appears to be different—v. plate.) This is the arrangement at Straiton, where the aisle, however, is pre-Reformation and the church was later rebuilt.

The Presbytery Minutes provide us with a chronicle of the dilapidation of the church. The first reference in the extant Minutes of the Presbytery of Ayr is to a request by the Heritors for a visitation³⁸ which was complied with and carried out on 14th March, 1693.³⁹ No details are given with regard to the kirk, except that the estimated cost for repairing it was £150 Scots.

The first report of a visitation which gives details is that of 1697,⁴⁰ from which we learn that the church had lofts (presumably galleries); 300 deals (costing 300 merks) and nails (costing £15 Scots) were required for these. The great need of repairing the building is shown by the fact that the following are among the estimates given:—slates £12 Scots, slate nails £3 Scots, bolls of lime £3 Scots, glass and wire £31 Scots, building the churchyard dyke £8 Sterling. The total cost of all the items adds up to £492 Scots.

It does not seem likely that these recommendations were implemented for, ten years later, in the Minutes of the Presbytery of Stranraer (in which Ballantrae now was), reference is made to 'a letter from My Lord Bargany imparting that the kirk and manse of Ballantrae were altogether ruinous' and requesting a visitation.⁴¹ This was made forthwith on 5th June, 1703.⁴² Apparently there had been renovations proposed at a visitation on 2nd May, 1702 (we have no records for that year), which were now stated not to have been carried out. Now a formidable list of repairs was found to be necessary, the total cost being given

37 H.K., p. 135.

38 M.P.A., 7th March, 1693.

39 M.P.A., 14th March, 1693.

40 M.P.A., 20th October, 1697.

41 M.P.S., 2nd May, 1703.

as £864 1s 4d Scots. The kirkyard dyke was in very bad condition—£99 Scots would be required for building it 'two ells high being 22 rood,' and later it is pointed out that by Act 233 Sess. 15 Parl. James VI 'the parishoners of each parish kirk are obliged to build and repair the kirkyard dikes of their own paroche kirk with stane and mortar to the height of two ells.'

The lofts were obviously requiring considerable attention—300 deals for sarking⁴³ loft and doors estimated at £239 Scots (including transport) and 1500 nails to the loft costing £9 Scots are among the items listed. That the building generally was in a very bad state is shown by the following requirements—a couple⁴⁴ for the kirk £12 Scots; slates 3500 (with transport) £62 ('slating south side of the kirk and mending the north side' is mentioned later in wage costs); lime for capting⁴⁵ and beam-filling⁴⁶ wallhead £25 4s Scots; glass and wire £66; 'a lock to the kirk door, bonds and bolts with those doors £5.' There is mention of mending the minister's seat, presumably in the pulpit and of 'taking down and putting up the bellhouse.' This list of radical repairs is followed by a reminder to the Heritors that they 'are obliged to make the kirk sufficient.'

That neither they nor the parishioners had been very diligent in fulfilling these obligations is shown by the report of the next visitation on 6th June, 1717.⁴⁷ Though this dealt mainly with disciplinary matters a question concerning the fabric was put to the Minister, the Elders, Deacons and Heads of Families, and the answer was given 'that the church was such out of order and that there was no dieck about the churchyard.' The only other relevant detail given is that they possessed communion tables, presumably a series which might have run the length of the church.

There are no visitations recorded between 1717 and 1752 but in the Minutes of Ballantrae Kirk Session it is reported in 1726 that a collection was appointed 'for repairing the kirkyard doors, to be collected at the church door'⁴⁸ from which we may

42 M.P.S., 5th June, 1703.

43 i.e., Sheathing. *Oxford English Dictionary*—'Wood laid on the rafters of a house when a strong and tight roof is required; the slates are laid on the sarkin.'

44 i.e., Kipple, a roof-truss. cf. *Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society Trans.*, Third Series, Vol. XXIX, 1952, pp. 173 f. (where, however, it refers to a cruck-truss).

45 ? Presumably a term referring to the masonry.

46 O.E.D., 'Verb substantive from beamfill (from beam and fill).' *Scottish National Dictionary*, 'Used as in English to mean to fill up the walls of a house after the beams are placed. In Scots extended to all kinds of packing.'

47 M.P.S., 6th June, 1717.

48 Kirk Session Minutes of Ballantrae, 27th April, 1726.

assume that at least the dyke had been built, whatever else had not been done.

In 1752 a petition was made to the Presbytery from the minister, Hamilton Kennedy, which told the old tale of dilapidation once more—'The Kirk of Ballantrae is in great disorder,'⁴⁹ and asked for a visitation, which was made within two months.⁵⁰ An estimate of 'forty-two pounds and some odd shillings' was made by workmen for making good the roof, walls and windows 'either upon the supposition that Bargany's Isle is to be continued as at present or supposing that the yaird contiguous to the kirk is to be taken down.' 'Yaird' seems a more appropriate description of the Fergusson burial enclosure but in the context it must mean the Kennedy Aisle. Besides, the Fergusson yard is not structurally part of either the kirk or the aisle. Presumably it was decided to proceed upon retaining the aisle because of Bargany's factor's statement that it was 'necessarily connected with the roof of the church' (v. above). The Heritors were engaged to put the kirk in repair though the Presbytery did not stipulate conditions other than recommending that it should be done 'very soon or at farthest, against Michaelmas one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three.' They failed in their engagement, however, as an entry two years later states⁵¹: Hamilton Kennedy reported that 'the Kirk of Ballantrae must necessarily in a few months be in a ruinous condition,' and the clerk was commissioned to write to the Heritors.

Twenty years later the church is reported still ruinous in a petition for a visitation made by the succeeding minister, William Donaldson,⁵² and matters had become so critical that when the visitation was carried out its finding was that the kirk 'cannot be repaired but must be rebuilt from the foundations' and was to be ready by the first of November, 1777.⁵³

In May of that year, however, a petition was made by John Hamilton, of Bargany, on behalf of the Heritors asking the Presbytery to appoint a committee to meet at Ballantrae and reconsider their former decision.⁵⁴ They alleged, on the authority of 'creditable workmen,' that the walls could be made 'perfectly sufficient' and by 'a modest reparation and by providing a new

49 M.P.S., 27th May, 1752.

50 M.P.S., 14th July, 1752.

51 M.P.S., 8th May, 1754.

52 M.P.S., 27th May, 1774.

53 M.P.S., 18th May, 1775.

54 M.P.S., 7th May, 1777.

roof, new windows and new doors [the church] will be more conducive to the good of the parish and sooner ready for the performance of divine service than building a new church.' He did not add that it would let the Heritors off more lightly.

The meeting took place on 18th June⁵⁵. The Presbytery approved their former decision but since time had elapsed for building the new church and the present one was 'in a most ruinous condition' they agreed to the proposed repairs. The estimates include :—

'Taking down the old roof... ..	£3 10 0
Repair and roughcasting wall and enlarging east door	£6 19 6
282 ft. of new wood (the old roof to be used what sufficient)	£16 6 0
267 dales for sarking... ..	£15 1 6
7100 new slates for one side kirk... ..	£9 4 0
14,200 nails	£4 13 4
2 doors, hinges, locks and bars	£1 9 6

There is also the first reference to the pulpit—'pulpit four ft. over with two pilasters done to Dorick order with a precentor's seat and elder's seat, £10 10s 6d.' Sacrament forms with tables estimated at £3 3s 6d and 'a minister's seat bound work, floored and a table £2 13s 8d' were also required.

These proposed repairs and improvements must have been for the most part carried out, since the next visitation's report⁵⁶ does not contain quite such a formidable list; among other items mentioned are 'many slates are wanting,' part of the side walls needed roughcast, windows needed pointed and painted, 'a great part of the churchyard dyke requires to be rebuilt and rest pined [*i.e.*, pinned] and repaired and new gates are required.' The Heritors were to execute these repairs by 9th October.

In the petition for this visitation⁵⁷ the minister had asked for an inspection of the church, churchyard, dyke and gates and part of the offices belonging to the manse, which had 'never been repaired during the petitioner's incumbency.' This last phrase must refer only to the manse offices.

⁵⁵ M.P.S., 18th June, 1777.
⁵⁶ M.P.S., 17th July, 1793.
⁵⁷ M.P.S., 3rd July, 1793.

In 1803 at the next visitation⁵⁸ one of the workmen who had been summoned reported that 'he has inspected the ridge of the church and finds the old timber ridge on it so much failed that a new one is necessary and in his opinion either a lead or stone one is most advantageous for the safety of the roof.' The churchyard wall and gate could not have been repaired as previously recommended, for the gate 'must be renewed' and 'part of the churchyard wall is in danger of falling down unless it is underputted [*i.e.*, underpinned] with stone and lime.' The Presbytery commissioned the Heritors to do the repairs by the following November.

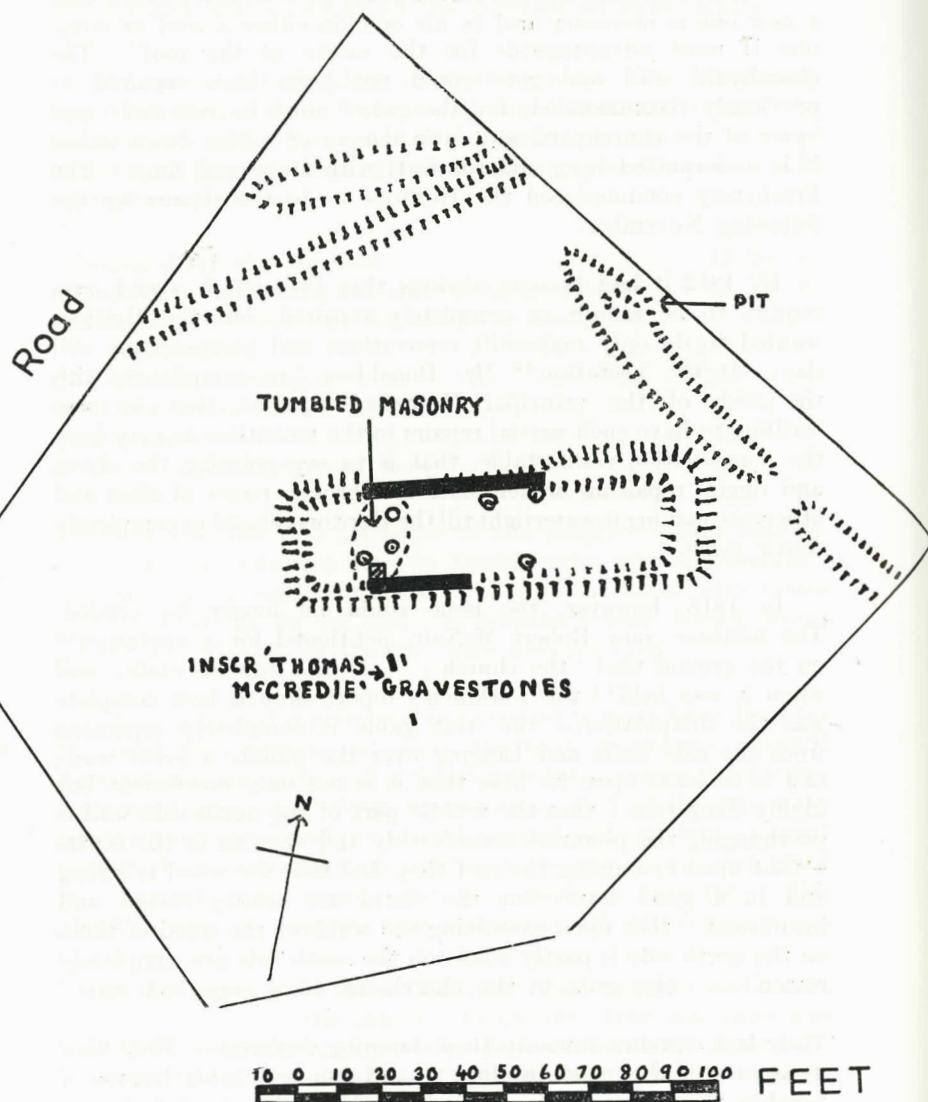
By 1812 it had become obvious that the church would soon require to be rebuilt or completely repaired, but the Heritors wanted to do only makeshift renovations and postpone the evil day. At the visitation⁵⁹ Mr. Donaldson 'in compliance with the wish of the principal Heritors' signified that he was 'willing to have such partial repairs in the meantime as may keep the congregation comfortable, that is to say pointing the skews and riggin, repairing broken slate and broken panes of glass and otherwise making it watertight till the Heritors rebuild or completely repair same.'

In 1818, however, the issue could no longer be evaded. The minister, now Robert McNair, petitioned for a visitation⁶⁰ on the ground that 'the church . . . is in a ruinous state,' and when it was held⁶¹ the workmen's report showed how complete was the dilapidation—'the west gable is completely separated from the side walls and hanging over the plumb a great way; and is so loose upon its base that it is not only insufficient but highly dangerous; that the middle part of the north side wall is overhanging the plummet considerably and opening in the centre—that upon examining the roof they find that the wood is strong and in a good state, but the slates are mostly rotten and insufficient: that upon examining the windows the wood of those on the north side is partly whole on the south side are completely rotten . . . the seats in the church are in a very bad state.'

Their last sentence sums up their damning evidence—'They view it as one of the most insufficient and uncomfortable houses of worship they have ever seen.' Even after that recital of ruin

⁵⁸ M.P.S., 2nd March, 1803.
⁵⁹ M.P.S., 24th March, 1812.
⁶⁰ M.P.S., 7th January, 1818.
⁶¹ M.P.S., 22nd January, 1818.

Fig. 2—Remains of Mediaeval Church



Captain Duguid, as mandate for one of the Heritors, was still thinking in terms of repairing instead of rebuilding, and asked if this would be possible. The reply was that it would but 'at immense expense . . . except the wood of the roof and the south side of the wall there is nothing sufficient about the house.' The Presbytery forthwith ordered the Heritors to build a new church by August, 1819.

The old church was evidently demolished and it seems likely that some of the material was used to build the new church. In 1827 it was proposed that 'the site of the old church should be trenched . . . stones and rubbish carried away and ground sowed with grass seeds . . . for burying ground.'⁶² If our reconstruction of the relation of the aisle to the church is correct the north gable of the former would need to be filled in and this is corroborated by the fact that it appears to be of different stone work (v. above and plate 1). The crow-stepping was presumably added to correspond with that of the south gable, the arch which had opened into the church probably filled in, but the blocking of the aisle's east door and window seems to be of an earlier date. The south wall of the church was retained as far as it formed the north side of the three burial enclosures.

A print of the Aisle appears in Paterson's *History of Ayrshire*⁶³ and shows it very much as it is now. The blocked windows are not visible but they were not to be seen until quite recently when the ivy was removed and the building cleaned.

Many questions about the second church remain unanswered. There is no evidence in the extant records to substantiate the date of its building as 1604, as given in the first Statistical Account, which, however, seems very plausible; obviously it was some time (and probably not long) before 1605, the date of Lady Bargany's death (v. above). The year may well have been inscribed on the church—as on the former church at Colmonell⁶⁴—which would account for the categorical statement of the writer, William Donaldson, minister of the parish.

Many architectural features remain obscure; indeed the precise dimensions of the whole building are not possible to determine and, in particular, the position of the north wall (v. above). As to the exterior, we do not know whether the gables

⁶² H.R.B., 19th July, 1827.

⁶³ Paterson, Vol. II, p. 88.

⁶⁴ Chalmers, Vol. III, p. 342.

were crow-stepped, as we might expect, and if the fleur-de-lys is an original decoration of the Aisle; it certainly cannot be *in situ* but possibly may have been originally on the opposite gable (*i.e.*, the south). The position of the bell-house, mentioned in a visitation report, is also unknown. Internally, though there is evidence for galleries, their height and position cannot be decided; from the nature of the building they may possibly have been at the two ends. Nor is there any indication of where the pulpit was situated; a likely place for it might conceivably have been, as at Straiton, in the middle, facing the aisle which perhaps held the laird's pew or gallery. The latter, however, would not have been occupied for long, as the Hamiltons who succeeded the Kennedys abandoned Ardstinchar Castle as their residence in the 17th Century.⁶⁵ No old print or watercolour of the church exists in the National Library of Scotland or in the archives of the National Buildings Record, Edinburgh; only if such pictorial evidence comes to light is any of these questions likely to be answered.

THE THIRD CHURCH

The new church commissioned for 1819 is the present structure—an unpretentious building with Gothic Revival windows and with galleries on three sides. It does not appear from the records exactly when it was completed. It suffered misfortunes early in its career, for in 1822⁶⁶ McNair was petitioning Presbytery because the church had been badly damaged by a severe storm on Sunday, 10th March. A visitation was made in April⁶⁷ and reported that the windows needed to be repaired, the churchyard wall was to be rebuilt and the church to be protected by a wall at least three feet high. A small gate was to be provided for the minister at the south-west corner, with an iron railing and freestone pillars.

In 1834⁶⁸ the minister (Rev. John Milroy⁶⁹) was reporting to the Heritors the 'ruinous and irreparable' state of the church windows and suggesting that small windows should be made in the west gable, one on each side of the pulpit. This was evidently done later, though the date does not appear from the records. In August of the same year⁷⁰ the Heritors agreed that the entrance to the church should be 'pended over.'

65 Abercrombie, *Description of Carrick*, printed in H.K., pp. 166, 169.

66 M.P.S., 27th March, 1822.

67 M.P.S., 16th April, 1822.

68 H.R.B., 11th June, 1834.

69 *Fasti*, Vol. II, p. 331.

70 H.R.B., 30th August, 1836.

It does not appear that any major structural changes were later made to the building other than the addition of a clock-tower in 1891. A seating-plan of the church, dated 4th April, 1899, is preserved with the Heritors' Records.

THE TENT

The use of a 'tent,' in fact a wooden structure, at the Communion was a familiar feature of Scottish church life in the 18th Century.⁷¹ It sheltered the minister preaching outside the church to communicants gathered from a number of neighbouring parishes while successive relays partook of the Sacrament inside the church. In 1793 Donaldson reported to Presbytery that the tent belonging to the church⁷² was 'inconvenient and insufficient.' The Presbytery ordered Donaldson to rouse the old tent with the consent of the Heritors, presumably for the purchase of a new one. It is surprising to discover that as late as 1834⁷³ Milroy reported to the Heritors that 'the tent had become ruinous and that a new one was absolutely necessary by next Sacrament.' There is no record as to whether the tent was in fact replaced at the time, and it is not again mentioned in the records.

THE CHAPELS AND OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS

The place-names indicate that there were at least three chapels⁷⁴ in the parish of Kirkcudbright-Innertig (not necessarily all contemporary)—Kilntringan (090791)⁷⁵, Low Kilphin (010811) and High Kilphin (016808)⁷⁶, Kilwhannel (110813)⁷⁷ and possibly Kilmoray (149787)⁷⁸. No visible remains survive at any of these places, but chapels might be discovered by chance finds or air photographs taken under favourable conditions. (The R.A.F. mosaics are not very helpful.) The upper portion of a small cross-engraved slab, c. 12 by 8 inches, was recently found on top of a dyke near Schallockwreck Farm and is now in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. It is dated about the 8th century⁷⁹ and presumably had some connection with the chapel at Kilntringan.

71 H. G. Graham, *Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, 1909, p. 307; W. D. Maxwell, *op.cit.*, p. 144.

72 M.P.S., 3rd July, 1793.

73 H.R.B., 30th August, 1836.

74 cf. A. Hamilton Thompson, *op.cit.*, p. 151; William J. Dillon in *Ayrshire Collections*, Vol. 3, p. 81.

75 St. Ninian's Church—J. B. Johnston, *Place Names of Scotland*, 1934, p. 219.

76 Finn's Church, *ibid.*

77 Connell's Church, *ibid.*; R.M.S., 8th July, 1541, Kilquhonnell; E.R., 10th October, 1564, Kilquhonnell.

78 A dedication to the Virgin Mary?

79 Communicated in a letter by Professor John Foster. See p. 9 foll.

The *Fasti*⁸⁰ states that there was a chapel dedicated to St. Oswald at Kirkoswald or Balmaconeil on the lands of Ardstinchar. No authority is cited and this statement appears to be based on the name of one of the parcels of property included in the regrant of the barony of Ardstinchar to Thomas Kennedy of Bargany in 1541⁸¹—12 *librat. terrarum de Kirkoswald alias Balmaknele cum molendino earundem*. The sasine of the barony to Thomas Kennedy in 1564⁸² gives the property in identical terms except that it is spelt 'Bakmaknele.'

Although it was outwith the parish of Ballantrae, it seems appropriate to mention the chapel dedicated to St. Ninian in the parish of Colmonell but 'near the Castle of Ardstruchar' (*recte* Ardstinchar), pilgrims to which were granted an indulgence by the Pope in 1467.⁸³ The only part of Colmonell Parish which could be described as 'near' Ardstinchar Castle is that immediately to the north and the chapel must have been in that quarter. (v. Fig. 1.)

In 1850⁸⁴ a chapel known as 'Butter's Chapel' was built in Glenapp (075747). Sixteen years later⁸⁵ its erection into a parish *quoad sacra* was proposed but not finally achieved till 1874.⁸⁶ It is now served by the minister of Cairnryan.

After the disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843 a Free Church was built in Ballantrae (085825). It ceased to be used when it fell vacant after the reunion and was later demolished⁸⁷; its manse is in use as a dwelling-house.

THE MANSE

There must have been a house at Innertig for the priests of the old religion and for their reformed successors but there appear to be no documentary references to it. Its plan might be recoverable by excavation if its site could be located, unless it is covered by the present farm building.

The Act of 1617⁸⁸ states that 'thair is ane manse and gleibe voluntarilie designed to the minister serveing of the Cure at the

80 *Fasti*, Vol. II, p. 331.

81 R.M.S., 8th July, 1541.

82 E.R., 10th October, 1564.

83 *Calendar of Papal Letters*, Vol. XII, p. 580.

84 M.P.S., 4th September, 1850.

85 M.P.S., 7th February, 1866.

86 M.P.S., 1st April, 1874.

87 Shown on O.S. Map 25 Ins. to 1 Mile, reprinted 1942.

88 A.P.S., 1617, Vol. IV, p. 555.

said kirk of Ballantrae out of the said laird of Barganyis awin proper landis . . .'. The only information as to the site of the manse before 1847 comes from a Presbyterian visitation of 1812⁸⁹ and the Heritors' Records of 1846.⁹⁰ In the latter a reason for rebuilding the manse on a different site is stated to be 'the objection of the present site so near the churchyard.' The 1812 source refers to an earth bank sloping down 'on the backside of the manse' and the erection of a retaining wall at the south end of this slope (v. below). The manse was thus close to the kirkyard at the bottom of ground sloping down from it, the axis of the slope being north-south. This would seem to restrict the possible sites to the area immediately west of the church (v. Plan, Fig. 3), which appears to be a deliberately levelled platform. (The area south of the original kirkyard, to which the cemetery was extended in 1876,⁹¹ was then described as 'the present manse garden.') As there is no reference to the house being moved to a new site before 1846 it seems probable that the manse—or, as suggested below, two successive manses—occupied this site from the erection of the second church till 1846.

After 1617 the earliest reference to the manse is in 1691 so that there is nothing to prove that it had not been rebuilt meanwhile; as, however, the manse was then in an advanced stage of dilapidation it seems more likely that it was the original building considerably neglected. In June 1691 the Presbytery of Ayr appointed a committee to visit Ballantrae manse⁹²; in July they presented a report not quoted in the Minutes and one of the visiting ministers was ordered to 'address the people that if . . . they did not provide [an adequate manse] the Presbytery would not officiate to transport him [Thomas Kennedy, the new minister].'⁹³ In August it was reported that the parish had promised to repair for the winter the house in which the minister was now dwelling and also to build him a barn and provide material for building a dwelling-house against the next summer, 'with which the minister was satisfied.'⁹⁴

In December 1692 the parish was still being enjoined to build a 'sufficient manse.'⁹⁵ Thomas Kennedy was evidently still in temporary accommodation in 1693, for the Hearth Tax

89 M.P.S., 24th March, 1812.

90 H.R.B., 15th October, 1846.

91 H.R.B., 29th April, 1876.

92 M.P.A., 9th June, 1691.

93 M.P.A., 7th July, 1691.

94 M.P.A., 4th August, 1691.

95 M.P.A., 20th December, 1692.

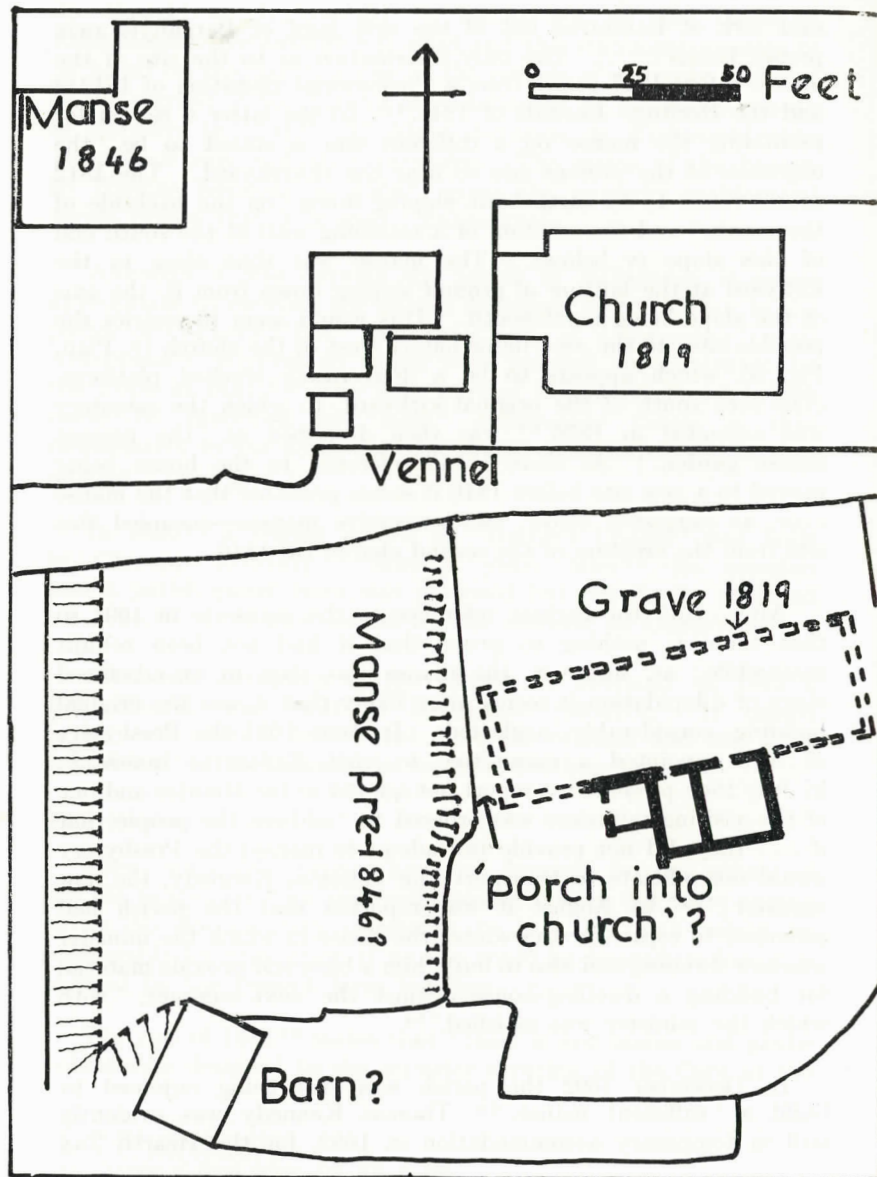


Fig 3—Ballantrae Church and Manse 803826

Return of that year rates him at two hearths,⁹⁶ while the manse appears to have had at least five (v. below). In January 'the parochie of Ballantrae compeared not [at Presbytery] their affair anent Mr. Thomas Kennedy their minister delayed.'⁹⁷ At a visitation in March it was reported that 'building a manse and office house thereto belonging there being hardly a vestige of these will cost £856 - 3 - 4 pennies Scots money.'⁹⁸ In May, 1694 a minister from Presbytery preached a special sermon on the duty of providing a manse but the Heritors protested that 'they could do nothing in this affair without My Lord Bargany.'⁹⁹ Bargany agreed to pay his proportion of the cost,¹ but a new visitation in November, 1696,² found nothing done—'the unseasonableness of the harvest' being given as an excuse. About this time the unfortunate minister seems to have taken matters into his own hands and at the visitation of 1697³ estimates were drawn up for work stated to be at Kennedy's own expense—'Imprimis for building the Office House an hundred pounds for it Item for flooring plaistering and partition walls to the manse 100 merks Item for glass and wyer . . . £100 5s Scots . . . Item for laying the hearth £4 Scots.' In November the presbytery ordered the Heritors to refund Kennedy's expenses,⁴ with what result is not recorded.

The building was still very inadequately repaired for in 1703 it was reported to be 'altogether ruinous.'⁵ The visitation of the same year⁶ gave the following estimates for the manse and 'office'—'twenty deals for florring the laigh room at 15s Scots . . . inde fiveteen lib Scots Item five joists for the sd room at 10 shillings p. piece with two hundred florring nails at 12 shillings p. hundred in all three lib [14s] . . . 4 hearthstones Item for a plaister partition wall in the laigh house six lib Item for half a partition wall of eight dails five pounds 5 shillings Scots Item for six dails for the windows at fiveteen shillings p. daile four pounds [10s] Item for comeiling [?] and solling [?] of the windows foure dails at fiveteen shillings p. piece 3 pounds Item for plaistering the whole house within qlime workmanship and all eightin pounds Item fourscore sheaves of oat straw for thatching to the house at four shillings per sheave Sixteen pounds Item for mending five

96 Hearth Tax Roll, 1693.

97 M.P.A., 11th January, 1793.

98 M.P.A., 14th March, 1693.

99 M.P.A., 16th May, 1694.

1 M.P.A., 13th June, 1694.

2 M.P.A., 4th November, 1696.

3 M.P.A., 19th October, 1697.

4 M.P.A., 17th November, 1697.

5 M.P.S., 2nd May, 1703.

6 M.P.S., 5th June, 1703.

smoaky vents three score lib. Item for three score seventeen foot of glass and weir at six shillings p. foot twenty three lib two shillings Item for ironwork to the house viz. bonds, cutty nails for windows and doors fiveteen lib . . . Item for building of the office house from the foundations, materials workmanship and all an hundred sixtie five lib: thirteen shill: and four pennies. Item for laying the Causey before the door for preventing the underwaters whiq would destroy the house twenty lib. Item for casting the manse wt qlime in the outside twelve pounds.' The reminder to the Heritors of their statutory obligations includes the 'to build compleat manses to yr Mnrs.' Kennedy was to 'pursue for the sums of money above mentioned and uplift the same from the responsible heritors and others liable for the payment of the same'—again we do not know with what result. Ballantrae received a visitation in 1717 but there was no reference to the manse.⁷

From the foregoing it is possible to gain some idea of the building in the early 18th Century. It was stone built and cast with lime, thatched, with five or more chimneys (and so presumably hearths) and a 'laigh' room. Part of the (identical?) 'laigh house' was partitioned off and there was also 'half a partition wall of 8 dails.' The smaller lairds' and farmers' houses of South-West Scotland at this time⁸ often consisted of a single room partitioned into a spence or parlour, a living and sleeping room and a 'throughgang' or passage, and the manse may have been no more pretentious than this. The five chimneys, however, seem to indicate at least two more rooms, possibly a kitchen and bedroom. The 'laigh' room seems to suggest an upper one also, perhaps reached only by a ladder⁹, but houses with proper upper storeys, as distinct from mere lofts, were commonly slated.¹⁰ The 'Causey before the door' presumably led to the public road, possibly to the Vennel. Altogether, the manse at this period seems to have been very plain and simple; unfortunately there is insufficient information to reconstruct its plan and dimensions.

Ballantrae manse is not again referred to in the Presbytery records till 1774¹¹; but the first Statistical Account¹² states that 'the manse [was built] in 1736 and the repairs upon the manse and the offices since that time has cost the Heritors little

7 M.P.S., 6th June, 1717.

8 M. Plant, *The Domestic Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, 1952, p. 25.

9 *Ibid.*

10 *Ibid.*

11 M.P.S., 22nd May, 1774.

12 *Statistical Account*, Vol. 1, pp. 110-111.

more than £20 sterling.' It is certainly peculiar that the Presbytery at this time should have shown so little concern for the residence of one of its members but this might have been because the Heritors were more alive to their obligations than their predecessors had been. Unfortunately the Heritors' records do not exist for this period, but since, by the 1770's (v. below), the manse seems to have been an altogether more sophisticated building than earlier in the century, it seems the simplest hypothesis to take the Statistical Account as correct. Rev. William Donaldson, who supplied Ballantrae's contribution, was actually the successor of the incumbent in 1736.¹³

By 1774 the manse was needing repairs and Donaldson requested a visitation,¹⁴ which was made the following year.¹⁵ It found 'the garret loft very insufficient, many new windows necessary and new doors. A barn needed to be rebuilt, the stable repaired, the manse to be beamfilled, 11 [*i.e.*, 2?] rooms of the upper Story to be cieled and a loft over the Cellar.' Donaldson was to contract with tradesmen to do these repairs. Once again there is no evidence as to the result of these recommendations; in 1793 the minister was again requesting a visitation,¹⁶ so his reference in the Statistical Account to the Heritors' small outlay may be tactful, if not ironical. At the ensuing visitation¹⁷ it was reported that the north wall of the stable and brewhouse was in danger of falling as it stood over the perpendicular and that some couples and other timbers were broken. Presbytery ordered the work to be completed by 9th October and added that they 'craved the Lords of Council and Session to interpone their authority on heritors if need be.'

After another interval—in 1803—Donaldson made a further request for a visitation.¹⁸ It found¹⁹ that the stables, byre and brewhouse were repairable but that this would cost more than rebuilding them from the foundations. The wood and thatch of the kitchen were entirely done; the walls of the manse needed roughcast; it was 'for the benefit of the manse to have a wooden race on each side for receiving and carrying off water from the slates'; apart from minor internal repairs a partition between the kitchen and cellar was 'entirely ruinous and must be rebuilt.'

13 *Fasti*, Vol. II, p. 331.

14 M.P.S., 22nd May, 1774.

15 M.P.S., 18th May, 1775.

16 M.P.S., 3rd July, 1793.

17 M.P.S., 17th July, 1793.

18 M.P.S., 2nd February, 1803.

19 M.P.S., 2nd March, 1803.

Work was to be completed by November and the Court of Session again invoked. In November yet another visitation²⁰ ordered the Heritors to give the Minister 'immediate possession of the said office house.'

After a nine-year interval a new visitation was requested by Donaldson²¹ and took place in March, 1812.²² It was recommended that as the two 'low rooms' could not be painted without taking down the lining and a consequent 'wast of wood,' they should be 'lathed and plaistered as being both chapest and best with three coats of polished plaister with a handsom plain cornish, and well finished with base and surbase . . . architraces round doors and windows, shutters, breasts with sinnechers²³ and suffetts²⁴ with two new windows in the dinning room and a new window in the little parlour. All the sashes to be painted with oyle paint with two new painted doors, one on entry of the room and another upon a wall press in the dinning room and another with lock and key to the little parlour and also a small lock and key to the press. The back window in the dinning room to be built up and formed into a press and a window struck out in the gable where the press at present stands, the little closet off the parlour to be lathed and plaistered with a new door similar to the entry door, the whole garret to be lathed and plaistered with two coats of plaister and a division off the south end squair with the end of the bed, a new window in the gable of the south garret, another at the stair head, a skylight in the roof oposite to the stair to shift up and down, two new windows, one in the kitchen and one in the cellar off it, and the remaining windows in the manse to be made watertight . . . and the chimney top of the kitchen and the chimney top of the manse to be repaired and the riggen and the skews to be pointed and slates wherever wanting to be replaced . . . Two water races one on each side of the manse with an upright pipe for conducting water to the ground and the races to be cut out of solid wood and payed over with pitch. Whatever rough cast is necessary . . . Pavement in lobby to be repaired. . . A new gate to the little porch into the church with lock and key, bats and bonds. The earth on the back side of the manse to be shaped down and carried off as low as the bottom of the foundation stone and slope to begin . . . seven feet from the wall of the manse and to be four feet distant from the same wall at the bottom to even the four feet with sea gravel. The piece of wall

²⁰ M.P.S., 23rd November, 1803.

²¹ M.P.S., 1st January, 1812.

²² M.P.S., 24th March, 1812.

²³ O.E.D., 'A sink, cesspool or drain' (? drain pipe).

²⁴ O.E.D., 'the under horizontal face of an architrave or overhanging cornice.'

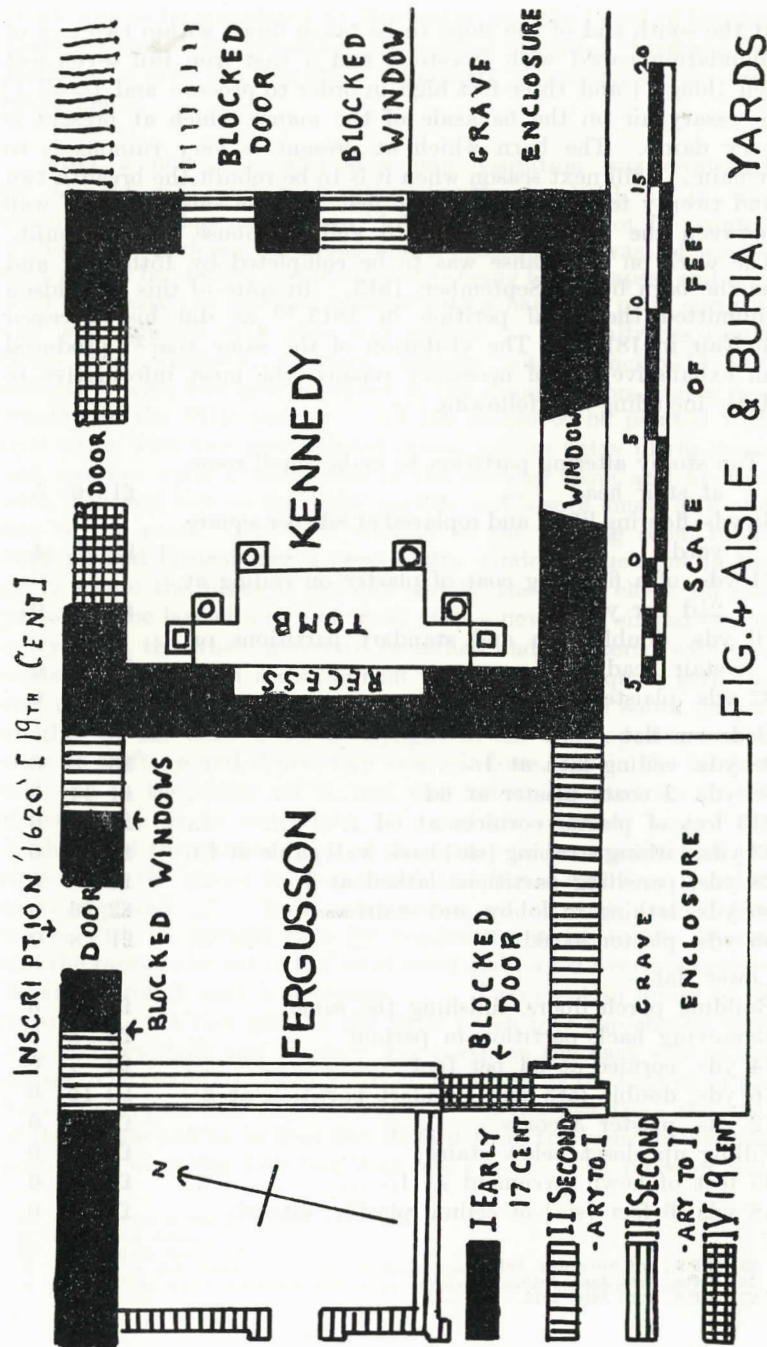
at the south end of the slope to be taken down within two feet of foundation coped with freestone and a cast iron rail seven feet ten [long ?] and three feet high in order to procure and [=all ?] necessary air on the backside of the manse which at present is very damp. The barn which at present is very ruinous is to remain . . . till next season when it is to be rebuilt the breadth two and twenty feet in length thirty feet . . . the small piece of wall between the corner of the barn and coalhouse to be rebuilt.' The work on the manse was to be completed by 15th July and on the barn by 1st September, 1813. In spite of this Donaldson submitted the usual petition in 1813,²⁵ as did his successor McNair in 1815.²⁶ The visitation of the same year²⁷ produced an exhaustive list of necessary repairs, the most informative to date, including the following :—

Top storey altering partition to make small room				
at stair head	...	...	...	£1 6 5
68 yds. flooring lifted and replaced at 8d [per square				
yard ?]	...	...	...	£2 5 4
71 yds. of a finishing coat of plaster on ceiling at				
2½d per yard	...	...	...	£0 14 9½
16 yds. double lath and standart partitions on				
stair head at 2/-	...	...	...	£1 12 0
32 yds. plaister do. at 6d	...	...	...	£0 16 0
Bedroom flat—				
68 yds. ceiling lath at 1/-	...	...	...	£3 8 0
68 yds. 3 coats plaster at 6d	...	...	...	£1 14 0
215 feet of plaster cornices at 6d	...	...	...	£5 7 6
43 yds. lathing straping [sic] back wall gable at 1/6	...	...	...	£3 4 6
28 yds. panelling partitions lathed at 1/-	...	...	...	£1 8 0
56 yds. lathing in lobby and staircase	...	...	...	£2 16 0
56 yds. plaster at 6d	...	...	...	£1 8 0
Lower flat—				
Building porch doors, finishing the same	...	...	...	£7 16 0
Removing back partition in parlour	...	...	...	£0 8 0
14 yds. cornice at 6d per foot	...	...	...	£0 7 0
6 yds. double lath and standart partition at 2/-	...	...	...	£0 12 0
12 yds. plaster 3 coats	...	...	...	£0 6 0
Filling up closet below stairs	...	...	...	£1 12 0
35 feet of hewn pavement at 1/-	...	...	...	£1 15 0
18 yds. 6 feet [sic] of ceiling plaster, kitchen	...	...	...	£0 9 0

²⁵ M.P.S., 3rd November, 1813.

²⁶ M.P.S., 19th June, 1815.

²⁷ M.P.S., 12th July, 1815.



18 yds. of floor with smithy gum lime and sand at 1/6	£1 7 0
19 yds. floor in scullery with do. do. do. ...	£1 8 6
6 yds. do. in cellar below stairs ...	£0 9 0
Bells hanging and new cranks ...	£2 6 0
Window above scullery ...	£0 6 0
Two presses filled up, one in parlour, one in kitchen	£2 14 0

Estimates follow for 'lathing and strapping the outside wall of bedroom flat, also standarting and lathing cross partition, plastering the same . . . two new windows in bedrooms . . .'. The work was to be done by the last week in August.

This time it may well have been done, for when McNair petitioned again²⁸ it was on account of injuries due to the great storm which had also damaged the church (v. above). The ensuing visitation²⁹ recommended only minor repairs to the roof, the 'leaden run in front of the house with a conductor down,' and the flagging of the kitchen. In 1827 the Heritors ordered³⁰ the front wall and two gables to be roughcast, new plain doors to the upper garden and privy, and a brick porch for the kitchen to be built. In 1830³¹ the Heritors requested a visitation, carried out in the same year,³² for which, however, no report is quoted. This is the last documentary reference to the manse before it was rebuilt.

The following picture of the building emerges from the lists of dilapidations and repairs. The outstanding difference from the early 18th Century is that the building is slated—though in 1803 the kitchen was thatched—and indisputably had an upper storey reached by stairs. It had two 'low rooms,' possibly panelled—a dining-room and a parlour; the former had originally two windows and a 'back window' which was later blocked and replaced by one 'struck through the gable'; the latter was divided from the 'small closet' by a 'back partition.' There was also a 'little parlour' with at least one window. The kitchen is specifically mentioned as being thatched and therefore had no storey above it; it must have projected from the main house either in line or at right angles. On to it a brick 'inner porch' was later built. Presumably the bells and their cranks hung in the kitchen. It seems strange that the kitchen with its risk

28 M.P.S., 27th March, 1822.

29 M.P.S., 16th April, 1822.

30 H.R.B., 19th April, 1827.

31 M.P.S., 23rd September, 1830.

32 M.P.S., 7th October, 1830.

of fire should have been thatched while the main house was slated. It evidently possessed a gable of its own which would explain the reference to roughcasting two gables (as if there were more). There was also a scullery, a cellar under the stairs (identical with the 'press under the stairs'?) and another cellar that was obviously not underground, for it had a window and a loft and led off the kitchen. Besides the 'cellar' there was a barn (22 by 30 feet), brewhouse, coalhouse, byre and privy. The manse garden evidently extended to the present cemetery area south of the Aisle.

The 'bedroom flat' had a lobby, presumably an upper landing. It had 'back rooms'—so evidently front rooms—at least four rooms in all. The garret floor was partitioned into a south garret and another division 'squair with the end of the bed'—whatever this may mean. It also had a small room with a skylight at the stair head. The roof was slated and had wooden 'races' or gutters on each side.

It would be natural for the porch to be central in the long side of the building and to open into the lobby which might lead through to a back door. One would expect the parlour and the 'small closet' (a study?) to be on one side of this, with the dining-room, kitchen and scullery on the other. It would also be likely for the kitchen and scullery, for easier drainage, to be on the side of the house where the ground falls away (in fact on the south). It seems impossible even to speculate as to the position of the 'little parlour.' The 'little porch into the church' seems likely to have been set in the dyke between the manse garden and the kirkyard, as it required a new gate and not a door. In this case it was presumably connected to the manse—possibly with the back door—by a path or steps and led through to the minister's entrance into the church (v. above).

The areas given in the top storey for flooring and in the bedroom flat for ceiling lath and plaster (68 yds., *i.e.*, 204—presumably square—feet) and those in the lobby and staircase (56 yds., *i.e.*, 168 square feet) obviously have some relation to the structural dimensions but one hardly sufficient for reconstructing the size of the whole manse. The quaintly expressed '18 yds. 6 feet,' *i.e.*, 60 square feet does, however, seem to represent the area of the kitchen ceiling and floor and 19 yards, *i.e.*, 57 square feet, that of the scullery. The schoolhouse porch (v. below)—if indeed it is the former manse porch—is about 10 by 10 feet.

A likely siting of the manse would seem to be with its long axis north-south and its back towards the kirkyard, for the earth bank on its 'backside' caused damp necessitating a retaining wall to 'procure . . . necessary air' at the *south* end of the slope. The reference to the 'south garret' would be consistent with this, since garret partitions would normally be at right angles to the long axis. The dining-room had a 'back' window which was blocked and converted into a press, presumably because of the damp and consequent danger of subsidence. The filling-in of the other presses suggests that this danger was indeed real in this obviously very damp site. On this reconstruction the 'back wall gable' requires explanation, but the south gable might have been called this because it faced away from the road.

An alternative siting is with the long axis east-west (like that of the church); the 'backside' and the 'back wall gable' would then refer to the same wall. In this case the 'south garret' and 'back window' of the dining-room are difficult to explain.

The pre-1846 manse could probably only be reconstructed and sited in greater detail with the aid of contemporary prints or water colours which do not appear to exist. The more northerly of the two present cemetery buildings corresponds in its dimensions with that given for the manse barn and might well be it.

In 1846³³ the Heritors decided to build a 'plain substantial manse'—the present building (v. plan)—for £900. It was completed by the following year.³⁴ The materials of the old manse were offered for sale,³⁵ apparently not very successfully, as they were still being offered from time to time over the next three years.³⁶ The porch was offered for use in the schoolmaster's house,³⁷ and might well be the one still extant. This rebuilding of the manse is not mentioned in the third Statistical Account.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We must thank Dr. C. T. McInnes, Curator of Historical Records, Scottish Record Office, and his staff; Rev. J. A. McCallum, Clerk to the Presbytery of Ayr, for making its records

³³ H.R.B., 15th October, 1846.

³⁴ H.R.B., 8th July, 1847.

³⁵ H.R.B., 21st April, 1848.

³⁶ H.R.B., 17th August, 1850; 3rd October, 1850; 18th September, 1851.

³⁷ H.R.B., 18th September, 1851. The schoolmaster's house is now (April 1960) largely demolished.

available, and Mrs. J. F. Corlett for assistance in checking references and reading the proofs. We must acknowledge our especial gratitude to Mr. Grant G. Simpson for the help and advice we have received at all stages of writing this article and for his reading it in manuscript.

APPENDIX—PRINCIPAL SOURCES

(1) UNPUBLISHED SOURCES—

Heritors' Records of Ballantrae (from 1826)	H.R.B.
Minutes of the Presbytery of Ayr (from 1687)	M.P.A.
Minutes of the Presbytery of Stranraer (from 1703)	M.P.S.
Secretary's Register of Sasines	S.R.S.

(All in Scottish Record Office except the Minutes of the Presbytery of Ayr, which are in the custody of the Presbytery.)

(2) PUBLISHED SOURCES AND SECONDARY AUTHORITIES—

<i>Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland</i>	A.P.S.
G. Chalmers, <i>Caledonia</i> , 1824	Chalmers.
<i>Exchequer Rolls</i>	E.R.
<i>Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ</i> , 1917	<i>Fasti</i> .
<i>Historie of the Kennedyis</i> (early 17th Century), ed. Pitcairn, 1830 ...	H.K.
J. Paterson, <i>History of Ayrshire</i> , 1864	Paterson.
<i>Statistical Account of Scotland</i> , 1791	<i>Statistical Account</i> .
1842	<i>New Statistical Account</i> .
1951	<i>Third Statistical Account</i> .