

## UNITED PARISHES OF

**BROUGHTON, GLENHOLM & KILBUCHO**

Presbytery of Biggar synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.

THE REV. HAMILTON PAUL, MINISTER.

## I. Topography and Natural History.

This parish, which comprehends the old parishes of Broughton and Glenholm, with the southern or larger divisions of Kilbucho, retains, agreeably to the provisions of the deed of annexation, all the three names.

**Names – Boundaries** – the origin of the designation Glenholm is sufficiently obvious. Kilbucho spelled Kilbeukhoe, Kilbochoe cell or chapel of St Bede, the venerable to be the Gaelic term for the Bega, the patroness of Kilbagie, or St Bees, in Cumberland.

Broughton is by some alleged to be a corruption of Borough-town and by others of Brook-town. More probably, however, as the plain in which the hamlet is situated is surrounded by hills, forming a complete amphitheatre, and as the term Brough or Bruch in the Scottish dialect means a circle, the name has taken its rise from the circumstances of locality; “the town or village within the borough or circle of hills”.

The united parish is bounded on the west and north-west by Culter and Skirling; by Kirkurd on the north; on the east and north-east by Stobo; and by Drummelzier on the south and south-east. The Tweed divides it from Drummelzier for about four miles. It is nine miles and a half in length, and three and a half in breadth, containing a superficies of thirty square miles.

**Topographical Appearances**- The surface of the ground is beautifully irregular, and were it as well wooded as many other districts, would be extremely picturesque in respect of scenery. It is remarkable that there are only three hills or detached insulated eminences in Tweeddale. Rachan Hill in Glenholm, which is one of the three, is a lovely green solitary height, declining suddenly to the Tweed on the one side, and on the other rising with a gentle acclivity from Holms Water. The rest of the eminences are continuous chains of mountainous ranges. One of these ridges separates Broughton from Stobo and Kirkurd, extends for more than three miles from south to north; another, which divides Glenholm from Kilbucho and Culter, runs for nearly five miles from north-east to south-west, and a third runs parallel with the Tweed in a southerly direction for upwards of three miles; a fourth range passes through the middle of the old parish of Kilbucho from east to west for about two miles; and a fifth, though of less elevation, divides the parish of Broughton into two unequal parts. These heights are in general steep, but accessible. Culterfell, which is partly in Glenholm, is 2430 feet above the level of the sea. Cardon, in the immediate neighbourhood, with Chapelgill attached to it, is nearly as high. The other remarkable heights are Mossfennan Wormwell and Blakup, in Glenholm; Pyket-1800 feet above the level of the sea; and Goseland in Kilbucho, of almost equal altitude. Between those chains or ridges above mentioned are some fine fertile valleys.

Glenholm, in particular, is a delightful pastoral vale, stretching from the site of the old church about four miles, and intersected by a limpid stream, whose windings cheat the eye as to render it doubtful whether it be flowing up or down the glen. Its tributary streams descend through Glenhigton, Glencotho, Glenkirk and Glenlude. At the confluence of each of these rills with Holms water, stands the dwelling of a shepherd, around which a Sabbath like serenity reigns, save when the gathering, or shearing, or washing of the sheep takes place, as described by the poet,

“Urged to the giddy brink much is the toil,  
The clamour much of men and boys, and dogs,  
Ere the soft fearful people to the flood  
Commit their woolly sides”.

Biggar water, which forms the boundary betwixt the Broughton on the north, and the Glenholm and Kilbucho divisions of the parish on the south, pervades a tract of moss and meadow, receiving in its course the tribute of Kilbucho and Broughton burns, and Holms water; and after its junction with the last, becomes the boundary for half a mile betwixt Stobo and Glenholm. Broughton burn falls into it at a right angle from the north, and Kilbucho burn and Holms water at similar angles from the south or south-west, and the united streams throw themselves into the Tweed opposite the spacious and fertile haugh of Drummelzier. Here all the streams of the three parishes are united, and the scene may, with propriety, be styled "the meeting of the waters".

**Geology** – Ratshill, a singularly formed eminence near the village of Broughton, is composed of hard loose stones of a slaty appearance, a species of trap or tuffa, excellently adapted to the Macadamizing of highways. Attempts have been made to find coal in Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho, without success: the prevailing rocks here being those of the transition class, coal was scarcely to be expected. The general character of the soil in this united parish is moss, clay, loam, with a considerable proportion of alluvial deposition. Beautiful pebbles are frequently found on the north side of Biggar water, but on the south side not a single specimen has ever been discovered. Porphyry and jasper in small masses are abundant; and grey whin or puddingstone in detached pieces is of frequent occurrence.

**Soil** – The vales through which the streams already mentioned flow are at the upper end generally of a mossy or coarse grassy character, but where they spread out at the lower ends into holm or haugh land, the soil is deep, rich, and adapted to any species of crop.

At the junction of Biggar water with Broughton burn, the soil rivals that of the finest carse lands, and where the Capolm meets these united streams, the alluvial deposits render the ground exceedingly fruitful. They require no manure, but yield the same white crops for five or six years successively, and these are in danger of lodging from their exuberant growth. But for their liability to be overflowed by the swellings of Biggar water, the fields would make an ample return of green crops. The potatoes have sometimes materially suffered from the inundations; and early frosts have proved fatal to the pease, as well as the potatoes.

**Meteorology** - In winter, the thermometer varies from below zero to 40F, and in summer from 50F to 90F, and the barometer takes the whole range from 28F to 31F, or from great storm to very dry. The clouds assume every variety of shape, colour, and appearance. In the mornings, the valleys are often covered with a thick fog, which gradually ascends the hills, and is often the prelude to a hot sultry day. When the mist forms first on the hill tops, and descends towards the valleys, it prognosticates rain; when the clouds rise gradually around the horizon, and move towards the zenith, or when a dark cloud, with a well-defined edge, hovers at no great height, we are sure to have a storm of thunder and lightning, hail or rain. A luminous arch of electric matter extending nearly in the direction of the Milky Way has been seen three times at least within these twenty years, and mistaken by some unphilosophical observers for a lunar rainbow, but at the time there was no moon in our hemisphere, and the bow was in the zenith. The climate is in general moist, and the atmosphere cloudy. Yet the improvements in agriculture, especially the draining of the bogs and cultivation of the mosses, have greatly improved the health of the inhabitants. Ague is now unknown, and many other maladies are either mitigated or exploded.

**Diseases** – The principal disorders are fevers, typhus, inflammatory or rheumatic; colds accompanied with coughs, asthma and consumption. Vaccination is almost universally practised. Stone and gravel are less prevalent than they were in days when strong ale was the favourite beverage. Gout is scarcely known. Cutaneous eruptions are by no means common. This must in a great measure be attributed to that weekly lustration which takes place among the church-going part of the community, preparatory to their attendance on public worship.

**Longevity** - The instances of longevity are perhaps unparalleled among the people so limited in respect of numbers. About twelve years ago, there were living within the space of four square miles, four persons who were each considerably above eighty years of age. In Kilbucho, there were also four who had reached

the borders of ninety. Four brothers were born at Broughton-Mill, who all weathered the frosts of fourscore winters. In the village, there are six persons between eighty and ninety years of age; and one man has lived to see six incumbents in the pastoral care of Broughton parish, though one of them was upwards of forty years minister. The oldest man in the united parish at present, and who is tolerably healthy, is eighty nine, and the oldest woman, who also enjoys a comfortable share of bodily strength, is eighty two years old.

**Hydrography** - There are at Rachan two fine pieces of water ornamented with wooded islets. The one is stocked with trout, and the other perch. The latter is fringed round the margin with an aquatic plant called tench grass. Of rivers we have none save the Tweed, which forms the southern Peebles boundary of Glenholm; as it has frequently changed its course, it sometimes happens, that a part of Drummelzier is on this, and a portion of Glenholm on the other side of the stream. The streams besides those already mentioned are Logan and Hollows burns, the one a tributary to Broughton burn, and the other to the Tweed.

**Springs** - Few parishes are more highly favoured than this in regard to salubrious springs. Bede's or Bee well, as it is commonly called, was an open draw-well-built round the stone, from which issued a plentiful current. The proprietor of the glebe of Kilbucho has covered it over with flags or flat stones and earth, so as to render the spot arable, and the water, by means of a conduit, spouts in abundance from the banks into the channel of the burn.

On the old glebe of Broughton, is a well with a large stone in the middle of it. The water which springs from one side of the stone is sweet, that which rises at the other side is brackish and medicinal.

Among the hills there are wells of which the water is so very cold, that in the heat of summer a person cannot hold his hands in it for more than a minute without suffering the pain of extreme cold. One spring is remarkable for reducing spirits without tinging them.

**Mineralogy** – there is not much to engage the attention of the mineralogist in this quarter. The prevailing rock is greywacke (whinstone); some of the beds lie in horizontal position; but they in general dip towards the centre of the hills. In some places where a deep cut has been made for the improvement of the high road, the section offers to the view a variety of strata, consisting of water channel, greywacke, detached mosses of granite and puddingstone, intermixed with narrow beds of sand, but with a few or no crystals of quartz. Brick-clay is rare, and no sandstone is to be found. On the farm of Wrae in Glenholm are a limestone and slate quarry, which, owing to the great distance from the coal, and the immediate neighbourhood of the Stobo slate quarry, would scarcely repay the expense of manufacturing the minerals. Slates are also found at Rachan hill, but for the same reason, it has not been deemed advisable to work the mine. A bed of fine sand on the farm of Stirkfield in Broughton is admirably adapted to the intermixing with lime for building, and gravel-pits are numerous.

In the vale of Kilbucho lies an extensive moss, obviously formed by the decomposition of wood and other vegetable matter. The peat is of excellent quality. Large trunks of oaks and other trees, in good preservation, have been found imbedded in the mosses.

**Zoology – Birds** – A single pair, resembling the *Saxicola rubetra* or whin-chat, come regularly every season and build their nest on the ground, close by the side of the road leading to the manse. They usually bring seven young ones, and when these are able to fly, they all take their departure hence. It may in general be of the following genera: - *Motacilla*, *Hirundo*, *Cuculus*, *Columba*, *Rallus*, *Alauda*, *Caprimulgus*, *Turdus*, *Corvus*, *Scolopax*, *Anas*, *Emberiza*, *Parus* and *Fringilla*.

The only sleeper we know is the bat. All birds that feed exclusively on insects must either in winter repair to milder climates, or betake themselves to repose.

The birds of passage that visit us in winter are the fieldfare, the red-wing, the snow-flake, and the cock of the north, to which we may join the ring-ouzel that stays only till the fruit of the mountain ash is exhausted.

The water-ouzel, which feeds on fish, remains with us all the year round. The opinion, that the male chaffinches leave this district in winter, seems to originate in mistake. The young males have for the first season no gayer plumage than the females, and, consequently, during the winter the number of females appears to be altogether out of proportion to that of the males.

Wild swans, wild Geese, and Sea mews are not so plentiful as formerly, owing to the same cause which has banished the wild ducks, viz. the draining of the bogs and cultivation of the meadows. The snipes, for a similar reason, are less frequent than formerly. Magpies are natives; the jay is seldom to be seen within our bounds.

Wood pigeons are enemies to turnips, especially the ruta бага. In severe winters they collect in thousands, and eat up not only the leaves, but penetrate into the very heart of the plant. Green kale and cabbage, if planted at a distance from the houses are equally liable to their depredations. Pheasants, as well as crows, are peculiarly hurtful to potato **crops**: but a species of potato has been discovered that bids defiance to their ingenuity. It may be planted so deep as to be out of reach of their mining bills, and yet springs up as well as those planted much nearer the surface. The Jay and the bullfinch are particularly obnoxious to gardeners. It is uncertain, however, whether the latter are in search of insects that devour the buds of fruit trees, or whether they eat up the hearts of the buds themselves. The weasel, though an enemy to the poultry, is in some respects a friend to the farmer. It kills the mice and rats which lodge in corn-stacks and infest the barns of the husbandman. The usefulness of the polecat is doubtful: it seems formed only for destruction. It has been known to kill and carry away dozens, and even scores of barn-door fowls in the course of the night. Frogs and efts, or newts, purify spring water, by feasting on the insects that would corrupt it; and the lizard performs a similar office on land, by devouring those minute animals that prey on the leaves of plants. The heron, on the other hand, prevents the race of frogs from becoming too populous, in which he obtains the co-operation of ducks, wild and tame. A species of bird resembling the sea-mew is a constant attendant on the ploughman in spring, and eats up an incalculable number of grubs and worms. Tadpoles are infinite in number, but are kept down by the different species of water-fowl.

In severe winters, especially in time of snow, the barn-yards are the common rendezvous of fowls of every wing; and the loss to the farmer, if he dwell contiguous to a great man's preserve, is almost incredible, not only with regard to his stacks in winter, but his green and white crops in summer and harvest. The damage done by hares and pheasants has been ascertained to equal the rent of the farm.

**Botany** – The brambleberry is scarcely known here, but the raspberry grows wild. Blaeberreries are exceedingly abundant in Rachan woods, and on some of the heights. The whortleberry is also found on lofty places, along with the crane and crawberries. The sloethorn is to be found only at Mossfennan; and wild roses flourish in many places.

Hazel-nuts have been found several feet below the surface of the ground, though there are hardly any hazel bushes existing at present in this quarter. Filberts are occasionally planted in the pleasure-grounds, but they seldom bring their fruit to maturity. The remains of a natural wood may be seen on the estate of Mossfennan; but all the other trees in the parish have been planted, though formerly many of them were indigenous.

About half a century ago it was scarcely believed that any trees would thrive in this climate, except Scotch fir. John Loch, Esq. of Rachan, however, set the example; and, besides fifty acres of Scotch fir, planted larches, and a variety of hard wood trees, which have succeeded well. In one or two places there are trees of old standing. The soil appears friendly to the production of every species of tree, whether deciduous or evergreen; but the larches Huntingdon willows, lime, and mountain ashes, shoot up most rapidly, and the ornamental shrubs are not backward. The oldest and largest trees in the parish are ashes. In some parts of the parish, where there were extensive plantations of Scotch fir, these trees have either died or been cut

down by the land of man. The soil, which is of a gravelly and sour description, appears to be peculiarly unfavourable to the growth of that species of plant.

The climate is also unfavourable to the ripening of the richer and more delicate species of fruit. At Mossfennan, Broughton Place, and the manse, are walled gardens, which sometimes yield a good crop of apples, pears, cherries, plums and small fruit. The wall of the old garden at Kilbucho Place is in a dilapidated state, but the crop of apples and plums is often very abundant.

In some other gardens, which are surrounded only by a hedge or paling, fruit-trees are sometimes sufficiently productive. At Mossfennan, where the garden has been recently formed, with a fine exposure to the mid-day sun, apples are reared that will stand comparison with the richest produce of the orchards of Clydesdale.

In former times every farm-house had its small orchard; and if proprietors would allot to every tenant a rood or two of land, free of rent, on the condition of his planting it with fruit-trees, the country would in a short time assume a more interesting aspect, and supply the people with many of the simply luxuries of rural life.

## II - Civil History.

Accounts of the parish – the modern history of the parish can be gathered only from the parish registers, Dr Pennecuik's and Armstrong's Accounts of Tweeddale and Fidlaters Agricultural survey of Peebles-shire; and from the Statistical Account rendered to Sir John Sinclair, and another by a literary gentleman, a native of Glenholm, published in the Statistical Magazine of August 1819.

**Eminent Persons** – The most remarkable characters connected with the district were, Secretary Murray, called the Apostate, who resided at Broughton Place, and whose history is well known: - Robert Macqueen of Braxfield, whose rigorous measures, when he was Lord Justice-Clerk, were supposed to have been amongst the means of saving this country from the horrors of revolution.

**Land-owners** – John Macqueen, Esq. of Braxfield, is sole proprietor of Broughton. In Glenholm there are three residing heritors or families: Loch of Rachan, Welsh of Mossfennan, and Tweedie of Quarter. The non-resident heritors are, Sir John Hay of Hayston and Smithfield, Baronet, M.P.; Sir John Nasmyth of Posso, Baronet; Hunter of Polmood, and Seton of Dukepool.

The property of the last mentioned gentleman is in extent no more than a Scotch acre.\*

Sir James Montgomery is proprietor of the eighth part of Glenkirk, amounting to L.34 Scots of valuation.

The heritors of Kilbucho are four in number, of whom three, namely, the Honourable Lord Cuninghame, Esq. of Duchrae, are non-resident. The fourth, James Richardson, Esq. of Springfield, is proprietor of the old manse and glebe, on which he resides.

**Parochial Registers.** – The parochial registers go back as far as the year 1700. Large portions of them have been lost; but they are now, and have for some years past been, exceedingly well kept, and it is in contemplation to make more complete by a rigorous enforcement of insertion.

\* There is a curious, if not fabulous tradition as to the mode in which this property was acquired. It runs thus: That, as one of the Scottish Kings, (perhaps James 4<sup>th</sup>) who occasionally, during the hunting season, spent a few days at Polmood or Badlieu, was returning from one of those rambles, which he frequently undertook in disguise, he passed the castle of Drummelzier, the seat of Sir James Tweedie, who was in the habit of exacting homage, and levying tribute, from all passengers. The king came up to an old man, a cobbler, named Bartram, tending his cow, and amusing himself with a tune on the bagpipe. The monarch accepted an invitation to the cottage of his new acquaintance, where he was hospitably, but with homely fare, entertained by the cobbler and his wife. In the morning the king disclosed to his host who he was, and made him a grant of certain lands in view of his house, to the extent of 14 acres, with the pool in the centre, to be called Drone instead of Duckpool, in memory of the tunes played on the bagpipe the evening before, and as much more ground at the foot of the Holms water as would keep

a mare and a foal, with a brood sow and nine pigs, and a free passage for them to and from his house; and they were to be driven at no harder rate than a woman could walk knitting a stocking, or spinning on a rock or distaff. Bartram was also to have five soums of sheep on Holms common.

After the king, accompanied by the cobbler, who had offered to be his guide, passed the castle gate without yielding the accustomed homage, they were immediately pursued and arrested by Sir James Tweedie and his armed followers. Thereupon, the king, taking a small bugle horn from his side, and sounding it, in the course of a few minutes four and twenty belted knights came from Badlieu to his assistance. The haughty feudal chief, having now discovered the dignity of his prisoner, fell on his knees, and implored the clemency of his sovereign, who forgave him for the present, but upbraided him with his tyranny and exactions, and commanded him against a certain day to attend his pleasure at the place of Holyrood. The pool in the Tweed where the king was arrested is to this day known by the name of the Drone pool. It is near the march betwixt Badlieu and Glenbreck. The king charged Bartram to appear in his holyday array at Holyrood on the day appointed for Sir James Tweedie's trial, which he did, and was honoured with taking precedence of all the nobles on their entrance into the royal presence. Tweedie was tried for his offences, stripped of the greater part of his possessions and titles, and was the last descendant of the Frazer's of Oliver that enjoyed the honour of knighthood. Lawrence Tweedie, Esq. of Oliver, is said to be the only surviving representative of that family. The property of Bartram, now called Dukepool, has dwindled down to its present dimensions, as is alleged, by the encroachment of the neighbouring proprietors. It is now the property of Mr Seaton, son-in-law to Mr John Bartram.

**Antiquities** – of the circular fortifications or enclosures called camps, there are traces of no less than nine. The most remarkable is, for reasons unknown, called Macbeths' castle. It was surrounded by two concentric walls and ditches. The exterior circumvallation was about half a furlong in circumference. It was probably a place of refuge for women, children, and cattle, during the incursions of the border marauders, or it might have been a baronial or feudal judgment seat. The lesser circular strongholds appear to have been beacons or alarm posts, as they were all placed in such a line of communication as to telegraph, as it were, tidings of invasion or threatened outrage with the least possible delay\*

(\* see original M.S. for some details as to the remains of churches, and of the mansion-houses that belonged to the proprietors before-named)

On the side of a hill in kilbucho, called Aiken or Oaken Brae, where there is not a single vestige of wood at present, an axe, differing a little shape from those now in use, and greatly corroded with rust, was turned up by the plough a few years ago. It had doubtless been employed in felling the wood, especially the oaks, which grew there in former days when this country was almost an entire forest. A kind of battle-axe of mixed metal was ploughed up near the same spot, and an instrument of a similar metallic composition was discovered in the vicinity of Polmood, a hunting-seat of our ancient Scottish Kings. It has perhaps been the lock of a cross-bow, as it has a spring and a trigger. A third axe was very lately found in Cloverhill, parish of Broughton, with a hose to receive the shaft.

Near the confluence of Biggar water with the Tweed, on the estate of Rachan, in the midst of a knoll or tumulus, stone coffins containing human skeletons were discovered about forty years ago. One of the bodies was of gigantic size, and had golden bracelets round its arms. At Logan a rude stone coffin was lately found, in which were the remains of a human being; and at a place near the church, called the Gallow Knowe, a similar discovery was made. The bones are supposed to have belonged to a criminal or vassal executed there in feudal times.

A wedge or ring of gold of considerable weight was dug up by a farmer in the parish of Broughton. He sold it to a goldsmith in Glasgow, and the price enabled him to pay at least a year's rent of his farm. An ancient candlestick, and some other articles of no great value, were disinterred near the ruins of the circular camp, called Macbeths Castle. Stone hammers and axes, arrow heads of flint, whorls of stone for old women's distaffs, adder or elf stones, tobacco-pipes, called cutties, and other productions of primitive art, are frequently brought up to view by the plough or the spade.

**Modern Buildings** – the more modern buildings are those of Rachan, Mossfennan, and Quarter, which, with some recent additions and improvements, are delightful residences. They are all embosomed in wood, and can bid defiance equally to the winter's blast and the summer's ray. Many of the farm-houses vie with those of the gentry in outward appearance and internal accommodation. Broughton Place, however, is, perhaps, the best finished house in this vicinity. It occupies a commanding station, amid full-grown woods, near the middle of an avenue of old trees half a mile in length.

### III – Population.\*

The population according to Dr Webster was in 1755:

Broughton. = 367 Glenholm. = 392 \*\*Half of Kilbucho. = 139 Totalling **899**

\*That the population of these parishes was greater in former times than at present, is evident from a document giving an account of a weapon-shawing on the Barrowmuir, or Kings muir of Peebles, in presence of James Nasmyth of Posso, Sheriff-depute of the sheriffdom of Peebles, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 1627, when, among others, compeared the Laird of Stenhope, absent himself, seven of his men present horsed, all with lances and swords, in the parish of Broughton. – the Laird of Haldon absent himself – John Waldon, his bailie present, in his name, accompanied with ten horsemen and twelve footmen, with lances and swords, in the parish of Broughton. – John Paterson, portioner of Broughton.sheild, present, well-horsed with lance and sword, parish of Broughton.- John Chisholm, Glenholm, for my Lord Earl of Wigton, well-horsed himself, accompanied with seven horsemen with lances and swords, dwelling on the said, Noble Earl, his lands lying in the parish of Glenholm. – The Laird of Glenkirk, absent himself, four of his men present well-horsed with lances and swords, within the parish of Glenholm. – Adam Gillies, portioner of Whitslaid, present, well-horsed. With a lance and a sword, in the parish of Glenholm. – William Brown of Logan, present, well-horsed, with a lance and sword, and a horseman with nothing, parish of Glenholm.- William Tweedie, younger of Wrae, present, horsed with one horseman, bothwith lance and sword, parish of Glenholm. – Sir Archibald Murray of Darnhall, well-horsed, with a collect, accompanied with forty-two horsemen with lances and swords, ten jacks and steel bonnets, within the parish of Kilbucho and Eddlestone. – The Laird of Hartree, absent himself, ten of his men present, horsed, with lances and swords, parish of Kilbucho. – The two last mentioned can hardly be said to have belonged to this parish, as the great proportion of their property lay without its bounds.

\*\*The half of Kilbucho is here assumed as the proportion of the southern division- but it is incorrect. The southern half, as it is called, is larger in extent and greater in population than the northern half, but the difference is not material. As the old parish of kilbucho is in some respects still undivided, it would have been better to have given all its statistics in one return, particularizing the different proportions, but, owing to the misunderstanding, this could not be effected.

Armstrong,	1775	274	270	125	679
Sir j Sinclair,	1791	264	300	181	745
Government,	1801	214	242	171	627
	1811	231	213	160	604
	1821	263	236	168	667
	1831	299	259	182	740
Males	1831	154	127	90	371
Females		145	132	92	369
TOTAL		299	259	182	740

Broughton is the only village in the parish. Its inhabitants amount to 100, and they have varied very little in number for the last fifty years. The country population is of course 640.

1. Number of families in the parish,	160
of families chiefly employed in agriculture	74
Chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	33
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	20
of unmarried women, including widows upwards of 45,	20
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last seven years	16
of deaths, exclusive of those buried in the parishes,	5
Of marriages of parishioners only	5
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age	260
Upwards of 70,	30

The families of independent fortune residing in the parish are 4, besides a gentleman's family who occasionally take up their abode, and an old gentleman, who has retired from public life. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of **L.50** and upwards is **10**; and of those who draw an inferior rent, 3.

**Character and Habits of the People-** The people are above the middle size. They excel in athletic exercises, and have gained prizes in the gymnastics of St Ronans. Harvest home, Halloween, new-year's day, and Valentines eve, are observed with a kind of religious scrupulosity. In adorning their persons and decorating their cottages, they in general exhibit taste and neatness. The ordinary food of the common people is oatmeal porridge to breakfast; kale or broth, with sometimes a little animal food, to dinner; potatoes, whole or mashed; porridge or sowens, (a preparation from oatmeal siftings,) with milk, to supper, and frequently bread and cheese or butter. Those who have little gardens attached to their dwellings have always a supply of wholesome culinary vegetables. Loaf-bread has almost superseded the use of oaten cakes. The farmers, who were wont to mess with their servants, have now their separate dining parlours. Drinking bouts are less frequent and less protracted than they were in the days of our forefathers. Profane swearing is less fashionable, and fighting not so much in vogue. Few people enjoy the comforts of life and advantages of society more than the inhabitants of this district of country. They are equally remote from the refined luxuries of metropolitan life and the rusticity of clownish ignorance. They are social, convivial, hospitable, fond of reading, though without parish libraries, - the wealthy having small select libraries of their own, and the poorer the Bible and shorter catechism. Many of them are subscribers to a public library in Biggar.

Poachers are diminishing in numbers. Some fines have of late been imposed, which may operate as a check, smuggling is greatly in decline. A few years ago private distillation was practised among the neighbouring mountains.

During the last three years, there have been 9 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV – Industry.

##### Agriculture and Rural Economy.

This united parish contains 20,000 imperial acres, and one-fourth is in lea under the plough	5000
And one twentieth part capable of being cultivated	1000
Capable of being cultivated with a profit	100
The rest is meadow and hill pasture	14000
In undivided common	40
Under Wood,	250



The plantations consist chiefly of Scotch Fir and Larch, a considerable number of oaks, ashes, elms, beeches, limes, birches, alders, mountain ashes, and all the willow tribe are intermixed with evergreens, such as spruce and fir.

**Rent of Land**- The value of the arable lands varies from L.3 to 10s. and the average may be stated at L.1, 5s. Per acre. The highest rent of grazing per ox for the season, L.6; the highest rent of grazing per cow, L.5; sheep for the year 7s.

**Rate of Wages** - A ploughman's wages, L.9, 15s., six bolls of meal, a cows grass and four carts of coal driven; shepherds wages, cow, meal, and coal, as above, forty sheep's grass, half a boll of potatoes planted; if a single man, he has only the seeps grass with victuals and lodging in lieu of the rest. Maid-servants from L.2, 10s. to L.3, 10s. the half year; a day-labourer in summer, 1s. 6d. per day, with victuals; wrights, masons and other artisan's tailors who go to families to work receive 1s.6d. a day and their food; weavers, 2d.3d.4d.5d.6d. and 7d. per yard, according to quality; peat-casters 1s 6d. a day, with victuals, - women get only 1s. and their meat; reapers wages vary exceedingly, according to the season, from 1s. to 2s. with victuals; hay-makers, men 1s., women 6d., with food; potato and turnip hoers, generally females, may be had for 6d. Per day, with victuals, sometimes 10d.

**Husbandry**- the system of husbandry carried on is agreeable to modern improvements. A rotation of crop is almost universally adopted. In breaking up the lea of pasture ground, which has lain for some seasons, the first crop or crops are oats or peas; next, turnips or potatoes; third, barley, among which rye-grass and clover seeds are sown; fourth, hay. Then it either remains in pasture for a few years, or a fresh rotation commences. When wheat is intended to be raised, previous summer fallowing is essential. The iron plough has in a great measure superseded the use of the Scotch plough. The hurkle is used in strong foul land; seldom more than two horses are employed, and oxen are generally issued. The ploughman display great skill, and make beautiful work. Robert Welsh, Esq. of Mossfennan, has recently improved thirty-six acres of moorland, which before yielded nothing but coarse heath, but now produces the most luxuriant crops under an approved course of rotation.

Thomas Tweedie, Esq. of Quarter, is giving a new face to his farm of Whitslaid, under the superintendence of a grieve or land-steward. He is renewing the fences, manuring with lime, putting down a number of additional plantations, and otherwise improving that portion of his estate, which in a few years will render it an ornament to this part of the country.

On the estate of Rachan, the Tweed, for about a mile has been substantially embanked by William Loch, Esq. the proprietor; a considerable quantity of fine haugh or holm land is thus protected from the encroachments of the river. Other improvements of importance have been made on the estate of Kilbucho, more especially on that of Kilbucho Place, and on the glebe.

Neither the Fiorin grass nor the Lucerne has been cultivated to any extent. The mangel-wurzel has been raised on a very limited scale, and the Swedish turnip has fallen into disrepute. The globe turnip arrives at the greatest size, the yellow stands the winter best, and the red-topped holds a middle rank in the estimation of the farmer. By allowing these different varieties to grow to seed in the same field, some curious hybrids have been produced, surpassing any of the parents as esculents. A cross betwixt the yellow and globe has been tried with success.

Leases are generally granted for nineteen years, but farms purely of the store and are let for fourteen years only. In some instances a break in the lease at the end of five, nine, or any other number of years is agreed on. The chief hindrances to improvement are the non-residence of the proprietors, the distance from markets, coal, and lime; and to these may be added strict entails, which fetter both the landlord and the tenant.

**Produce**- The average gross amount and value of raw produce (exclusive of pasture) yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:

2000 acres wheat, barley, oats, pease, at L.8 per acre,	L. 1600 0 0
90 acres potatoes, at L. per acre,	630 0 0
240 acres turnips, at L.4 per do,	960 0 0
189 acres sown grass, 85 do. Meadow hay,	941 0 0
Pasture, rating it at L.3 per cow grazed, or that may be grazed, for the season, and 5s. per ewe pastured, or that may be pastured, for the year,	2400 0 0
Thinnings of wood,	300 0 0
	L. 21231 0 0

Hardly any flax is raised in the parish. It is supposed to scourge the soil, and linen can be purchased at a moderate rate.

#### V.-PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication- The principal cause of the great unevenness of the old public roads was a belief that it was next to impossible to make a path that could be travelled, through a bog, swamp, or morass. Yielding to this mistaken notion, the surveyor conducted his line up hill and down dale, wherever he could find a hard or rocky bottom, which was less injurious in its effects, at a time when wheel carriages were almost altogether unknown. Another cause was the desire of accommodating country gentlemen with regard to their parks, policies and gardens. To avoid interfering with these, the road formed a semicircle, or went off at a right angle, thereby occasioning a loss to the public, and a delay to the traveller.

Under the management of a skilful and judicious superintendent, the line of toll-road is in a fair way of being greatly amended. Three miles of new road, from the village of Broughton to the northern extremity of the parish, has already been made at an expense of about L.1000, and another or nearly two miles, farther south, is contracted, the intercourse between the capital and the provincial town will be facilitated, and the road will rival the best in the kingdom.

The mail from the south arrives at Broughton about half-past twelve noon; that from the north reaches the same place at one in the morning. Last summer, the Hero light-coach went and came every alternate day. There is one toll-bar within the parish. The rates are, a horse 3d.; cart with horse 6d.; a gig or chaise with one horse 9d.; a carriage with two horses 1s 6d.; with four, 3s.; with six 4s.6d.; black cattle, per score 1s.8d.; sheep do. 4d.&c. The present rent is L.124. It was only L.100 last year.

The worst piece of road in this part of the country is from Peebles to Biggar through Broughton, but it is now in a fair way of soon being in a state of good repair. From the coal-workers at Ponfeith to the Tweed in the vicinity, the tract is so level, that a rail-road or canal could be easily formed. A great proportion of the waters of the Clyde might, with very little effort, be brought to join the Tweed.

In the new road bill, it is proposed that a line from Peebles to Biggar shall be formed, whereby every inequality of surface may be avoided. Should this plan be executed, the English tourist may begin at Berwick upon Tweed, and proceed along a comparatively smooth, level, and delightful road, enjoying the whole of the beautiful and grand scenery of two of the finest rivers in the kingdom, and terminate his land journey at Greenock, whence he may voyage in steam-boats, and circumnavigate all the western islands of Scotland.

A survey has been taken of a rail-road from Glasgow to Kelso, which would pass through this parish, or a little north of it, to Peebles, and by the side of the Tweed to Kelso, and even to Berwick. As there are several iron-works not far distant, the material for the road might be had at a comparatively trifling expense.

The toll-road within the parish is eight miles in length: a parish road, part of the line from Peebles to Biggar, extends for about three miles, and another parish road runs for three miles and a half through the southern part of Kilbucho, till it joins the roads leading to Biggar and Coulter.

There are three bridges along which the turnpike road runs, one over Kilbucho, and another over Broughton burn, with a few of less size over the smaller streams. They are kept in good repair, but the old ones are narrow and awkwardly placed.

**Market Town**-The nearest market town is Biggar, at the distance of five miles from Broughton village.

**Ecclesiastical State**-The church is situated in Kilbucho, and is very central for the united population. The most remote house in the parish is not five miles from the church. The church was built in 1804, exceedingly homely in its exterior, but very comfortable as a place to worship, with regard to its internal arrangement, and capable of accommodating 500 persons. The sittings are all free. Each of the heritors has his proportion of room for his own family and those of his tenants, and strangers are accommodated in the least crowded pews. The church is in a good state of repair.

The manse was built in 1815, and cost upwards of L.1200. The situation chosen for the manse was in appearance the least eligible that could be selected. It was in the centre of a morass that could not be drained. The incumbent only was satisfied. It was objected to by both heritors and presbytery. Two or three old thorn bushes tried in vain to hide the nakedness of the scene. When the manse and offices were finished in a superior style, the heritors having added L.100 of their own accord to the expense, over and above the original estimate and contract, the incumbent set to work, and with his own hands raised a wood in front, and at one of the ends of the house, which now almost prevents the mountain tops from being seen from the lower windows. Some of the birches, alders, limes, Huntingdon willows, and mountain ashes, are as thick as a man's waist, and from twenty to thirty feet in height. The oaks, ashes, larches, and spruces are also in a thriving condition. The soil is favourable to the growth of thorn hedges and shrubs in general. Fruit-trees do not succeed so well, as the subsoil is till, and when the roots reach it the tree degenerates. The glebe of Broughton, which was an excamb in lieu of the old one, is in extent about 21 English acres, and is worth at least L.2 an acre. The glebe of Glenholm consists of six acres, worth L.3 each, but at present rented at only L.15. The glebe of Kilbucho was sold: it contains about 10 acres, and brought L.551. the interest of the purchase-money is divided betwixt the ministers of Culter and Broughton, &c. the principal ought to have been laid out in land to augment the present glebe, or had it not been for the gross mismanagement, 5 per cent, might have been obtained. Being now lodged in the Royal Bank, the annual return is of course greatly diminished of late years.

The stipend was 12 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, with L.8, 6s. 8D. for communion elements. An augmentation of 2 chalders has been recently obtained.

The number of families attached to the Established church is 124, - number of persons rather more than 400. The Established church is exceedingly well attended. There are only four seceding or dissenting families in the parish, and two or three single persons; and two of these families have lately come to reside within the bounds. Three individuals only have gone over to the seceders or dissenters for the last twenty years. A considerable number of seceders and dissenters have returned to the bosom of the Established church within the same space of time. One or two connected with the Reformed Presbytery reside in the parish and regularly attend the church. There are two or three individuals that affect no religious profession, hardly ever enter a place of worship. We are occasionally favoured with a visitation from Itinerants, Independents, or members of the Congregational union of Scotland. The inhabitants in general seem well affected to the Establishment.

Before quitting the subject of the church and manse, we may mention, that, when the heritors took the latter off the hands of the contractor, they drew up a paper, which was subscribed by the principal heritor as preses of the meeting, by which they consigned over the church, manse, and offices to the incumbent, empowering him, when anything went wrong, to employ a tradesman without calling any meeting of heritors and to charge the expense to their account. The church has not cost them five shillings a year since it was built, and the manse not five pence. The road to the manse from the public road was made to the

march of the glebe at the expense of the incumbent, and the rest at that of the public. It cost them about L.24, and requires nothing to keep it up. The path to the church is along three wooden bridges, which are supported at little cost, as one of the heritors gives the wood for nothing; and the timber of another bridge over Broughton burn, forming a communication betwixt the manse and the village, is furnished by another heritor. The heritors hardly ever lend a deaf ear to any application for the advantage of the parish. The number of communications is about 300.

The yearly contributions to religious or charitable purposes do not average above L.2 per annum, exclusive of the subscriptions to the Biggar Bible Society.

**Education**-Notwithstanding the annexation of the parishes, the three parochial schools continued on the former footing, subject to such alterations as the heritors and presbytery might judge proper. The branches professed, besides the ordinary, are Latin, geography, and practical mathematics. But Latin is getting out of fashion here. There is not a Latin scholar, that is a pupil, in the district.

The salary of each of the schoolmasters is L.32, with a house and garden.

The school fees at Broughton may amount to L.20; at Glenholm to little more than L.12 and at Kilbucho to about L.15.

The school of Kilbucho, owing to a most unhappy misunderstanding, is at present vacant, but well taught by an interim teacher, who receives the emoluments.

The school wages are fixed at 2s. a quarter, for reading English; 2s. 6d for reading, writing and arithmetic; and 3s. for the higher branches.

A new school and schoolmasters house have been recently built, but on a niggardly plan, in the parish of Kilbucho. Had the heritors at the time the annexation was completed, instead of demolishing the old manses, converted them into schools and school masters houses they might have, at a small expense, provided ample accommodation to masters and scholars.

Few have attained to the age of fifteen who cannot both read and write. Access to education is granted to all. If the parents are unable to pay the fees they are paid by the public, or the children are taught gratis. Some of the old cannot write, but they can all read.

**Friendly Society**- A friendly society was established in the year 1800, and is still in existence. Its stock amounts to about L.200. Sick members are allowed 3s. 6d. a week; superannuated members, L.2, 12s. per annum; and widows, L.1.

**Savings Bank**-A savings bank was instituted here in 1815, and has prospered. The deposits have averaged more than L.100 a year; but, as many of the sums exceed the legal amount, the greater part has been withdrawn and deposited elsewhere. The great proportion of depositors are servants, especially females.

## Poor.

The regular paupers who receive parochial aid, at the rate of 5s. per month are three,	L. 915 0
Occasional, at the rate of 1. .2 per annum three,	6 0 0
Donations to accidental paupers, at the yearly average of	5 0 0
House rent to two, at L.1,	2 0 0
Coals at the rate of 10s. 6d. a cart, 16 carts,	8 8 0
Relieving stranger paupers, with passes, &c.	1 10 0
Synod clerk and officer,	0 10 6
Presbytery clerk and officer,	1 6 0
Session-clerk	1 5 0
Treasurer	1 0 0
Collecting contributions from the heritors, once in three years or so,	1 5 0
To the precentor, who refuses to accept of any remuneration for his services, a present to the value of	2 0 0
Kirk-officer, who is also sexton	2 0 0
Repairing bell chain	0 0 6

Given to a soldiers wife	0 1 0
<b>Total disbursements in the year 1831,</b>	<b>L. 42 1 0</b>
Annual collections in church,	<b>L. 24 1 0</b>
Interest of L.136, of which L.90 is a legacy left by the late Rev. W Porteous,	<b>2 15 0</b>
Voluntary contributions by the heritors once in three years or so of L.25	<b>8 6 8</b>
Mortcloth 14s. 4d., fines L.1	<b>1 14 4</b>
Donations from wealthy or non-wealthy heritors, less or more,	<b>5 5 0</b>
Total receipt for 1831	<b>L. 42 2 0</b>

When the disbursements exceed the receipts, application is made to the heritors within the three years. No demur on the part of the heritors ever takes place. It may be added, that at the commencement of winter, the farmers assess themselves in meal to the poor, to be given at a reduced rate, or for nothing; and that Mr Swan at Ponfeith coal-workers gives occasionally a donation of coals, which the tenants lead free of expense.

It is not in general thought disgraceful to apply for parochial assistance. Some apply for relief from the poor's funds whose relations are by no means in indigent circumstances. But there are one or two who would rather almost starve than make their wants known.

**Fair**-Broughton has an annual fair, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. It was once a cattle-market, and distinguished by horse and foot races. It is now attended principally for the purpose of hiring servants, paying accounts, and fixing the prices of butter and cheese. The fair is held on the street of the village, and the stalls are overloaded with produce of the orchards of Clydesdale and other merchandize.

**Inns**- Each parish has its own inn. That of Broughton is a commodious house, with a court of offices in good repair. It forms a convenient stage betwixt Edinburgh and Moffat; and in the parish of Kilbucho a new inn was lately built. Rachan Mill is also a public-house, conveniently situated for the accommodation of the public, as it stands at the junction of the road from Peebles to Moffat with the great road from Edinburgh to Dumfries. There is also an alehouse in the village on a smaller scale.

**Fuel** – the distance from fuel is one of the greatest drawbacks on the comforts of the public. The coal is mostly brought from Ponfeith, which is eighteen miles distant from the centre of the parish. Kilbucho moss supplies a number of the farmers there with peat. The thinnings of the plantations in the other two divisions of the parish afford a supply of fuel to a few of the neighbouring poor. The wood is not sold, but given to them gratis. 12cwt. Of coals may be purchased at the mouth of the pit for half-a-crown. The tolls are 1s. more, and when the carriage is paid for, the cart will cost 12s.6d. When the peat-moss is at a considerable distance from the residence of the consumer, that species of fuel comes as high as coal.

**MAY 1834**

