

THE
BI-CENTENARY of the NORTH CHURCH
BUCHLYVIE

1952

The
North Church
Buchlyvie

As it is impossible, owing to the heavy cost of printing, to reprint the "Ter-Tribles Record" of Buchlyvie North Church which contained the history of the congregation from 1752 to 1902, it has been felt that in this Bi-Centenary year some extracts about the origin of the Church might be published and some notes might be added to bring the history up to date.

PRE-SECESSION

To carry out this purpose we now take the following interesting extracts from the historical account of the first hundred years given by the late Rev. John Russell:—

"In the year 1678 the Lord's Supper was dispensed in this parish under the cloud of night at a spot on the farm of Arnbeg".... "In the year 1679 took place the Battle of Bothwell Bridge where Ure of Shitgarton was leader of a large band from this parish amongst whom were—Alexander Buchanan of Buchlyvie; Donald Connel, portainer there; Walter Leckie of Myle; Thomas Miller there; James Galbraith; Arthur Dougald of Armanuel; John Dougald, his son; John McKenzie there. A sentence of forfeiture of their land was pronounced on some of these." Two of the above-named were sentenced to be banished to America, but the ship in which they sailed was wrecked and they were drowned.

ORIGIN

After the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, of Stirling, started the Secession Movement in 1738 he found many adherents in Buchlyvie neighbourhood, and he sometimes preached at a quiet spot near Honeyholm on the banks of the Endrick, and before long a church was built at Ederbelly not far off. This church was usually known as the Holm Associate Church and its first minister was the Rev. John Cleland who was ordained there in 1742. Ten years later, the Seceders from Buchlyvie

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left that congregation and took the minister with them to become the first minister of the Associate Congregation of Buchlyvie. They purchased from the Laird a site for a church and burial-place, and erected the building which is now called the North Church. From the first minutes of the congregation we learn that the following persons were appointed as managers to carry out the work:—

"James Buchanan of Garmsberry; Andrew Lennie there; John Buchanan in Woodend; John Forrester in Ballochneuk; Thomas Morrison, fencer in Buchlyvie; William Morrison, Helgus of Buchlyvie; James Fairlie, miller there; William Buchanan, wright there; James Gardner, fencer in Kilmarnock; David Robertson, Easter Garden; Alexander Yulle in Buchlyvie; Munigo Mitchell in Garban; John McFarlane, merchant in Aberfoell; John Risk, weaver in Buchlyvie; Hugh Galbraith in Garden; Walter Parlane there; John McClaws in Arnglibon; William Gillian in Arnprior; Andrew McClibbon in Cardross; James Harvie there; Thomas Harvie in Drum; John Fairley in Loanenfoot; William McVey, weaver in Buchlyvie, and Patrick Morrison, merchant there."

THE BUILDING AND COST

The work of building proceeded with great harmony and self-denial, for "the people had a mind to work." They gave contributions willingly in the form of manual labour, and the farmers gratuitously undertook the transport of materials. The slates were brought from Aberfoyle on the horses' backs along a track, there being no road. Managers were appointed to arrange weekly for help in the buying of wood, stones and slates and in the ereeting of these into a place of worship. The fact that so much work was done by the people themselves as a labour of love made the cost small. The list of expenditure is as follows:—

Paid to the Laird for Ground	...	55	0	0
Building	...	26	3	0
Wood and Wright Work	...	48	5	0
Slating and Slates	...	20	4	0
Time	...	11	0	0
Raising Stones and Sand	...	10	4	0
Sundries	...	32	9	0
		<u>£153</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

The Church was opened for worship on the first Sunday of May, 1752. Few congregations have begun under such favourable conditions for Buchlyvie had now a comfortable meeting-house, a congregation to gather in it and a minister. It is impossible in this booklet to give particulars of the successive ministers of the congregation, but these can be found in "The Ter-Jubilee Record."

BIBLE, BAPTISMAL BOWL AND TOKENS

An interesting Pulpit Bible is in the possession of the Church, bearing the following inscription in the handwriting of the Rev. William Speirs, minister of the congregation, 1813-1825:—

"This Bible is a present to the Associate Congregation of Buchlyvie from David McEwen, Esq., St. George's, Grenada. He transmitted it from Grenada, under the care of Mr. Moses Risk, who, having been taken prisoner by the French on his return from the West Indies, and having carefully preserved it during a captivity in France of five years and four months, conveyed it afterwards at his own expense, and presented it for Mr. McEwen.
Buchlyvie, 17th June, 1814."

This Bible is a "Fishes" Bible, so-called because in Ezekiel chapter 47, verse 10 the word "Fishes" is printed in error for "Fishers." It is a rare edition and contains only this one typographical error.

It is interesting to know that the Baptismal Bowl inscribed thus:—"To the Associate Congregation Buchlyvie 1752" is still in use.

Mention should be made also of the Communion Tokens inscribed on one side, As.C. BUC (Associate Congregation, Buchlyvie) and on the other side, M. J.C. 1752 (minister, John Cleland, 1752).

A GIFT OF TODAY

In place of the old Communion Sets, there is now used an Individual Communion Set which was given anonymously by a member in 1950.

An interesting fact worthy of reference is that the Rev. William Watt, minister of Buchlyvie Chapel of Ease (now called the South Church) which was built in 1835, left the

