

**THE PUBLICATIONS
OF THE SURTEES
SOCIETY, VOL. XC**

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ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR

M.DCCC.XXXIV.



VOL. XC.

FOR THE YEAR M.DCCC.XCII.

At a Meeting of the Council of the SUTNES SOCIETY,
held in Durham Castle on Tuesday, December 6th, 1892,
Rev. W. GREENWELL in the Chair,

It was ordered,

That the Chartulary of Brinkburn should be edited for
the Society by Mr. WILLIAM PAGE.

JAMES RAINE,

Secretary.

THE
CHARTULARY
OF
BRINKBURN PRIORY.

Published for the Society
BY ANDREWS & CO., DURHAM;
WHITTAKER & CO., 2 WHITE HART STREET, PATERNOSTER SQUARE;
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1898.



PREFACE.

THE Augustinian Priory of Brinkburn, picturesquely situated on a wooded bank of the River Coquet, in the County of Northumberland, was founded in the reign of Henry I., by William Bertram, second baron of Mitford, who granted the site to Osbert Colutarius, to build thereon a monastery. This Osbert, when he had completed the buildings, put into them a priest and some brothers from St. Mary's Monastery on the Isle. The priory church, which up to 1858 was a roofless ruin, but since restored, is cruciform and peculiarly lofty, the architecture being principally of the late Norman and Transitional periods. There is a central tower which is low, and, like Lanercost and some other priory churches, there is a north aisle but no appearance of there having been any intention to build a south one. At the west end are three lancet windows, and at the east are three tiers of three lights. The clerestorey is Early English, and the chancel, some time after the completion of the church, was raised a storey, which has lately been removed. On the north side of the nave is a very beautiful Transitional doorway. The Rev. John Louis Petit, who contributed a full account of the architectural history of Brinkburn to the meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Newcastle in 1852, states that he should assign the date of building the church to a period included in the last ten years of the twelfth century and the first quarter of the thirteenth. There now remains but little of the monastic buildings beyond the chapter house, which is square with a groined roof and is situated at the south-east angle of the south transept. Whatever there is of other buildings has been

built into the modern residence of the Cadogan family adjoining.

The Chartulary has not brought to light much additional information about the buildings, with the exception of the names of a few altars and lights, as will be seen by reference to the Index. At the Dissolution the buildings were probably stripped of their lead and fittings and allowed to go to decay, but the church was in use for service up to the beginning of the seventeenth century,¹ and for marriages and burials till the end of the eighteenth century.

Little is known of the history of the Priory except what can be gathered from the entries in the Chartulary here printed. William Bertram, the founder, endowed it with lands and privileges, and his descendants and the Framlington, Easington, and other Northumbrian families, continued to make grants to it. At an early date the Augustinian Priory of Pentney, in the County of Norfolk, seems to have claimed certain rights over Brinkburn, but how these claims arose is not clear.² The Priory was at first dedicated to St. Peter only, but in and after the reign of Henry II., charters are sometimes addressed to the Prior and Convent of St. Peter, and at others to the Prior and Convent of St. Peter and St. Paul of Brinkburn.

In the reign of Edward III. the number of inmates of the house was twelve,³ and Tanner states that at the time of the Dissolution it was ten. The monastery seems to have been a resting-place for those journeying to and from Scotland; in 1515 Margaret of Scotland, sister of Henry VIII., remained there two days, on one of her visits to the south, and it is probable that many of the English kings stayed there while conducting their armies to the north.

The monastery of Brinkburn was at no time wealthy, and like other Northumbrian religious houses was liable to

¹ Minister's Accounts (P.R.O.) for Northumberland, *temp.* Elizabeth, where it is stated that the church was served by Michael Todda, who received a stipend of 106s. 8d.

² P. 184.

³ Appendix No. IV.