

Extracts from sources mentioning treaties signed at St Dionysius

RCAHMS

the building was used for a series of significant meetings between the Scots and the English, such as that which, in 1380, saw the renewal of the truce between the 2 countries. Much of what remains today is thought to date from the late 18th century when, according to THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, several improvements were carried out. These improvements are thought to include the building of the N aisle, the bell tower and the SE burial aisle. Originally thought to be the S transept, most now agree that this was built specifically as a burial aisle, added to the E end of the S wall. (Historic Scotland)

Ayton Website

In the year 1380 the Church was the scene on an important historical event – John of Gaunt along with the English commissioners, namely John, Bishop of Durham, Lord John Neville and John Waltham – the sub-Dean of York and representing Scotland, were John, Earl of Moray, Archibald Douglas, Lord of Galloway, James Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith and the Provost of St Andrews, Duncan Little met to arrange for a renewal of a truce between the two countries, and a similar meeting was held again in the Church in 1434. Then, on the 30th September 1497, a truce was entered into between Scotland and England that was to last seven years. It was signed in the Church of Ayton on behalf of King James IV of Scotland by his Ambassador, Andrew Forman.

The mediator of the last treaty was a Spanish clergyman Pedro d' Ayala who was, at that time, Ambassador to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain at the court of King Henry VII of England. Also present, representing England, were the Bishop of Durham and William Wareham, master of the Rolls.

Wikipedia

The Chapel of St. Dionysius was an important place in medieval Scotland, it played host to several meetings of commissioners from Scotland and England, in their efforts to come to treaty, including those in 1380, 1384 and 1497.[2] The meeting of 1497 involved the Spanish diplomat Pedro de Ayala on behalf of James IV of Scotland with representatives of Henry VII of England, and the outcome was a seven year truce.[5] St. Dionysius' Church continued as a Roman Catholic place of worship in the hands of the monks of Coldingham until the Scottish Reformation, when it became part of the reformed church.

Scottish Borders Heritage

The lands of Eitun were granted to the priory of Coldingham by King Edgar between 1098 and 1107 and before the close of the 12th century the monks erected a chapel here dedicated to St Dionysius (St Denis, also patron saint of France). This was used as a meeting place by Scottish and English Commissioners to negotiate treaties between the two kingdoms in 1380, 1384 and 1497. The chapel became the parish church after the Reformation, perhaps in 1627.