

HEDDON ON THE WALL

AND

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
HEDDON.

Price 6d.

*Proceeds for the Fabric Fund
of the Church.*

C. E. A. BLACKBURN.

APRIL, 1938.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:
PRINTED BY TYNE PRINTING WORKS LTD., 82, PILGRIM STREET.

HEDDON ON THE WALL
AND
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HEDDON.

I am very grateful to MR. JAMES HEDLEY, of Bays Leap, for so kindly undertaking the printing of this little book; it is his personal gift to the Parish and a token of his interest and kindness.

My thanks are also due to MR. J. J. REWCASTLE for the notes he had collected.

We have spent some pleasant time together searching the ancient registers.

THE REV. W. T. TAYLOR has also helped with some information. The books consulted are:—

History of Northumberland, Volumes 12 and 13.

W. M. Tomlinson, Guide to Northumberland.

C. J. Bates, Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Paul Brown's "Sketches," "A.A."

"Archeologia Aeliana."

*Baldwin Brown. J. E. Morris, "Little Guide
to Northumberland."*

and the Ancient Registers and Church Books.

I hope that parishioners of Heddon will appreciate this little history and be drawn to their fascinating church.

With Mr. Hedley's permission, this booklet is offered at 6d., the proceeds to go to the Fabric Fund.

This price will not in any way cover the cost of printing; and, I again express my gratitude to our friend; without his help this little publication would not have been possible.

C. E. A. BLACKBURN.

EASTER, 1938.

PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD.

HEDDON LAW must have been an ancient British tumulus or mound.

In 1925, an encircling dry stone wall about four feet wide was disclosed, and it contained several flint flakes.

In 1771. A private road was made to Eachwick, and a knife and flint axe were discovered.

A socketted and looped bronze axe was found in cutting across a section of the vallum at Heddon; it is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, with two inches cutting edge, and evidently belongs to the late bronze age.

A little west of Houghton and south of the road between Heddon and Hexham are remains of an "Elliptical Entrenchment." It is one of the few Northumbrian earth works south of the Roman Wall.

The opinion is that these earthworks were not of military value, but mere stockaded areas into which the flocks could be driven at night, that they and their owners might be protected from wolves that infested the valleys.

Traces of hut circles were discovered on Heddon Common and Resting Hill,—but these have been obliterated by quarrying.

It seems evident that Heddon was inhabited during the late bronze age, that is about 400 B.C.

ROMAN TIMES.

When the Romans built their great wall, they selected certain places for definite purposes.

Some of the more sheltered places they chose for their granaries and for the residences of their higher officials, the wider and more open spaces they used for their camps,

and on the higher sites they built their towers and stationed their military outposts.

Quite close to Heddon on a wide open site was the important camp of Viudobala, now known by the Saxon Roman name of Rudchester—Red camp, possibly to distinguish it from Whitchester—White camp not far away.

Mr. Paul Brown tells us that the name Red Camp is reminiscent of tragedy, and that when the fort was excavated, it was found that many of the stones had turned red by burning.

A large number of interesting finds have been discovered at Rudchester—notably an altar which Lucius Sentius Casta, a Centurion, dedicated to Mithras.

At Whitchester, north of the Wall, there was some sort of military earthwork now obliterated by ploughing.

Heddon itself was the site of a Milecastle on Hadrian's Wall A.D. 122—and no doubt a military outpost.

A little east of the village a portion of the wall still remains.

Mr. Hedley has given a stretch of land to the Office of Works, and the wall is being carefully reconstructed. The following note on the work being done is interesting.

"When the work at present in progress is completed, not only will there be a long stretch of Hadrian's Wall exposed to view within easy reach of Newcastle; but, more clearly than anywhere else, the relationship of what was immediately in front of the Wall to the stone structure itself will be observable.

Here will be seen the big wall—ditch together with a 'Berm' or level space 20 feet wide which intervenes.

For many a mile along the military road the ditch remains where all visible traces of the wall have disappeared."

What is being done at Heddon will therefore be of particular interest as an exposition of the relative values of three important features in the plan adopted by the Roman Engineers engaged in the construction of their frontier works between Britain and Caledonia, many hundred years ago—Wall and ditch and berm will be an impressive landmark.

In the same stretch of wall, somewhat nearer the farm house the remains of a circular chamber, supposed to have been a turret appear in the substance of the wall. Or this may have been a corn drying kiln—as at Housesteads.

The Vallum passed through what was locally called "Jerry's Pond," now the site of the Memorial Park, and followed across the South Road through "Haddock's Hole" to join the Military Road on the North. At the present "wall fragment" can be seen the wall, ditch and vallum.

In 1885, the base of a circular turret was unearthed, and the Twelfth Mile Castle from Wallsend was on the wall at Heddon; but the site has never been located.

In 1847. Doctor Lyngard discovered two inscribed stones showing that parts of the wall were built by the fourth Cohort of the Twentieth Legion.

In 1752. A number of curious Roman Coins and Medals were unearthed.

These belong to the reigns of Maximian and Constantine A.D. 394, and were probably secreted during that dis-

astrous period which culminated in the final withdrawal of the Roman Legions from Britain.

Those finds were purchased by the Royal Society.

The Military importance which Heddon acquired in those early days continued in later years.

The Northumbrian Kings founded a New Bure—Newburn—South of the Wall, and at some distance from the customary beat of the marauding Norse; at the same time, they strengthened their military outposts at Heddon Law, which commands a very wide sweep of the open countryside.

In the Great Rebellion the Scots Army fixed their headquarters at Heddon Law; and, in the same place, a "voluntary army" was stationed during the scare of an invasion of England by the first Napoleon.

SAXON PERIOD AND THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH.

The Latin name for Heddon was rather indefinite—"Ad murum"—a site near the wall.

The Saxon name is more distinctive—Hedas-ton—that is, the dwelling place of Hedda—that was Heddon itself.

The Eastern site, Heddon steads to Heddon—Eures was called Hiddlewin—i.e., heath hill or moorlands.

There were Saxon fords at Newburn and Hedwin streams.

In the Hundred Rolls A.D. 1274 Heddon appears as "Edwinstre," and the name suggests that it was one of the hill forts of King Edwin.

THE CELTIC MISSION.

It was in the year 635—a little more than 70 years after Columba landed in Iona and just thirty years after the death of Augustine that Aidan, the great Missionary of the North, commenced his lasting work.

Then began these years of earnest energetic labour, carried on by these Celtic Missionaries and their followers from Iona as their cradle and Lindisfarne as their citadel—which ended in the conversion of England to the Gospel of Christ. Not Augustine of Rome but Aidan is the rightful Apostle of the North.

With the coming of these first Missionaries from Iona, we pass on to more definite history.

Those early preachers of the Gospel travelled the Military Road from the Solway eastward. At some places they preached and erected their preaching Crosses; at other places, as at Warden, Corbridge, Bywell, Ovingham and Heddon, they further established their work by building Churches.

The old Cross now preserved in the sanctuary of Heddon Church may have been a preaching cross or part of the Saxon Church itself.

Those first builders selected a significant site for their little Church at Heddon. The Common would be the dwelling place of the few inhabitants, the Law the military centre—on the Centre Hill—probably the site of some Roman or even British place of worship—they built their house of God.

"God is in the midst of Her."

ARCHITECTURE.

The chief periods of English Architecture are—

Saxon or pre-Norman up to 1140.

Norman or Romanesque, 1140-1180.

Early English, 1180-1300.

Decorated, 1300, to Black Death, 1348.

Perpendicular, about 1360 to the dissolution of the Monasteries in the Middle of the 16th century.

These are not exact dates.

Transition occurs throughout these periods.

At Heddon, there would first be the little Saxon Church. The "East End" would be somewhere near the present Altar Rails—the "West End" somewhere near the third Pillar—the width, equal to the width between the present Pillars. It would be a simple building, yet important and imposing in those days, with a fairly high-pitched roof and the windows would be few and high up in the walls. The walls would be of rough rubble and no buttresses, the doorway semi-circular and triangular headed and the windows deeply splayed inside and out.

TRACES OF THE FIRST SAXON CHURCH.

The foundations at the East End under the Vestry are of Saxon origin.

Part of the foundation of the South wall of the Nave was disclosed in 1937 when the floor was renewed.

What is now the Chancel or Choir of the Church must have been the Sanctuary of the first Saxon Church.

Certain portions of the walls here have a Saxon appearance, and contain larger stones evidently pre-Norman which may hide the original apertures of the little Saxon windows.

In the South wall there is a blocked doorway with a lintel composed of a single large stone, the lower side of which is cut into the form of a round Arch—this blocked doorway must have belonged to the Saxon period.

Another rounded door stone leading into the Vestry is pre-Norman.

Most interesting of all are the "Long and Short" stones in the South-East Corner outside the Church.

This piece of Saxon work is of great value and historical interest and has been much discussed.

Some authorities claim that it shows the "long and short" style of building in the making.

Others assign a later date between 800-950 A.D.

Mr. C. C. Hodges favours the same period as at Corbridge and Escombe about A.D. 655. See "*The Celts in Early England*," (Baldwin Brown); also *Proceedings of Antiquarians 1924*, and *Northumberland County His.ory*, Vol. XXII.

The fact that the walls of this little Sanctuary lean outwards may suggest a form of "hay-stack" Saxon building, which the Norman builders strengthened with a perpendicular face out the outside supporting the whole with Norman buttresses.

This little Church was dedicated to St. Andrew—S. Wilfrid's favourite saint. It probably served a wide and scattered district.

The dedication seems to have been altered at different times.

In his Visitation, 1729, Archdeacon Thomas Sharpe calls the Church, the Church of S. Philip and S. Andrew.

In 1772, it seems to be dedicated to S. Philip and S. James; and in 1886, the dedication is restored to S. Andrew. All this is interesting.

Possible at one time S. Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland was rather out of favour owing to the inroads from Scotland. Or S. Philip may have been the Patron Saint of the Chapel in Close House or of the Chantry in the Church.

EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

Venerable Bede records that in the year 653 Finan Bishop of Lindisfarne baptised Paeda, prince of the middle Angles and Sigebert, King of the East Saxons and their followers at a Court of King Oswy—held at a place called Ad Murum, twelve miles from the Eastern Sea. This place may have been Walbottle—for its name is Saxon signifying the "botel" or the abode on the wall.

But it can also be claimed that the twelfth mile Castle was at Heddon—and there is still a "Finers" Well at Whitcheater in the parish of Heddon.

NORMAN PERIOD.

In a note on Heddon Church—in the "*Arts of Early England*"—the Church is described as "remarkable for its fine Norman work."

So we pass from the building of the first little Saxon Church to the period of Norman enlargement and embellishment.

In the year 1135, Henry I. granted to Walter de Bolbec the Barony of Styford, afterwards called the Barony of Bolbec, which included the old part of Heddon and the Advowson of the Church.

At the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the Living passed to the Crown.

Walter de Bolbec founded the Abbey of Blanchland in 1105, and his son gave over to the Monks of Blanchland the Church of St. Andrew on the Wall.

"He gave up all the rights and patronage which he and his ancestors had in the Church of S. Andrew at Heddon to God and to the Church of S. Mary at Blanchland and the Canons serving God there for the sake of the souls of his father Walter and of his other Ancestors."

The Bolbecs derived their name from the town of Bolbec near the mouth of the Seine.

The Normans were great Church builders—in some few instances they retained portions of the earlier Saxon Churches into their work; but, more frequently, they demolished all Saxon work and replaced them with their richer and more imposing buildings.

The early Norman or Romanesque style of architecture was characterised by heavy walling, richly carved and deeply set doorways, semi-circular vaulting and short massive pillars supporting round arches.

The Capitals were large and square with lower quoins rounded off. The windows small and narrow with one-sided semi-circular heads.

At Heddon, the Norman builders began their work at the East End of the Saxon Sanctuary—which Mr. Bates suggests "may have been taken in hand by the White Canons of Blanchland soon after they obtained the gift of the Church in 1165."

Upon their first effort those Norman builders lavished their best skill and art; and, the present sanctuary, presents a small treasure house of the best style of the architecture of that period.

The fine "zig-zag" arch is peculiar in construction and still more peculiar in position—it has a double row of teeth—not set as in most instances perpendicularly but horizontally.

The Arch has been so "depressed" as to acquire a flat appearance in the centre—indeed, a small key stone seems to have been inserted—the enormous number of interments may have caused the foundations to slide in and may explain the flattened appearance—more than a thousand persons have been buried in this Church.—C. J. Bates.

Other explanations are: that it may have been an early Norman experiment in Arch building and not altogether successful. Or that some sort of Room or semi-Tower over the "flattened" Arch may have "flattened" it down. Another explanation is that it is a "lazy arch" it had no weight to support and it sagged.

So the very "deformity" of the Arch makes it all the more attractive.

The narrow round-headed window in the North Wall, with a lintel outside pierced with three small holes, is a fine example of Norman work.

Very attractive also, is the vaulted roof with its diagonal ribs consisting of double rolls.

Heddon and Warkworth are the only two vaulted Chancels in Northumberland. This beautiful little sanctuary reflects something of the glory of Durham Cathedral, but is probably of later date.

"In spite of the advanced character of Anglo-Norman Architecture in the first half of the 12th Century at Durham—it is not likely that the example of this great building would be followed quickly by the smaller Churches of the neighbourhood—and, from the general details of the work at Heddon, a date somewhat later than 1150 may be assigned to this Norman work in the Chancel. A.A.XI. p. 249."

A Sanctuary Arch is certainly unusual in a Church that has neither an Apse as at Bewicke nor an Axial Tower as at Iffley in Oxfordshire.

Mr. Bates conjectures, and he is supported by Mr. C. C. Hodges, that the Canons of Blanchland meant to build an entirely new Church and their present Norman Arch was intended for their Chancel Arch, but, for reasons of economy, abandoned their first scheme (A.A. XI. p. 249).

In which case, their first effort became their Sanctuary, they retained the Saxon sanctuary (which they refaced and strengthened) for a Bay, Choir or Chancel, and linked it all up with the little Saxon Nave by inserting—or intending to insert—a Second Arch.

The possible existence of this Second Norman Arch is interesting. The pillars and Capitals for the Second Arch

are massive and beautiful and represent the second stage of Norman work in the Church. Probably 1175—but there is no Second Norman Arch—whether it was ever built, or whether it collapsed or was removed we do not know.

The present Arch leading into the Nave is not Norman but an interesting example of later work, probably 1250.

The uppermost hollow of its Northern Capital has a row of "nail head" the bases of the responds are octagonal with water hollows.

THE THIRD PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT

was the widening and lengthening of the Church—the Saxon Nave was completely pulled down, and pillars, arcades and aisles were built. This work began on the North side with three pillars, three bays and corresponding aisles.

The work here is a good example of the Transition period.

Each pillar has a different capital, but the arches are of the same bold unrelieved type.

One of the Capitals has well developed water leaves at the angles, the surface between them being carved with conventional foliage in low relief.

The bases vary in character and show a tendency towards the horizontal water hollow.

Then followed the work on the South side of the Church. Here, the inside of the Arches, the closer fitting stones and the better and cleaner carving of the Capitals seem to indicate the more expert workmanship of the

first half of the 13th Century, and offer an interesting comparison in the development of Church Architecture.

The Church, thus enlarged and embellished, must have been comfortable and beautiful—but rather dark.

The aisles would be much lower than at present ; there is some indication of their steep low slope in the S.E. Corner outside the present church.

From an entry in Archdeacon Thos. Robinson's Visitation, there were no windows in the North Aisle up to 1760. Probably the South doorway into the Church was also built during this period of development. The Capitals of this original door still remains the Porch itself with its acute barrel vaulting may have been built in the 14th Century and remodelled at a later period—16th or 17th century.

EXPEDIENT BUT LESS FORTUNATE RENOVATIONS.

During the removal period—about 1840—the aisles were completely rebuilt and made higher with larger windows—this would be good from the point of view of lighting and comfort—but alas for those older outside walls.

They may have contained some very interesting stones—grave covers, Roman Altars, etc., etc.

The West end of the Church was lengthened by the addition of a new bay and the gallery was taken down.

The pillars of the West bay are interesting—facing eastward the stone is 13th Century work ; on the opposite side the " dressing " is of much later date.

The Bases are irregular and suggestive of the " experiments " of that period. Some of the old flagging seems to have been used for the flooring of this extension—it is old and well worn.

The Case of the Font is evidently new ; but the font itself with its pillar belong to a much earlier date. A small Organ Chamber and Vestry were added to the North side of the Sanctuary.

A Baptistry, semi-octagonal in shape, was built at the West end. It has now been removed. The present bell-cot is modern.

WINDOWS.

The larger stones in the upper part of the Chancel may cover original Saxon windows.

One of the original little round headed Norman windows is preserved in the North wall of the Sanctuary.

There probably was a similar window at the East End.

The present East window, with three lancets, was inserted in the 13th Century ; but it has been much renewed.

The lancet window in the south wall of the Sanctuary is also 13th Century, and the sill is lowered to form a " sedile " or seat.

When the walls of the aisles were rebuilt in the 19th Century and the present windows inserted, the 13th Century window in the South-East corner of the Church was left, although much built up and altered the original design can be traced.

MORE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

1874.—At a meeting of the Church Restoration Committee; Sir M. White Ridley, who then owned East Heddon, Mr. J. Clayton, Mr. Burdon and Mr. Bates were present.

Mr. C. Bewicke reported that they had consented to have their lands taxed according to their rateable value to secure the sum of £500. And this sum, together with £500 promised by Mr. Bewicke, and the sum of £100 promised by Col. Joicey should be expended upon the Restoration of the Church."

—*Extract from Church Book.*

The Church was then re-seated and re-roofed.

PRESENT DAYS.

"Modern" Heddon will always be grateful to the late Sir James Knott and his family for their kindness and generosity.

Sir James and Lady Knott, who lived for a time at Close House, loved to worship in Heddon Church, and were good friends and generous helpers.

Their first gift to the Church was to refurnish the windows in the nave with extremely fine glass; the subjects are well chosen and give a happy presentation of Old Testament and New Testament history, together with early Church History and some of the later day heroes.

Some of the representations are of S. Finan of Lindisfarne, S. Paulinus, S. Andrew, S. Hilda, S. Ethelreda, S. Nicholas, etc., etc.

The original dedications have been retained.

A two-light window in the south wall is in memory of Major James Leadbitter Knott, D.S.O., and Captain Basil Knott, who were killed in action in the Great War.

Those beautiful new lights were added to the Church during the Incumbency of the Rev. Wm. George Pringle, Vicar 1905-1937.

Mr. Pringle has left a long and lasting record in the life of the Parish; his health failed him during the latter years of his ministry, but he continued with fine courage and with the devoted and constant help of his wife and daughter.

A tablet in the Church records the affection and esteem of his friends.

Shortly after the War, Sir James Knott presented the village with a beautiful and fitting Memorial Park, where stands a Cross with the names of the men of the Parish who died in the service of their King and Country.

INSCRIPTION.

"This Park was laid out, equipped and presented to the Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council by Sir James and Lady Knott, of Close House, Wylam, in memory of their two sons, Major James Leadbitter Knott, D.S.O., 10th West Yorkshire Regiment, and Captain Basil Knott, 9th Northumberland Fusiliers, who were killed in action in the Great War."

In 1937—as a Memorial to his parents—Sir Garbutt Knott provided the Parish with a long wanted Hall.

This magnificent and useful Hall was opened by Mrs. Wilkinson of Wylam Cottage, and dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Newcastle.

The Hall is partly endowed; and, at the Opening Ceremony the Deeds were presented to the Vicar and Parochial Church Council of Heddon by Colonel Wilkinson of Wylam, who has been a good friend to Heddon Church in many practical ways.

Mr. L. Walton Taylor, of Heddon and Newcastle, was the Architect, and he has certainly built a very useful and up to date building. The hall was built by Messrs. Lowry of Newcastle.

The Rev. S. E. R. Fenning, Rector of Egglescliffe, and Vicar of Heddon 1932-35, was also present at the ceremony.

The Parish will always remember his splendid initiative; his short stay at Heddon was a time of Revival.

The Inscription reads: "In Memory of Sir James Knott, Baronet, and Lady Knott, this Hall was erected by their son, Sir Garbutt Knott, Bt."

During the tragically short incumbency of a much loved Vicar, the Rev. Harold Nixon, who was killed in a motor accident during his holiday—and whose short ministry of eight months had been so full of promise—the Church was further improved by the installation of electric lighting given in memory of Colonel Robinson of Heddon Hall, who had been a regular worshipper at Heddon Church, and a good friend of the Parish.

The Inscription reads: "The Electrical Installation in this Church is dedicated to the Glory of God, in Memory of Colonel Ernest Robinson, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., by his wife and family. Died at Heddon Hall, August, 1935, aged 58 years."

In 1937, the Church was refloored, refurnished, refitted with a new central heating system, and re-seated with beautiful oak seats.

This work proved to be a much greater undertaking than had been anticipated. When the floor was removed, one unpleasant discovery led to another. Some of the foundations under the Pillars had given way—dry rot was spreading rapidly beneath the floor, the soil was unwholesome and damp and most of the timber had perished. We were not baffled, and the work of renovation has proved a great success.

All the old soil was removed and extensive concreting and grouting has been carried out.

The restoration was done through the willing generosity of the Parishioners of Heddon.

Elizabeth Lady Knott most kindly gave the handsome gift of the beautiful oak seats which seem "just to fit" into the architectural beauty of this Ancient little Church.

The inscription for the seats reads:—"This Church was re-seated by Elizabeth Lady Knott in loving memory of her husband, Sir James Knott, Baronet, A.D. 1937."

The scheme for the seating was in the capable hands of Mr. Hicks, Church Architect, and his work has greatly added to the dignity of the Church—the beautiful pillars and their bases are now revealed with striking and pleasing effect. The former seats hid the bases and dwarfed the Pillars.

VICARS OF HEDDON.

Space will not allow for the full list.

1296. First Vicar Recorded: Alan Presbyter.
1542. Edward Clemetson, presented by Roger Mitford and Edmund Clacton, Merchants, of Newcastle, by grant of the King for his turn.
1628. William Nelson. He was sequestered in the same year on account of numerous complaints against his riotous living, and the Vicarage was put in charge of Thomas Taylor Clark and James Carr of Whitchester.
1650. Thomas Dochery, B.A., D.D. Intruder. He signed a letter from the Ministers of Northumberland to Oliver Cromwell congratulating him on his title of Protector. August, 1657. Afterwards he conformed to the Restoration. He was Chaplain to the Earl of Sandwich and was killed with him on board the "Royal Thames" in the Naval War with Holland, 1672.
1830. James Alexander Blackett resigned Heddon for Wolsingham, 1848, and assumed the name of Ord in addition—1855.
1850. Michael Heron. Previous to taking Holy Orders, Captain to the 87th Fusiliers.
1873. Charles Boulher, M.A.
1895. Ernest William Walters, B.A.
1905. William G. Pringle, M.A.
- 1932-1935. Samuel Edward Raymond Fenning, M.C. Rector of Egglescliffe, 1935.
1935. Harold Nixon.
1936. Charles Eliel Anderson Blackburn, M.A., L.Th. Rural Dean of Corbridge, 1929-35. Hon. Canon of S. Eadbert in Newcastle Cathedral, 1934. Hon. Canon of S. Chad in Newcastle Cathedral, 1937.

EXTRACTS FROM ANCIENT DOCUMENTS AND CHURCH REGISTERS.

The Parish Books begin in 1671. There is a list of Churchwardens from that year to 1903.

The earliest Church Registers are contained in a little old book evidently kept by the Parish Clerk.

1656-1771.—"The entries are scattered up and down and the book itself is in a very decayed state."

The first Baptism is that of Dorothy Hall, February 16th, 1655.

The first marriage (a civil one) during the Commonwealth is that of "Tho Fennick and May," 1657.

In 1663, Thos. Clarke, the first Vicar after the Restoration, commenced a new Register in Latin in a long parchment book.

In the "Verus Valor," 1288, the annual value of the Rectory of Heddon is put down at £25 and the Vicarage at £6.

In "Nova Taxatio," A.D. 1318, Heddon does not appear doubtless owing to its having been laid waste by the Scots.

In 1415, Henry V. at Westminster directed a writ to the Escheator of Northumberland to enquire into the possession of the Chantry called Le Cloos (Close House).

At some time between 1415-24, Houghton seems to have passed by marriage to the family of Reade in 1620, they sold the Manor, Chantry and Chapel of Abbe le Clos and the whole hamlet of Houghton to Robert Bewick of Newcastle. Robert Bewick was Mayor of Newcastle in 1628.

The jurisdiction of the Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne extended to Hedwin Streams and Stannisford near Close House was the first safe ford up the River. Most of the ancient deeds relating to Heddon-Houghton, Eachwick and the surrounding hamlets are concerning law suits and disputes as to the rightful owners.

In A.D. 1290, Richard Turpin of Houghton had a great law suit with the Prior of Tynemouth about lands in the Parish of Heddon.

BOOK OF RATES, 1671.

Heddon on the Wall. 1 ££ 2 fs. 6dd. Tynedale Ward.

Heddon on the Wall. Castle Ward. 3 fs. 4 dd.

Close House. 12 ff. 6 dd.

Houghton. 8 ff. 6 dd. East Heddon. 12. 6.

Ye other division.

Eachwick. 14. 6. Whitcheater. 15. 0.

West Heddon. 6. 1. In all. 4. 15. 3.
ff. Mr. Brecket.

Minister at Heddon upon the Wall.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, 1678.

Towards the building of S. Paul's Church, London, £1.2.11.

In 1678. A brief for a special collection for the Town of Iben was published—but nothing was taken, "The day being ill and few at Church."

1681.—Collection for the King's Army, 3/-, and each Churchwarden to find 3/- each.

1694.—Collected upon brief for the French Protestants in and about London, £2.6.4.

1793.—Collection in Church for the French refugee Clergy, 10/6.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

For two Foxheads, 2/-.

For two Fourmatts (Pole Cats), 4d.

For killing vermin, 1/6.

A.D. 1681.

1682.—Rogue Money, 11/-.

Rogue money was an assessment levied for the expenses of catching and prosecuting criminals,

1731.—Collected at the Close House Chantry Chapel at the Sacrament, 3/6.

In 1694, and occasionally afterwards, a record is kept of those who actually communicated at Easter, and their names are given.

In 1696.—There is an interesting list of signatures with their respective monograms.

"At a meeting of the Minister, Churchwardens and the Twenty-Four. Resolved that the sum of Three Pounds shall be taken out of the Church Sefs (assessments) to defray the expense of a dinner at Easter."

Reverence in Church.

Archdeacon's Visitation, 1843.

In some places the space allowed for kneeling is inadequate. I strongly advise the Churchwardens to remedy this. The posture of kneeling is required by our Church Services in many parts of the service, and is no more than is agreeable to our notions of reverence to God to Whom we address our Prayers.—W. J. RAYMOND, Archdeacon.

BURIALS.

Heddon Register, 1708.—“ Mrs. Jane Cowling, formerly of Richmond, widow, was interred in the Quire under ye Eastern little window.”

When the floor of the present Vestry was restored a few years ago some steps were discovered leading—not alas to a crypt, but to a walled up grave with this rather forbidding inscription : “ A. Armstrong Vicarius et Isabella Uxor—Woe be to Him who disturb the ashes of the dead lying in this little vault which was solely made at their own expense and for their own use. 1781.”

In the Churchyard are two interesting grave stones.

One, undated, records a will. “ That the said John Bewick, by his last will and testament, has left to the poor of Heddon the sum of ten pounds.”

Another one is interesting for its dating : “ Jacob Law who died February 7e 4th, A.D. 1746/7—this is a reminder that the civil year ended in March, and the month of February could therefore be reckoned as in 1746 or 1747.”

BURIAL IN WOOL.

“ Mary Lumley, daughter of Robert Lumley of East Heddon was buried on the 13th day of August, 1682. Sworn by Eleanor Lumley that she was wrapt in woolen.”

“ Whereas Thomasyn Thomson of Heddon on the Wall was buried in the Churchyard on the 26th day of December, 1679—We. Cole? and W. N. Laidlow maketh oath that the said Tho. Thomson was not wrapt, wound or buried in any shirt, shift or shroud made of or mingled with hemp, flax, hair silk, gold or silver, or in any other

materiaall save which is made of sheeps wool onely or in any coffine faced or lined with any cloth or fleece save what is made of sheeps wool onely—we acknowledge the aforesaid to be true as witnesseth our hands and souls.”

All these precautions were towards helping the wool trade.

1674.—“ For his days work 00. 01. 00.

Bread and days work 00. 01. 02.”

“ June 29. 1673. Collection for Fording Bridge, 8 groats.”

1675.—“ The price of a lare stall (lair) in the Church, 2/- over 16. 1/- under 16.” (i.e. a Burying place).

1681.—“ That day an Excommunication was publisht against Matthew Robson, William Pattinson and wife, Thomas Sponer and Samuel, who likewise were excommunicated before.”

Restored to Church Membership.

“ Thomas Newton was absolved by the Archdeacon the 2nd day of Julye, 1674, and declared so in the Church.”

Thomas Newton of Eachwick and William Hog of Moor Close were Excommunicated in 1673.

The first for not coming to Church, the other for not bringing his child to baptism.

“ William Hog died excommunicated.”

Officers chosen on Easter Day in Heddon Church for the parish, 1671 :—

Churchwardens :

Thomas Pattison, servnt. of Eachwick.

Luke Bell of Houghton, for whom John Hill of Heddon on the Wall serves.

Overseers for Highways :

John Harle of Heddon on the Wall.

George Clark of Eachwick.

Overseers for Ye Poor :

Mr. Cuthbert Ffenwick of East Heddon.

There is also a full list of the names of the four-and-twenty. Among them : " Mr. Thomas Bewicke of Close House ; John Hill the younger ; John Hill the older ; Jacob Urwain in old John Hill's room."

These ancient records of the Church are quaint and interesting ; but, they also indicate the interest taken in this Church and Parish through a long period of history. We are truly surrounded with a great cloud of witnesses.

The work continues in a loyal and friendly spirit.

The Parish Church is well served by a united body of devoted friends and helpers.

Major Bewicke and Mr. Armatage have been churchwardens for some years, and it would be difficult to express our gratitude to them for their unflinching help and sincere friendship.

Heddon Church is attended by its own Parishioners and also by friends outside the Parish.

We rejoice in this wider fellowship and pray that the work and worship of this little Church will grow and increase to the Glory of God and the spiritual happiness of all our friends and supporters.

HEDDON AND SURROUNDINGS.

It would require quite a volume to describe in full the many interesting places in this widely scattered and interesting Parish. The following brief notes may be helpful.

CLOSE HOUSE.

The site of an ancient Chantry. Abbey Close corrupted to Abbey le Clos. In 1313 the Bishop of Durham ordered " an Enquiry concerning the Chantry of the Close near Whitcheater. When the present house was built in 1779, the old Chapel was pulled down, but some remains of it are still visible.

Close House is the residence of Major Calverley Bewicke and his family.

Heddon owes very much to them.

The Children's Annual Sports Day at Close House is always a great and happy affair.

Our local Cricketers could have no more ideal grounds than the one provided for them within the surroundings of this beautiful and hospitable Estate.

Major Bewicke is one of the Lay-Rectors of the Church.

BAYS LEAP.

The Manor of Heddon on the Wall formed part of the Barony of Styford which was granted to Walter de Bolbec by Henry I. It passed through successive owners. In 1796, the 6th Earl of Carlisle sold his moiety of Heddon to Nathanael Clayton for £15,750. This property remained in the Clayton family until 1918, when the farms of Bays Leap, Heddon Town and Heddon Mill were sold to Messrs. Adam and James Hedley of Newcastle.

The name "Bays Leap" is reminiscent of the story "that horse and rider were killed in a fatal leap on to a great stone near to Heddon Mill."

The "Back or Black Lonnon" through Bays Leap and then to Green Lane from Heddon House close to the North Shop would be the oldest road in this district until the time when General Wade built his great highway.

HEDDON HALL OR MOUNT PLEASANT.

In 1717, the Common lands of Heddon, containing 1020 acres, were divided by Award—504 acres on the West side of the Township to the Earl of Carlisle; 260 acres on the North East to Mrs. Hindmarsh; and 256 acres on the North West to John the son and heir of William and Isabel Bigge.

In 1810, this portion passed to the late Cadwaller John Bates of Langley Castle.

Heddon Hall is now the residence of Mr. Rollo Barrett.

EACHWICK HALL.

Eachwick was "a member of Bolbec Barony." By the middle of the 12th Century it was divided into two moieties—one held by Hexham Priory and the other by the Delavals.

In the "Black Book" of Hexham there is a complete survey of the land in Eachwick belonging to Hexham Priory. Eachwick Hall was built in the 19th Century by Mr. Ralph Spearman. It is now the residence of Mr. R. M. Sutton.

EAST HEDDON.

Or Hiddewine, a Celtic name—"heath hill." Walter de Bolbec granted Hiddewine to William de Lisle in 1140.

Through a series of legal proceedings this part of Heddon seems to have passed into various hands. Eventually East Heddon was sold in 1716 to Alderman Matthew White of Newcastle and Blagdon.

In 1907, Viscount Ridley of Blagdon conveyed the property to the Newcastle County Council to be employed for small holdings. At East Heddon Farm there is an ancient Pele with an old barn with fascinating beams and quaint old fashioned stone walls.

HOUGHTON.

In 1166, Whitechester, Houghton and Wallington were parts of the Barony of Bolbec. Here again history relates a long period of "land squabbles" between Richard Turpin, Philip Crawden, Richard of Houghton, Thomas Read, and others.

It was probably in the course of one of those quarrels that Martin Turpin of Whitechester killed John Rutherford of Rudchester in 1545.

WEST HEDDON was also part of the Bolbec Barony, and was assigned to Robert Harle in 1355.

Heddon House—an 18th Century building—is now a Home of Rest for members of the Roman Catholic Church.

HIGH SEAT is the pleasant residence of Mr. David McRobert Muir.

On the estate are traces of the original Vallum and a number of centurial stones have been discovered at

different times. The name suggests two original farms, one on high ground and the other lower down in the valley. A stone, dated 1808, with the name Dobson, gives the date of the present house.

The Dobson's were troopers in Cromwell's Army.

IRONSIDE. Next to High Seat was once a wayside Inn and an old Coaching Post.

A hundred years ago it would be the halting place of the weekly London-Edinburgh Coach, where the London Newspaper could be called for by the people of Heddon.

It has been suggested that the name Ironside might be reminiscent of the Cromwellian days—A.A. Vol. XIII. More probably it was so called as being the first Inn in the neighbourhood to have an iron sign instead of a "bush."

RUDCHESTER.

Much could be written about this fascinating place, where, long ago, the Netherlanders guarded the Roman Camp at Vindobala, and, where there still lingers the fragrance of far-off days. The site itself has yielded many ancient treasures.

The Hall retains parts of an ancient 13th Century Tower into which a little Saxon window has been incorporated.

This original Tower was built by Simon of Rudchester in 1285.

In 1419 the estate passed to the Rutherfords, and in 1819 it was acquired by the family of the present Owner.

The residence itself was built in the 18th Century.

A striking fireplace, ancient oak beams, solid walls, deep windows and quaint corners add to the charm of this delightful and friendly house—the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. James, who are always so kind to those who visit Rudchester and so keenly interested in the well-being of the Parish and the work of the Church.

FRENCHMAN'S ROW.

Marks the entrance to the Parish on the East.

It was built in 1796 for the Heddon Colliery, but the houses were taken to house thirty-eight French Refugees—mostly Priests—who had been ordered to leave their country by the National Assembly of France.

Here they lived in fortitude and courage.

They gave their name to the place of their refuge and erected a large sundial as a token of their gratitude. The inscription reads: "Time flies—Memory remains."

HEDDON VILLAGE.

The Village itself clusters around the Church. The Church School was built in 1852—Mr. J. J. Rewcastle is the present Head Master.

The Methodist Church was built in 1879, and the Women's Institute in 1922. The present "square" was the village green and had its stocks.

Up to sixty years ago, there were some thatched cottages and mounting blocks, and "the village hoppins" was a popular function, when the "Lord Mayor" was elected and rode in state on his donkey.

The village still retains something of its old-fashioned quaintness and quietness. Perched on high ground sloping southward towards the Tyne, it commands some

very fine and extensive views, and its position is typical of the sterner beauty of the great and varied county of Northumberland. It lies open to all the winds that blow and also to all the sun that shines.

Secluded, quiet, old-fashioned, and yet so near to the busy Newcastle-Carlisle road, with its continual stream of traffic, Heddon Village affords "a study in contrast" to the pilgrim on his way.

Many, many changes have happened since those ancient times when the Romans patrolled their wall and the early Missionaries came this way preaching the Gospel of the Love of God.

Times have changed and will change, but still stands the "Little Church on the Hill"—a constant reminder of the eternal values of life.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock.

And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not—for IT WAS FOUNDED UPON THE ROCK."

—S. Matthew VII. 24.25.