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Lanchester Local History Society

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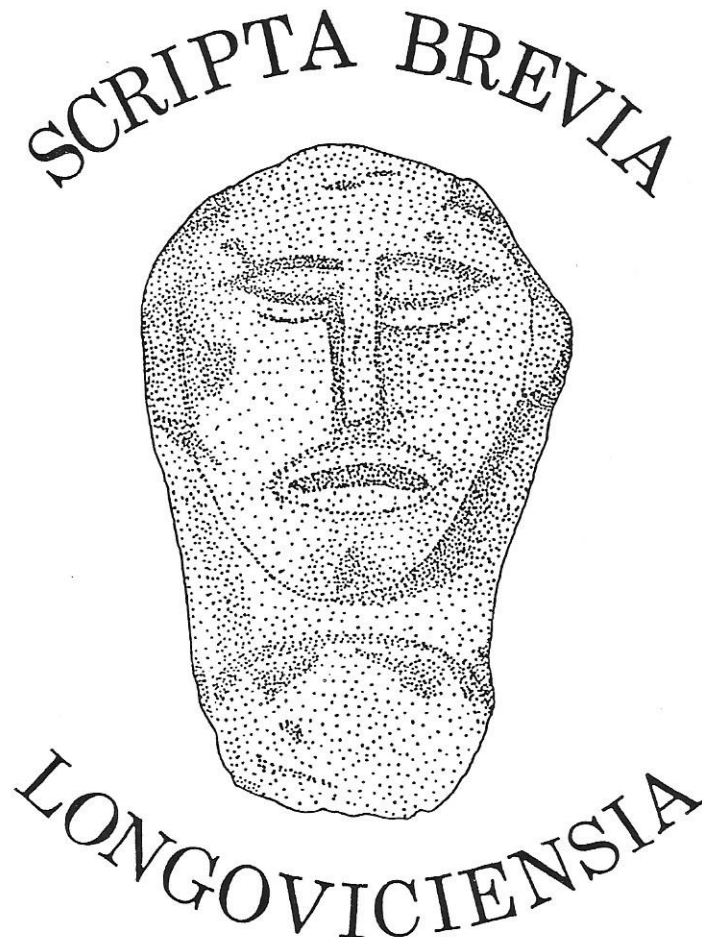
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This is the third number of the Society's Journal. One hundred copies of Number Two were produced and we have none left which indicates an interest in the subject of Local History. We hope that this issue also contains much that will interest. Our Society meetings take place on the first Friday of the month in the Lanchester Community Centre at 7.30 pm and all are welcome. We have talks by visiting speakers and talks by our own members, while in the summer outdoor visits are arranged. We like members to pursue aspects of local history which interest them and to share their knowledge with others through talks, outdoor visits and articles such as you find in this Journal. However, such contributions are not essential. You may just prefer the convivial company.

John Clifford
Editor

A FOSTER-SON OF LANCHESTER

On 30 August 1915, a Turkish sniper heard movements in the British lines at Gallipoli and fired at random in the darkness. The bullet hit Brigadier-General Paul Kenna, VC, smashing his left arm and dislocating the shoulder; it then passed into his abdomen, puncturing the peritoneum. Six hours later, Kenna died. He had been going up to the forward trench to see how the work was going and to encourage and reassure his men. He was one of the best known and most popular soldiers of his day, and for several years he had been a familiar figure in Lanchester. Now his name, once a household word, is quite forgotten even there.

He was born in 1862 of well-to-do Irish parents who had settled in Liverpool. His father was James Kenna of County Meath, whose wife's sister was the mother of Paul, Cardinal Cullen, after whom Kenna was probably named. His mother was Julia Kearney, youngest daughter of Patrick Kearney of Eaglestown, County Meath, sometime High Sheriff of that county. Orphaned early in life, she came to live with her eldest brother Matthew at The Ford, Lanchester. Another of her brothers was Francis (later Canon) Kearney, the much-respected parish priest at High Brooms.

Matthew Kearney was perhaps the chief formative influence in Kenna's early life. When James died suddenly at Mentone in the south of France in December 1873, Julia brought Paul and his three brothers and two sisters to Lanchester, where they came under Matthew's care. Well known as a scrupulously fair magistrate, Matthew had five years before been made a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, and in 1881 would be appointed High Sheriff. He was a keen rider to hounds, and the North Durham meets took place in a rotation which included The Ford, which he had purchased as Greenwell Ford from William Thomas Greenwell in 1852. He renamed it The Ford, but the contract gave the Greenwell's the option of repurchasing on Matthew's death. A big man himself, Kearney probably recognised the talent young Kenna had as a horseman and envied him his stature: he was barely 5ft 6 ins tall and very slightly built.

Kenna attended Stonyhurst College till August 1881 and by that time was determined to follow a military career. His uncle was doubtless concerned the following year in obtaining for him a commission in the 4th (Militia) Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, the former North Durham Battalion. After two years, Kenna found that he had not been

selected for commissioning into the Regular Army, and resigned in August 1884. He took the open competitive examination for entry into the RMC Sandhurst, passed, and was accepted for entry that year: he was just over twenty-three years at that time. He passed out tenth in the class of 1886 out of a total of 146 candidates, a very fine performance. Along with the two cadets who came first and second, he was commissioned into the highly unfashionable West India Regiment, but transferred in 1887 to the 21st Hussars, then in India.

It was in India that Kenna married the Lady Cecil, youngest daughter of the 7th Earl of Abingdon. Their wedding took place on 18 July 1895, at the fashionable resort of Ootacamund, in Southern India. Their happiness was short-lived. On 3 October, the young bride (she was just turned twenty-two) died of typhoid fever. Kenna was plunged into the deepest depression, and depended very much upon his friends in the regiment, and especially Rene de Montmorency, to see him through. When the regiment was ordered to Egypt in October 1896, Kenna had not recovered at all, and such distinctions as having been the leading Gentleman Rider in India for three consecutive years - a very remarkable feat - meant little to him.

In Egypt, the regiment found itself re-designated 21st Lancers, and this involved a massive re-training programme, and when they went up the Nile in 1898 to omdurman, most of the troopers still felt more hussars than lancers. It was, however, as Lancers that they made their famous charge. Often criticised as mere empty heroics, this episode bears closer inspection than can be given it here; like most military episodes, it was a great deal more complex than most journalists at the time were either sufficiently qualified or adequately informed to judge. Most historians since have taken their tone from the Victorian "tabloids", and have contrived to ignore whatever fails to tune in with them. Here, at any rate, much bravery was shown, among others by Kenna and de Montmorency, and by the latter's roguish but fanatically devoted servant, Paddy Byrne.

The charge was made against what seemed to be about 150 blue-clad riflemen firing at the column from the edge of a khor - a dried-up river bed. As they began to score hits on men and horses, the cry was to charge them down. Colonel Martin (not by any standards a brilliant soldier) had to make up his mind in a great hurry. He ordered the charge, the column swung into line, and set off at a highly controlled gallop. They hit the 2,500 Dervishes who rose up before them like a solid wall collapsing on a garden of flowers. They smashed their way through, even

though in the centre, where Kenna was involved, the Dervishes were fifteen or sixteen deep. Major Crole-Wyndham, second-in-command, was one of those unhorsed. Kenna managed to rein up and take him up behind. After a few paces, the horse threw them, and Crole-Wyndham took to his heels and reached the other side of the khor. Kenna went after his horse, caught him, remounted, and reached the other side too. Then he heard de Montmorency calling to him for help. He had rescued the body of a young officer, Second Lieutenant Grenfell, who had been hacked to death, but he could not get the body onto his bucking horse and fight off the attacking Dervishes at the same time. Kenna charged back into the melee, followed by one of his corporals. They did not succeed in rescuing the mutilated corpse, but how many of them survived is beyond comprehension. Kenna and de Montmorency were both awarded the VC; as was Byrne, who had effected an almost unbelievable rescue elsewhere in the khor. Kenna had gone into this battle hoping to be killed; his courageous efforts to defend the lives of others cured him of his depression, and he emerged to resume his life in his old extraordinarily vital way.

The South African War came in the next year, and Kenna was to spend the most significant part of it on column as Brigade-Major to Allenby, who became a close friend. They shared a tent and a mess-cart, they shared all problems, trials and horrors. They even took turns on cold nights on the veldt with Allenby's cardigan, and Kenna must have presented an odd image wearing it: Allenby was a six-foot three dragoon.

Kenna emerged from that beastly war with a DSO, and soon after was chasing the Mad Mullah all over Somaliland. The victory which put an end to the Mullah's rampage was at Jidbali, in 1904, where the initiative and most of the credit was Kenna's, as his CO was generous enough to make unambiguously clear in his despatches. Kenna was made ADC to King Edward VII.

There followed a period of peace, at least for Kenna. He met, courted, and married - in 1905 - a charming girl for whom he was a very great hero. This was Angela Hibbert: they had two daughters: Kathleen in 1906, and Cecilia in 1909. At this time Kenna began to come to popular attention in the Horse Trials and International Horse Shows. His appearance in the arena at Olympia raised roars of delighted applause, and he quickly established himself as being (with Lieutenant Geoffrey Brooke (16th Lancers)) one of the two finest horsemen in Great Britain. In 1912, when Britain first fielded an equestrian team in the Olympic Games (at Stockholm), it was Kenna who was appointed captain.

From 1906 to 1910, Kenna commanded his regiment and became a great favourite of the Royal Family. When he retired on half-pay at the end of his term, he was restless, anxious to be doing something, but when he was given command of a yeomanry brigade, the Notts and Derbys, in 1912, he must have accepted with very mixed feelings. He trained them well, however, and when war came he led them to Egypt in 1915, and eventually to the Dardanelles on 9 August, by which time General Ian Hamilton had all but lost his very tenuous grip upon the fraught situation. A series of temporary arrangements left Kenna commanding the whole of 2nd Mounted Division in the biggest attack launched by the Allies at Gallipoli. They fought as infantry, and were badly cut up. Kenna survived, only to be shot down a week later. Writing about this campaign, Churchill said:

"On this dark battlefield of fog and flame, Brigadier-General Lord Longford, Brigadier-General Kenna, VC., Colonel Sir John Milbanke, VC, and other paladins fell."

The word "paladins" strongly evokes a distant world of knighthood and chivalry, and that is appropriate, for these men - both Longford and Milbanke were under Kenna's command at Suvla Bay - died defending a world they did not realise was dying with them. Now it is quite dead, and what it stood for is becoming distorted and forgotten: there is, it seems to me, something very sad about that.

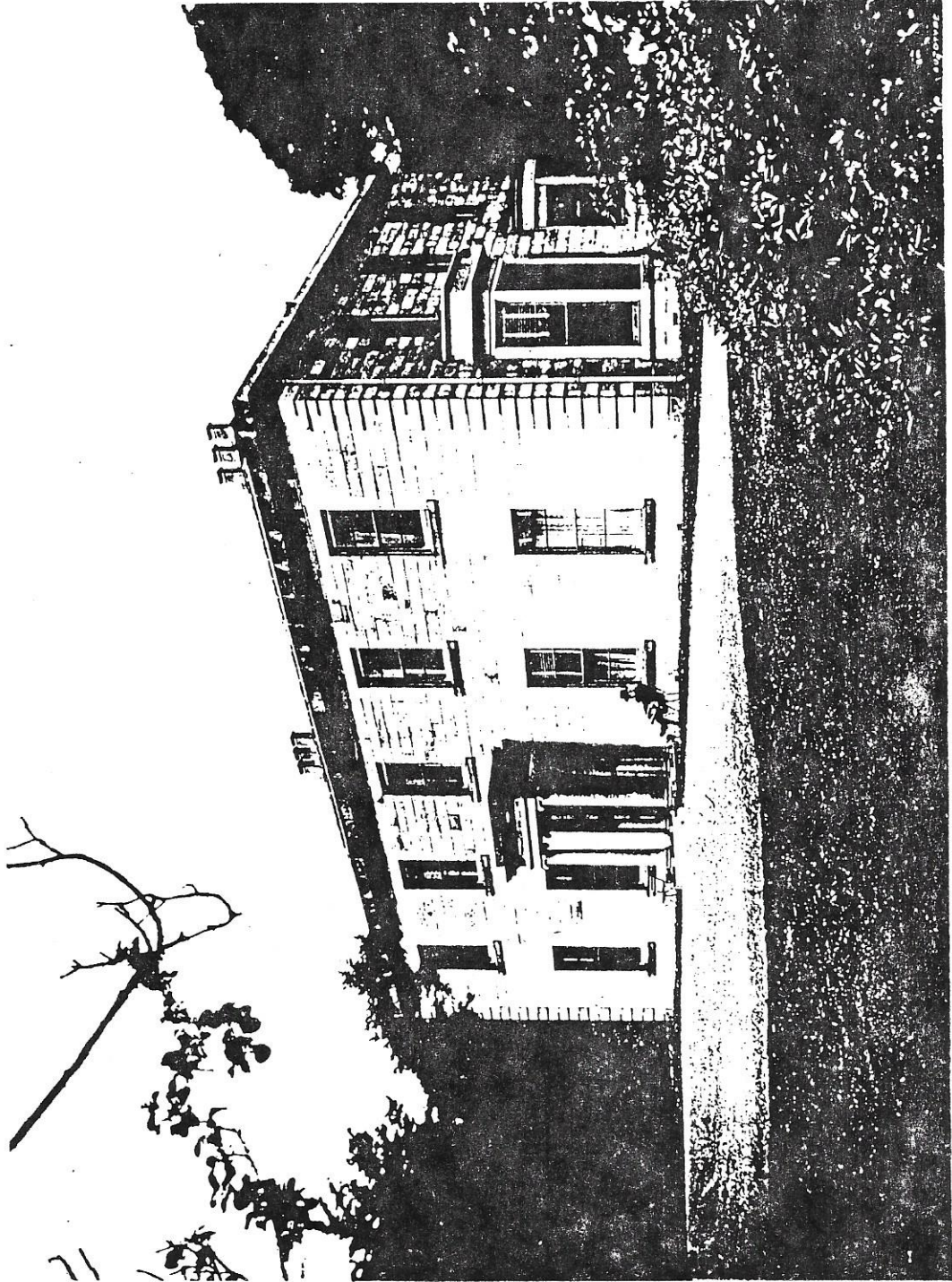
Frank McCombie

Matthew Kearney.

OF ALL THE gentry in the county of Durham, few names stand higher, or will be longer remembered, than that of Matthew Kearney, of The Ford. In the discharge of his duties, as a magistrate or as a public man, he has always shown a capacity for dealing with the questions which have come before him far beyond the ordinary average, and that, too, combined with a courtesy and an urbanity of demeanour towards those with whom he has come in contact which have won for him the respect and esteem of all classes of the population. Born in 1815—the year which will always stand out brightly as that in which the fortunes of Europe received so important a change, by the extinction of the military rule in France of the first Napoleon—Mr. Kearney is the son of the late Mr. Patrick Kearney, of Eaglestown, county Meath, and is descended from an old Catholic family. He was educated at Novan Academy, and at first had a desire to become a priest, and, with this view, he was sent to Maynooth. At the end of three years, however, changing his views as to his future course of life, he came to England on a visit to his cousin, the late Canon Kearney, of Sunderland. In the year 1844 he married the youngest daughter of John Humble, Esq., and six years afterwards removed from Sunderland to The Ford. He was placed in the Commission of the Peace by the late Lord-Lieutenant, the Right Hon. the Earl of Durham, in 1855, and shortly after receiving this honour, the death of Mr. Balleny of Little Greencroft, together with the retirement of Mr. Greenwell of Broomshields, led to his being elected chief of the Lanchester division of magistrates. In 1867, he was honoured by Lord Durham with a deputy-lieutenancy, and in 1881 he was chosen by Her Majesty as High Sheriff of the county. As a justice of the peace, and particularly as Chairman of the Lanchester Division, Mr. Kearney has always displayed ability of the first order. He possesses a close and intimate knowledge of the habits and characteristics of the lower classes, whilst his shrewd common sense is always at hand to prevent himself and colleagues from being imposed upon, and enables him to deal out justice free from bias or partiality. Mr. Kearney is a leading supporter of the North Durham Hunt, and takes a keen interest in all field sports.



Yours faithfully
W. Massey



THE FORD.

ESH HALL, CO. DURHAM

(first published in Durham Archaeological Journal 3, 1987, 87-87)

The village of Esh, 5 miles west of Durham City, lies on the summit of a ridge dividing the valleys of the Deerness and Browney. In the mid-19th century it consisted of only a few houses, two schools, a public house and two smithies, lying alongside the road which ran past St Michael's church. Behind the church was a long green, with a cross, and estate workers' houses associated with Esh Hall Farm. Apart from a linear expansion of housing along the road to Ushaw in the latter half of the 19th century, and some recent Council and private housing, the village still retains a rural air.

In the 12th century the de Esh family were lords of the manor, members of it holding leading offices in the bishopric, and receiving grants of land in reward.¹ By the late 13th century a church had been built, probably close to their seigniorial residence, although no remains of this hall have been identified. Early in the 16th century Margaret Esh married William Smythe of Nunstainton, a Catholic, who was involved in the Rising of the North in 1569. He was indicted for treason, though, probably by bribery, he was pardoned and returned to Esh.² There he fathered a family whose line retained a strong allegiance to the Catholic faith. During the Civil War John Smythe, William's grandson, supported the royalist cause. He served as a cavalry colonel, and took part in Sir Marmaduke Langdale's march to relieve Pontefract in 1645.³ Following the defeat at Naseby, he fled to France, dying in Paris in 1649. However, in 1661 Charles II approved the knighthood of Edward Smythe, because of his father's support and suffering.⁴ Following this, in the 1660s, Edward began the building of a new hall to replace the ancient hall of the de Esh's.

1. The Hall (fig. 1)

This building was an E-plan structure, following the general style of a number of 17th century halls of the county. It was aligned east to west, facing south, with projecting end wings, and was entered through a high porch projecting from the centre of the south front. Above the door was an entablature bearing armorials, and higher still, a sundial. The main apartments were at the front, lit by openings that were mullioned, transomed, and fitted with casement windows. On the ground floor the drawing-room was lined with hog's leather, and in the servants' hall there was a fireplace, above which was blue tinted panelling.⁵ The upper

rooms, lit by dormer windows, were reached by a fine staircase, its balustrades and pendants boldly carved. On the higher level was a private chapel panelled in oak.

Sir Edward Smythe died on his other estate at Acton Burnell in Shropshire in 1714, and though his heir retained the connection with Esh, the Shropshire estate drew the Smythes away, and a series of farmers lived in the hall. In 1857 Henry Smith, a Catholic from Drax in Yorkshire, took on the running of the Esh land, and demolished the old hall, which was then in a ruinous state, and built a new house, just to the south.

The site remained open until this century, when hennels and other farm buildings were constructed on it. But during the demolition process, a number of architectural fragments were saved for use in the new house. In the south front of the house, for instance, there is a sundial which no doubt came from the Hall's south porch. Although badly worn, it still retains the iron gnomon, and though only the numbers "16.." were visible in 1954,⁶ it was said that the date "1687" was originally present.⁷

In the house and its extension there are pediments above the windows, which clearly must have come from the old Hall. In form they resemble scrolled pediments, though the scrolled ends are replaced by a carved-flower head or rosette of 12 lobed petals radiating from an inner whorl of 4 three-lobed petals. A similar form of pediment can be seen above the east door of Esh Cottage, close to the Hall Farm, although here there are differences in the style of the flower heads enclosed within the scrolled ends. The petals, in particular, are more spear-shaped, each one having a marked central concavity and middle vein. There is no inner whorl, the petals simply radiating from a plain circular stud.

The Esh Cottage pediment, with its plain base and lower mouldings, rests on a moulded lintel which bears a label inscribed with a "T" above the date "1686". These fragments must also have come from the Hall.

During the demolition work, Wiggen recalls that a hidden chamber was uncovered, in which was an iron-bound box containing clerical items which were very old when they were deposited.⁸ Many of the recovered artifacts came into the hands of a local Catholic family called Taylor, and became known as the "Taylor Treasure", though it would appear that they were later transferred to the Fitzherbert family. Mary Anne Smythe the granddaughter of Sir John Smythe of Acton Burnell, had married Thomas Fitzherbert of Swynnerton, Staffordshire, in 1778. Following his death she "married" the Prince Regent (later George IV), though this was later rejected on the grounds that she was Catholic and he was under age.⁹

The Treasure included four vestments, a 14th century French ivory triptych, and a missal which belonged to Father Alexander Briant, who was martyred with fellow Jesuit, Edmund Campion in 1581.¹⁰ Other items found in the box included a number of pieces of embroidery, which made their way to the Catholic church of Esh Laude. Canon Harris later transferred them to the seminary at Ushaw College.¹¹ These fragments have been reset on a burse, stole and chasuble. A major part of this work belongs to the 14th century, a high peak in embroidery, when this form of 'Opus Anglicanum' was highly valued in Europe.

An alter from the chapel was acquired by William Waugh of Esh, who presented it to Ushaw College in 1894.¹² It was kept in the museum there until the 1960s, when the collection was dispersed. It has not yet been located.

2. The Courtyard

In front of the Hall was an open courtyard, which Surtees found rather gloomy. Its entrance was originally marked by stone gateposts, though these were later moved to the start of the farm drive in the 19th century. The posts are square, each strapped around with six plain carved bands, and decorated with shields displaying the armorials of the Smythes, and their connections with the families of de Esh, Lee, Sudgrove, St Clere, Lovayne, Delves, Astley, Burnell, Sprenchose and Penshall.¹³ Set onto the cornice of each post are four modern reinforced-concrete S-shaped scrolls, which support a finial in the form of a sphere, the lower half of which is enclosed in acanthus leaves.

3. The Office and Stables (figs. 2 & 3)

Across the courtyard, and parallel to the Hall, was an office and stable block. This building still stands, the lower floor used as a calf-house, and the upper level as a store. It is long and narrow, 24.40m by 6.40m, and constructed mainly of roughly coursed sandstone, in the form of flat slabs or squared rubble, some of it iron-stained or bearing the distinctive patterning of Liesgang marks.

The building was formerly divided into two, but the eastern end has been subdivided by the insertion of a brick wall. The construction of a long lean-to with the stalling against the north wall, and the plastering and patching of the wall faces, has, however, tended to obscure certain structural details.

The south side now forms the present frontage, and there are three doors giving access to the calf-house. The two easternmost doors in this wall are comparatively recent insertions, but the westernmost door is original.

It is 1m wide and 1.84m high, with a lintel formed from a single slab (now broken), with a cambered, chamfered base, in style like a false or flattened form of a four-centred arch. At some stage there had been a fitting attached to the east jamb, indicated by wooden dooks and a lead plug.

Above the door is a circular fanlight, notched at top and bottom, and formed from cut stone, the lower section still visibly decorated with two flower heads, scored with a compass.

In the north wall there is a door from the main west room into the lean-to, and two openings from the central room, which have been blocked, one of them having been transformed into an alcove.

The inserted ground floor windows of the south front are comparatively recent, though it is clear that the east window of the long room has been partly set into a blocked opening with a wooden lintel. There are traces of a wooden lintel or beam in the east gable wall, 2.53m above ground level. The upper level had been lit by two small, narrow windows in the south wall, and at least one similar window in the north wall, but these are now blocked up. Consequently this level is only lit by an inserted window and a slit in the west wall, and by the door in the east wall, which is reached by a flight of stone steps.

In the long west room five cambered beams were originally set across its width, three of which supported upper cruck trusses. These beams were braced by a central line of heavy timbers, into which the floor joists were tenoned, though there does not appear to have been any bracing between beams 2 and 3 (fig. 2c). In the central and eastern rooms, flat, heavy timber beams have been used, with the floor joists again tenoned in.

Significant alterations took place, probably in the recent past, with the cutting of the first two cambered beams in the west room, leaving stubs. In their place, machine-cut joists were laid, north to south, while in the other rooms the old joists were also replaced by timbers laid east to west. This supported flooring of tongue and groove planking, levelled up over the cambered beams by means of machine-pressed bricks.

Of the five upper cruck trusses, three are in the first floor western room, producing bays 2.86m, 3.35m, 3.41m and 2.89m long; with two in the eastern room, producing 2.68m, 2.67m and 2.93m long bays. The trusses are numbered from west to east in fig. 2b. Cruck trusses 1, 3, 4 and 5 are basically of the same form of construction, with the blades rising from the beams and wall, elbowing around 1.20m above the floor, and crossing

in a half-lapped joint at the apex, secured by pegs. They are 0.10m broad and 0.28m thick timbers, in part toughly adze-trimmed, though all still retain some bark. All had been tied by means of a collar beam, half-lapped to the blades, and secured with forged nails. The collar has been removed from tusss no. 5. Truss no. 2 (fig. 3) is different from the others in that the blades are truncated below the ridge, and linked by a short yoke, nailed in place. Tenoned into this is a short king post, notched at the top to take the ridge beam. Because of the fairly flimsy yoke, the blades, 0.29m broad and 0.14m thick, are tied together by collar beams half-lapped and nailed either side of the blades, and also by a single, lower, cross-member.

Two levels of purlins have been used to provide horizontal bracing, and are made up of partly adze-trimmed lengths of timber, scarf-jointed together. It would appear that in many instances the purlins have been reset. The lower level of purlins laid on the back of the blades of truss no. 2 have been pegged, but in the case of trusses 1, 3 and 4 particularly, trenches had been cut, but then blocked or left empty, and the purlins relaid on a trenched block fitted to the blade, or supported by means of cleats. Machine-cut common rafters and battens then provided the framework for the roof cover of stone slabs, which are size graded and held in place by wooden pegs. They have been torched with lime plaster to provide a weather seal.

4. Associated features

A high, broad barn, which lay to the south of the office block, was examined by Whittaker and Clarke, and dated to the 17th century.¹⁴ This has since been demolished.

In a small field immediately north of the farmhouse is a scarp running east to west, though its line is cut by the present farm road. During the digging of a post-hole it was found that the turf covered a stone-lined passage, about 1m high, with a paved base. Because of foul air in the channel the farmer did not explore it. Its position would suggest that it was running out from the east gable of the hall, and it is conceivable that it may have served as a sewer, though with the secret presence of priests at the hall, it may have been an escape tunnel.

Norman Emery

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr & Mrs J. Hankey of Esh Hall Farm for allowing me access to their buildings and fields, and for their kindness during my visits. During the survey I received invaluable help from Anne Staines,

which was greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to Mgr. Peter Walton, president of Ushaw College, who allowed me access to the Esh embroideries; and to the Newcastle Journal cuttings library.

Notes

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2. Cal. State Papers Dom., addenda, 1566-79, xv, 100 - letter of Lord Eure to the Council of the North, 8.11.1569.
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6. O.S. Record Card NZ 14SE3.
7. N. Pevsner, 'The Buildings of England: County Durham, 1953, 9, 143.
8. W.R. Wiggen, 'Esh Leaves' (Durham), 1914, 9-10.
9. L. Stephen, 'Dictionary of National Biography', xix, 1889, 170.
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12. "College Notes", 'Ushaw Magazine' 4, 1894, 108.
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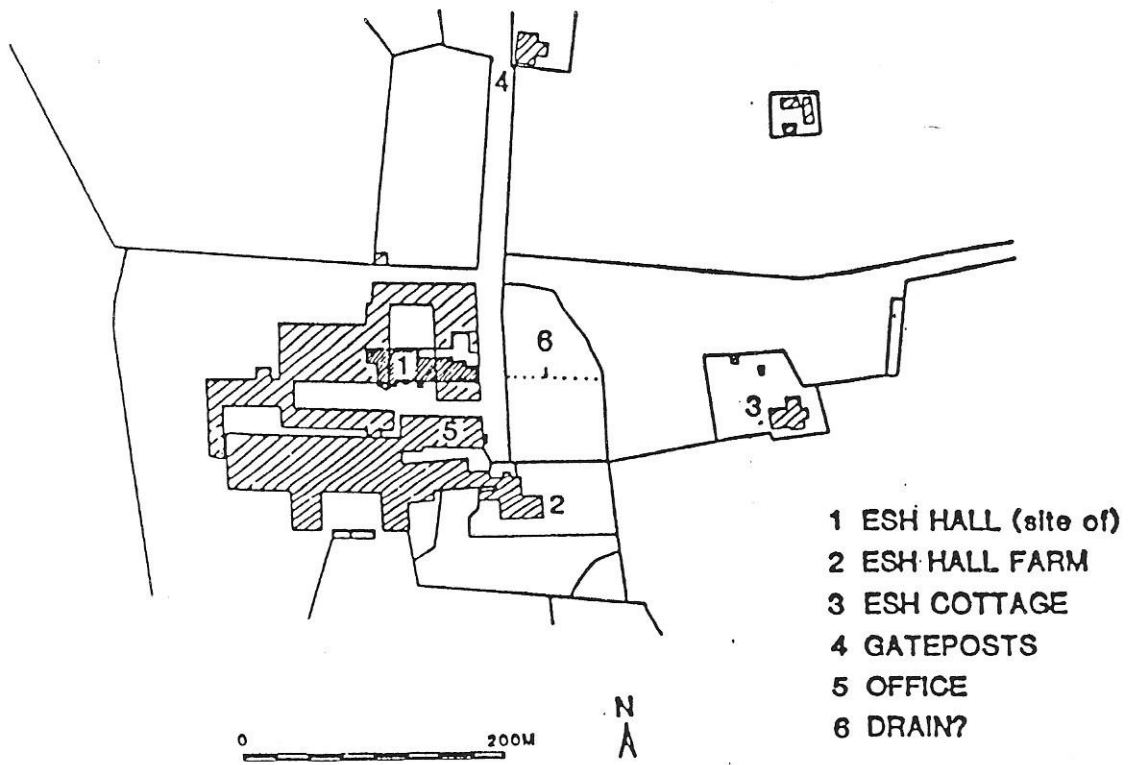


Fig. 1. Location map of buildings and remains at Esh Hall.

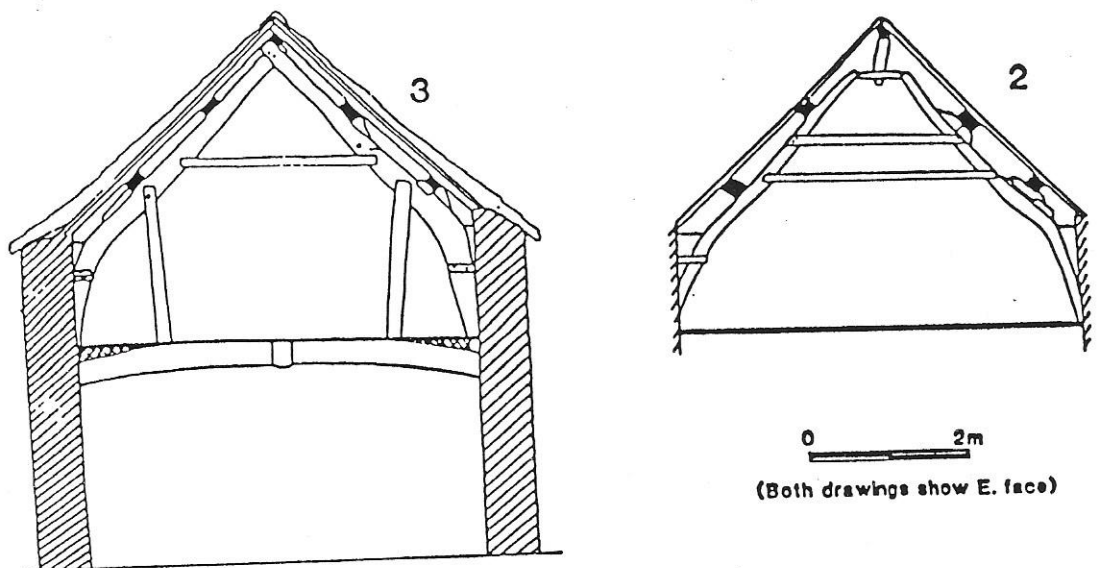


Fig. 3. Upper cruck trusses 2 and 3.

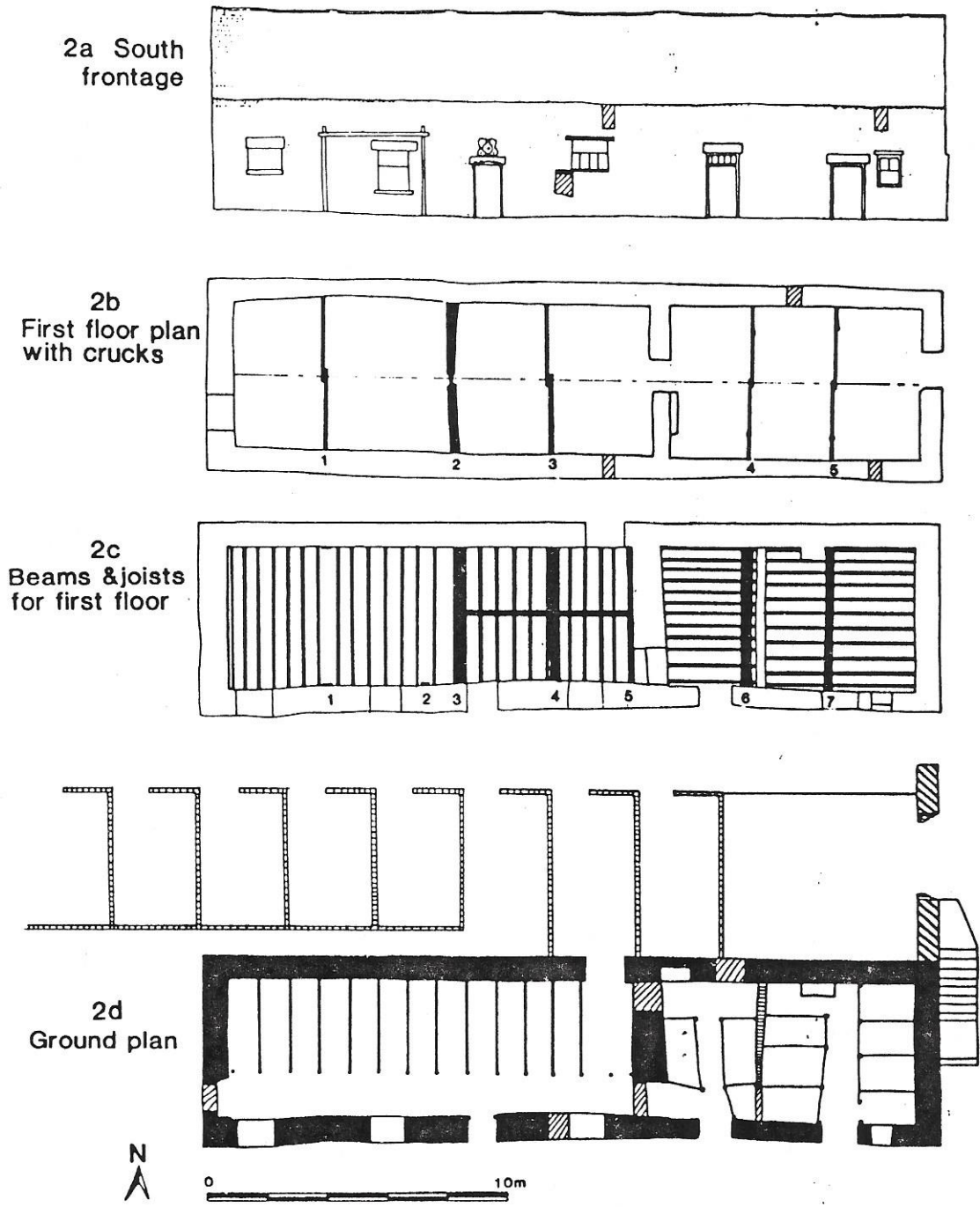


Fig. 2. The office block of Esh Hall.

THE GRASSMEN OF GILLIGATE

The parish of Gilesgate lies on the eastern outskirts of the City of Durham and the main street Gilligate as it was called in former times is a continuation of Claypath leading up from the city centre.

The office of Grassman is first mentioned in the parish accounts in 1579, the spelling of the name then being 'gyrsman' but by 1590 it had become 'grasman' and thereafterwards 'grassman'. The office of Grassmen consisted of two local men being elected annually to take charge of the common lands of the parish. The election was held in the vestry of the church on the Sunday after Ascension Day and continued probably until the enclosure of Gilesgate moor in 1817 although the existing account books end in 1790.

The funds for which the Grassmen were accountable came mainly from the 'stents' i.e. the rights of pasturage on the moor and also to certain 'townfields' which were subject to commonage during the winter months, called 'Right of Intercommon', from September 15th to March 31st. The enclosed fields to the south of Gilligate were so designated. Compensation to the field owners had to be paid by the grassmen if the 'fog' grass or hay was used or taken during the summer months. For example in 1611 among the expenses for the year, the Grassmen paid the owners 33 shillings and 4 pence for the use of 'Pellowleases' fog and 30 shillings and 6 pence for that of Broad Close.

The Grassmen also derived their income from rents of certain common lands which were available for pasturage, from 'cavells' or allotments on the moor, from 'tenter rents' - these being paid for the privilege of 'bleaching' on the common land, and also for the sale of whins. From time to time they were empowered by the parish vestry to exact 'cesses', i.e. rates or taxes which were used for payment for services for repairs and maintenance of the moor, its fences, gates, water supply etc. including prosecutions for trespass, and lawsuits respecting the rights of commonage. They also met out of their funds governmental requirements such as bridges in the County, the House of Correction, the apprehension and conveyance of prisoners, maintenance of the parish armour, the supply of soldiers for military musters, and the supply of provisions for the monarch's service. In the early years we find to some extent provision for the poor included and in the year 1586 a contribution for the casting of a church bell.

The system of 'stinting' or 'stenting' on the common land appears to have been as follows.

The right was confined to the inhabitants of Gilligate after an initial payment. In the early years the scale of payments in their accounts seems to have varied but in 1701 the following rules were sanctioned for permanent observance.

- (1) All existing 'stinters' were to be free of the common.
- (2) Other inhabitants or strangers coming to reside in the street might acquire six 'gates' - i.e. free pasture for six animals on the payment of six pounds.
- (3) Such as had served their apprenticeship in the street or were qualified by birthright were to be entitled to the same privilege on payment of only twelve shillings, - (two shillings per gate).
- (4) Strangers coming into possession of a house in the street whether by purchase or inheritance and residing therein were to pay three pounds, (ten shillings per gate).

Prominent among the expenses in the Grassmens' accounts are those pertaining to 'Boulder Day', the day of the annual perambulation of the boundaries, which took place in the parish always on Ascension Day, the new Grassmen being appointed the following Sunday. The old Rogation processions were continued after the Reformation for the double purpose of giving thanks to God for the fruits of the earth and of defining the boundaries of the parish. Although there is abundant evidence of the general continuance of this observance, there is no account of this practice at Gilligate until 1635 with the following entry, - "May 23, Mr Smith and the churchwardens with others of the parish spent that day in goinge about the bounders 4s 8d."

It does not follow from previous omissions that the usage prevalent elsewhere had been neglected in this parish. It may have been that the cost of attending to it had not been included in the accounts. It is quite possible that Mr Elias Smeth, incumbent from 1632-1665 and also headmaster of the Grammar School was a likely person to have revived the ancient custom for he was noted as having preserved the books and vestments of the Cathedral in the troubled times of the Commonwealth. After 1635, except for the period of Puritan ascendancy, Boulder Day became a regular annual festival with ever increasing festivities and expenditure.

The following particulars of the observances after 1635 as shown in the Grassmens' accounts may be noted. - 'For going about our Boundaries, the expenses being moderate never amounting to more than 5 shillings.'

After 1639 there is no record until the year of the Restoration 1660. The perambulation except for the 'common herd' was on horseback, the parson and often the parish clerk too being mounted at the cost of the parish. Children, both lads and lasses always accompanied the procession and were regaled on route with bread, cheese and ale. There is no reference in the accounts to the alleged ancient custom of whipping boys at certain places in order to impress on them a lasting remembrance of the boundaries. Brand records an entry from the churchwardens books at Chelsea, - 'Given to the boys that were whipt 4 shillings'. The presence however of children at perambulations generally may be supposed to have had the purpose of keeping up a memory of boundaries ceremonies in each succeeding generation. Musicians, a drummer and a fiddler were especially mentioned as always in attendance, being rewarded both by drinks and payments. Drinks generally were taken frequently during the procession which terminated with a dinner at the cost of the parish being called 'the parson's dinner' or 'the parson's club'. Prunes and raisins are occasionally mentioned as provided and in 1706 tobacco for the first time. A horse race took place in 1688 prizes being a saddle or a saddle and spurs. There were races for boys, the prize being a hat and ribbon. In 1698, and afterwards, one or two girls danced with garlands and were given a shilling each. There were competitions in dancing, the prize being a pair of gloves. An entry for 1708 readings - "For a pare of glufes to dans for 4s. and 1s, and given to the gerell that danst for the glufes and lost her part 6d."

Although the Grassmens' accounts end in 1790, the custom of riding the bounds has continued in some form or other up to the present day and an account of a Bounders Day for 1895 may be of some interest.

"The steward, jury and general company keep to the main road whilst the 'Grieve' or Bailiff of the Manor and constables traverse the actual boundary. They arrive at the Oak Tree in Pittington Lane. Here it was customary to tap the barrel of ale and partake of refreshment, spices to be distributed to the children and prizes given for foot races. At a house near to the Britannic Inn a penny is paid as an acknowledgement for not traversing the boundary through the premises. At the foot of the lane at Ellis Leazes a stone is knocked off the wall thus maintaining the right to traverse the boundary to the river and back to the Britannic Inn."

In some parishes the choir would perambulate the town chanting certain prescribed psalms and ending with the litany, halts being made at three

places where the Gospel for the day was read. Such Gospel reading formed part of the pre-Reformation rites at crosses or trees, the latter being henceforth called Gospel trees or Gospel Oaks. The oak at Pittington Lane was probably in ancient times a Gospel Oak.

The selected extracts from the Grassmens' accounts given below demonstrate that the main task of the Grassmen was to conduct a proper management of the common land or 'more' as it was then called for the inhabitants of Gilligate. A glossary at the end of the paper will identify some of the more obscure words used at that time.

1579 - Grassmen John Taylor and Robert Hudspethe.

"Item paid to John burdes for dusson of haye. Item payde to Edward Symson wyfe for halfe a dusen stone of haye to the bull xlld. Item payde to Rycharde gylson for syxe dayes vd a day at the more dyke for layinge up earthe to ye whicke ljs lljd. Item payde to Rycharde Robinson for thornyng the wicke for saufegayrde of the shepe for seven dayes vd a daye ljs xjd. Item payde to Roger Dyckenson for his mayre for cayring a prisoner to Auckeland vlljd. Item payde to Robert Smythe of petinton for upholding of the yate in Petinton Layne vjd. Item payde to Rycharde Robinson one day for maykyn clene the punfolde and one daye for cuttinge of whins and two dayes for castinge of the grypp aboute the pynfolde and whicke to the sayme ljs vld. Item payde to John Frankelayne for the retourne of the sesment money llljd. Item payde for paper to this booke....?"

The pinfold was situated on an open space on the south side of Gilligate near to the church.

1593 - "Item paid for latt brodes bought at darnton (Darlington?) for Mr Heaith bawcus xd." This was Mr John Heath's bakehouse, i.e. that of the lord of the manor at which the tenants were required to bake their break as well as grind their corn at his mill.

1596 - "Item paid to John howell counstaple for the Reliefe of William greene taylor when he was suspected to have ye playge." This was the first reference in the accounts to the contagious sickness usually called 'the Plague' which was prevalent in the north in the latter part of the 16th century.

1661 - Disbursements in this year included - "Geven for helpinge to drive the moore in drinke ls." - Driving the moor which seems to have been an annual event was for the purpose of discovering the beasts grazing upon it and detecting interlopers or diseased animals. There is frequent mention in later years of 'scabbed' horses which were destroyed or impounded.

1671 - For poundhouse for ye bull. Apparently a payment for loosing or releasing an animal that had been impounded. The village bull was an extremely important and valuable animal which served the cows of the whole community. There are numerous references to the bull throughout the accounts.

1776 - ..."to Swearing into the Office 2s. To Jingle Pott (on boulder day) 1s. To scouring and haining the hedge 1L.18s. To Rebuilding the Pinfold 5L.10s. To a Farrier coming to see two horses supposed to be glant. 3s."

The Jingle pot, jingle cap or jingle bonnet was a pitman's and keelman's game. Two or more put coins into the pot or cap and after jingling (shaking them up), throw them to the ground and he who has most heads whose turn it is wins the pot. It was an early version of the game 'Pitch and Toss'.

From 1739 onwards a number of parishioners append their signatures on settlement of the accounts each year and from 1769 onwards with some such note as the following: ..."seen and allowed by the four and twenty present." or, ..."We whose names are here under written have perused the above account and do allow the same." or, ..."We the stenters of Gilligate moor present at a meeting in the parish Church of St Giles have perused the within written account and believe the same to Just."

The 235 acres of Gillygate common was enclosed in 1817 and one sixteenth of ground was allocated to the lord of the manor.

J. W. Thornborrow

GLOSSARY

Bawcus:	Bakehouse
Bounder or Bunder Day:	The day of perambulation of the parish boundaries
Carr:	A pool or pond in marshy ground
Cavell:	A lot or share
Caylies or Keyles:	Cattle
Driving (the moor):	Driving together the animals on the moor
Entercommon:	A common right of pasturage
Fog or Fogg:	The second growth of grass after mowing
Garling:	A garland
Gate or Gait:	A section on the common or pasture field for one head of cattle
Gavell:	A gable
Grieve:	The bailiff of the manor
Grypp:	A ditch
Haineing:	Hedging
Harness:	Armour
Harr Tree:	The upright piece of timber on which a gate turns
Lattbrodes:	Nails for laths
Moulder or Moudar:	One who dressed or 'scaled' the moor
Overstint:	To feed animals on the common illegitimately
Poundlouse:	Payment for releasing an animal from the pinfold
Punder:	One who had charge of the pinfold
Scaling:	Scattering manure, clay, marl etc. over the moor
Sherobalaye:	The Sheriff's Bailiff
Stent or Stint:	The right of a parishioner of Gillygate to farm or use the common land
Tenter Rent:	Payment for the use of the bleaching ground
Thornynge the Wicke:	Protecting the new Quickset hedge with thorns
Whins:	Gorse or Brooms
Yett:	A Gate.

EXCAVATIONS AT ESP GREEN, LANCHESTER 1979 - 1980

Esp Green is a farmstead situated on the southern boundary of the medieval manor of Greencroft.¹ Earthworks in a field west of the present farm are the remains of a deserted hamlet. A prominent mound, aligned east-west at the southern limit of the earthworks is known locally as the "Chapel Mound" (NZ 146 482). A polygonal field west of the deserted hamlet has been known as Cemetery or Graveyard Field for several generations.² Dere Street, the roman road and western boundary of a tenth century estate centred on Chester-le-Street lies a few metres west of the western boundary of this field.³

The history of the site is briefly summarised. Land at Esp is first recorded in 1311 when Bishop Kellawe made a grant which included all the cultivated waste land at Espmore.⁴ It next occurs in 1402 when the Abbot of Blanchland held a messuage and thirty acres there, for which he was to perform weekly services at the chapel of the Blessed Margaret of Espes.⁵ Blanchland Abbey was dissolved in 1539 and in 1545 the chapel was included in a Crown grant to J. Bellowe and J. Bronxholme. Its subsequent history is unknown until 1750 when 13s 10d was "Paid for theaking of chapple byre at Esp Green". Eighty years later the building was stripped to its foundations and the stone used for erecting the present farm buildings.⁶

The Excavation

Graveyard Field

Excavation in this field revealed no graves. It did, however, provide evidence of native occupation in the Roman period, for at the southern limit, the fragmentary remains of a round house of about 8 metres diameter was found. In the north-western corner beneath an earlier field boundary redeposited Roman coarse ware was found.

The Chapel Mound

A series of six phases was detectable within the deposits which relate both to the chapel and to earlier and later events.

Phase I

The surface of the subsoil was cut by 64 pits, post-holes and linear features which are not susceptible of interpretation as structures. These are almost certainly the remains of a pre-medieval occupation, with some intrusive later material. Many of the features contained either Roman pottery or roof-tile, one fragment of which has been dated by Thermoluminescence to 230 AD \pm 350 (DUR TL 7/1).

Phase II

The features of Phase I were sealed by a layer of stoney, grey clay, forming an old ground surface. Within it, at the east end of the site were three rectangular pads of uncertain function, but perhaps associated with a timber structure. In the centre four complex post-holes were set just within the line of the walls of the later stone chapel. The posts were withdrawn, for in all cases there was about 10 cm of disturbed clay sealing the top of the post-hole. This building, 3.0 - 3.2m north-south and at least 4.0 - 4.2m east-west, was probably a timber precursor of the first stone chapel. A lock was found in the fill of one of the post-holes.

Phase III

A rectangular stone building, 9.86m east-west by 4.00m north-south internally, was erected with its west end so closely related to the west end of the timber structure of Phase II that it must be considered a replacement of that building. The better-preserved western end of the building stood two courses high, the lower projecting slightly beyond the upper. Outside the building the old ground surface still survived. The fragmentary remains of what may have been a paved area survived beyond its west end.

Under the stones of the east wall, and cut into the subsoil, was a small stone-lined pit containing five coins which suggest a commemorative deposit when the first stone was laid. The coins are of Edward I and John Baliol and are dateable to 1292-1310.

Phase IV

The first stone building was dismantled and a new, larger, one built. It consisted of both chancel (6.46m east-west by 4.6m north-south internally) and nave (14.96m east-west by 5.6m north-south internally). The footings of the south wall of the first chapel were re-used in the second one, while the north wall of the nave was rebuilt about 1 metre outside the earlier north wall. The entire length of the chancel extended beyond the east end of the Phase III chapel. A dais made of rubble with the western curb occupied the full width of the eastern 2.4 metres of the chancel.

Internally there was a series of mixed clay and earth layers serving as bedding for paving which survived only in patches, one of which ran over the north wall of the first chapel and abutted the second one. Two coins (Edward I, 1302-1310; and Edward III, 1369-1377) were found in the paving, as also a Frankish-style bead. At the west end of the

chapel the paving lay on either side of the west wall which had a clearly marked threshold on it. There once had been a fairly substantial area of paving outside the west end of the building, under which was a small drain aligned north-south and slightly curved to take account of the form of the ground.

East of the chapel were seven rectangular pits aligned east-west which are interpreted as graves despite the absence of skeletal material and coffin fittings. Not only were the fills cleaner than that of the post-holes, but the graves were generally deeper than the majority of the post-holes. One of the graves had an upright, featureless stone across its western end which had split. One part lay in the top of the grave fill.

Within the area of the second stone chapel were two graves, both of which contained fragmentary skeletal material preserved in bone-impressions in a layer of reddish-brown clay. The eastern of the two graves had packing stones for an upright grave marker at its eastern end. This has subsequently been withdrawn and the top part of the grave refilled. It suggests that the grave had first been used with a marker in Phase III and then levelled when the chapel was extended in Phase IV.

Phase V

The walls of the chancel and north side of the nave were robbed and a clay bank replaced them roughly on the same lines, but with no evidence for structures within it. The bank may indeed be a product of the robbing. The south and west walls of the nave may have been left standing. There then followed a fire, concentrated at the west end of the structure, but with charcoal and debris spread over the whole site. Two complete jugs were found lying directly on top of the charcoal at the west end, one of them showing secondary heating of the glaze which suggests that they had been deposited either during or in the immediate aftermath of the fire.

Phase VI

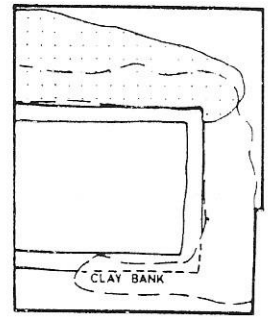
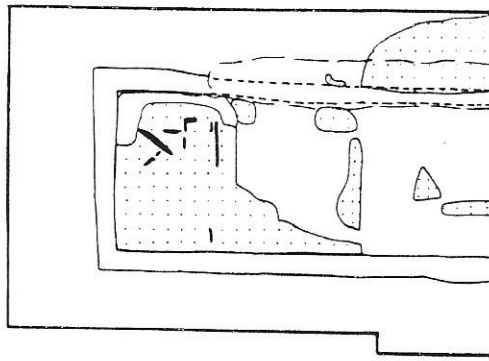
Such walls as were left standing either collapsed or were pulled down and the top of the rectangular mound used as a base for at least one slight structure cut into the rubble at the east end.

Summary

The site at Esp Green was first occupied in the Roman period, though the full extent of that settlement and occupation has yet to be determined. It is possible, in view of both the fact that the site was on the western boundary of the Chester-le-Street estate and the presence of a Frankish-type bead, that the occupation continued beyond the end of the Roman period.

5 POST MEDIEVAL

BURNING

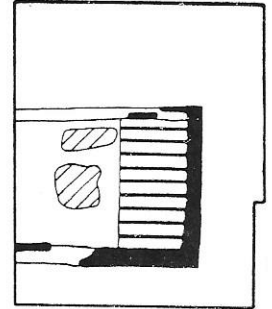
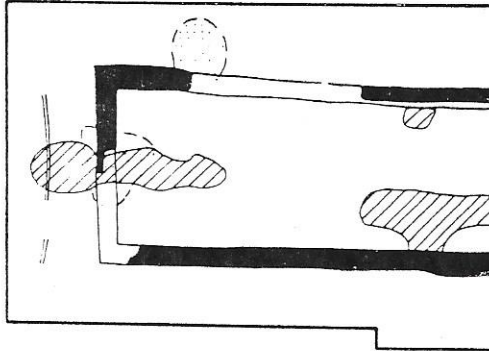


4 MEDIEVAL CHAPEL II

DAIS

PAVING

FILLED HOLLOWS

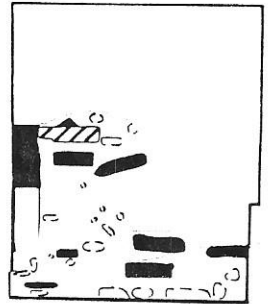
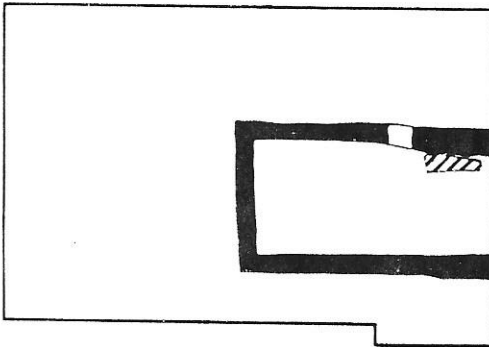


3 MEDIEVAL CHAPEL I

BURIALS

MEDIEVAL

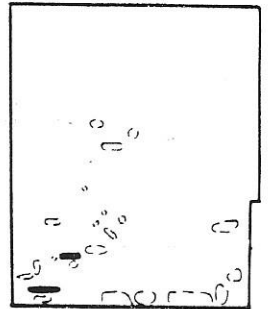
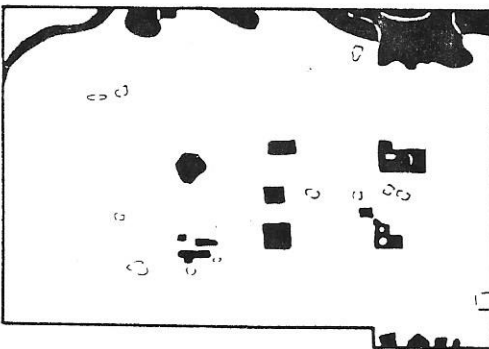
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2 MEDIEVAL

BURIALS

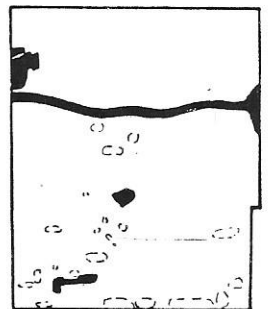
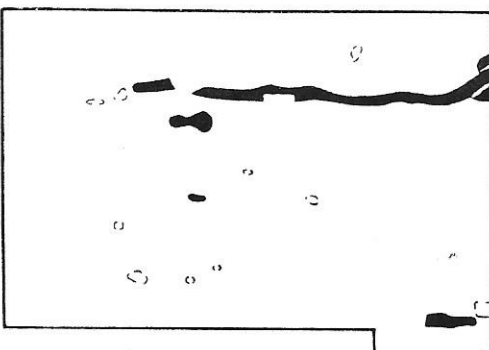
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1 ROMANO BRITISH

R-B

UNCERTAIN DATE



The site then appears to have been abandoned and a new ground surface to have formed. In the later 13th century a roughly square timber chapel was erected which was replaced by a stone single-cell chapel in 1292-1310. Burials took place east of this chapel, some of which had stone grave-markers. This, in turn was replaced by a second stone chapel which had both a nave and a chancel in the late 14th or early 15th centuries. The altar was raised on a dais at the east end. The end of the chapel is not securely dated, but it seems to have taken place in two phases, the first of which was the dismantling of the east end followed by the destruction by fire of the western end.

Peter Clack

Notes

1. P.A.G. Clack, *The Browney Valley*, 'Trans. Archit. and Archaeol. Soc. Durham and Northumberland', N.S., vol. 6, 15-16.
2. W. Austin and A.H. Reed, *An Archaeological survey of the Lanchester area* in P.A.G. Clack and P.F. Gosling 'Archaeology in the North', 1976, 216; Pers. comm. Mr L. Hunter.
3. P.A.G. Clack and B.H. Gill, *The land divisions of County Durham in the early medieval period: The Uplands*, 'Medieval Village Research Group, Annual Report', 1980, 30-34; op.cit., n.1.
4. Sir T.D. Hardy, 'Registrum Palatinum Dunelmensis', 1874, 1131.
5. J.W. Fawcett, *Some forgotten or ruined churches or chapels in County Durham*, 'Proc. Soc. Ant. Newcastle', 4th ser., 1 (1926), 269-72.
6. Op. cit., n.2.

I would like to acknowledge the financial assistance of both English Heritage and the National Coal Board. Permission to excavate was granted by Mr L. Hunter and the Trustees of the Greencroft Estate. My especial thanks go to Mr Hunter and Messrs L. and N. Bell for their generous assistance during the excavation.

JAMES WILLIAM FAWCETT OF SATLEY

In 1970 Wally Austin and myself had the pleasure of spending several evenings in the company of Harry Dent, to talk and listen to his lifetime's interest - local history. Although living at Knitsley, Harry was from Partridge Close and had a particular interest in J.W. Fawcett of Satley, one of Durham's foremost historians. In Fawcett's old age Harry had acted as supplier of transport and, using a motor bike and side-car, Harry accompanied Fawcett on many trips to sites of interest. Fawcett's house (first on the left as you enter Satley) was completely full of books and documents on the history of the area, with the staircase being reduced in width by having boxes of Fawcett's extensive index to places, families and events piled up on either side.

Harry told us of Fawcett's death in 1942 (buried Satley March 24th aged 74) when his collection was largely dispersed or destroyed - Newcastle Society of Antiquaries had first choice after which it seems anyone could help themselves; Harry collected several loads of documents in his side-car which he still had in 1970, the residue was either pulped for the war effort or destroyed. A mound of nineteenth century newspapers was taken down to the chip shop at Lanchester for use but being too brittle were burned!

The greatest loss was the vast card index Fawcett had worked on over his long life. Harry had saved one small box which I was allowed to take away to check through. This proved to be too fragmentary to be worth fully recording and its most interesting content was the material Fawcett had cut up to make his cards and this gives a fascinating picture of this dedicated historian snipping up literally everything to hand - proofs of his books, church bazaar receipts, bills etc. The cards did however reveal the tremendous detail of Fawcett's work and how the local history of the area would have been moved forward many years if it had survived - all periods were covered and Fawcett's interests were vast, from family history to industrial history via medieval charters and natural history of the area. It certainly seems a tragedy that his life's work may have been lost because of the pressures of the war in 1942 and this was certainly the impression that Harry gave.

Other papers which Harry Dent had preserved in memory of Fawcett included some newspaper cuttings and obituaries which put some detail to the life of this remarkable man.

From the 'Consett Chronicle, Thursday 2 April 1942'.

Passing of a County Historian

James W. Fawcett, of Satley

With Kitchener in the Sudan

In the little churchyard of the rural village he loved so well there was laid to rest a few days ago the remains of a man who, although he may have died in obscurity, was one of the most outstanding personalities in his day in our northern district. In the last two decades or so little was heard of or about James William Fawcett, of Satley, but nevertheless his life had been one full of interest, and he has left behind monuments of his work and ability. He is the last male member of a family that has had association with the district since 1596.

For some years he lived in Consett, but he preferred his little cottage in Satley, where with his books he loved to delve into ancient history. There are quite a few classics from his pen, published histories, that are invaluable to the student of local history. His book upon the Derwent Valley is one. He wrote many other histories, and all have stood the test of time, and will continue to do so. He had a wonderfully keen insight, and loved to delve into the past, tracing records and old manuscripts. In his cottage at Satley he had round him many valuable old records and much valuable data. He was indeed a wonderful personality, and is worthy of no mean tribute not only from this district but the whole county, for it is through the indefatigable industry and skill of such men as he that much of our history is known and kept alive. He was a remarkable naturalist, too, and lectured on all branches of natural history to local clubs. The writer had vivid memories of him coming to lecture at Dipton well over 30 years ago, a striking figure in his cape and big muffler.

History of Dipton

He would walk from Satley, many miles away, and after a lengthy lecture he always found it difficult to stop so much had he to tell. He would have supper at the house of one of his friends, and then set off home irrespective of the lateness of the hour.

He loved to tramp, and seemed happy to be alone with nature. To his many naturalist friends in Dipton he paid a fine tribute by compiling a history of the Parish of Dipton, which, although out of print, remains in the proud possession of several old members of the late club. This well-stocked book was published in 1911, and in his foreword the author writes:

"Every man and woman who claims to be a patriotic Britisher should take some interest in the history not only of their native country but of their native county, and not only of their native county but of their native town, village, hamlet or parish. To many there is no place on earth as their calf-yard - one's birthplace. Until of late years, however, interest in local history has been very small indeed, but it is gratifying to know that there is a growing interest in the matter among the general public. The history of the Parish of Dipton given in this work was undertaken at the wish of a few natives of the same who desired to know more of the past connected with the district, and the request has been backed up by the members of the Dipton and District Field Club. In its compilation I have ransacked many sources and have endeavoured to bring into one place all that can be got hold of appertaining to the history of the parish. How far I have succeeded in entirety I leave the reader to decide. That this work may be instructive and interesting to all into whose hands it may fall is my desire. To all who have rendered any assistance I tender my grateful thanks."

A Prolific Writer

James William Fawcett in his younger days was a prolific writer, and scarcely a week went over but he wrote articles upon local history and natural history for the local press and the Newcastle press. He had an amazing store of knowledge, and this he dispensed liberally. He was a much travelled man, and some of his travel lectures were fascinating indeed.

It was his proud boast that he had been in more than one place untrodden previously by any white man. As a member of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries he was happy in the company of kindred souls of Tyneside men who, like himself, had made no mean contribution to the historical education of their county. By the members of this society he was regarded as an authority, and his knowledge was often sought. He knew the ancient City of Durham, too, and spent many days searching in its old records. He knew the history of every old church in the district. He had delved among their records and was familiar with all its past. He knew the birds, plants, insects, and all there was to know of his district's natural history.

He was a keen student of the geological formation of the county, too. But perhaps the most interesting part of his life, and one that he did not make public, was his term in the Imperial Service (intelligence department). His knowledge of several languages fitted him for this post.

He was with Kitchener in the Sudan, and became a firm friend of this great general, and in the last War he sent him on more than one special mission. These missions were packed with interest, and of them he could tell an amazing series of stories.

He lived to a good old age, and his passing, to the younger generation of today, may have been unnoticed. But he has left a heritage to our district and county, and in N.W. Durham particularly we are immeasurably richer by his life amongst us and the knowledge he imparted during his lifetime.

Coun. Bellam's Tribute

By the passing of Mr W. Fawcett North-West Durham has lost its chief historian who had outstanding literary abilities. Speaking in appreciative terms of Mr Fawcett, Coun. G.A. Bellam told our reporter that Mr Fawcett used his abilities in the acquisition of knowledge which he was at all times willing to place at the service of those who sought it.

Coun. Bellam said his personal knowledge of Mr Fawcett went back as far as 1902 after he had returned from his travels abroad to settle down at Satley. He was then engaged in activities associated with natural history and historical societies over a wide area. He was prominent in forming naturalist field clubs in Blackhill, Dipton and Burnopfield, was secretary of the Durham Historical Society, and was also connected with the society for publishing parish registers. Author, too, he published the following books, "Tales of Derwentdale", a best seller of its time; "History of Dipton", which will long be the standard book of reference; "Life of the late Bishop Westcoot, of Durham"; "Historical Places in the Derwent Valley", "Birds of Durham", "History of Tow Law", "Life of Charles Attwood, founder of Tow Law", and many other works.

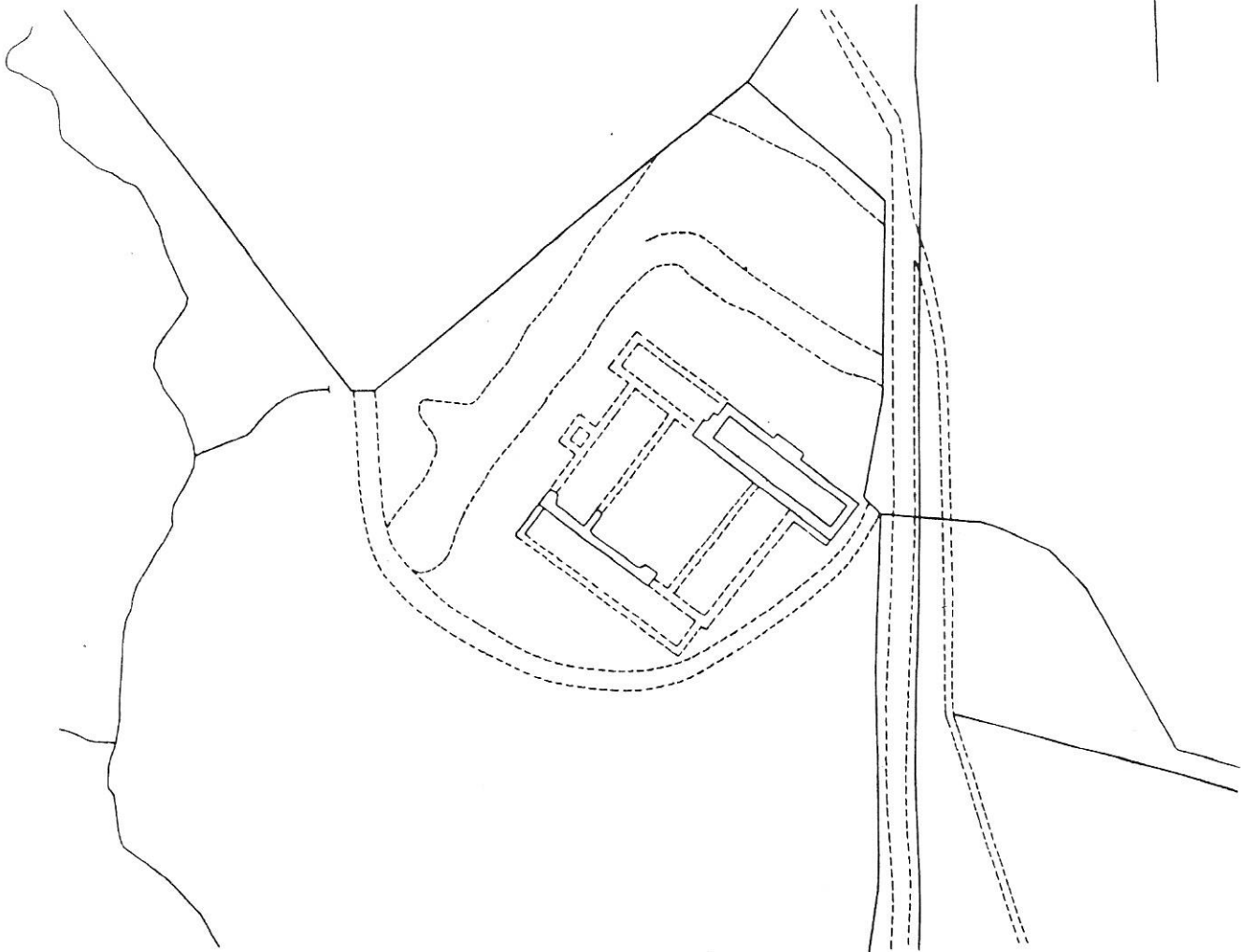
First Volume of Lanchester

He was keenly interested in ancient parish registers of the district, and among those he transcribed were those of Satley, Muggleswick, and the first volume of Lanchester. These bear testimony to his wide knowledge and untiring industry and conscientious keenness for accuracy that characterised all his work.

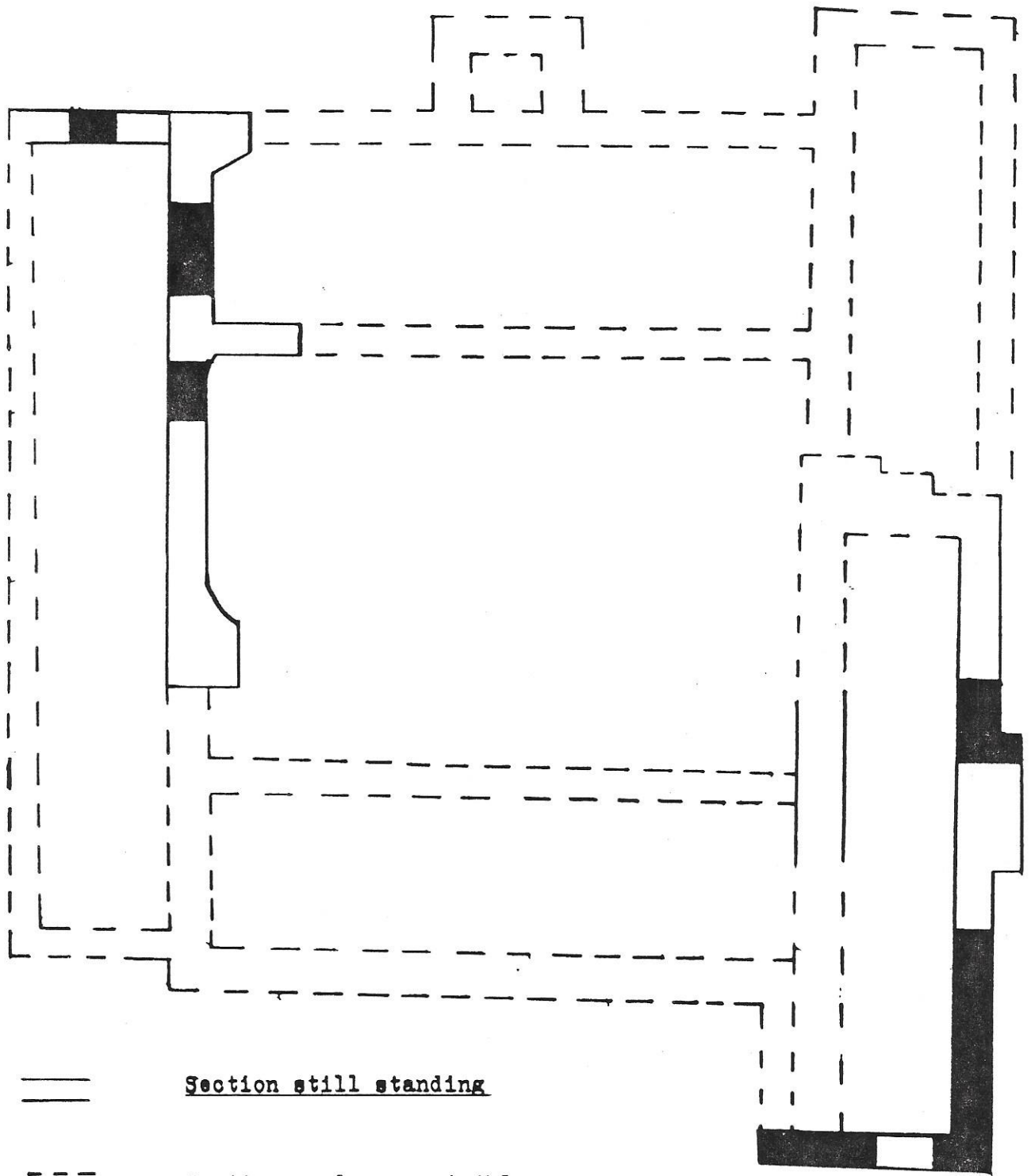
Up to a few years ago, when ill-health overtook him, he was a regular contributor to our and other newspapers and contributed papers to the local field clubs. Coun. Bellam added that anyone who, in the future attempts to write a standard history of North-West Durham will find that he will have to base his work chiefly on the materials collected and arranged by Mr Fawcett.

LANGLEY HALL

Scale 1/1250



Scale 1/250



==== Section still standing

---- Section no longer visible

■ Section destroyed since 1976

To be Published by Subscription only.
 In demy 8vo. or 12mo., Cloth Covers, price 1/6
 post free.

BURIALS.
 Mar. 24—James William Fawcett, aged 74.
 Apl. 13—Margaret Jane King, aged 63.
 20—John Atkinson, age 69.

From the
 Author
J. W. Fawcett
Edwards
Tow Law

Tales of Derwentdal A Helping Hand

By J. W. FAWCETT, Sateley, Darlington

These "Tales," which originally appeared in the "GUARDIAN," have been commented on by several of the Literary Journals, and designated as one of the finest set of local tales and traditions connected with any portion of the North of England.

The following are the contents of the work

- The Blanchland Bell
- The Devil at Edm.
- The Muggleswic
- The Moss Tree
- The Muggleswic
- Rowland King
- King

PUBLISHED TRANSACTIONS.
 1.—Notes on the History, Geology, and Ornithology of the Vale of Derwent, 8vo., 1891. (Out of Print).
 2.—Notes on the History, Geology, and Botany of the Vale of Derwent, 8vo., 1892. Price 6d.; post free, 8d.
 3.—Part I of Vol. III, containing Five Papers on various Subjects, 8vo., 1899. Price 3d.; post free, 4d.

Dear Sir,
 I enclose herewith a SPECIAL GIFT
 to help you to send forth your First Party for 189
 which will (D.V.) sail for Canada on 17th



(Name) _____ (Please state whether)

Kitchener's Assistant Forgotten

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LANCHESTER (County Durham), Wednesday.
SEVENTY-SIX-YEARS-OLD James William Fawcett
 —brilliant antiquarian, author, holder of 13
 honorary degrees, and a man who knows 33

languages — is to-day trying to eke out his old-age pension with historical research work which brings him in just enough for mere existence.

In his stone cottage at Sateley, near here, he is transcribing old British university charters for a Northern antiquarian society, wondering when fortune will smile again.

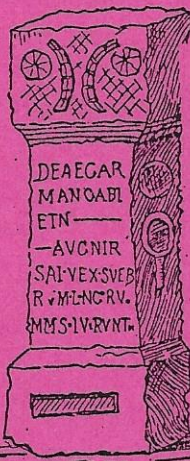
When he was 18 Fawcett was chosen from 2,000 candidates for the post of Army interpreter. He travelled the world, was shipwrecked in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. Later he became aide-de-camp to the late Lord Kitchener.

No Army Pension

In New South Wales, Australia, he studied law and became stipendiary magistrate for Kennedy and represented the town in the Legislative Assembly. — But in spite of his colourful career, Fawcett has been forgotten by the world. He does not grumble, except to say with gentle emphasis that the Army has treated him "rather shabbily."
 "I was looking forward to an Army pension," he told me to-day. "I have never received one. I don't know why."
 "If only Lord Kitchener had been alive my circumstances might have been different."
 "Now I manage as best I can on the old-age pension. I work here and sleep at the home of a friend in Headley Hill."

THE LANCHESTER ALTAR.

(To the Editor of the Daily Chronicle.)
 Sir,—Herewith is a sketch I made to-day of the Roman altar found this week at Lanchester. It is now in the Church porch. It appears that the supply of water to the workhouse was in some way stopped and the master set his men to find out the cause of the stoppage, and



in excavating came upon the altar. Canon Greenwell, of Durham, has been apprised of the find and at the Durham railway station I met Dr. Hoopell, of Buyers Green, who made a sketch of it and took note of every particular. We may possibly hear more of the subject in a short time from our antiquaries—Yours, &c.

ERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TO

in hope. Eastgate

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LTD.,

TO THE

Annual Meeting of Shareholders,

TO BE HELD AT THE KING'S HEAD HOTEL, LANCHESTER,

On WEDNESDAY, the 23rd day of February, 1898.

WILLIAM FAWCETT.
 THE ABOVE-NAMED PERSON, of the City of York, Bachelor, left his home in the month of December, 1864, to join her Majesty's Navy as able-bodied seaman, and has not since been heard of. He was entitled under the respective enactments of his four brothers, Robert, John, George, and Henry Fawcett, to a share of each of their estates upon their respective deaths, which shares are now payable. Information of the said WILLIAM FAWCETT or his legal personal representative and any person able to give such information are requested to communicate with Messrs. HOLTHY and PROCTOR, Solicitors, York.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
 ROBERT DIVORCE AND ADMIRALTY
 DIVISION (DIVORCE)
 TO JOHN HERRIOTT late of No. 1 Green-Terrace
 Clerkenwell in the County of London
 vs
 vs NOTICE that a Cit

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN,

59, Front Street, Consett.

Rev J W Fawcett
Sateley
Darlington

Printed by Robert Jackson, Front Street, Consett.
 1901.

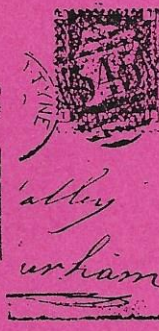
migrants

enclose you *

d.

Miss, Rev, Mr., or Esq.

and placing him or her in
 careful outfit, railway fares,
 be gratefully received and



LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LTD.,

Annual Meeting of Shareholders,

TO BE HELD AT THE KING'S HEAD HOTEL, LANCHESTER,

On WEDNESDAY, the 23rd day of February, 1898.

The Directors

we are in the midst of a contest
 her Candidates have decided to dis
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future, if again entruste
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 Sanitary Acts, and at th

Shotton John
Sateley