

ART. IX.—*Hipping Hall*. By Col. W. H. CHIPPINDALL.  
*Read at Kendal, April 22nd, 1931.*

THE small rivulet, which rises on Leck Fell and is known locally as the Broken Beck but called lower down its course Cant Beck and gives a name to the township of Cantsfield, passes on the west side of Hipping Hall before crossing the main road from Kirkby Lonsdale to Ingleton—the road by which the pack-horse trains moved from Kendal into Yorkshire.

Before modern turnpikes were introduced such a beck was allowed to cross the road as being fordable, and foot passengers were accommodated by large stepping stones locally called “Hipping Stones,” hence the name of this Hall.

Originally the Hall appears to have been the principal house of a small hamlet which has now been destroyed with the exception of the Hall and one other small house situated close to it; foundations of the old houses are found in the gardens and some have been converted into stables and other outhouses. On the left side of the drive to the house is an ancient wall, parallel to and very near to the beck, containing a pointed arched doorway, of the 15th century, which gives access to some steps leading down to the beck and was probably the place where drinking water was obtained (see plate 2.).

On 5 May, 1597 Edward Tatham of Over Leck, yeoman, made his will which was proved in the Lonsdale Deanery on 18 August of the same year. In it he names his wife Isabel, his sons Thomas and John and his daughters Isabel and Anne. Thomas Tatham being the eldest son would have the land. No will of this Thomas has been found but he would certainly christen his eldest son by his



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father's name as was customary and we find the will of an Edward Tatham of Over Leck, yeoman, dated 19 November, 1636, Inventory 23 December, 1636, proved on 17 July, 1637, and the Tunstall church register gives the date of burial as 30 November, 1636. His widow Elizabeth signed the bond on the day she proved the will; she survived her husband for 30 years and made her own will on 14 May, 1666, Inventory 8 June, 1666, the bond does not show the month but was signed in 1666. Her burial is given in the Tunstall register as 17 May, 1666. This couple left the following family, viz.:—

(1) Thomas Tatham of Over Leck, yeoman, named in both his father's and mother's wills. He was married at Tunstall, on 17 October, 1646, to Elizabeth Wilson (who was buried at Tunstall on 30 August, 1654); by her he had two daughters, viz.:—

(a) Margaret Tatham baptized on 8 August, 1647.

(b) Elizabeth Tatham baptized on 22 August, 1654.

He was buried at Tunstall on 22 January, 1678-9.

(2) James Tatham of Over Leck, carpenter, named in his father's and mother's wills. He had a wife Margaret and made his will on 22 August, 1667, Inventory 19 September, bond signed on 23 September, 1667. He bequeathed his land to his infant son Edward with the proviso that should the child die before the age of 21 that then his brother Robert Tatham should inherit the land. His burial which must have taken place between 22 August and 19 September does not appear in the Tunstall register which only shows two burials for the year 1667. His widow was remarried at Tunstall on 8 July, 1669 to John Hall. The son Edward lived and left a family but they had no connection with Hipping Hall.

(3) Isabel Tatham named in her mother's will as married to one Flasby.

- (4) Ellen Tatham named in her mother's will in 1666.
- (5) Robert Tatham of Over Leck, blacksmith, baptised at Tunstall on 5 October, 1634, named in his mother's will and in that of his brother James and when signing the bond for the latter he describes himself as of Over Leck in the parish of Tunstall, blacksmith. This man was the one from whom the Tathams of Hipping Hall descend.

This Robert Tatham seeing the advantage to a blacksmith of a smithy situated on a well frequented road for the shoeing of the pack-horses and the repair of wains, proceeded to purchase land at Hipping Hall.

Accordingly we find in a deed relating to this Hall, dated 12 August, 1661, the sale of an acre of copyhold land by Anne wife of Arthur Farthwat of Todgill to Robert Tatham of Over Leck for £8. On 21 December, 1668, this Robert Tatham purchased from William Gibson "the dwelling house called Hipping Hall" and the messuage and tenement belonging to it, also some 12 acres of land.

On 2 February, 1670, Robert Tatham of Hipping Hall, blacksmith, purchased a close of land called Brodelands and one cattlegate or cowgrass from Francis Madison of Nether Leck, yeoman.

On 24 January, 1672-3 Robert Tatham of Hipping Hall *alias* Skellmascow, blacksmith, made a further purchase of four acres of land from James Greenwood of Nether Leck, yeoman.

On 15 February, 1675-6 he made a further purchase of lands in Over Leck from Anthony Farthwait. And on 6 February 1685-6 a further small purchase of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  a. of land from William Flasby of Over Leck.

On 1 February, 1691-2 he purchased 10 a. 1 r. of land and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cattlegates, all lying in Todgill, from Hugh Armitstead of Feizer co. York, yeoman, and Elizabeth his wife.

This was his last purchase and he was buried at Tunstall

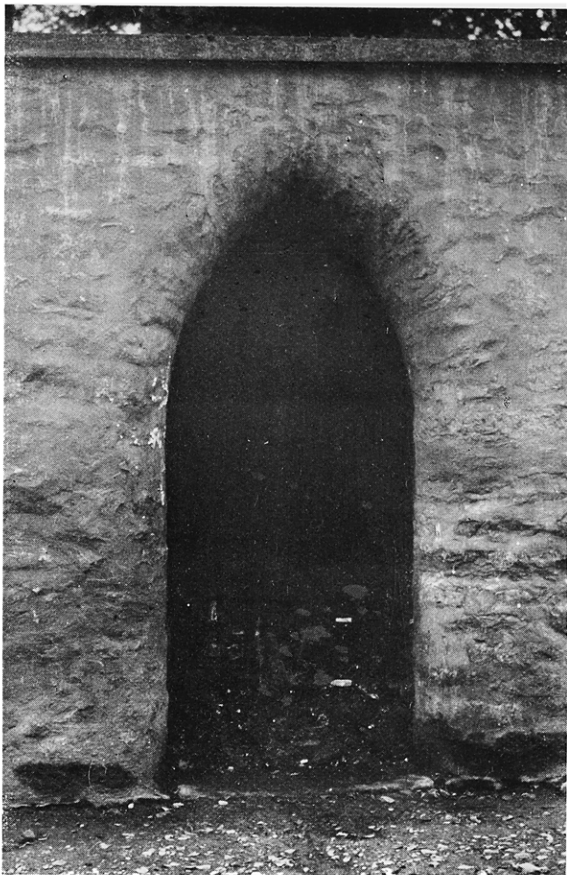


PLATE II.—OLD DOORWAY.

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Church on 11 December, 1692. He and his wife Anne put up a sundial, in the garden of their house, bearing their initials and the date 1677. Their family was:—

(1) Edward Tatham baptised at Tunstall on 28 November, 1673.

(2) An infant buried at Tunstall on 16 September, 1678.

The above named Edward Tatham succeeded to the property. In 1698 he exchanged some land with a William Yeates of Todgill, yeoman, and on 18 February, 1711-12 he bought a dale of half an acre from Thomas Ward of Leck, husbandman; in this deed Edward Tatham is styled "of Hipping Hall yeoman." Thomas Ward sealed this deed with a seal bearing a shield charged with a unicorn rampant and a fleur-de-liz in the sinister canton: crest, on an esquire's helmet a wreath out of which emerges a unicorn (?) couped.

By lease and release, dated 15 and 16 November, 1713, he purchased a close called Swinsty Borrens (1½ a.) from Elizabeth Hodgson.

He was married twice. On 29 April, 1704, at Kendal, he married Mary Mawson of Tunstall parish; she was buried at Tunstall on 20 April, 1715, aged 36 (T.I.)

Edward Tatham and his wife Mary appear to have re-edified Hipping Hall as their initials, with the date 1706, are over the entrance door. His family by this first wife consisted of a daughter and two sons, viz.:—

(i) Isabel Tatham, married at Ingleton on 15 Oct. 1727 to John Whittham of Ingleton, farmer.

(ii) Robert Tatham, baptised at Tunstall on 21 January, 1706-7; buried there on 18 December, 1713.

(iii) George Tatham, baptised at Tunstall on 21 April, 1715; buried there on 5 May, 1715.

On 2 February, 1726-7 at Tunstall church he married his second wife, Elizabeth Taylor, who surviving her husband was buried, as a widow, at Tunstall on 20 December, 1777.

Edward Tatham was buried at Tunstall on 16 June, 1747 after making his will on 12 June, 1747, proved on 30 July, 1748. In this will he describes himself as "yeoman" and bequeaths his "messuages, mills, lands," etc. to his son Edward; names his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Isabel the wife of John Whittham.

The son Edward Tatham was baptised at Tunstall on 24 December, 1727 and was therefore under 20 years of age when his father died; he, however, proved the will of his father and signed the bond for due performance of the will on 30 July, 1748 when he describes himself as "of Gigleswick, co. York, gentleman."

Shortly after coming into the property he purchased, on 11 February, 1747-8, another house and some land at Nether Leck. On 9 March, 1754, he purchased yet another house and a close of land near Hipping Hall from the Rev. Robert Armitstead of Caton, co. Lancaster and Ellen his wife, which Ellen was only daughter of William Houseman late of Hipping Hall, yeoman, by his second wife Agnes; in this deed Edward Tatham is described as of Symonds Inn, London, gentleman; from which it appears that he was a lawyer.

He married Mary only child of Richard and Anne Trotter of High Hall, Dent, by whom he had a large family. He was buried at Tunstall on 15 May, 1773; but his wife survived until 21 April, 1824, when she died aged 96 years and 10 months (T.I.).

Their family was as follows:—

- (a) Elizabeth Tatham, buried at Tunstall on 19 June, 1756.
- (b) Mary T., baptised at Tunstall 2 January, 1759; married at Tunstall on 2 March, 1778 to James Sawrey of Lancaster, merchant.
- (c) Ann T., baptised at Tunstall on 17 March, 1760; buried on 6 July, 1767.



PLATE III.—COTTAGE ADJOINING HIPPING HALL.  
The last Remnant of the Hamlet.



- (d) Jane T., baptised at Tunstall on 29 September, 1761; buried on 9 November, 1821 (T.I.).
- (e) Edward T., baptised at Tunstall on 29 March, 1763; of whom later.
- (f) Richard Trotter T., baptised at Tunstall on 8 November, 1765.
- (g) Elizabeth T., baptised at Tunstall on 20 February, 1767.
- (h) Ann T., baptised at Tunstall on 4 August, 1770; died unmarried on 30 October, 1862 and was buried at Tunstall.

The above named Edward Tatham baptised on 29 March, 1763 inherited the property as eldest son. He was married at Lancaster parish church, on 17 April, 1786, to Susannah daughter of John Gibson, esquire and granddaughter of the Rev. Christopher Gibson, M.A., of Lancaster and vicar of Ormskirk; she died on 2 September, 1819, aged 71 (T.I.) and was buried at Tunstall. Edward Tatham survived until 2 October, 1842 (T.I.) and was also buried at Tunstall. He left the following family, viz.:—

- (1) Edward Tatham of Hipping Hall, baptised at Tunstall on 18 February, 1787. He was a J.P. for Westmorland and resided at Summerfield near Kirkby Lonsdale, where he died unmarried on 1 April, 1863. His will is dated 30 June, 1862 and was proved on 11 July, 1863; by it he left his Hipping Hall estate to his nephew John Swainson of Halton Hall.
- (2) Elizabeth Susannah Tatham, baptised at Tunstall on 1 August, 1789, was married there, on 31 March, 1812, to John Swainson of Preston, manufacturer, who purchased Halton Hall in 1835. He died on 9 November, 1866 and was buried at Tunstall on 14 November. He was the father of a large and long-lived family of which his son John Swainson the

younger of Halton Hall and Hipping Hall was the head.

- (3) Mary Tatham, baptised at Tunstall on 4 November, 1792.

The above named John Swainson the younger became involved in financial difficulties so that both the Halton and Hipping Hall properties had to be sold. Hipping Hall was purchased by Mr. Richard Wearing of Westhouse Lodge in the parish of Thornton-in-Lonsdale, co. York on 14 August, 1868 and is now inhabited by his son Dr. T. W. Wearing, J.P. to whom the writer is much indebted for permission to utilise his deeds.

PEDIGREE OF TATHAM OF OVER LECK AND HIPPING HALL.

