

The Recent Discovery of Gravestones at St. Peter's Church, Derby.

By GEORGE BAILEY.

DURING the partial relaying of the chancel floor of St. Peter's Church, Derby, a number of gravestones have been brought to light. It appears that when the last known interment was made, in 1834, the whole floor of the church was of one level; there was no step at the entrance from the nave, neither was there any at the extreme east. The communion table stood on the unraised floor. This is certain, because the interment of George Hubball was found to be under the raised steps upon which that table had stood, and was on the same level as all the other gravestones. They had been buried under the floor when the church was restored, many years ago, at which time the alteration in the level took place.

When Bassano visited the church, about 1711, he made notes of some stones which he saw, and his notes have been copied by Simpson and Glover, who also mention other stones seen by them. Their works were published in 1826 and 1833, at which dates they speak of those which Bassano saw, as being destroyed. It turns out, however, that this was not the case, but that they were hidden under the new floors. Several of them prove to be of interest, so it has been thought

desirable to put them all on record, for future reference, in this *Journal*, and the more so, because most of them have again been hidden by the handsome encaustic tile floor which now lies above them.*

The descriptions of the stones have been arranged in chronological order for easier reference to dates, and those of two are added which were mentioned by Bassano and others, as seen by them, and copied by Glover and Simpson.

I.

Mary Burton died 15
In the Ninety-ninth Year of her age.

The Burtons were an ancient Derbyshire family. Samuel, who was Sheriff in 1719, and died in 1751, lies in St. Alkmund's, where there was a monument bearing the following arms: *az.* a crescent, *arg.* within an orle of mullets, *or.*

II.

Here lies the Body of Eaton
baptized November the 6.th. 1644. Age 72 Years.
Also Rebecka Eaton Baptized June 8th. 1661
Aged 67 years.
Likewise Elizabeth Eaton Aged 77 years.

"The late Thomas Eaton's Executors" are given by Glover in the list of inhabitants of St. Peter's parish in 1831. In 1806 a William Eaton, of the County Jail, paid 5s. rent to the Derby Corporation Estate. Others of this name were living in St. Alkmund's and St. Werburgh's, and the names of Richard and Thomas Eaton are on the list of subscribers to the Derbyshire Infirmary for 1830. Thomas Eaton was Mayor in 1771.

* This re-burial of memorial slabs seems a most unfortunate proceeding.
—Ed.

III.

[H]ic Jacet
 Elizabethæ[a]
 uxor Percivale
 Willughby
 filia
 Francisci
 Coke de Trusley
 milit̄ ipsa
 obiit 15 Feb
 [Ætatis] sue[æ] 67.*

This is cut in sandstone, and lies in the south-east corner of the chancel, close to the wall. Bassano saw this and the following stone, and made, not very correct, copies. Simpson and Glover give them, erroneously stating that the stones were destroyed.

IV.

Hic
 Iacet corpus Per
 civali Willughby
 M.D. fillij Percivalli
 Willughby De Wool
 larton in comitatu
 Nottingham̄ Militis
 Obijt 2^o. Die Octob̄
 Anno Salutis 1685
 Ætatis suæ 89.

At the end of this, on a shield, are the arms of Willoughby of Parham, from which family all the Willoughbys descend. No colours are given on the stone, but correctly they would be as follows:—"Or, fretty azure, with a mullet for difference in the

* Elizabeth, seventh child and third daughter of Sir Francis Coke of Trusley, was born Nov. 11th, 1599, and the Trusley Register gives the same date as that of her baptism. She died Feb. 15th, 1666. See *History of Coke of Trusley*, by Major J. T. Coke, privately printed 1880,—Ed.

middle chief." Bassano says within a bordure, but we cannot find, although the Willoughbys used many variations, that a bordure was one of them.

This stone is of thick marble, and has now been placed in the floor, at the entrance to the chancel.

Dr. Willoughby was the third son of Sir Percival, of Woollaton, who sat for Nottingham in the first Parliament of James I.

Katharine Willoughby, of Parham, Duchess of Suffolk, with her second husband, Richard Bertie, had to fly the country from Queen Mary's persecution, and wandering, almost as a mendicant, in the low countries, she gave birth to a son in the porch of the church of St. Willebrod, Wessel. That son became the famous Lord Willoughby, hero of Zutphen, and whose feats of arms were the subject of a once-popular ballad. There remains a part of the moated hall at Parham, now used as a farmhouse.

V.

Here lieth the Body of Richard Carter Gent. who departed December 1693 aged 72. Years.

A Thomas Carter served as Mayor of Derby for part of the year of 1698, the then Mayor having died, and he was again Mayor in 1701.

VI.

Sub Hoc Marmore Lapide
 Conduntur Reliquiæ Georgij
 Jacson M: D: Cujus Pietatem,
 Charitatem, Aliasq': Virtutes
 Insignes satis Morum et Experti
 Sunt Præsentes: Credant Fu-
 turi Et Imitentur
 Ad Superos Evolvit Anima
 28^{vo} Die Maij
 Anno Dom. 1699.
 Ætatis Suæ 52.

Memoria Justi In Benedictione.

The above is in capitals. What follows is in lower case:—

Sub Hoc etiam lapida Anna
 predicti Georgii Vidua
 spectatissima post Vitam
 omnimode Virtutis Studio
 feliciter exactem mortales
 Exuvias tandem deposuit
 Ad Charissimi Mar[i]ti in Cœli^s
 Consortum non ultra
 dirimendum, preparavit
 Anima 8^{vo} Die Aprilis, Anno Do^m.
 1726 Ætatis 77.

This stone of Dr. Jackson is of blue marble, and finely cut. Bassano appears to have seen it, but he only gives part of the inscription. It has also undergone a resurrection, and is now placed in the church on the opposite side to that of Dr. Willoughby. Dr. Jackson was a benefactor to St. Peter's Parish. It formerly lay in front of the Communion Table, north side. The churchwardens intend to place a brass plate, stating where these two stones were found.

VII.

Here lyeth the Body of Mr. George Busbage
 who departed this life the 29th of May
 1721 in the 50th year of his age.

VIII.

Here Lyeth the body of Edward Marshall Gent, who
 departed this life the 25th day of August 1729. In
 the 81st year of his age.

Also Mary relict of the above Edward Marshall died
 19 September 1713. Aged 77.

Likewise Hannah Alney, His Sister, Died in August
 1710.

IX.

Elizabeth, wife of Henry Eyre, of *Rowell* [this is, no
 doubt, a mason's error for Rowtor] in this County, Esq.,

daughter of Sir Willoughby Hickman of Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, Baronet.

She died

29th* February 1741

Aged 47.

This is of black marble. It lies just within the chancel steps. Glover says it "was near the chancel." The above-named lady gave the Communion Cup to St. Peter's in 1666. The plate was re-cast in the time of the Rev. W. Hope, as is stated in the inscription engraved upon the present service. Henry Eyre was High Sheriff in 1723. By his first wife he had one daughter, who married Clotworthy Skeffington, Earl of Massareene; and "from them are descended the Eyres of Rampton Manor" (*Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 356). Other members of the family were also Sheriffs: Robert, 1481; Thomas, 1621; Robert, of Highlow, 1658; William, 1691.†

X.

Here lieth the Body of George Beardsley of Nottingham, Gent., who departed this life Ye 26th day of February Anno 1707 in the 39th year of his age.

Here lieth also Richard Beardsley the Son of George Beardsley, who departed this life

The former was a Trustee of the Liversage Charity, chosen with six others, March 27th, 1706. His daughter, Sarah, was the first wife of Thomas Gisburne, who lies in St. Alkmund's Church. The Beardsleys had a house in Cockpit, formerly Castle Hill, at the corner of the street now called East Street, formerly Bag Lane. In 1660 John Beardsley gave the third bell to Horsley. In 1687 Alexander Beardsley was buried in Egginton Church. In 1680 John Beardsley was appointed Rector of Egginton. In 1709 he buried his wife, Mary, there.

* Glover gives the 26th, which is an error.

† Glover V., I. Appendix, p. 19.

XI.

Here lieth buried the Body of Samuel
Froggart, who died the 10th of October, 1776.

Aged 64.

Also, Sarah his Wife Died August 2nd 1789 aged 73.

XII.

In the chancel, on a flagstone (Glover). This stone may still be in the chancel. There were several stones which could not be got at in consequence of the cost of removing the cumbrous choir stalls under which they undoubtedly were, portions of them being visible.

Anne Lowe, daughter of the late Rev. John Lowe, and granddaughter of the late John Lowe, Esq., of Denby Park Hall, died 5th February, 1825, aged 48.

The Lowes of Denby have been represented by the Drury-Lowes of Locko Park, since 1790.

XIII.

Beneath this stone lie the remains of Beatrice, the Infant Daughter of Ernest Augustus and Beatrice Percival. Born July 2nd, 1831. Died April 13th, 1832.

XIV.

To the Memory Of George Hubball of this Parish, Esquire, who departed this life on the 15th of February, 1834, aged 48 years.

This stone lies under the Communion Table.

XV.

In the west end, middle aisle, on a marble gravestone:—
Reliquæ Thomæ Cantrelli, A.M. Scholaichæ Derbiensis.

Reader, here lyes the dust—deny 't who can—
Of a learn'd, faithful, and well-natured man.*

No date of his decease is given, but he must have died about 1706. The Rev. Anthony Blackwell, M.A., who

* Simpson, p. 409.

succeeded him, was at Derby School in that year, and he married Cantrell's widow, by whom he had four sons. Blackwell died at Market Bosworth on the 5th April, 1730. This stone was copied by Bassano, and it is probably still underneath the present pavement.

XVI.

Here lyeth the Body of Mary Allsop.


This was on a broken piece of sandstone of very ancient date, near the east wall of the chancel, north.

The writer is indebted to Mr. John Norcross for copies of these inscriptions, which he made by permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens, except those of Elizabeth Willoughby and Dr. Willoughby, and Elizabeth Eyre and Dr. Jackson.

This completes the list. It has of late years become a common practice to grass over our churchyards. It is not the intention of the writer of this article to enter upon the question of the desirability or otherwise of the practice. One thing, however, may be said. When these places are so transformed, it seems only right and fair that a record should be kept of all monuments and gravestones thus covered or removed.

In vol. xxi., p. 90, there appeared a notice of the taking down and removal to Loughborough for repairs, etc., of the old bells of St. Peter's Church, Derby. They have now been returned. The following is a list of the peal as it now is, together with the weights of the bells. Several are new, and two have been re-cast. The inscriptions are as follows:—

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	
No. 1.	4	1	25.	"Venite, Exultemus Domino." The gift of Sir Henry Bemrose, M.P., 1900.
„ 2.	4	2	13.	"Te Deum Laudamus." The gift of E. T. Ann and R. B. Chambers, Churchwardens, 1900.

	cwt. qrs. lbs.			
No. 3.	5	1	16.	"Deo Jubilate." The gift of Sir Thomas Roe (Churchwarden 1862-1890), 1900.
" 4.	6	1	10.	"Jesus be our Speed." John Daye, T. H. 1636. Re-cast at the cost of H. M. Holmes, 1900.
" 5.	7	0	23.	"God save the King." 1636. Re-cast at the cost of Sir A. Seale Haslam, 1900.
" 6.	6	0	16.	Jos. Taberer and Hen. Every, Churchwardens A.  R. 1738.
" 7.	7	3	4.	"Gloria Deo in Excelsis." William Duffield and Thomas Skinner. C. W., T. H. 1636.
" 8.	11	1	14.	"I to the Church the living call, and to the grave do summon all." 1769.