

Henovere and the Church of Heanor.

NOTES ON THE CHARTULARY OF BURTON ABBEY AND THE
CHRONICLE OF DALE ABBEY.

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THE early history of the Church of Heanor has always presented a difficulty to the antiquary by reason of its connection, or supposed connection, with the Abbey of Burton. The following article is an attempt to solve the difficulty and to clear up one or two points which appear to have been overlooked in the evidence relating to the subject.

In the twelfth century there were in Derbyshire two places called Henovere, one in the Manor of Mickleover (as shewn by the Chartulary of Burton Abbey), and the other the modern parish of Heanor. Evidence is here adduced to shew that the lands belonging to the Abbey in "Heanor" were in the manor of Mickleover; that if a "Church of Heanor" were subject to the Abbey, the church was in Mickleover also; and, negatively, that the Church of Heanor on the borders of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire was in no way connected with the Abbey.

For the purpose of lucidity, the spelling of Heanor in connection with the Abbey is retained in its ancient form—*i.e.*, Henovere—and the present parish of that name, on the eastern border of the county, is spelt in the modern manner.

The subject divides itself into two parts: First, the *place* Henovere; second, the *Church* of Henovere.

HENOVERE.—The place of that name mentioned in the Chartulary of Burton Abbey is clearly located, as shewn by

the following extracts. (The references to the Chartulary are to General Wrottesley's article in vol. vii. of this *Journal*.):—

“Manors or lands in possession of the monks at the time of Domesday—Derbyshire, ‘ . . . Mickleover, Littleover, Henover (Heanor), Findern, Potlack, and Willington ’ ” (p. 99).

Folio 21 (p. 113).

“ [De Henovere.]

“Ego Robertus Abbas Burtoniæ concedo etc. donationem quam predecessor meus Gaufridus bonæ memoriæ etc. concesserunt Roberto filio Wachelini in feudum et hereditatem *illam terram in Oura* quam de eis ipse tenuit etc. et pro eâdem terrâ debet reddere Ecclesiæ v.s. quoque anno &c.”

[*Translation*.—“ I Robert, Abbot of Burton grant etc. the gift which my predecessor Geoffrey of good memory etc. granted to Robert FitzWachelin in fee and inheritance (namely) *that land in Oura* which he held from them &c. . . .”] (c. 1150-1159.)

The preceding folio refers to “Pothlac,” and the remainder of this (21) to “Oufra.”

Folio 23.

“ [De Henovera.]

“Ego B. [Bernardus] Abbas &c. concedo et confirmo donationem quam predecessor meus Robertus Abbas &c., concesserunt Roberto filio Roberti filii Walchelini in feudum et hereditatem *illam terram in Oura scilicet Henoveram* quam de eis ipse tenuit &c.” (c. 1160-1179.)

[*Translation*.—“ I Bernard, Abbot &c. grant & confirm the gift which my predecessor, Robert, Abbot &c. granted to Robert, son of Robert FitzWalchelin in fee and inheritance (namely) *that land in Oura, to wit, Henovera*, which he held from them &c.”]

On this folio (23) are “de Potlach,” “de Terre in Derbi”; and under “de Henovera” an additional entry of a concession to one “Robert brother of Briennius” of land in Asshehurst.

The Chartulary is thus very explicit. *Oura* is *Magna Oura*, now Mickleover; and the land *in Mickleover* which was granted

by the Abbot to the FitzWalchelins was called Henovera or Henovere. That Henovere was in Mickleover agrees well with the fact that all the Derbyshire possessions of the Abbey were in Derby and to the S. and S.W. of that town, while Heanor is some nine miles to the N.E. And, further, that Henovere is always mentioned in close connection with Mickleover (Oufra), Littleover, Potlac, and Findern.

Taking the widest dates of the Henovere entries, two members of the FitzWalchelin family held land there under the Abbey between 1150 and 1179. Further, Nicholas FitzWalchelin de Henovere, a tenant under the Abbey,¹ held land in Mickleover called Crosforlong, towards Littleover, between 1222 and 1233. And in 1225-6 Nicholas de *Enovere*, or Eynoure (obviously the same), had right of pasture in Mickleover in the neighbourhood of Rughedich, Sortegrave, and Witesiche. "The Abbot concedes to Roger (le Breton) and his heirs and to his men of Rughedich common of pasture in the whole manor of Magna Ufre, and in the manor of Parva Ufre after the deaths of Philip Marcus and his wife Anne, for which concession Roger (so far as lies in him) concedes to the Abbot, etc., permission to assart 60 acres in Sortegrave, and Nicholas de Enovere and his heirs shall have free entry and exit to the same pasture near Witesiche" (p. 126).²

Land in Heanor was indeed held by a Nicholas de Henover (possibly the Nicholas mentioned in the "Testa de Nevil" as holding in Shipley, 1242), but this was at a later date—that is to say, he *acquired* a moiety of the manors of Heanor, Langley, and Milnhay in 1258. But the FitzWalchelin references appear to refer only to Henovere and the neighbourhood of Mickleover.

Part of the land at Mickleover, Littleover, Findern, and Potlac, formerly possessions of the Abbey, came into the possession of Mr. Pole, of Radburn, in 1801, as given in Lyson's *Derbyshire*, p. 226, where the following expressive sentence occurs:—"Mr. Pole has a manor or farm in this (Mickleover) parish also, called Rough-Heanor." And in a

¹ Vol. vii., p. 121.

² See also vol. viii., pp. 23 and 24.

deed of 1599 "Radbourne, Eggington, Micleover, *alias* Greatore, Littleover, *Heynour*, Mackworth, Etwall, Dalbrye Lees," etc., are given among the possessions of Germaine Pole, Esq., of Radbourn.¹ This Heynour, or Rough Heanor, would appear to be the old FitzWalchelín tenure.

The historic setting of Henovere is still partly maintained, for the name of one of the fields belonging to the farm, called Rough Heanor, in the parish of Mickleover, is Rowditch²—obviously the modern representative of the "Rughedich" of the Chartulary.

THE CHURCH OF HENOVERE.—This is a more difficult subject, depending on negative criticism rather than on positive assertion as in the previous question. Several authorities are quoted to shew the difficulty attending the assumption that Heanor Church was subject to Burton Abbey, and the nature of the difficulty.

The earliest authority is Thomas de Musca, Canon of the Abbey of Dale, or, more correctly, of Stanley Park. In his *Chronicle* he gives an account of the baker of Derby who became the first hermit of Depedale, and in that account says: "Fuit quidam pistor in Derby in vico qui dicitur Sancte Marie habebat autem tunc temporis ecclesia beate Marie de Derby magnam parochiam et ecclesia dē enere fuit ei subjecta et capella."³

[*Translation.*—"There was a certain baker in Derby in the street which is called St. Mary's. Moreover, at that time the Church of St. Mary at Derby had a large parish, and the *Church of Heanor* was subject to it, and a chapel."³]

"Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, translated into *English*, 1718 (p. 189), contains an account of Dale Abbey: "There was a baker at Derby, in St. Mary's Street, at what time the Church and Chapel of Eanore were subject to the Church of St. Mary at Derby."

Pilkington's *View of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 151, states:

¹ Simpson's *History of Derby*, p. 88.

² I am indebted for this to Mr. Edward McInnes, of Littleover, a member of the Society.

³ Mr. St. John Hope's text and translation in vol. v. of this *Journal*, pp. 5 and 17.

"As early as the reign of Henry II. there was in Derby a church dedicated to the Blessed Mary, and the parish belonging to it was of a very large extent." . . . "The Church of Eanor (Heanor) was subject to it (*Mon. Angl.*, vol. ii., p. 617)." On p. 225, referring to Heanor: "There was a church here at the time when the Domesday Book was compiled. From the history of the foundation of Dale Abbey it seems that there was a chapel as well as a church at Heanor in the reign of Henry II., and that they belonged to the parish of St. Mary in the town of Derby."

Simpson's *History of Derby*, p. 307, states that "A church dedicated to St. Mary, together with Heanor, which seems to have been a chapel of ease to it, was given by William the Conqueror to the Abbey at Burton."

Dr. Cox realised the difficulty more than his predecessors. In the *Derbyshire Churches*, vol. iv., p. 233, he says: "The manor of Heanor . . . at that time possessed a church, and this church of Heanor was in the eleventh century given to Burton Abbey, being to a certain extent subsidiary to the ancient church of St. Mary in Derby. On the lapse of the Royal Grant of these churches to the abbey, in a manner that has not hitherto been ascertained, the Church of Heanor would seem to have reverted to the Crown, and to have been afterwards granted to the Greys of Codnor by King John."

On p. 70 of the same volume St. Mary's Church is referred to thus: Of the church we know little beyond the fact of its gift to Burton. At all events, neither Burton Abbey nor any other body apparently possessed it in the thirteenth century. *William I. had included, in his grant of the Church of St. Mary to Burton, certain lands at Heanor, whence arose the subsidiary position of the Church at Heanor to that at Derby.*

It will be observed that until Dr. Cox took the subject in hand writers founded their statements entirely on Dugdale's interpretation of the *Dale Chronicle*. And the questions arise, Was Dugdale's interpretation of "ecclesia de enere" correct? If so, to what does it refer? It is perhaps worthy of notice

that those words, which are translated by Mr. St. John Hope, "The Church of Heanor," have been left almost untouched in Glover's translation—"A church de Onere"—as though he were uncertain of their meaning. Certainly the spelling is singular if intended for Heanor Church. One cannot, of course, cavil at the spelling of names at that age; but there are two points of interest in this case. The usual modes of spelling were Henovere or Henower, with variations, but in "Enere" it will be noticed that the initial "H" is omitted, which is unusual, though we do read of Nicholas de Enovere, or Eynoure: and in the second syllable the predominant sound is "e," not "o," which is probably unique if the word be meant to represent Henovere.

If it should be that "de enere" describes the church and does not refer to a place, then the *Dale Chronicle* has been misunderstood and has led to the difficulty which has beset antiquaries as to the early history of the Church of Heanor.

But assuming that the *Chronicle* does refer to Henovere, where is the place referred to? As Rough Heanor and Heanor, each called Henovere, are about equally distant from Dale, we cannot presume that de Musca considered Heanor as the one important Henovere, unhesitatingly understood by his readers because of the advantage of propinquity. We have, therefore, to consider the claims, after what has been said in the earlier part of this article, of the two places known by the name of Henovere.

It has been said before that the Abbey possessions did not extend to the north of Derby, and the Domesday account of Heanor makes no reference to the Abbey of Burton, but points to the simpler meaning of its church being an ordinary parish church.

"Land of William Pevrel. . . . In Cotenovre and Hainoure, and Langeleie and Smitcote. . . . There is a church . . . Warner holds."

The lands at Mickleover, Littleover, Potlac, and Findern were granted by William the Conqueror to Burton Abbey, but

the parish of Heanor was part of the possessions of William Peverel. Moreover, the Chartulary specifies that Henovere was in the manor of Mickleover, and, as Dr. Cox says, certain lands at "Heanor" were included in the grant of St. Mary's Church to the Abbey, from which arose the subsidiary position of the Church at "Heanor" to that at Derby, the inference is that the "Church de Enere" was in the manor of Mickleover. This may not be inconsistent with the statement that St. Mary's parish was a "large" one, so large as to contain the Church "de Enere," and a chapel in addition to the parish church.

The connection between the ancient manor of Mickleover and the Church of St. Mary, Derby, is further indicated by the Chartulary.¹ After the enumeration of the tenants of Littleover (c. 1100) it states that the Abbey had a church in Derby which Godric the priest held (p. 106), and on p. 105 "Godric the priest" appears among the tenants of Mickleover as holding "two bovates." And, again, in 1114 among the "Censarii" of Mickleover are Seon the priest and Godric the priest, the latter having four bovates of land and a church. Whilst under Littleover is the statement that in Derby the Abbey had a church which Godric the priest held (p. 109). This seems to suggest that there was one Godric who had to do with the manor of Mickleover and the church at Derby.

To sum up the points of this article: The lands in Henovere granted by William I. to the Abbey of Burton were, according to the Abbey Chartulary, situated in the manor of Mickleover. If there was a church there it was subject to the Church of St. Mary, Derby, for the Church of Henovere, which was subject to St. Mary's, was so subject by reason of land there granted to Burton; and the land in Henovere, subject to the Abbey, was in Mickleover. It follows, therefore, that the land in Heanor belonging to the Abbey, being in Mickleover, the church was there also.

Indeed, the only connection between the Henovere of the Chartulary and Heanor seems to consist in the identical spelling

¹ Vol. vii. of this *Journal*.

of the ancient names; and there appears to be nothing to imply that any relations existed between Heanor and the Abbey of Burton or St. Mary's, Derby. Thus the difficulty arising from an inexplicable early transfer of the advowson of Heanor Church disappears.

The questions might be asked: "If there were a Church at Rough Heanor, where is the site and where are the records?" And the obvious answer is another query: "Where was the more important Church of St. Mary, Derby, and where are its records?"