

Minor Monuments and Lesser Antiquities of Derbyshire

ON OR NEAR THE HIGHWAYS, BYWAYS, DISUSED
ROADS AND ANCIENT BOUNDARIES.

(SECOND LIST).

(See *D.A.J.* 1934 for first list).

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WAYSIDE AND BOUNDARY CROSSES.

101. Tideswell-Wheston road. Square base with mortice hole. This massive fragment lies about half way between the two places, sometimes scarcely visible in the long road-side grass. According to local tradition it is one of five which once stood round about the parish. Right-hand side.

102. Millers Dale-Tideswell Road (old road). Base, apparently cut down, with mortice hole. Built into a dry wall (left side). Locally known as the Butterton Cross.

103. Summer Cross. 400 yards W. of Tideswell. Square base.

These stones are locally known as 'Wishing Stones'. They are frequently seen to contain water, which lies there a long time when no rain is about. At Butterton, owing to the sheltered position of the stone this is very noticeable, and I have proved it to be the case by personal observation. It is scarcely likely that these crosses stand at ancient rogation points as the parish bounds lie far beyond them. A favourite idea is that they stood

at points from which the traveller coming over the hills first caught sight of the church tower. This effect is quite remarkable at Butterton. Whitecross Lane commemorates another cross now totally lost. Another claimed for Tideswell stood at Poynton towards Hucklow, but no trace remains except the name, Poynton Cross House.

It may be suggested that some of these crosses marked the bounds of sanctuary, for although Tideswell is not recorded as possessing any special rights of this kind every church in the land could assert the right in some degree, and situated as it is in the heart of the Peak, Tideswell is a likely place to have made its claim with some emphasis. No doubt these crosses were set up also with a very practical idea, i.e. to be guides for strangers and wayfarers in these thinly inhabited parts.

OLD STONE GUIDE-POSTS.

104. Beeley Parish. On Brampton East Moor. About 350 yards E. of Hob Hurst House. This stone is almost lost in heather, broken from its setting. The inscription is Sheaf-feilde-Roade, Cheste-rfeild-Road Bakew-ell-Road.

105. Standing stone about 500 yards N.W. of the last named. Situated at the boundaries of Baslow, Brampton and Beeley parishes, 450 yards NNE. of Hob Hurst House. Inscribed:—Bakewe-ll Road, Cheste-rfeild Road.

106. Baslow. In Chatsworth Park. Three-quarters of a mile west of Millstone Bridge, on line of old Chesterfield-Bakewell Road, abandoned in 1830. Built into wall over culvert marked Bakewell.

For information concerning the above named (104-5-6) I am indebted to Mr. G. H. B. Ward of Sheffield, who also sends me the following whimsical example:—

107. Grindleford. Stone near Goatscliff Farm, used

as a gatepost, its original site being conjectural. The inscription is Tidswall-Road, Sheffiel-Road, and, to indicate the opposite direction, Bakewel-Road cut upside down. I am sorry that the exigencies of printers' typography will not allow me to show the comical effect of this. One might suppose the workman cut the words looking from the top of the stone before it was set up, save that several letters do not seem to have made up their minds which way to stand. One interesting point about this is the evidence it gives that quite untrained hands were employed in the work. Also the loose spelling of names is curious, some effects of which survive to-day. A standardised form for universal adoption is much to be desired. The stone in question is dated 1737.

108. Near cross roads, Elton-Aldwark and Winsters-Pikehall, about one mile west of Winsters. A mutilated old veteran, rudely lettered, Ashburn 1709. The other visible side appears to have a name beginning with X. What can this be?

109. Near Slipper Farm (opposite). About half a mile S.E. of Minninglow, and three quarters of a mile N. of Longcliff. Massive stone used as a gatepost, inscribed Derby, Chesterfeild, 1709. I am indebted to Mr. J. P. Heathcote for these particulars, viz.:—108-9.

This date, which occurs elsewhere, indicates a County order of that year ordering parishes to comply with Acts of several years standing.

LOCK-UPS OR ROUND HOUSES.

110. Newton Solney.

111. Curbar. A very picturesque square building with a conical stone roof of steep pitch. In danger of early demolition unless it can be used for a purpose other than a dwelling. Mrs. Gallimore, Hon. Secretary to the Sheffield Branch of the C.P.R.E. first raised this question

but no solution has yet been reported to the present writer who made an appeal to the Bakewell Rural District Council.

112. Moated Mound near Morley beside the way from the Sacheverel Almshouses locally called the Toot Hill. Mr. Williamson, Editor of this *Journal*, suggests that it might be the ancient moot of the Morleston Hundred.

WINDMILLS.

113. In Dale Abbey Parish, near Ladywood. The mill revolves on a stone base, a primitive form of construction.

114. At Heage, an ancient chapelry of Duffield. This mill is stone-built with revolving conical top carrying the sails. Corn grinding went on here until about a quarter of a century ago. We hear the mill is to be sold and must hope that it will be preserved by the new owners.

115. At Riddings in Alfreton Parish. Twin mills were erected here about 50 years ago for grinding fodder. One is now dismantled. Although not of any great age this method of getting power is so ancient that on this ground alone the subject is one of archaeological interest.

NOTES AND EMENDATIONS OF FORMER LIST.

3. Buxton Market Cross. On the level surface of the base-stone, and in the middle of each side there is a round hollow about two inches across. All four holes are much weathered but still deep enough to take several coins. The writer's conjecture is that they were made during some visitation of the plague here or in the neighbourhood for a purpose similar to that associated with the Headless Cross of Derby. The plague at Eyam (1665-6) would create alarm in all parts of Derbyshire and it may be taken for granted that Buxton, along with other places,

would adopt precautions. The mortice hole in the Derby cross was filled with vinegar to disinfect the money.

19. Martinside Cross. A better description of the site of this stump is sent by Mr. G. H. B. Ward as follows: "Beside boundary wall of road, Chapel-en-le-Frith to Dove Holes, S.E. of Martinside Farm.

24 to 27. Beauchief Abbey Crosses. Four other crosses of this character seem to have been traced, at Upper Bradway, Totley, on Leash Fen, and at Harewood Grange. But their precise location will be best given in latitude and longitude, which we hope to do later. These moorland sites are otherwise difficult to define with precision.

42. This stone stands slightly N.W. of the junction of Darley Flash and Beeley Bar Roads.

45. The required particulars are as follows:—Inscribed DRON-FIELD-ROAD, BAKE-WELL-ROAD, 1743, MIDEL-TON-ROAD (C)HESTER-FIELD-ROAD. The Act for making this road was passed in 1743, the first Turnpike Act for this part of the Peak.

46. The required particulars are BAKEWELL-ROAD, CHEST-FIEL ROAD.

47. Barbrook. A better description is "Near the head of the Barbrook, three-quarters of a mile S.S.E. of Lady Cross (see 27).

48. Barbrook. The name of the crossing is Deadshaw Sick. RC should read RCH.

49. Stone near Barbrook Reservoir Lodge. Stands beside the drive.

50. O after AND should read SO. "To Hathersage and so to Chapel-en-le-Frith." A quaint touch of the vernacular in public business. (See first notice, 1934).

51. This stone stands near Froggatt Edge, about half a mile South-east of the Grouse Inn.

54. This stone (at Edale) stands at the junction of Station Road and the road to Grindsbrook hamlet.

60. The ancient site of a chapel referred to in the previous notice may indicate one of the several outlying chapels or granges appertaining to the abbey of Welbeck (Premonstratensian) which held numerous properties in the upper Derwent Valley, with chapels.

71. The stocks at Sudbury have been seriously damaged by a motor lorry and we have not yet heard whether they can be repaired. This is singularly unfortunate as they were the best specimens in the county.

76a. Information having reached the writer that the village pound at Hathersage was in danger, a letter of appeal was sent to the Parish Council. In a courteous reply it was stated that repairs were in prospect and the structure would be preserved on behalf of the parish.

MISCELLANEOUS.

85. King's Newton Holy Well. The stonework having become dilapidated proposals are abroad for putting the structure into a more respectable condition. The reference in former notice to the allusion in "Highways and Byways in Derbyshire" (Firth) may be supplemented by a reference to "The High Peak to Sherwood" (Tudor) for the following reason. The author of the former work makes a bloomer in saying "Perhaps Sacred Majesty (Charles II) walked down to it or drank from it, and thus sanctified the spring." But wayside wells were "Holy" from mediaeval times. It was the normal outlook of the church towards all aids and succours on behalf of wayfaring folk. The pseudo-historical supposition is wide of the mark. Again, on the same page "Here Charles II once spent a night and raised what had been simple 'Newton' to the dignity of King's Newton." But this village was 'Kynges Neuton' in 1379 (Cal. Inq. Post. Mort. III. 26). This entry seems to have been in reference to the endowment of a Chantry in Melbourne church. The well itself was surrounded and dignified

with stonework by Robert Hardinge in 1662, doubtless in honour of King Charles, towards whom his sense of loyalty was deep. It also involved him in heavy charges under the previous regime.

91. 'Gibbet' Stone, Dethick Lane. This is actually an ancient millstone of the sort which may be seen derelict in various part of the county. Several lie on the low ground below Millstone Edge, curious objects as one takes the footpath from Padley Chapel to the Hathersage-Sheffield Road just above Millstone Inn. These stones have been found faulty and abandoned near their parent quarries. Other stones abandoned doubtless for similar reasons are to be seen at the head of Lumsdale (Matlock), and one lying in the thick undergrowth near the Bat House Cave in the Alderwasley woods has long been known by the colloquial term, "The Brussen Millstone." Nevertheless, as to the 'Gibbet' stone, it is not improbable that its secondary use may have been in accordance with its name, the base for a gibbet.

94. Hathersage. Gospel Stone. This is a rude stone without any inscription or other artificial marking and stands built into a modern wall in "The Dale" (left side), a few hundred yards above the Scotsman's (*sic*) Pack. It is said to be one of five which once defined the halting places in rogation processions. In its earlier days it probably stood in open ground, later it was built into a wall when the road was enclosed, and quite recently its place has been again altered in consequence of new housing activities. A new wall bounds the gardens of recently built Council houses and the old stone, looking strange in its modern surroundings has been carefully built in. It protrudes slightly, and is quite recognisable, although it only stands about three feet high and somewhat less in width, a purely natural monolith witnessing to an ancient and outworn custom.

95. Stanage Pole. This prominent landmark beside

the track over Stanage from Hathersage to Sheffield, is a natural pole about thirty feet high, standing in a cairn of large stones. How often the pole itself has been renewed it is difficult to say but on the largest stone the following dates appear:—1550, 1581, 1631, 1697, 1740. Each date is accompanied by initials, respectively TC . HW . TM . HH . FN (Clarion Handbook). These may indicate the names of successive road surveyors. So that in the early day before Queen Elizabeth the needs of travellers along this still rugged track were thought of.

97. Baslow Bridge. The following interesting note adds a touch of life to this picturesque old structure. "Baslow Bridge has a stone watch-house on the village side. Every fit man in the village to take turn in watching from 9 to 6 each night." (A.E.D. in the Diocesan Magazine for April, 1931).