

## VII.—MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN KIRK- NEWTON CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD.

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[Read on 26th March, 1924.]

The enormous highland parish of Kirknewton, with an area of over thirty-seven thousand acres, comprises fifteen sparsely populated townships. Although no Anglian stones have been found a church must have existed from very early times and its history can be traced from the time of Henry II. Within and around 'this temple of reconciliation' more than twenty generations of parishioners—gentle and simple—have been laid to rest to await the day seen by the ancient prophet in his Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones, when the breath shall come unto them and they shall stand on their feet, an exceeding great army; and, to use Addison's fine simile, 'We shall all of us be contemporaries and make our appearance together.' As the earlier registers of the parish were destroyed or injured by fire in 1789 the monumental inscriptions provide the only record of burials before the time of that disaster. The selection printed on the following pages comprise all the epitaphs within the church (with the exception of an illegible inscription on the chancel floor and any others that may be covered up by the pews in the nave), and most of those set up in the grave-yard before the year 1850. Both series are arranged in alphabetical order.

The following monumental inscriptions are within the church :—

In memory of Thomas Bates<sup>1</sup> of Coupland Castle who died there June 1830 aged 67 years. Erected by his affectionate niece Elizabeth Robinson.

The above named Elizabeth Robinson died at Galewood June 25 1870 aged 82 years.

<sup>1</sup> For a pedigree of Bates of Aydon, Heddon and Langley, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. x, p. 377.

In memory of the Rev. John Boucher,<sup>2</sup> M.A. sometime Fellow of Magdalen College Oxford, rector of Shaftesbury, and vicar of this parish, who died November 12 1818 aged 41 years. This tablet is inscribed :

Wilhelmina his youngest child who died April 5 1817 aged 9 months sleeps by her father's side.

In memory of Matthew Culley<sup>3</sup> of Denton in the County of Durham and of Akeld in Northumberland who died at Wark on the 7 December 1804 aged 74 years. Also of Elizabeth Culley his wife, sister of Thomas Bates of Coupland Castle, who died at Akeld 10 February 1814 aged 66 years.

This tablet was erected by Edward Tewart<sup>4</sup> esq. of Southgate Park Middlesex to the memory of his affectionate daughter Margaret Ann Culley who died in child bed on the 11 April 1834 in the 24th year of her age. Also to the memory of Matthew Culley of Coupland Castle Esq. her husband who survived his lamented wife only 8 days and died on the 19th April 1834.

Within the family vault of Alexander Davison<sup>5</sup> esq. of London in the north-east transept of the church are deposited the mortal remains of Harriett Davison daughter of Alexander Davison esq. and Harriett, his wife : born 24 Sept. 1791 : died of hooping cough 9 April 1796 aged 5 years.

And of Florentia Louise Guidobaldine (commonly called Florine Davison) third daughter of Sir William Davison and Lady Rosalie Davison his wife born at Hanau in Germany 7 August 1834 died of pulmonary consumption at Pisa Tuscany 30 Nov. 1857 aged 23 years.

<sup>2</sup> John Boucher of St. John's College, Oxford, son of James Boucher of Tynemouth, matriculated 31 Oct., 1795, aged 18; B.A. 1799—of Magdalen College M.A. and fellow, 1802. He had with other issue two sons, viz. : the Rev. James Boucher of Worcester College, Oxford, some time perpetual curate of Horton, and John Boucher of Exeter College, Oxford.

<sup>3</sup> One of the brothers Culley who migrated from Denton in Teesdale soon after the middle of the eighteenth century, and farming extensively at Fenton, Wark, Crookham Eastfield, Grindon, etc., purchased valuable estates in Northumberland. For a pedigree of Culley see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. II, p. 224.

<sup>4</sup> On the 21 July, 1763, William Tewart of Monkwearmouth, master and mariner, married Margaret, daughter of William Lawson of Longhurst, and had with other issue a son Edward Tewart of Ludgate Hill, London, mercer, who in partnership with his elder brother became wealthy. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Preston of Lincoln, alderman. He had (perhaps with other) issue three sons and two daughters. His will dated 18 May, 1843, was proved in April, 1845, when his personal estate was sworn at £120,000.

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Davison was a personal friend of Nelson. For a pedigree of Davison of Lanton and Swarland, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. VII, p. 401.

The vault is opposite this tablet 8 ft. from north wall and 8 ft. from east wall.

Sacred to the memory of Col. Sir William Davison, Knight, and Knight of Hanover, of Swarland Park and Lanton in the County of Northumberland: born Dec. 19 1788: died in London Jan. 14 1873.

And of his wife Lady Rosalie Davidson daughter of Ludwig Detleff, Baron de Lutzow: born Feb. 12 1790: died at Berne, Switzerland, April 22 1867.

Their remains rest in the family vault in the churchyard. This tablet has been erected by their only surviving child the baroness von Reiderer.

Here lies the remains of Ann wife to Robert Fenwick in Milfield who died August 23 1761 aged 30 years. Also Ralph their son who died May 5 1765 aged 11 years. Also Frances aged 19 years and Elizabeth aged 27 years daughters to Robert Fenwick . . . . .

Here lies the remains of the Rev. Thomas Orde<sup>6</sup> M.A. vicar of this parish near 40 years who died universally lamented April 27 1770 aged 66 years.

Also Sarah his wife who died May 13 1778 aged 70 years.

In affectionate remembrance of James Rea who died at Middleton House 1 July 1849 aged 69 years.

Also of Frances Rea wife of the above who died 9 February 1871 aged 89 years.

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Reed esq.<sup>7</sup> of Hoppen Northumberland who died on the 3rd of June 1817 in the 63rd year of his age. Also to the memory of his wife Ann Reed who died on the 31st of December 1845 in the 91st year of her age. And of their third son Leighton Reed 1st Lieut. Royal Marines belonging to the Daedalus Frigate who died at Port Royal Jamaica on the 3rd of December 1807 in the 21st year of his age and was interred there on the Palisades.

The Rev. C. Robinson<sup>8</sup> ob. Feby. 1 1855 aet. 61. Elizabeth Robinson ob. June 25 1870 aet. 85.

<sup>6</sup> Thmas Orde was baptized at Norham, 2 March, 1703/4, being the third or fourth son of Thomas Orde of Felkington, and brother of John Orde who succeeded to the family property at East Ord, Grindon, etc. His wife Sarah was daughter and, at length, heiress of Leonard Shafto, rector of Gateshead.

<sup>7</sup> For a pedigree of Reed of Hethpool and Hoppen, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. II, p. 258.

<sup>8</sup> Mr. Robinson was son of the Rev. Christopher Robinson, perpetual curate of Pensher in the County of Durham, by his wife Agnes, daughter of the Rev. Richard Wallis, perpetual curate of Carham. He was of Lincoln College, Oxford, exhibitioner 1812, B.A. 1816, M.A. 1819. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Culley of Akeld. He was vicar of Kirknewton, 1827-1853. For a pedigree of Robinson of Herrington, see Surtees *Durham*, vol. I, p. 191.

In memory of Prideaux Selby<sup>9</sup> of Paston, Northumberland. Born September 3 1810. Died April 5 1872.

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth the beloved and deeply lamented wife of Edward Tewart esq. of Coupland Castle, and York Place, Portman Square, London, who departed this life on the 10th day of March 1839 in the 63rd year of her age. Also to the memory of Edward Tewart esq. husband to the above, who died at Coupland Castle, deeply lamented, on the 20th February 1845 in the 74th year of his age.

Near this stone was interred the body of ye Rev. John Werge<sup>10</sup> M.A. vicar of this church 52 years, who departed this life Feb. 4 1732 in the 80th year of his age. Also the body of Elisabeth his wife who departed this life Nov. 12 1729 in the 68th year of her age. Here also were interred three of their children viz. Mary, Catherine and George.

The following monumental inscriptions are in the churchyard :—

Sacred to the memory of Ann Barber who died at Lanton May 9 1847 aged 67 years.

Also of Anthony Barber her husband who died at Bousdon Hall 23 February 1823 aged 38 years.

Margaret Barber daughter-in-law of the above and wife of Anthony Barber, West Weetwood died 5 March 1870 aged 32 years.

The burial place of William Beckwith<sup>11</sup> esq. late of Thurcroft, Yorkshire, and of Trimdon, Co. Durham, who died at Yetholm 31 Dec. 1848 aged 75 years.

Sacred to the memory of Jane Carr daughter of the late John Carr esq. of Ryhope in the County of Durham. She died 9 May 1841 aged 46 years.

<sup>9</sup> For a pedigree of Selby of Paston, second line, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. II, p. 174.

<sup>10</sup> John Werge, son of Richard Werge of Nailston, Leicestershire, clerk and afterwards rector of Gateshead, was of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, matriculated 1674, aged 16. B.A. from Trinity College, 1678. He was vicar of Kirknewton from 1681 to his death, 1732. By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wood of Burton, he had (perhaps with other) issue four sons and four daughters. Cf. Carr, *History of the Family of Werge*, privately printed, 1891.

<sup>11</sup> William Beckwith was baptised at Easington, 21 October, 1772, as son of Woodfield Beckwith of Trimdon. He married Caroline, daughter of John Nesham of Houghton-le-Spring, and had issue. Cf. Pedigree of Beckwith of Thurcroft and Trimdon. Foster, *Yorkshire Families*.

## 1738.

Here lyeth the body of James Davidson<sup>12</sup> of Lanton who departed this life March ye 27 1737 aged 101 years.

Here lies Alexander Davidson of Lanton son of ye above James Davidson who died the 20th of January anno domini 1743/4 aged 68 years.

Also George Davidson of Akeld who died 4 June 1774 aged 73 years.

Grace daughter of the above George Davidson of Akeld who died 18 of February 1788 aged 35 years.

Here lyeth the body of Dorothy Davison wife of Alexander Davison esq. of Lanton who died 24 of November 1788 in the 78th year of her age.

Isabel daughter of George Davidson of Akeld who died 2 April 1768 aged 18 years.

Also Margaret daughter of Alexander Davison esq. of Lanton who died 9 September 1773.

Here lie the remains of George Davidson<sup>13</sup> of Akeld who died June 4th 1774 aged 73 years.

Isabella his daughter who died April 2nd 1768 aged 18 years.

Grace his daughter who died February 18th 1788 aged 35 years.

Isabella wife to Geo. Davison who died August 15 1795 aged 80.

And Dorothy his daughter who died Jany. 20 1797 aged 42.

This stone is erected by their surviving children.

Andrew Davison youngest son of Geo. Davison died Dec. 15th 1803 aged 63 years.

Alexander eldest son of Geo. Davison of Akeld died Oct. 21 1806 aged 66.

Here lies interred William Graham<sup>14</sup> of Marden ob. 26 July 1776 aged 78.

Sacred to the memory of George Grey<sup>15</sup> esq. of Sandy-house who died at Milfield 1 July 1791 aged 38 years.

Hannah his daughter died 18 January 1789 aged 5 years and 6 months.

Mary his wife died at Kelso 27 August 1827 aged 68 years.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. pedigree of Davison of Lanton and Swarland, new *History of Northumberland*, vol. vii, p. 401.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> William Graham is said to have been out in the '45. He was proprietor of Marden demesne which, by will dated 9 November, 1773, he gave to his nephew Thomas Younghusband of Lyham. Cf. new *History of Northumberland*, vol. ii, p. 437.

<sup>15</sup> For a pedigree of Grey of Milfield, see new *History of Northumberland*, vol. ii, p. 247, which, however, needs some revision.

In memory of the children of George Annett and Elizabeth Boyd Grey of Milfield in this parish. Georgina died from the effects of a fall 18th August 1847 aged 12 weeks. Robert Charles after whooping cough 22 March 1850 aged 1 year and 5 months. Charles, of measles 18th January 1855 aged one year and eleven months. Also the above named Elizabeth Boyd Grey who died in child bed Nov. 18th 1856 aged 36 years and 7 months, beloved by all who knew her.

Sacred to the memory of John Moffet of Felkington<sup>16</sup> who died 7 March 1808 aged 53 years.

Jane his wife died 5 April 1812 aged 52 years.

Also Elizabeth their daughter died 22 January 1822 aged 25 years.

Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Ker wife of the late Andrew Kerr of Berwick who died July 17 17— aged 109 years.

Sacred to the memory of Rev. Moses Mitchel<sup>17</sup> M.A. vicar of Kirknewton who died on the 21st day of April A.D. 1856 aged 50 years.

Here lyeth the body of William Morton in West Newton who died

Also Frances his wife who died Feb. ye 13 1767 aged 65 years.

Also their daughter Ann wife of John Morton who died January 1808(?) aged 72 years.

In memory of Henry Morton born June 20 1780 died November -- 1870 at Biddick.

Eleanor Morton wife of Henry Morton, Lambton, died 11 Sept. 1850 aged 65.

Here lieth the bodies of William and Thomas Rea children of James Rea of Lanton Mill. William died March 24 1746 aged 10 months and Thomas died June 1 1758 aged 21 years.

In memory of James son of James and Frances Rea of North Middleton who died on the 14th of April 1825 aged 14 years.

Also the above James Rea who died at North Middleton on the 1st July 1849 aged 69 years.

Also the above Frances Rea who died on the 9th February 1871 aged 89 years.

Here lies the Body of Mrs. Mary Reed wife of Mr. Lancelot Reed of Hethpool who departed this life October the 11th anno dom. 1696.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> In the Register of Burials he is described as of Berrington Back-hill in the parish of Kylloe.

<sup>17</sup> He was of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, matriculated 17 February, 1824, B.A. 1829, M.A. 1830, vicar of Kirknewton, 1855 to his death.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. pedigree of Reed of Hethpool, new *History of Northumberland*, vol. II, p. 258.

Here lies the Body of | Mr. Gilbert Reed | of | Hethpool who  
departed this | life the 14 day of June in the | year of God 1709. |

Sub hoc lapide conditur | quicquid mortale fuit | Georgii Reed | de  
Heathpool comitatu | Northumbriae armigeri | qui pietatis et charitatis |  
innocuaeque vitae illustri | ssimum exemplum fac | ilius laudandum quam |  
imitandum Posteris reli | quit.

Obiit die Decemb | ris decimo nono 1743 et | aetatis suae 57 . |  
Margareta conjux | ejus hoc Monumentum | M.P. |

Sacred to the memory of Captain Lancelot Reed of the 1st or Grenadier Regiment of Native Infantry Bombay who served with distinction during the Mahratta War and at the siege of Mangalore. He also was attached to His Majesty's 75th Regiment of Foot in the East Indies and died at Rothbury Northumberland on the 15th of August 1836 in the 74th year of his age.

Sacred to the memory of William Reed of Heathpool who departed this life 6 March 1858 aged 88 years.

Also of Isabella wife of the above who departed this life 8 June 1853 aged 73 years.

Also of Lancelot their second son who died at Heathpool 7 March 1865 aged 56 years.

Gilbert William Werge Reed their youngest son died 9 March 1873 aged 50 years.

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Hunt, widow of John Hunt, Adelaide S.A. and daughter of the late William Reed of Heathpool, who departed this life on the 22nd of December 1881; also of Isabella, second daughter of the late William Reed of Heathpool, who died at Wooler on the 11th April 1885 aged 74 years.

This stone marks the grave of the Rev. C. Robinson 28 years vicar of this parish who died Feby. 1 1855.

Elizabeth widow of the above died June 25th 1870 aged 82 years: she was second daughter of Matthew Culley of Denton and Akeld.

Erected by the parishoners of Kirknewton in affectionate remembrance of the Rev. Richard Smith, vicar, died 12 January 1886 aged 52 years.