

HEPWORTH AND ITS RECTORS.

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I should be glad to correct some errors and omissions in the article on the parish of Hepworth and its rectors which I contributed to the 8th volume of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and to carry the account of the Church and the Rectors to the present time.

First. The statement at page 383 that Ellen, the eldest daughter of William de Hepworth, married Sir Henry de Reveshall is incorrect. Sir Henry married Amicia the widow of William de Hepworth and mother of Ellen, and Sir Henry purchased the shares of both Ellen and her sister Agnes in the Hepworth estates of her father. This appears from the statement in the Registrum Lakingheath Harleian MS. S 743, fol. 86b, at the British Museum. The statement at page 340 of the 5th vol. of Blomfield's History of Norfolk, as to Sir Henry marrying Helen, daughter of Wm. of Hepworth, which I adopted, is clearly wrong. Page in his Suffolk Traveller improved on Blomfield by untruly stating that Sir Henry after the death of Helen married her sister Amy.

2. In the list of Rectors the name of Thomas Watlington was omitted. He was in consequence of a lapse presented to the living in 1413 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the previous rector, Johannes Bury, having resigned the living. Thomas Watlington died in 1420 and on his death Walter Gerard was presented as stated in my article.

3. The daughter of Robert Ashfield mentioned in his will was Margaret, Beaupre, and not Margaret Bewfrey as printed.

4. The Rev. John Brundish made a will which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1544 (10 Pynning).

5. The Rev. Richard Sporle and Ann his wife had in fact 5 children, namely :

(1) Richard Sporle, who had by his wife Martha two sons, John and Robert, both baptised at Hepworth. His widow Martha was buried at Hepworth on 6th January, 1638.

(2) Ann baptised 7th March 1587, and buried 29th Dec., 1617.

(3) Elizabeth baptised at Hepworth 2nd July, 1592.

(4) Mary baptised 28th Feb., 1597.

(5) Abigail baptised 28th Aug., 1603.

The Rev. Richard Sporle became Curate of Hepworth in 1577. He succeeded the Rev. Ralfe Venteris, who became curate in 1574.

6. In 1751 Rev. Wm. Knowles, and in 1755 Rev. John Stopdale were curates of Hepworth.

7. The Curate of the parish in 1809 and 1812 was Rev. Gervas Holmes and not George Holmes as stated.

8. The Rev. Henry George Hand was Vice Provost of King's College, Cambridge, from December 2nd, 1847, to August 8th, 1851. His wife's name was Caroline Anne More Molyneux. She died in 1905 at Busbridge near Godalming.

9. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Green the wife of the Rev. W. C. Green, died on the 15th February, 1904. The Rev.

W. C. Green resigned the living in October, 1910, and he died on 28th February, 1914, both he and his wife were buried at Hepworth.

10. The Rev. Charles Everett Green, nephew of the Rev. W. C. Green, was presented to the Living in October, 1910, by the Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge. He resigned the living in April, 1920, having been appointed to the Rectory of Lichborough in the diocese of Peterborough. On Sept. 29th, 1897, he married Miss Geraldine Hill at All Saints Church, Meole Brace, near Shrewsbury. He was educated at Christ's Col., Cambs., and ordained Deacon in 1892.

11. In May, 1920, the Rev. Norman C. Smith was presented to the Living by the Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge. He was educated at Leeds Clergy School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, B.A. 1910, Divinity Prizeman M.A. 1914, and in August, 1913, was married to Miss Helen Florence McMillan.

The church at Hepworth was with the exception of the Tower Walls and South Porch destroyed by fire on Easter Monday, 1898. It was shortly afterwards restored on the lines of the old church at an expense of about £2,300 and was re-opened by Lord Alwyne Compton, the Bishop of Ely, on September 29, 1899. A handsome oak hammer beam roof covered with Brosley Tiles was placed over the Church instead of the thatched roof which had been mainly responsible for the fire. The well known font cover was fortunately preserved from destruction and with a new font a copy of the old one was placed at the west end of the church near the entrance through the tower. A painted glass window by Mr. James Powell, of Whitefriars, representing the Marys at the Tomb, has been placed on the north side of the Chancel in memory of Mrs. Mary Ellen Methold, who died on the 2nd October, 1902.

In 1921 the rector, with the consent of the patrons and the Bishop of the Diocese, sold the greater part of the Glebe, the purchase money being invested for the benefit of the incumbents.

A granite cross has been erected in the churchyard in memory of the men of Hepworth who fell in the Great War, and a brass memorial to the men has been placed in the Church.

By an order of the Charity Commissioners dated the 17th day of July, 1896, the Commissioners gave their consent to the grant by the Trustees of the Hepworth Town Lands of a piece of land not exceeding 35 yards from east to west forming the eastern portions of the two gardens situate on the south side of the Hepworth Churchyard and extending the whole width of the two gardens to the party or parties in whom the churchyard was then vested and accordingly by an Indenture dated the 15th of August, 1896, the said piece of land was duly conveyed to the Rector of the Parish as an addition to the said Churchyard. On the 11th of October, 1906, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Ely consecrated the said piece of land for the purposes of burial, and as an addition to the churchyard.