

sequentum. Sic preparata sit nobis anima. Sic moriemur, terque beati. Obiit Jan. 27, 1713. Ætat sua 75.

9. On a gravestone in the south aisle—

Here lieth the body of Samuel Hirst, of Mirfield, Gent., son of John Hirst, of Stockport, in the county of Chester, Gent., who departed this life ye 4th day of June, 1730, and in the 29th year of his age.

10. On another in the south aisle—

Here lieth the body of Ann, daughter of Richard Horsfall, of Storth Hall, Gent., who to her first husband married Thos. Beaumont, of this town, Gent., and to her second husband Henry Stanhope, Alderman, of Leeds. She departed this life ye 13th day of Feby., A.D. 1728, and in the 87th year of her age.

11. On another stone about the middle of south aisle, scarcely legible—

Thomas Beaumont was buried the 20th day of May, 1638, aged 78 years.

12. On another near the same place, taken up when the aisle was repaired—

Alice, wife of Thomas Beaumont, of Mirfield, was buried the 25th day of October, 1648, aged 76.

13. Upon a board on the south wall—

B. T. A. enclosed in lines with several squares at the corners, the upper line having a semicircle in the centre, in which the B is placed, and below that to the left and right respectively are the T and A.

It is dated 1668, but the date is severed by the semi-circle, which separates it into 16 on the left side and 68 on the right.

When a vault was opened in the area of the old parish church for the interment of the late Mr. J. B. Greenwood, Dewsbury Moor, in October, 1879, a stone was found having the following inscription:—

There was a plague in the parish of Mirfield A.D. 1631, whereof died 130.

This number is not exactly the same as that mentioned in the MS. account by the Vicar, the Rev. Joseph Ismay, who says the following inscription was set up in Mirfield Church in 1752, as a memorandum to posterity—

A.D. MDCXXXI.
Deo placuit parochiam de Mirfield punire acri sua castigatione ita ut cxxx. homines et gravissimo et dolentissimo morbo et contagio pestilentia correpti mortem obierunt.

Advertite vos et vivite.—EZEK. 18-32.
Jos. Ismay, hujus Ecclesie Vic. F.F., A.D. 1752.

In English—

In the year of our Lord 1631 it pleased God to correct the parish of Mirfield with so severe a chastisement that 130 men, &c., seized with a most grievous pestilence, died.

“Turn yourselves, and live ye.”—Ezek. xviii. 32.

Jos. Ismay, Vicar of this church, caused it (i.e. the inscription) to be made A.D. 1752.

“The plague was brought into Mirfield by a woman called Elizabeth Prince, a poor woman, who died of the infection, and was buried at Mirfield, 25th April, 1631.”

“The number of those who died of the plague in the Register (fearful visitation, from which good Lord deliver us) was 130. At the bottom of Littlemoor and in Easthorpe-lane there still appear some remains of hills and pits, where, it is said, were interred a vast number of human bodies during that fatal year (1631), when the plague raged in Mirfield. ‘Tis highly probable they made a trench to receive the bodies of those who died of the infection, and possibly it was at some convenient place near the habitations of those that perished.’”

“William Rhodes, of Northorpe, died of the pestilence on the 18th of September, 1631, and was buried near the church porch on the 20th of the same month, as appears by the inscription on his gravestone.”

“Agnes, wife of William Rhodes, of Northorpe, died of the same epidemical distemper, and was buried 6th October, 1631.”

Now, as there is no memorial of her death upon the stone, in all probability she and many more were buried near their own dwellings. I find Alice, wife of Henry Wraith, buried June 1st, 1631, and it is said the husband would not be at the expense of getting his wife decently interred at a convenient distance from the house, caused the following lines—

“Henry Wraith, to save a crown,
Buried his wife in haystack ground.”

MIRFIELD CHURCH.

Dr. J. Ryley Robinson writes:—

Since the insertion of my article on this subject in these columns “R. B.” has again written asking several questions. In reply to that—If any descendants of Sir John Heton, mentioned in the narrative, are now living? I have made many inquiries, and am informed that there are families now resident in the parish who spell their names Heton, and others who spell theirs Heaton, all of whom may be from the same stock; but I have as yet failed to find any of them claiming connection with the builder of the church. As to the connection of the mound adjacent with that said to be erected by the Danes, I do not think any sufficiently reliable proofs are forthcoming, no excavations having ever been made in any portion of it to my knowledge. I will make further inquiries respecting his other questions at the earliest opportunity. I append the list of sepulchral inscriptions collected by the same Mr. Ismay whose postical epitome of the history of Mirfield I gave in my last paper, and which, though existing in his time, are, I believe, all now missing.

1. On a gravestone within the chancel door—

Here lieth interred the body of Ann, daughter of Mr. George Thurgarland, of Liley, who departed this life the 19th day of January, in ye 8th year of her age. Anno Dom. 1681.

2. On a brass plate (in the Rector's pew) on the south side of the chancel—

Georgius Thurgarland de Liley. Generosus olim civis et scriptor de Londona obiit 17 die Septem 1666 sepultusque fuit 19 die ejusdem mensis.

Thurgarlands tuum corpus cum vermibus hic est.
Quod vivens meritis voxit honore viris,
Tuque Vocat vo qui Fleeteris esse Georgi,
Nunc Ablativo rita OEGYPTOE eris.
Hic erat osurum moderamine Facificator,
Cujus pars melior regnat in arca Dei.

3. On a brass plate in the chancel—

Hic jacet Margareta nuper uxor Georgii Thurgarland de Liley Gen et Filie Primogenita Thomae Nettleton de Thornhill Lees Gener; obiit 27th die Octobris An.D. 1640.

4. On another brass plate in the chancel—

Here was interred Mary, daughter of the Rev. Jos. Ismay, Vicar of this church, who died Aug. 8rd, 1749, in the first year of her age.

5. On another brass plate in the chancel—

Hic jacet Maria, nuper uxor J. Ismay, hujus Ecclesie Vicarii. Obiit 20 die Martii, 1765, æt sua 49.

Thomas, Fil Rev. J. Ismay, Vicar M. Alum; in Acad. Edin. Obiit 17 die Martii, A.D. 1772, æt sua 22. Et in sepulchris Grey Friars, Edin. Sepultus fuit.

6. On a gravestone in the chancel—

Here lieth interred the body of Christopher Shaw, the son of George Shaw, and Lieutenant to Sir Ingram Hopton, who was buried the 3rd day of April, anno Dom. 1644. Æt. 21.

N.B.—Chris. Shaw was slain, as tradition reports, by Richard Wheatley, late of Mirfield, and at that time a soldier under Cromwell.

7. On another in the chancel—

Here lieth interred the body of Mrs. Dorothy Thorp, daughter of the adjacent Mr. Richard Thorp, who deceased the 5th day of Decr., in the 25th yr. of her age, ano Dom. 1711.

8. On another in the chancel—

Here lieth interred the body of Richard Thorp, of Hopton, in the parish of Mirfield, gent. Mors quod mortale est habes et immortale tenes sublimis caelum. Vir probe praeclare pietate, charitate, doctrina culte, et bonis moribus placide quiescis, dum sonat laudes anima divinas dum forant tua facta vere pia. Serius aut citius, nobis