**A**

**Social History**

**Of The**

**Village of Abbotsham**

**1860-1978**

***Section 2 1881 - 1899***

Sincere thanks are given to Mr Clifford Babb for all the time he has given towards the preparation of this study, and to Bideford College for the facilities it has afforded him

**ABBOTSHAM**

Many old parishes and their churches have had their history written by

learned scholars, others by enthusiastic locals, but despite the fact that I do not fall into either category, I have strangely been drawn to the village of Abbotsham, with its beautiful little church of St Helens. On approaching this building an outstanding feature is its very low tower - I wonder whether it was ever surmounted with a spire.

Many a person has visited this lovely little church with its well kept

churchyard, situated in what must be some of the best Devonshire

countryside. To me, the village seems to be always peaceful, people never

seem to hurry, and very little seems to have changed down through the centuries. .

Because of the fact that I am retired and live close to the village, I have been fortunate in being able to research and discover a great deal of information concerning the people who have lived there, how they were employed, and what activities they were involved in during their out of work time. One of the most evident features is that quite naturally people attended their parish church, but also the Baptist Chapel was a very well attended place of worship, with a very enthusiastic congregation.

Although today many of the inhabitants of Abbotsham have come there because of their employment, or have settled there in retirement, this has not

always been the case. Like many other such villages it boasted of quite a

close community, people belonged to the village, and were happy to be there.

I have always considered that every village churchyard can supply a wealth

of information regarding its former parishioners. Old gravestones contained

so very much more detail than those of today. But of course these details

deteriorate with time, especially when situated so close to a wind blown coastline. It is unusual to discover many such epitaphs much older than 300 years old.

I have been fortunate in being able toesearch the old copies of the “Bideford Gazette”, as a result of the diligence of the village correspondents down through the years. Accordingly I have extracted the happenings at Abbotsham, and I believe that the result will give quite a comprehensiveaccount of the day to day lives of the village people.

In addition I have been able to use some extracts from the “Abbotsham Parish Magazine”, which is such a source of valuable information. This

magazine began in 1889, and the Vicar of the parish in 1890 stated, “These

magazines may, in years to come, prove of the greatest interest. They make up in fact a simple history of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past”.

Mike Davy. 8th January 1994.

**ABBOTSHAM**

The New Burials Act: The first funeral under the new Act took place here on Wednesday when the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. W. Wooley, Baptist Minister of Bideford, the Curate in Charge, the Rev. Barber with unexpected kindness, ordering the bell to be tolled on the occasion.

(February 22nd 1881 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM N. DEVON.

To be let by Tender for a term of 7 or 12 years from the 25th day of March next all that desirable FARM called or known as PUSEH1LL situated in the parish of Abbotsham, now in the occupation of Mr. George Cook, containing 145 acres, be the same more or less, of good arable and pasture land. The Farm is well situated within 3 miles of the market town of Bideford and railway station. The taker is to pay the land tax and all other taxes, Tithe commutation Rent Charge, and other outgoings, and to execute a lease of the premises. The taker will be required to pay for the corn in the ground, ploughing, and unexhausted manures on the premises, the amount thereof to be determined in the usual way.

Messrs Hole and Beard Solicitors, Bideford.

(March 1st 1881 - BG).

**DEATH**

On the 5th inst at 3 Sydenham Place, Bideford - Mr Joseph Heywood of Lake

Farm, Abbotsham aged 75 years. The funeral will take place on Thursday

next leaving Lake Farm at 2pm.

(March 8th 1881 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM

The funeral of the late Mr Joseph Heywood took place on Thursday. The cortege which left Lake Farm at 2 o’ clock included 30 conveyances in addition to the mourning coaches. The service was read by the Rev. Barber, Curate in Charge.

(March 15th 1881 - BG).

DEATH.

On the 20th inst at Abbotsham near Bideford (suddenly) Mr Samuel Witheridge aged 73.

(March 29th 1881 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The School of this Parish has been visited by the Government Inspector, who

reported that the school is in good order, and the instruction of the children much improved. Miss Chalk the school mistress will receive her certificate. The Government Grant is £29.15s, being an increase of £12. lOs on that of the previous year.

(April 5th 1881 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On 30th ult at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr Bale, of a son.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**DEATH.**

On Good Friday at Orchard, Abbotsham, George Lettey, aged 76. For 38

years the faithful and attached servant and friend of E.U Vidal, Cornborough, Abbotsham.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Usual Good Friday tea took place at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham on

Friday Last, when upwards of 600 sat down. A public meeting was afterwards held in the Chapel, and was well attended.

(April 11th 1882- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 1st inst at Abbotsham Vicarage, the wife of Rev. R.W. Sealy VidaI, of a son.

(May 16th 1882 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

One and a half acres of good COVER GRASS FOR SALE

Apply, Woodcock, Abbotsham.

(July 4th 1882 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 24th August at St. Mary’s, Bridgewater by the Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, assisted by Re. W.G. Fitz Gerald, Vicar of Bridgewater. Rev. P.R. Ripon Braithwaite, Vicar of St. Luke’s, Jersey - to Emma Anne Sealy, eldest daughter of E.U. Vidal Esq. of Cornborough, near Bideford.

(August 29th 1882 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 1st inst at Lewisham, Monkleigh, Susan, widow of the late Mr John Pettie

of Abbotsham, aged 65.

(September 5th 1882 - BC).

**DEATH**.

On 5th inst at Abbotsham, Thomas James McLean, grandson of the late

Thomas Essery, aged 16.

(September 11th 1883 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 25th inst at Coombe, Abbotsham, after a lingering and painful illness,

Mary Mountjoy, the dearly loved wife of John Turner aged 68.

August 28th 1883 - BG).

**SALE**.

On Wednesday July 18th 1883 - Household Furniture and other effects at

RIXLADE the property of Spencer Lynne Esq. Comprising:

Drawing Room - Three seat centre ottoman, walnut settee, walnut davenport, gilt framed chimney glass 50’ x 40’, occasional chairs, occasional and fancy chairs, gipsy and other occasional tables, whatnot, walnut glazed cabinet, many articles of fancy china, pole and rings, cretonne window

curtains, Brussels carpet, wool mats, fire set, coal vase and scoop.

Dining Room - Oak dining table, mahogany arm and easy chair, ladies’ chair to match, four mahogany chairs, cheffionier, table cloth, ebonized chimney

glass, occasional chairs, Brussels carpet, curtains, roller and blinds,

(ctd p14)

lamps, dinner service, blue china tea and breakfast service, plated forks and spoons, card tray and coffee pot, copper tea urn, sewing machine.

Four Bedrooms - Iron French bedsteads, spring mattress, palliasses, soft mattresses, feather bolsters and pillows, hanging wardrobe, chest drawers,

toilet tables, washstands, night commode, cane seat chairs, fire sets, fenders, carpets, rugs, blinds and rollers. .

Kitchen - Kitchen table, chairs, clock, lamp, floor cloth and the usual kitchen requisites.

Two wheel trap, butt, pony harness, pony cart harness, wheelbarrow, lawnmower, iron lifting jack, wire netting, pigeons, flower stand, greenhouse stove.

(July 17th 1883 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 1st inst at Abbotsham, Thomas Essery, aged 72.

(May 8th 1883- BG).

**SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.**

On Wednesday May 2nd 1883 at Keen, Abbotsham. Instructions received from A.W. Ashton Esq. to Sell by Public Auction –

Miscellaneous Household Furniture.

Four Wheel Phaeton suitable for a cob, Two Wheel Pony Dog Cart, Double barrel gun, set of harness, saddle and bridle. Also a splendid GREYHOUND.

(May 1st 1883 - BG).

**DEATH**

On 18th ult at Edge Farm, Abbotsham, Mr Wuhan Hearn aged 65.

(May 1st 1883- BG).

**AUCTION SALE.**

Lot 1 All that messúage or Dwelling House, together with Lawn, walled

garden, coach house, stable, courtlage and offices, situate at Riccards Down in the parish of Abbotsham, now occupied by the Misses Barclay as yearly tenants.

Lot 2 All those two cottages, also situate at Riccards Down with two gardens and courtlages belonging, occupied by Robert Brock and Thomas Braunton.

Lot 3 All that cottage with garden, situate at Riccards Down, occupied by

Robert Grant, blacksmith.

Lot 4 All that cottage with garden situate at Riccards Down, occupied by

Joseph Spratt.

Lot 5 All that Dwelling House with walled garden, situated at Riccards Down, lately occupied by Mrs Trebell, and also the Smiths Shop adjoining occupied by Robert Grant.

Lot 6 All that Large Garden adjoining the last mentioned Lot, now occupied

by Robert Grant. This garden would form an excellent Building Site.

Sale at New Inn Hotel, Bideford, Tuesday the 8th day of May next at 6 for 7pm.

(April 24th 1883 - BG).

**ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.**

The following gentlemen have been nominated to serve as Guardians of the Poor for the Bideford Union and will shortly be declared elected:

Abbotsham - George Turner.

(April 3rd 1883- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 4th inst at Claycott Farm, Abbotsham - Mr Edward Moase aged 71.

(February 5th 1884 - BC).

**DEATH**.

On 26th uIt at Abbotsham, Mary, wife of the late Mr William Ackland, aged 77.

(November 4th 1884 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

To be Let by Tender with immediate possession for such term as may be agreed on, in one or more lots, all these SIX FIELDS of excellent pasture

land, situate at WINDMILL CROSS, adjoining the main road leading from

Bideford to Clovelly, containing together 26A. I R. 11 P. (More or less) –

Lot 1. A field known as “Claws” on the north side of the road 2A 2R 5P

Lot 2. 4 fields known as “Pynewill” on the south side of the road 21A 2R 5P

Lot 3. A field known as “Crockers Close” on the N side of the road 2A IR 1P

(November 18th 1884 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 19th inst at Abbotsham, Mary, wife of the late Thomas Essery aged 75.

(January 27th 1885 - 8G).

**DEATH.**

On 30th uIt at Abbotsham, Mr Leonard Woodcock aged 86.

(May 5th 1885 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

“Liberalism, Its Principles, Power and Progress” was the title of a lecture

delivered by Mr Waring in the National Schoolroom, Abbotsham on Saturday. He dealt with the power of Liberalism. He quoted a conundrum, “Why is a

Conservative like a wheelbarrow” - and the answer was, “Because he never

went except when pushed”. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Vicar for

the use of the room. The Rev R.W.S. Vidai in acknowledging said that he

was so pleased that the meeting had been quiet and orderly. He mentioned

that it was his fixed intention as a clergyman not to ally himself with either political party. The meeting closed with cheers for the Vicar, Mr Pitt-Lewis, Mr Gladstone, and the Queen.

(June 9th 1885 - BG).

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM.

A well attended meeting was held in the Schoolroom at Abbotsham on

Saturday evening for the purpose of forming a Conservative branch association.

(June 16th 1885-8G).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 15th inst at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. R. Granville, Rector of

Bideford, assisted by Rev. H. Brembridge - the Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy

Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, second surviving son of the late E. U. Vidal Esq. of Cornborough to Gertrude, eider daughter of Maj. Gen. Molesworth, R.A., of Kenwith, Abbotsham.

July 21st 1885- 8G).

**MARRIAGE.**

Wednesday last was a high day and holiday at Abbotsham, the occasion of the rejoicing being the wedding of the vicar of the parish, the Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy Vidal and Miss Gertrude Molesworth, daughter of Maj. Gen.

Molesworth, R.A. of Kenwith. Punctually at the time appointed a quarter past eleven, the bride drove up, and leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church, which was crowded with villagers and friends from Bideford and the neighbourhood, all anxious to witness the interesting ceremony. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. Granville, Rector of Bideford and the Rev. H. Brembridge. The Rev. R. Granville delivered an impressive and affectionate address to the newly married couple. As the bridal party left the church, the village children on each side of the path strewed flowers before the bride and bridegroom, and pelted them with rice, the time honoured expression of “good luck wishes”. It may be mentioned that the bride was attired in a dress of white satin trimmed with Honiton lace flounces, and wore veil and wreath. Mr Edwin Sealy Vidal acted as best man, and the bridesmaids were Miss M. Molesworth and Miss Sealy Vidal, and the two little Misses Smith. The two former wore dresses of ecru canvas, striped with gold and trimmed with wide ecru lace; and hats to match. The two little pages, Master Ambrose Smith and Master A. Molesworth, wore white serge sailor suits.

As the party drove off to Kenwith the bells again pealed forth merrily. The

village in the direction of the Bride’s home was gaily decorated with flags etc, and about half way was a triumphal arch in the centre of which were the words:

God Bless this happy couple.

Long may they live.

And happy be

Dwell in Peace and Unity.

The wedding breakfast was laid at Kenwith House after which the Rev, and Mrs Vidai drove to Bideford and left by train en route for the English Lakes.

The Rev. R.W.S. Vidal is a clergyman who is greatly beloved by his parishioners, and to whom nothing could be more gratifying than their kindly feelings towards himself and his bride.

(July 21st 1885- BG).

**GARDEN FETE AND FANCY FAIR AT KENWITH.**

On Thursday and Friday last the grounds at Kenwith (the residence of Gen. Molesworth) were the scene of a Garden Fete and Fancy Fair. The object of the proceedings was to increase the Abbotsham Church Bells Fund. The renovation of the peal of bells ¡n Abbotsham Church tower is a work which will meet with the commendation from every parishioner. It is the wish of the Vicar, Rev R. W.S. Vidal to have two of the existing bells recast, to add two new ones and rehang the whole, thus providing a peal of six bells. The various departments of the Fair were located within different tents. Having completed the round of pleasure in the tents, visitors wended their way to the Red Barn, kindly lent by Mr Barton, for the purpose of the Dramatic Performances. The Bideford Volunteers Band under Bandmaster Morrish attended on both days. In connection with the Fete there was a Cottage Garden Show in the yard at Kenwith.(Sept. 1st 1885- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 3rd inst at the Bible Christian Chapel, Bideford, Mr Thomas Buse of Abbotsham to Miss Elizabeth Champion of Northam.

(Oct. 20th 1885 - BG).

**DEATH**.

On 20th ult at Chaltaborough, Abbotsham, Elizabeth, wife of William J.

Pickard, late of Hyde, Northam, aged 63.

(Dec. 8th 1885 - BG),

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday last ail the children of this parish were entertained by the Vicar and Mrs. W. Vidal to tea and a Christmas tree. The muster of the children was very large, numbering considerably over 100, and judging from

the general good humour they seemed thoroughly to enjoy the good things

provided. The tree was loaded with presents given by kind friends in the

village. The Vicar’s wife, Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Turner, Mrs. Wilson and others were indefatigable in their efforts to make the evening so successful.

(Jan. 12th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Another of the “Penny Reading” Entertainments was given in the Schoolroom

on Thursday evening last, the Vicar, Rev. R.W.S. Vidal presiding. All the

performers did well. The Vicar and Mrs. Vidal sung a duet; Miss Turner played two violin solos; Miss K. Turner and Miss Ludlow contributed a couple of songs each, as did Mr. E.J. Russell and Mr. W. Blackmore. The Vicar gave a reading, Mr: Gordon recited twice, Mr. E. Woodcock sang, and several glees were rendered by the choir.

(Feb. 9th 1886- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

An entertainment of quite a novel character was given on Thursday last by

the scholars of the Abbotsham School, who under the direction of Miss Abraham, the mistress, afforded parents and friends a real treat. In the chair was the Vicar who gave a short speech, announcing the results of the recent examinations. The children’s entertainment consisted of glees, songs and recitations. Many of the recitations were given by tiny “dots”. Jane

Friendship received a prize for diligence in home study, and James Churchill for regular attendance.

(Feb. 16th 1886- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 16th ult at Stone, Abbotsham, Sarah Ann Ackland, aged 22.

(March 2nd 1886 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 2nd ult at Abbotsham Church - Edward Leonard Woodcock to Elizabeth Ann Líttlejohns.

(March 9th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The third of the series of Penny Readings which have been given this winter

took place on Wednesday 3rd inst and provided a still greater success. The

room was filled to almost suffocation, and numbers were unable to get in.

(March 16th 1886- BG).

**DEDICATION OF NEW BELLS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

It will be remembered that sometime since a bazaar was held at Abbotsham

for the purpose of raising funds for the purpose of purchasing two additional bells for Abbotsham Church. The money collected then and a little extra from many friends, enabled the excellent Vicar, the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal to proceed with the work, with the result that two splendid new bells have been added, two have been recast, and the belfry put in first rate order. The casting and remoulding was carried out by Messrs. Llewellin and James of Bristol, and the hanging by Messrs. M. Luxton and Son of Winkleigh. On Thursday afternoon a dedication service was held in the Church conducted by Venerable Archdeacon Barnes, who was assisted by the Vicar, Rev. R.W.S. Vidal and Rev. M.D. Dimond-Churchward. The church was crowded and the service choral. A tea was held in the Schoolroom.

During the day, the bells which may be classed as the finest for miles around, (especially the tenor) were rung by ringers from Bideford, Weare Gifford, Winkleigh, Torrington, High Bickington and other parishes, all of whom by the kindness of Mr. J. Turner were supplied with an excellent cold luncheon. The offertory amounted to £5.

(May 4th 1886- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The annual Cottage Garden Show of the Society, which was founded in 1845, was\_held on Wednesday July 28th in charming weather. A noticeable feature being the nosegays of wild flowers and wild grasses which were shown by the school children. Mr. Broadway, gardener to Miss Poole, was the judge. The whole village was en fete, and the new bells rang out at intervals.

(August 3rd 1886- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 12th inst at the Bible Christian Chapel, Roath, Cardiff by the Rev. J.C. Honey - Arthur the third son of Mr. Thomas Henry Clover of Abbotsham, to Lizzie, the only daughter of Mr. James Rowe of Roath, Cardiff.

(August 17th 1886 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Church on Sunday. The Vicar preached in the morning and evening, and in the afternoon Rev. Morse of Littleham. There were good congregations on each occasion. The decorations were not overdone, but were in excellent taste - Mrs. Vidal, Miss Vidal, Miss Molesworth, Miss Ward and Mrs. Wilson being responsible. There was a well attended public tea and a Concert in the grounds of Winsford.

(Sept. 21st 1686 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday March 17th 1887 at Rickslade, Abbotsham near Bideford, the

property of Mr. W. Fuiford, including good useful Household Furniture will be sold.

(March 15th 1887 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday evening last a meeting was held for purpose of forming a juvenile

branch of the C.E.T.S. Addresses were delivered by the Vicar and the Rev. M.D. Dimond-Churchward. A branch society was started.

(March 29th 1887 - BC).

**BIRTH.**

On the 25th inst at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. John Bale, of a son.

(March 29th 1887- BC).

ABBOTSHAM.

On Good Friday a public tea and meeting took place at the Baptist Chapel.

Tea was provided from 4-6pm and about 400 persons sat down. At 7.30 a crowded meeting took place presided over by the pastor, Rev, W. Gillard

(April 12th 1887- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 26th ult at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal - Mr. John Pickard of Bideford to Mrs. Rowe of Abbotsham.

(May 10th 1887 - BG).

**CRICKET**

A match between Bideford C.C. and Barnstaple C.C. was played on Saturday. The Rev. R.W.S. Vidal kept the wicket for Bideford well, and also opened the batting.

(June 14th 1887 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

By none could the Jubilee Festival (Queen Victoria had reigned for 50 years) have been celebrated with more enthusiasm than by the Abbotsonians. The Ladies Committee arranged for the tea for nearly 400. The Sports

Committee prepared an interesting programme. Mr. Henry Glover arranged

an awning over the whole extent of the dining and tea tablés, an area of

1,600 feet, and Mr, Moase fixed the tables. The merry peal of bells

announced to the villagers the dawn of the 21st. A Thanksgiving Service

was held in the Church at 12 o’ clock, and at 1 the parishioners, all of whom had been invited, bent their steps to the scene of the days rejoicing. A graceful arch decked with evergreens and flags by Mr. Barton Jun., and Mr.Charles Pickard Jun. spanned the entrance gate to the field lent by J. Turner Esq. of Coombe, and carried the loyal greetings, “Long Live the Queen” - white letters on a red ground by Mrs. Wilson of Keene, and the other “God Save the Queen” by Mrs. Betty of Bowood. The dinner company numbered 115 - roast and boiled beef, and plum pudding. There was a “high tea” - huge joints, the cream, cake and other delicacies, and the steaming tea pots. About 300 sat down - women and children. After sports were indulged in. The company then proceeded to Westpark Hill for a display of fireworks and the bonfire.

(June 28th 1887 - BG)

**PRESENTATION TO REV. W. GILLARD.**

On Tuesday last a public meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham, to take leave of the Rev. W. Gillard who has accepted the call to the pastorate of the United Churches of Croyde and Georgeham. Mr. T.H. Glover on behalf of the church in an appropriate speech presented Mr. Gillard with an easy chair as token of the love and esteem in which he was held by his congregation, and expressed good wishes on behalf of the whole of the residents of Abbotsham.

(Oct. 4th 1887 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 16th inst at Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal, Vicar of Abbotsham, a daughter.

(Oct. 18th 1887 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On 22nd inst at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. C. Glover, of a daughter.

(Oct 25th 1887 - BG).

BIRTH.

On 15th October at Buckley, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. G. Wells, of a

daughter.

(1st Nov 1887 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 6th, Mrs. Woodcock (late of Abbotsham) aged 85 years.

(8th Nov 1887 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 2nd at 18 Geneva Place, Bideford, Eliza, widow of the late

Samuel Witheridge (Abbotsham) aged 75.  
(13th Dec 1887- BG).

**BIRTH.**  
On January 8th at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. J. Witheridge, of a daughter.

(17th Jan 1888 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 2nd at Abbotsham Court, the wife of Mr. J. Slee of a son.

(13th March 1888- BC).

**DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.**

Mrs Grant of Abbotsham who is well known at Bideford met with a serious accident yesterday morning. She was driving her pony cart into Bideford as

usual on Monday mornings, whilst coming down Northdown Lane the pony shied, and she was thrown out on the road, and on being picked up she was found to have broken her leg. Mrs. Gant’s daughter was also thrown out, and badly cut her face.

(24th April 1888 - BC).

**BIRTH.**

On April 21st at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr. Edward

Woodcock, of a son

(1st May 1888- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 27th, the wife of Constable Webber of Abbotsham, of a son.

(29th May 1888 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Bishop of the Diocese, held a confirmation in this parish on Saturday last when 17 candidates from Abbotsham and one from Littleham were presented. The service was a most impressive one. At the close the Bishop addressed a few words of hearty thanks to the choir. On Sunday the Vicar alluded to the affecting service of the preceding day, and went on to remark that though throughout the country the flags were flying half mast high to record the Victory of the King of Terrors over one of our greatest earthly Princes, he had thought it well to let the flag float on high, to impress upon the hearts of all who saw it, and may be wondering at it, that they were commemorating that day the out pouring in their midst of the Holy Spirit of God by whose mighty power alone Death could be swallowed up by Victory.

(19th June 1888- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Baptist Anniversary Services were held on Sunday and Monday last week, the Rev. E.J. Page preached services afternoon and evening on the Sunday, and a public tea was held on Monday, followed by a public meeting.

(17th July 1888 - BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Harvest Festival was kept in the village on Sunday and Monday last week. Thanksgiving Services were held in the Parish Church. There was an early celebration at 8am, and at 11am there was a full choral service. A

Children’s Service was held at 3.30pm. The Evening Service at 6.30 was also choral. The Church had been prettily decorated, and presented a very festive appearance. On Monday afternoon the children marched in procession to Winsford Farm, and there partook of a tea. A public tea was afterwards held in the Barn which had been kindly lent by H. Copp Esq. The tea was provided by Mrs. Bale, and about 300 people were present. Athletic sports were held in the adjoining field. At 7.30 an entertainment was given. A Dance succeeded the Concert, and dancing was kept up until 10pm, when the day ended with the National Anthem.

(Oct 2ndl 888 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Friday last the Abbotsham branch of the C.E.T.S. held its first meeting for adults. Interesting addresses were given by the President, the Rev.W.S. VidaI and the Rev. J. Morrell of Torrington. Songs, instrumentals selections and other entertainment were contributed by Misses Vidal, Moiesworth, Perring, Cooke, Merch and Blackmore, and Messrs Dare, Blackmore, Dymond and Best. Several pledges were taken at the end of the meeting.

(October 30th 1888 BG)

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM**

On Monday 14th inst Major Kirkwood fulfilled his engagement by addressing an assemblage of about 100 electors of Abbotsham in the Parish Schoolroom. General Molesworth was voted to the chair.

(January 22nd 1889 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday week the prizes and certificates were awarded to the children

attending the Parish School. Ten prizes were given to those who had made over 400 attendances during the past year. As Stephen Bale was present every time the school was opened, he gained the double prizes. The children were publicly examined in reading by the Vicar, and mental arithmetic and grammar by the mistress.

(March 26th 1889 BG)

**DEATH.**

On March 19th at Winsford Barton, Bideford, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of

Mr Henry Copp, aged 51 years.

(March 26th 1889 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 3rd at the vicarage, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal,

Vicar, of a son.

(May 7th 1889 BG)

**DEATH**

On June 13th at Pusehill, Abbotsham - John Heywood Brown, the beloved

son of James and Ann Brown, aged 19 years.

(June 18th 1889 BG)

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Anniversary of the Sunday School at the Baptist Chapel was held on

Sunday and Monday, July 28th and 29th. On Monday a public tea was held

followed by a public meeting. The prizes for the year consisting mainly of

hymn books in use at the Chapel were distributed to the scholars.

(July 30th 1889 BG)

**SALE OF PROPERTY AT BIDEFORD.**

At Mr H. Ascott’s New Inn Hotel, Bideford on Tuesday some freehold lands,

situate in the parish of Abbotsham were offered for sale. The whole of it

belonged to Mr J.R. Pine Coffin of Portledge who became the purchaser on

the understanding that there was a charge upon it of £6 per year to the poor of Abbotsham. It transpired however, that the poor were really entitled to an undivided poiety.

Lot I comprised two fields or closes of land containing 5A 2R 26P. it was sheltered from the cold winds and open to the sun the whole year around. It reached £400.

Lot 2 was Windmill Field which went to the hammer at the sum of £310 - the purchaser being Mr W. Turner of The Barton.Lot 3 was 3A OR 25P, and fetched the sum of £195, purchased by Mr Pine Coffin.

The total realised was £905.

(September 3rd 1889 BG).

**BIRTH**

On August 22nd at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr Woodcock of

a son

(September 3rd 1889 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On the 25th September at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Canon Atherton

(Rector of Farringdon) assisted by Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal(brother of the

bridegroom) - the Rev. George Studley Sealy Vidal, Chaplain of New College

and Reader of St. Johns College, Oxford, youngest son of the late E.U. Vidal Esq of Cornborough - to Constance Isabella Knox, youngest daughter of

Deputy Surgeon General S.A. Homan, late of H.M. Indian Army.

(October 1st 1889 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1889 (Extracts)**

In sending out our Parish Magazine for the first time, we venture to hope that we shall meet with the approval of the parishioners generally. We hope to publish it monthly , notes of the chief events of interest in the life of the parish, and from time to time short articles will appear, which it is hoped will afford either amusement or instruction, and possibly both, to our readers. Notes upon old papers, account books, and registers of the parish will be given, a series of short papers upon the Sunday Lessons throughout the year, and another series upon the Saints of the Kalendar usually known as Black Letter Saints, are also in the course of preparation.

We wish to draw the attention of those of the Parishioners who have a certain amount of leisure time at their disposal, to the Church History Lectures given by the Vicar on Friday afternoons. The difficulty of finding a suitable room has been surmounted by the great kindness of Mrs Storey, who places her drawing room at the disposal of the parish on that afternoon, and we trust that a steady increasing attendance will mark the appreciation of this generosity. All are cordially invited.

We also ask our readers to notice the proposed visit of Mr Stanton, the “Paddington Dustman” on the 11th inst. Mr Stanton is a well known speaker of the day on Temperence questions, and we can promise all who come to

the meeting that they will be most amply rewarded.

**(January 1889).**

On New Years Eve by the kindness of a large number of the parishioners, the

whole of the children in the parish were entertained at tea in the schoolroom. After tea a Magic Lantern was shown by the Vicar and Mr Bell, and on going home each member of the party carried off an orange and a bar of sweets to remind them, as long as they lasted, of the kindly departure of 1888.

The same evening the ringers and the choir met at supper at the Vicarage. About eleven adjournment was made to the tower. The old year was solemnly rung out with a muffled peal, and far and wide over the parish the bells tolled out the passing of the dying year. A few minutes before midnight the bells were stopped, and the ringers knelt, rope in hand, while the Vicar

offered up a short thanksgiving for the mercies of the past year, and a prayer for grace to use the opportunities of the new year to God’s greater glory. Then midnight was slowly struck upon the tenor by the foreman of the ringers, and out rang a merry peal, telling the many who were watching in their homes, how once again had come round the time for new hopes, new

resolutions, and new efforts to learn the true and only secret of a Happy New Year.

We would like to draw attention of the parishioners to the Penny Bank which is now entering its third year in the parish. Started in connection with the School, it is yet intended for any who care to invest in it. And it has this advantage over other Savings Banks, that depositors are able to put in as large sums or as small as they please.

It is hoped that in the coming year more parents will encourage their children to open an account in the bank, and so learn from the beginning of life the great lessons of thrift and independence. Many a child on leaving School may find, as the result of belonging to this Bank, that he or she has quite a nice sum of money, which may either go towards their outfit when they start in life, or be a nest egg for larger deposits in the years to come.

**(February 1889).**

Some of the parents of children in the school have expressed a wish to know

something about the Shoe Club. It has been in existence now for two years, and has we hope been fairly successful in its main object, the inducing of

regular and punctual attendance on the part of the children. We give the

Rules, explaining that an early attendance means being at the School at 9am

in the morning and at 2pm in the afternoon.

Rules of the Abbotsham Shoe Club

1. For every 10 early attendances made in one week, a penny will be added

to the penny paid.

2. For every 10 attendances, not early, a half penny will be added.

3. No arrears allowed.

4. No Club money taken till the school fees are paid.

5. The Club money to be paid every Monday morning.

6. Each child may pay 1d only per week.

7. No cards will be given out after March 25th.

**(March 1889).**

Attendants at our Parish Church will long miss with pain the well known face of Mrs Copp of Winsford Barton, who has been taken from our midst after only two days illness. Besides being a most regular attendant at Abbotsham Church Mrs Copp was always one of the most foremost in helping on

anything in the Parish which needed vigorous and hearty assistance. For

several years the Harvest Festivities have been held at Winsford Barn, and

Mrs Copp’s unfailing kindness and generosity on those occasions, are looked

back upon with true gratitude, mingled now with sad regret that never again in this world can those kind offices be given. We wish to express our deep

condolence with Mr Copp and his family in their bereavement.

After many years of great suffering, borne with marvellous patience, Grace

Blackmore passed to her rest on March 24th. Mrs Blackmore has been completely bed-ridden for many years, and death has come to her as, indeed,

a release from much suffering, and, we trust, an entrance into rest with Christ.

Tne Anniversary of the branch of the CET.S. in this parish was celebrated

on Thursday March 21st. Proceeding began with a service in the Church at

3.30. The choir and clergy met the children of the branch at the gate of the churchyard, and walked in procession into Church singing the hymn “O Lord our strength in weakness”. The sermon was preached by the Rev. M.D.

Dimond Churchward, Vicar of Northam. After the service, which was well

attended, a tea was held in the Schoolroom, at which more than 60 persons

sat down, besides the children - some 50 in number. Tea over, the room

was quickly cleared, and a platform erected for the evening meeting.

The annual report was next read, from which it appeared that the number of

children on the books had increased from 32 to 48, and the adult members from 10 to 21. A service of song entitled “Dragged Down” was then given by

Members of the Branch. Solos were given by M. Blackmore, L. Pearse, E. Moase, and the duets by J. Friendship, L. Pearse, C. Glover and Miss Abraham.

On Thursday March 14th the prizes and certificates in connection with the

Annual School inspection were distributed to the successful children. After

a varied programme, which gave great pleasure both to the children and the

many parents who were present, and the prizes were distributed as follows:

For Regular Attendance

1. Stephen Bale 422 attendances out of 422

2. Charles Tallin 421

3. Charles Bale 417

4. Ernest Clements 416

5. George Tallin 414

6. Jane Clements 413

7. William Slee 413

8. Alfred Glover 407

9. Charles Glover 405

10. Joseph Bale 401

**(April 1889).**

A very terrible case of sudden death occurred on Tuesday April 16th,

Elizabeth Hill being called to her rest literally without a moment’s warning. The poor woman was speaking to a neighbour outside her door when she suddenly fell backwards, and never spoke or breathed again. Her body was laid in its last resting place on Good Friday afternoon, and the funeral procession was largely made up of sympathising neighbours, anxious by their attendance to show their feeling for the bereaved husband and his son, in their great sorrow. Rarely have words fallen upon our ears with such solemn emphasis than did these as we stood round the grave, “In the midst of life we are in death, of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased”.

On Thursday April 12th a meeting of the Juvenile Branch of the Temperance

Society was held in the Schoolroom. A fair number of members were present. Two recitations were given, one by AIf Glover and the other by little Miss Scott, and the Vicar read the story of the life of a Waif and Stray. One new member was enrolled.

The usual Easter Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Monday, when the accounts for the year were presented, and Messrs John and Charles Turner were reappointed Churchwardens for the ensuing year. The offertory accounts were satisfactory, a sufficient balance remaining in hand to pay off the debt incurred in repointing the tower and north side of the church.

**(May 1889).**

Before the end of this month, if the present weather holds, we shall be in the full swing of haymaking. We venture therefore to make an appeal both to the members of the Temperence Society, and on their behalf to the employers of labour in the parish. To the members themselves that they will be careful in a time of special temptation to resolutely keep their resolution, and to the employers that they will kindly see that their labourers may have opportunities of taking tea and coffee or other non-intoxicating drinks, as well as the usual beer. It has been the experience of all who have worked in the cause of Temperance, that many pledges are unwillingly broken in haytime and harvest, because there has been nothing but beer to drink.

**(June 1889).**

Our readers are reminded that the Cottage Garden Show is to be held this

month; the actual date however, being not yet fixed. It is hoped that there

will be a novel and interesting exhibition of honey, taken from the bees

without destroying them.-.

On June 17th John Heywood Brown was laid to rest in Abbotsham churchyard after a short but distressing illness. Johnie Brown, as he was more widely known, was the eldest son of Mr James Brown of Pusehill. The respected overseer and waywarden of this parish, and was well known as a diligent, trustworthy lad who was just coming on to share with his father much of the latter’s responsibilities. Neither he himself nor his family had any warning given them of the coming blow. He had indeed felt ailing for a few

days, but nothing at all serious developed, until suddenly rheumatic fever

seized upon him, and almost immediately there seemed to be but little hope. He lay for two days more or less unconscious and then God took him to himself. The funeral on Monday was very largely attended, friends from far

and near coming to shew their love and respect both for the young man himself and his sorrowing family. We tender our hearty sympathy to Mr and

Mrs Brown in their heavy trouble.

**(July 1889).**

On Wednesday July 24th the Choir went for an outing to Clovelly. The members, to the number of twenty two, mustered by the oak at half past nine, and with very little delay took to their seats in a four horse break, and started off for their days pleasure. Pleasure they were determined to have, and did have, in spite of the rain which tried very hard all day to damp the spirits of the party. It takes a lot of rain to spoil the fun when all are good tempered and bent on making the best of things, and even the unfortunates, who had to sit outside on the box, and let the rain trickle down their necks pretended they enjoyed it, and managed really to look as if they did.

Two excellent puzzles, which defied all efforts at solution helped on the journey very much, and Clovelly was reached long before some of the party had had what they thought a fair try at getting the five little pigs in their pen. At this juncture the sun actually thought better of it and emerged from his hiding place, and a very pleasant hour or so was spent down upon the beach, the elders of the party strolling about, and expLoring the beauties of the place, the younger ones as a matter of course, amusing themselves by throwing stones. “All hands to dinner” was piped at half past one, and what newspapers call “ample justice” was done to the contents of the various hampers and baskets. After being thus fortified, the whole party decided on seeing the grounds to the very end. It rained more or less most of the way, and the wind was certainly boisterous. Dresses which had been clean and white were so no longer; people who had nervous thoughts about rheumatism resigned themselves to their certain fate. But there was suspicion of giving in. Right out to Mouth Mill everyone got, after the sual amount of racing and sliding and general skylarking. The walk back was rather more solemn, and might have been tedious, had not a good natured squirrel jumped up pretending to be lame, and so beguiling unsuspecting youth set off in pursuit. Then came tea, a short stroll, and then home. Being a choir it was only natural that they should sing, and the journey home was shortened by the more or less harmonious rendering of a somewhat mixed programme. Home was reached about half past nine, and the party broke up having we think, enjoyed their holiday one and all.

**(August 1889)**

The most important event of the month has been the sale of the poor lands at Tealta. The lands in question have been held for many years, how many years no one knows, on somewhat uncomfortable terms. They have been, what is called an “undivided moiety”, that is to say the freehold has belonged partly to the poor and partly to some other party. And as a result nothing could ever be done with the land, either in the way of letting or selling,

without the consent of both parties. For some years past the half belonging

to the poor has been rented by Dr Heywood Smith the owner of the other half, but some months ago Dr. Heywood Smith sold his property to Mr Pine Coffin, and the trustees of the poor land thought that this would be a good

opportunity for making some new arrangements. They therefore applied to the County Court to get an order, either for the division of the lands fairly between Mr Coffin and the poor, so that each might have their own absolutely to themselves, or if that could not be done , for the sale of the lands, the purchase money to be divided equally. The judge ordered a sale, and on Tuesday August 27th the property was put up for auction in three lots. The first lot being two fields lying the Westward Ho side of the road which runs from Cornborough to Westward Ho was bought by Mr Pine Coffin for £400. Lot 2 the field at the top of the hill by Tealta known as Windmill Field, having in it the valuable Tealta quarry, was bought by Mr William Turner for £310, and the last lot being a part of Tealta itself and garden, with one field south of the garden, was sold for £195 to Mr Pine Coffin. The total purchase money thus amounted to £905. From this will have to be deducted all the expenses connected with the legal proceedings, sale etc.

The net remaining sum will then be divided, and the poors’ share will be invested for their benefit under the direction of the Charity Commissioners. it is not expected that all the legal expenses will bellowed out of the purchase money, so that possibly for the next year or two the actual money to be distributed will not be more than in previous years. But when all the expenses are paid there will be considerably more at the disposal of the trustees, who are to be congratulated on the successful issue of their efforts to place the property of the poor on a more firm basis. At a meeting of the parishioners held in March last, it was unanimously agreed to be those present, that they would willingly give up a years pay, and if necessary two, in order to get the matter settled. And we hope that we shall find that it has been settled for good and all, and with very little sacrifice even of present income.

**(September 1889)**

On Wednesday August 28th the children of the parish were invited to spend

that afternoon at Cornborough. A large cart was sent by Mrs Vidal to carry

the younger of the party, and the rest marched gaily up under the care of

Miss Abraham and C. Pickard. The lawn at Cornborough has been the scene of a good many School Feasts in its time, and many generations of children must have spent a happy afternoon upon it. And this School Feast was no exception. Rounders, cricket, see saw, aunt sally and all the various games of our youth were indulged in with great heartiness till the word was given for tea. This was held on the gravel in front of the house, and we think we may say that full justice was done by ail concerned to the various good things provided for them. After tea more games, and the children all assembled outside the drawing room, and gave an exhibition of their Musical Drill under Miss Abraham’s guidance. At about 7 the “carriage” was ordered, and as many children as possible having been packed into the hay, the party drove off, with many cheers for the kind giver of the Treat.

The Harvest Festival Services were held on September 8th. Saturday was spent in preparing and decorating the church, and owing to the kindness of

number of parishioners, a great wealth of flowers and fruit was at the disposal of the decorators. As a result the church in her holiday attire, has seldom if ever, looked more beautiful. Sunday morning was ushered in by an early peal of bells, and at 8.30 the first service was held. The Vicar was assisted by the Rev. H. Crowther, and there were 26 communicants. At 11 o’ clock there was a second celebration of the Holy Communion with 17 communicants. The afternoon service was well attended and the children responded readily and intelligently to the Catechising upon the lessons of the Harvest field. In the evening the church was so crowded that forms and

chairs had to be brought in and placed in the aisles. The service was a very hearty one, prayers being intoned by the Rev. G.S.S. Vidal and the sermon preached by the Rev. W.R. Fox of Bideford. Throughout the day the choir rendered most efficient aid, the anthem “All Thy works praise Thee O Lord” being most nicely sung, and the harmonium being, as usual, carefully and accurately played by our most enthusiastic organist, William Blackmore.

The offertory throughout the day amounted to £5. 1ls. 2d, which was divided

equally between the Bideford Dispensary and Barnstaple Infirmary.

**(October 1889)**

On Monday October 4th an Entertainment was given in the Schoolroom in

connection with the giving away of prizes for proficiency shown in the recent examination in Religious Knowledge. The children assembled soon after 6 and gave a series of recitations and songs. They were also examined

shortly by the mistress in various parts of their work. At the conclusion the prizes were distributed by the Vicar, who spoke a few words as to the

importance of religious instruction, as a foundation upon which to build up all other learning, being indeed the only knowledge which shall “never pass

away”. Prizes were distributed to the following:

Standard vi. John Dennis.

Standard y. Stephen Bale.

Standard iv. Florence Champion. Annie Churchill.

Standard iii. Ernest Macklin.

Standard ii Evelyn Champion.

Standard I Edward Bale. Frank Pickard.

Infants Ben Pennìngton.

Memorial Cards for good answers on the Examination day also given to:

Charles Glover, W. Slee, Elizabeth Moase, Mabel Heywood, Harry Bale, Harry Hopper, C. Tallinand AIf. Glover.

Prizes for general good conduct, punctuality and industry were given to:-

1. G. Tallin. 2. W. Pickard. 3. J. Dennis.

In 1879 Mrs Buck of Moreton left a bequest of £25 to the Vicar of Abbotsham

to use for the benefit of the poor as he might think fit. The then Vicar deposited the money in the NP. Bank, after investing some of it in the

purchase of some blankets to be given out on loan to such of the parishioners as might be in need of them. Since that time the fund has been gradually decreasing as new blankets were purchased, but there is still in the bank between £11 and £12 sufficient at the present rate to last some ten years longer. The blankets are given out on November 1st and have to be

returned on May 1st, washed and in good order. The time having come for

their distribution those parishioners who may wish for a blanket, are

requested to apply to the Vicar, as only a certain number can be given out

each year.

One of the oldest and best known of our parishioners has just been taken to

his rest. After seven years of patient waiting Robert Grant passed away on

October 27th. For many years few were better known than the blacksmith of

Riccards Down forge, but of late years he had been able to do but little, and when his son went to Australia the forge was closed. Robert Grant was a

skilled and enthusiastic gardener, taking many prizes at the Cottage Garden

Show, and we think that almost the last time the old man was out, was when

he came up to the Show in 1888 to take his vegetables up for competition.

We publish below a first list of subscriptions for the New Parish Room, which it is hoped will soon be begun. Our readers will note that this is only the first list, and has but few names. We trust that many more will add their names

before the next magazine appears-

Mrs Vidal £20. 0.0.

Mrs Eyre£1 £10.0.0.

Mrs Lindsday £5.0.0.

Mrs F. Gossett £1.0.0

Collected by Miss Vidal £3.7.0.

The appeal for Cassocks for the Choir has been generously responded to. Five cassocks have already been promised, and if we can get three more, we

may hope to have them ready for Christmas Day.

**(November 1889).**

We are in sight of Christmas and the work of decorating the Church for that

joyous season will soon be upon us. The Vicar wishes it to be widely known

that every offer of assistance will be most gratefully accepted. Many hands

make light work, and there cannot be too many hands in such a labour of

love.

A Missionary meeting will be held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday evening

next at 7.30pm. The chief speaker will be W. Blakeney Esq who is well

known for his varied experience abroad, and for his earnest zeal in

Missionary work. He is a most able and striking speaker, and we trust there

may be a large attendance. There is a good moon on that evening, so that any who may wish to come will find their journey home rendered less difficult for them.

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Monday last a very interesting gathering was held in the Schoolroom when the prizes were distributed to the children by the Diocesan InspectorThe mistress was Miss Abraham and the monitress, Miss Pickard. Thelnspector’;s report indicated that the discipline in the school was “excellent”, and the school generally classed as “very good”.

(October 22nd 1889 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 27th at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, Mr Robert Grant, aged 72.

(October 29th 1889 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A pleasing entertainment was given in the Schoolroom at Abbotsham on Monday evening, the proceeds were given to the “London Waifs and Strays” fund. Miss May Abbot and Master J. Abbot sang two comic songs, there were a couple of songs by Miss Crossman, and charades by the children who had been well trained by Miss Abraham.

(December 17th 1889- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday last week a very successful meeting in connection with the C.E.T.S. was held in the Schoolroom. Songs were sung, a pianoforte solo

by Miss Perry, and dialogue given by Misses Pearce and Blackmore. The

singing of an evening hymn brought the meeting to a close.

(December 31st 1889- SG).

**THE ABBOTSHAM POOR LANDS.**

At the Bideford County Court on Wednesday the case of the Abbotsham Poor

Lands Trustees v Mr Pine Coffin again came before the Court. An application was made by Mr W.H. Turner Jun. of The Barton, Bideford under these circumstances. “The property belonging to the poor of Abbotsham was sold some months ago by an Order of the Bideford County Court to the highest bidder. Among the Lots sold was one that had been purchased byMr W.H. Turner, in which it was stated that there would be access to a quarry which was included in the purchase, through another portion of the property which was purchased on behalf of Mr Pine Coffin. The condition of sale wasread in the usual way which distinctly set forth that there was a right of way to

the quarry. Subsequent to the purchase objection was taken by Mr Pine Coffin’s solicitor to the right of way, and an application was made to the

Judge to set this aside. The Judge referred the matter to the Registrar of

the Court for investigation and to decide whether there was a right of way or not. The Registrar found there was no right of way

(March 18th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A concert in aid of choir funds was given in the Abbotsham School on Wednesday 16th inst. There was a large attendance. No encores were allowed owing to its length. Pianoforte and violin duet-Miss Perry and Mr Bishop; Song-Miss Thomas; Song-Mr West; Violin duet- Misses Prior; Song- Miss Turner; Song-Mr Edwards; Violin solo-Miss Turner; Song-Mrs Penhale; Song-Mr White; Vocal duet-Mrs Clarke and Miss Blackmore; Violin solo-Miss Prior; Song-Mr Abbot. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the performers, and the singing of the National Anthem brought a very pleasant evenings entertainment to a close.

(April 28th 1890 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM

“RIXLADE” TO LET. Unfurnished, comprising-

Two sitting rooms, five bedrooms, W.C., Kitchen and Offices; good kitchen garden, stable and coach house. For particulars- apply G. Turner, Solicitors, Bideford.

(June 17th 1890 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 28th May at St. Luke’s Church, Liverpool, New South Wales, by the Rev.

C.F. Priddle - Rev. Henry Dashwood Sealy Vidal, Curate of St. Lukes’, 3rd surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidal Esq of Cornborough - to Kate

Elston, eldest daughter of J.B. Bossley Esq., late of Edenson Park, New South Wales.

(July 29th 1890 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On August 9th at the Vicarage, Abbotsham, the wife of the Rev. R.W. Sealy

Vidal, of a daughter.

(August 26th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1890 (Extracts).**

**(January 1890)**

With this number begins the second year of the life of our Parish Magazine,

and we think we may say that the experience of the past year has justified us in our undertaking. Kept, as they may very easily be, and bound up at the end of the year in a handy little volume, these magazines may, in years to come, prove of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be

spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past. For we shall find not only that the scenes of by-gone days live again for us, but that the joys and hopes and sorrows, and discipline through which we may have had to pass are not indeed things gone by, but things which have helped to mould us and train us and uplift us-which do, in a sense, live on in us now - “being dead yet to speak”, May this New Year, whatever it brings to any one of us, be in the truest sense, A Happy One

**(January 1890)**

On Sunday December 15th a great excitement was caused, during the performance of the afternoon service, by a message being brought up the

church, to say that Keene House was on fire. The service was promptly

stopped, and every available hand was quickly on the spot, but the flames

had so complete a mastery over the building, that nothing could be done but

try and rescue a portion of the furniture. A number of young men, who were

first on the spot, made a very gallant and strenuous efforts to force their way into the burning rooms, and by their determined action, a good deal of

furniture was brought out before the increased fury of the flames forced them to desist. In about half an hour after the fire was discovered the roof was one mass of flames and soon fell in with a heavy crash, and before darkness finally set in there was but little left but the four walls, and a heap of smouldering ashes. Great sympathy is felt both for the owners and tenant of the ill-fated cottage, but above all things else must predominate the feeling of intense thankfulness that it was no worse. Had such a fire burst out in the night, it is doubtful if any of the inmates could have been rescued, and had the wind not been in a southerly quarter, the sparks would have been carried up towards the village, and much damage done. We have been asked to insert the following:- “Captain and Mrs Wilson desire to express their heartfelt thanks to those friends and neighbours, who at great personal risk, rendered assistance at the fire at Keene on Sunday 15th inst, and for the many kind enquiries and expressions of sympathy which have been received by them”.

Abbotsham December 24th 1889.

**(February 1890)**

On the 5th January the children of the parish met together for a tea and treat. Proceedings began with tea in the schoolroom, which was crammed to

overflowing. After tea various games were indulged in at the Vicarage, and

at 5.30 all were summoned again to the Schoolroom, where they were

hospitably received by the renowned Dwarf, Count Pizzicato, who had

travelled from his distant home on purpose to be present at the entertainment, and by Father Christmas who also came from a far country, covered with snowflakes, to greet his little favourites.

Father Christmas brought with him quite a large collection of presents, which he distributed with his usual generosity. The Count too, was not behind and in kindness, and after holding a lengthy audience, presented nearly everyone of his visitors with a penny whistle or some other instrument of music of the like description. As all these various instruments were played at once and continuously, the noise may be better imagined than described. A parting gift of oranges and sweets sent each child home laden, and, we hope, rejoicing.

(February 1890).

Miss Abraham having announced her intention of giving up her post as Mistress of the School, we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to her for the work done by her since she has been in charge of the School. Not only in school but out of school as well she has devoted her time and energies to the welfare of the children under her care. Nor was it enough for her to teach them the knowledge of this world which passeth away. Her great underlying principle was the need of a continually deepening spiritual life, and we have no doubt that in years to come, many a parent in this parish, and many a one who is yet only a child, will look back with thankful hearts, upon Miss Abraham’s work and influence. Mr T.J. White and Mrs White have accepted the post of Master and Mistress, and will at once come into residence and take charge of the school.

(February 1890).

Some enquiries having been made as to the proposed Parish Room, we think it well to say that the necessary portion of the Glebe which will be presented

by the Vicar, will be conveyed by him either to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or to Trustees appointed by them. The building will then be held by the Trustees to be used for such purposes as the Trust deed, sanctioned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners will permit.

**(March 1890)**

REPORT OF H.M. INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

“The School is in very good order, and the Elementary instruction shews

substantial improvement. English, however has fallen off; the grammatical

part being very defective. Knitting is poor, otherwise Needlework is fairly

taught. The Infants have been well cared for, and Singing by note has again been successfully taken”. The instruction of the Infants has been almost entirely in the hands of C. Pickard, to whom the thanks of the Managers are due for the great care and attention shewn by her in her most

responsible post.

(March 1890).

There is not a great deal of interest to record this month. But as our Magazine may serve in future years as a sort of a little history of the Parish, it may not be out of place to call attention to the scourge of Influenza, which has visited us and is still amongst us. For many years there has not been no such sickness in the parish as during these last few weeks. Very few houses have escaped, and in some instances as many as five and six havebeen laid up at once. Fortunately, so far, we are able to report that though many cases have been very serious, there have appeared no instances which the disease refused to yield to treatment. But the Influenza Epidemic will long be remembered.

**(May 1890).**

In connection with subscriptions for the New Reading Room, we are asked to

announce that the Abbotsham Amateur Negro Comedians propose to give an Entertainment in the Schoolroom on Wednesday May 7th. The performance will be of a varied character, and will conclude with the amusing little comedietta “The Dentist’s Den”. The proceeds after paying expenses will be given to the fund. Doors will be open at 7.30, with entertainment to commence at 8pm.

**(June 1890)**

Whitsun 1890 will long be remembered in this parish. The morning was lovely, and as the ringers met to usher in the day with a welcoming peal, few had any suspicion of what was in store for them. The early service and the 11 o’clock were each well attended, and it seemed as though the “Birthday” of the Church was going to be held in due honour. But soon after luncheon the oppressive heat seemed to betoken something unusual, and just before afternoon service one of the heaviest thunderstorms which has ever visited these parts, broke over the parish. Loud peals of thunder, accompanied with very vivid lightening seemed to come as a fitting illustration of “the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind” which was heard on the Day of Pentecost. The Church was so dark that it was almost impossible to read, and the torrents of rain scared away all but a very faithful few. Never have we seen such a miserable Whitsun Evening service. We hope we may never see such another. The hail and rain came down in such drenching torrents, that the very roads were washed bare, and in some places, mangolds and such like crops, were actually washed out of the ground. Fortunately no serious damage was done to any person or building, as was the case in several parishes in the neighbourhood.

**(July 1890).**

We hope that the Band of Hope Festival, which had to be postponed owing to

the Epidemic of Influenza, may be held next month. Meanwhile may we sound a note of warning to all members of our Temperance Society, to be on their guard during the special temptations of hay harvest, that they do not in a

moment of weakness break their pledges.

**(August 1890)**

Visitors to the Cottage Garden Show will probably see the School Room as it

is for the last time. The accommodation has for some time past been quite

insufficient, and the ventilation very defective, and it has been determined to turn the whole block of buildings, including the teacher’s house and the cottage below, into one large room, which will make a capital schoolroom with ample accommodation, and much improved light and ventilation. The work of alteration will begin immediately after the breakup of the school for the summer holidays, which will probably be at the end of next week.

**(September 1890).**

On Sunday August 17th the scholars and teachers of the Sunday School

assembled in church in the afternoon for a Special service, conducted by the Rev. Philip Braíthwaite, late Vicar of this parish. After a short service the children were catechised on the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The children answered the questions put to them very eagerly, and showed by their attention and reverence, that they were trying to enter into the meaning of the service. After church the whole of the congregation, at the invitation of the Vicar, went over to the Vicarage garden, and after a short stroll round, to see the flowers, they gathered in front of the house for the distribution of the prizes. The chief prize for the greatest number of marks was taken by Annie Churchill (Girls) and C. Clover (Boys). A prize for Reverent behaviour at prayers in School and in Church given by Miss Vidal was taken by Edward Bale, and one given by Mrs W. Vidal for well learnt

lessons by Louisa Thompson.

**(October 1890).**

The past month has, in a certain sense, been uneventful. Everyone has been busy either harvesting or holiday making. The latter applies more particularly to the children, who have had an unusually long holiday, owing to the alterations in the school. These have now been completed, the school

will open on Monday October 5th, when the new Master and Mistress, Mr and

Mrs Gilbert, will take charge of the School.

**(December 1890).**

A Meeting of the ratepayers was held on Thursday November 27th in the Schoolroom to consider the question of the Tealta Poor Lands, and was

largely attended. There were present the Vicar (Chairman), Messrs T. Adams, T. Best, J. Bale, S.C. Bettye, J. Brown, J. Cory, J. Dannell, S. Davey,

G. Ellis, G. Heywood, J. Hysett, J. Moase, G. Phillpott, J. Tallin, W. Turner Sen, W. Turner Jun, and C.C. Turner. The Chairman stated that he had

received a statement of accounts from Messrs Hole and Peard stating that

the proceeds of the sale of the land, after deduction of expenses, amounted

to £364.14.3d, which sum was now on deposit on the Nat. Prov. Bank at Bideford. This money would be invested by the official Trustee of the Charity Commissioners, and the income would be paid yearly for the benefit of the poor. It was stated, unofficially, that the probable result of the Sale of the land would be that a sum of about £10 would be available yearly for the distribution instead of £6 as before.

**CRICKET.**

BIDEFORD v REV. R.W.S. VIDAL’S Xl.

This match was played at Kenwith on Wednesday last, and resulted in a

victory for Bideford on the first innings by 20 runs.

REV. R.W.S. Vidal’s XI

C. Molesworth 1

R.W. Sealy Vidai 3

J.H. Bellington 1

P.R.R. Braithwaite 3

R.N. Bray 1

E.B. Mackenzie 0

C.B. Mackenzie 2

E. Biggs 9

B. Molesworth 0

G. Molesworth 3

E. Woodcock, not out 1

Extras 6

Total 30

Rev. Vidal took 3 wickets.

C. Molesworth 3 wickets.

Rev. Braithwaite 2 wickets.

(August 12th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH AND CHAPEL.**

Abbotsham Church was prettily decorated on Sunday in honour of the Harvest Festival. The services commenced with an early celebration of Holy Communion at 8 o’ clock, followed at 11 by Matins. There was a Childrens Service in the afternoon, and in the evening a bright service at which the Rev. G.S.S. Vidai was the special preacher. The thanksgiving will be continued tomorrow (Wednesday) with a public tea, followed in the evening with a musical entertainment. The Festival at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel was observed last Thursday. There was a tea in the afternoon, and a meeting in the evening.

(September 30th 1890 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Special importance was given to the Abbotsham Harvest Festival last Wednesday by the re-opening of the Parish Schoolroom that day. General holiday was kept by the parishioners who enjoyed the extensive programme of sports organised by Mr Charles Turner, Colonel Nind and Mr Churchill Turner. The Harvest Home tea was a great success with 8 long tables. Then the proportion and nature of the alterations became apparent. Formerly the building was two storeys high and had a cottage adjoining. The whole of this has been thrown into one great room quite 40 feet long by 25 feet wide. At one end a permanent platform has been erected and there is comfortable sitting capacity remaining for 200 to 250 persons. The room was crowded on Wednesday evening, and the handsome lamps, a present from Miss Vidal, were lit, but no unpleasant heat was felt, owing probably to the great height of the roof. The Rector and parishioners have every reason to be proud of their new possession, the cost of which has been defrayed by

voluntary subscription.

The entertainment was of a superior character. Glees were sung by the Abbotsham choir. The Concert ended at 9 o’ clock, and after a short interval, the fiddler, who, by the way, played a oncertina, struck up a polka and sent several couples pirouetting round the room. Quadrille followed polka, then came valse, galop, schottische, and polka again, until shortly after 10 o’ clock, when the National Anthem was sung, and the company separated. This Harvest Home will not quickly be forgotten.

(October 7th 1890 BG).

**BAPTIST CHAPEL ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual Good Friday Tea and Meeting were held here. The weather was somewhat against successful numbers, nevertheless some 250 sat down to tea.

(March 31st 1891 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 6th at Plymouth - Cecilia Craig Woodcock, youngest daughter of the

late Leonard Woodcock of Abbotsham.

(May 19th 1891 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On June 3rd at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W.S. Vidal

(brother in law of the bride), assisted by Rev. T.C.N. Molesworth - Charles

John Didham, son of Captain Didham R.N. of Bideford - to May, daughter of

Maj. Gen. Molesworth of Kenwith Castle.

(June 9th 1891 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 13th at Abbotsham, the wife of P.C. William Webber, of a daughter.

(June 23rd 1891 BG).

**DEATH OF MR JAMES TAYLOR.**

We regret to record the death of Mr James Taylor, formerly of Abbotsham Court, died yesterday, at Slade, Bideford. He was 75 years of age, and was

a well known railway contractor, - the extension of the L. and S.W.R. from

Bideford to Torrington being an undertaking of his. In these works he was assisted by his son Mr George J. Taylor

(July 14th 1891 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE.1891 (Extracts)**

We are able to record with thankfulness that the services of Xmas Day were

more fully attended than usually, in spite of the severity of the weather and the slipperiness of the roads which prevented some of our most regular worshippers from coming. The Church was, as usual, decorated on Christmas Eve, and so many willing hands were engaged that the work was fairly completed before one o’ clock, thus leaving sufficient time for the Church to be thoroughly scrubbed, and got ready for the festival. Early on

Christmas morning those inclined to lie in bed were roused by the pealing of the bells, which broke out on their hymn of praise before daylight dawned. At 8 o’ clock the first Celebration of the Holy Communion took place at which 29 communicated, a larger number than at any previous Christmas. At 11 o’clock a good congregation assembled, and a hearty service was held, the congregation joining with the choir to render the good old Christmas hymns as heartily as possible. The anthem which was nicely sung was Stainer’s “O Zion that bringest good tidings”. At this service 32 communicated. An afternoon service was held at 4 o’ clock.

**(January 1891).**

An entertainment by the “Abbotsham Minstrels” was given on Wednesday last, and was well attended and much appreciated. The programme embraced a very excellent negro entertainment of the genuine negro type, a stump speech on American politics, and a very amusing little comedy entitled, “Mrs Stubbins Cat” which was admirably acted, and elicited loud and long applause. The performers were Messrs Best, Blackmore, Braund, Cole, AIf Glover, C.Glover, Ridge and Woodcock.

**(February 1891).**

June the third was a festival day in the parish, the occasion being the

marriage of Mr Charles Didham to Miss May Molesworth. The wedding which took place at 2pm was a very pretty one, and was largely attended. The bride, attended by her one bridesmaid Miss Avice Vidal, who was supported by her brother Master Edward Vidal, was met by the Choir at the door of the church, and escorted by them, singing a processional hymn to the chancel steps. There the service commenced by the reading of the prefatory address by the Rev. Charles Molesworth, after which the service was conducted by the Vicar. Mrs Charles Didham has for many years taught a class in the Sunday School.

**(July 1891).**

On the reopening of the Sunday School after the holidays, the New Education

Act will be taken advantage of, which abolishes the payment of school pence

for children under the age of fourteen. The managers hope that, as a result

of this Free Education, the parents will be more careful than ever to see that their children come regularly and punctually to school. And as there may be many parents who may wish to put by for their children’s benefit, the money, which up to now they have had to pay for their schooling, the Vicar proposes to re-open the Penny Bank, and he will be glad to receive money every Monday morning at the opening of the School.

**(September 1891).**

On Wednesday 30th September the usual festivities in connection with our

Harvest Home were held in one of the fields of the Glebe. At 3 o’ clock Athletic Sports were commenced, and continued without intermission until dark. The chief features of interest were the Greasy Pole, the Tug of War

and the Steeple Chase. In the last event, after leading the field for the

greater part of the distance, S. Slee was, just before the finish, passed by E. Woodcock and H. Barrett, who finished in that order. For the Greasy Pole it was feared at first there would be only one competitor, but finally three gallant volunteers were found, and these, supported by friends below and forming a sort of ladder, by standing or sitting on one another’s heads, eventually secured the leg of mutton, which at one time threatened to hang till it became too high not only to reach but to eat. The dividers of the prize were Mayne, Lee and Violet. In the Tug of War a team captained by E. Woodcock defeated one led by the Vicar. There was a public tea at 4.30 which was crowded, and at 7.30 a Concert was held in the Schoolroom.

**(October 1891).**

Last year we gave a short statement of the Blanket Charity left by the late Mrs Buck. The fund which was originally £25 has been reduced year by year by the purchase of new blankets, stands at present at £10. 3s. 9d. The rules of the Club are as follows:

1. The blankets are the property of the Vicar of Abbotsham for the time

being.

2. They will be lent from 1st November to 1st of May.

3. The blankets must be returned, washed and in good order. Any person

breaking this rule will not have a blanket lent in the next Winter.

4. After being lent to the same person for three successive winters, a blanket will become the property of that person.

5. All applications for blankets must be made at least a week before

November 1st.

**(November 1891).**

A Missionary Meeting will be held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday November 4th at 7.30. The meeting will be addressed by the Rev. C.R. Tollemache from India and Burmah, and by the Rev. R. Granville.

**(November 1891).**

Last year so many of the subscriptions to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts were sent in so late that the contribution from Abbotsham parish does not appear in the S.P.G. report for the year. This is, of course, disappointing, and several letters have been written enquiring as to the cause of our apparent failure to help forward the work of the Missions. The Vicar hopes that all subscribers (and new ones are needed as well as old), will see their way to send him their annual subscriptions some time during the present month.

**(November 1891).**

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Church choir and ringers, had their annual outing on Thursday last. About thirty two in number left from the Oak Tree at 7am. The Vicar, Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal, Mrs Vidal and friends followed by train. The company thoroughly enjoyed the drive to Woolacombe Bay. Luncheon was laid in the open air. After grace, the party broke up again, some going to the pretty little church at Morthoe. There the ringers gave a merry peal on the bells. Home was safely reached at 10.45pm, a most enjoyable day having been spent.

(August 4th 1891 BG).

**BIRTHS.**

On August 30th at Abbotsham, the wife of Mr James, of a daughter.

(September 8th 1891 BC).

**POPULATION OF BIDEFORD UNION DISTRICT.**

The following particulars of the relative populations of the parishes within the Bideford Union district will be read with interest:

1881 1891

Abbotsham 469 528

(October 13th 1891 BG).

**BIRTHS.**

On Christmas Eve at Combe Cottage, Abbotsham, the wife of Mr W.

Thornton, of a son.

(January 5th 1892 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 21st at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by the Rev. R.W. Sealy Vidal

- William, the only son of Mr P. Warmington of Bucks Barton, Bideford, to

Mary Cottle (Minnie) eldest daughter of Mr G. Heywood of Lake, Abbotsham.

(May 3rd 1892 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Harvest Festival was held on Sunday when special sermons were preached in the Church. On Monday the Athletic Sports were held under the supervision of a committee composed of the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Colonel Nind (starter), Messrs C. Turner, W. Turner and W.H. Thornton (judges), and H.E. Molesworth (hon. treasurer). The sports consisted of flat races, high jump, throwing the hammer, broad jump, open steeplechase, sack race, donkey race, three legged race and obstacle race, for money prizes, and wound up with a tug of war between ten married men and ten single men.

The Bideford Town Band enlivened the proceedings. A public meeting was held in the schoolroom, and in the evening a concert and negro entertainment.

Special Thanksgiving Services were held in the Baptist Chapel. On Monday afternoon an enjoyable tea was provided.

(September 13th 1892 BG).

**SAD DEATH AT ABBOTSHAM**

Last week an old man of 75 years named James G lover met with an accident

which resulted ¡n his death. He was partially paralysed on one side, was a

fish hawker and well known in the Bideford area, and was living with a

married daughter at Abbotsham. He had been left on his own, and had fallen in the fire, and had been unable to extricate himself. It is thought that

he went to the fire to light his pipe, which was found close by to be full, and died soon afterwards.

(December 13th 1892 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Church of England Temperance Society. - An entertainment was given by the members of the Band of Hope and their friends in the Schoolroom on the 7th inst. Songs, recitations and dialogues were very ably rendered.

(December 13th 1892 BG).

**THE OLD OAK AND THE NEW**

The old oak situated just outside Abbotsham Church is showing signs of age and decay. It is probably hundreds of years old, is very hollow and failing in vitality. In order that the village green may not be without its traditional oak tree, Mr William Turner has kindly provided a young and lusty sapling to be planted only a few paces away from the old tree. The ceremony was performed on Thursday last - the same day that witnessed the meet of the hounds. All the village children assisted ¡n the proceedings, which was marked with much rejoicing.

**(March 7th 1893 BC).**

**WITH THE STEVENSTONE HOUNDS**

Thursday was a veritable “red letter” day for Abbotsham, for, though nominally right in the local hunting country, it is a great number of years since the hounds met there. They did so on Thursday, and “all the world and his wife” were there to see. The assembly included something like half a

hundred carriages, scores of horsemen and hundreds on “Shanks” pony.

Turners Wood, near Kenwith was first drawn, and proved blank, as did also

Winsford, Moreton, and both sides of Upcott Wood. Under Little Ashbridge

Wood music was heard, and a run was expected, but suddenly the hounds chopped a fox, which, to the chagrin of the sportsmen, was found to be fast

caught in a ‘gin’. Just under Buckland Wood one of the hounds was trapped in a gin, but was freed without injury.

(March 7th 1893 BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 10th at Riccards Down Abbotsham, Elizabeth Grant aged 69 years.

(March 14th 1893 8G).

**BIRTH.**

On March 16th at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham, the wife of John Bale, of

a daughter.

(March 21st 1893 BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On July 6th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham, by the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Vicar,

- J. Daniel R.M.L.I. to Miss S.J. Hurford, both of Abbotsham.

(July 11th 1893 BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York was the occasion of much festivity in Abbotsham, and thanks to the great kindness of Mrs Vidal who

threw open the grounds of Cornborough, a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by the whole parish. The school children marched from the village with music, songs and flags, and after they had been regaled with a sumptuous tea of cutrounds and cakes, their elders sat down in a large marquee erected on the lawn to a dinner of cold meat, salad etc. Then followed games, handbell ringing and dancing, which were kept up with much spirit until after sunset. The entertainment was brought to a close by a brilliant display of fireworks and an enormous bonfire. In connection with the arrangements for provision, Mr G. Taylor gave a sheep, and the residents subscribed liberally.

(July 11th 1893 BC).

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 19th inst at Hagworthingham, Lincs.- Capt. William Sealy Vidai, Royal Engineers, the fifth surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidai Esq of Cornborough - to Jane Rebekah, fourth daughter of Clement Conington Esq  
of Hagworthingham.

(October 24th 1893 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Brown wife of Mr James Brown of Puse Hill, Abbotsham died on Tuesday

last from inflammation of the lung. She was 50 years old. The funeral took

place on Saturday at Abbotsham churchyard, the Rev. R.W. Sealy officiating.

On Sunday morning a memorial service was held in the Northam Wesleyan

Chapel to the members of which Mrs Brown was known.

(February 13th 1894 BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham, Emma Harriet Jesse, only

daughter of John and Emma Bale, aged 1 year and I day.

(March 20th 1894 BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 4th at Pusehill, Abbotsham, William Arthur, son of James Brown,

aged 13.

(June 5th 1894 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE. 1894 (Extracts)**

We have seldom had to chronicle a less eventful month than the last month

of 1893. Ail Parochial activity has, so to speak, been paralysed by the

prevailing sickness. Our Day School has been shut, our Sunday School also shut, a large number of the choir have been hors-de-combat, and at times our congregation have shrunk to very small dimensions. Anything like meetings have been impossible, nor have the usual Christmas festivities been held, as everyone hoped. It is well to look at the other side of the

picture, however, and to remember that with all the sickness, which hasvisited us, God has been pleased so far to visit us lightly, and we have no deaths to record. And so we may, with much gratitude, thank Him still for His many mercies, and with sure confidence wish one another a Very Happy New Year.

In consequence of New Years Eve falling on a Sunday and the above mentioned sickness, the annual Choir and Ringers supper was this year omitted, though it is hoped that it may be held later on. A muffled peal was rung both before and after Evening Service, and at 11.15 the ringers met, and rang a farewell peal to the old year. A few minutes before midnight the muffles were cut off, a short prayer of thankfulness for past mercies, and for grace for time to come was offered by the Vicar; then midnight sounded out, on the Tenor Bell, and once more a crash of music proclaimed that another rung of the ladder of life had been reached in safety.

**(January 1894).**

This month opens in some ways a little more hopefully. The fever seems to

have spent itself, at any rate for the present, and at last we are able once more to open our Schools. So long has the Day School been closed that

H.M. Inspector, Mr Codd, has been unable to hold his annual inspection, and

the Government Grant will be given on the basis of last year’s Examination.

This is a little disappointing as we had hoped this year to do really well at our Inspection. The Drawing Examination has also to be put off, and for this, again, we are to receive our grant on last year’s basis.

Though the sickness rife amongst us has been severe, it has not been of fatal character. But two familiar names will be found amongst those who have been taken from us. Old Mr Otho Cook and his servant F. Farleigh died

within a few hours of one another, after a brief illness. Mr Cook was over

ninety and had naturally lived a very quiet and retired life of late years. But he was always ready to shew his interest in anything going on ¡n the Parish,and most liberal in subscribing to any deserving object.

BURIALS William Carlyle Bassett, aged 78 years.

Otho Cooke, aged 92 years.  
**(February 1894).**

Owing to our being late in going to the press, we were able in last month’s

Magazine to notify very shortly the fact of the death of Mrs James Brown of

Pusehill. Very seldom have we had to chronicle an event which has caused

more widespread sympathy. Mrs Brown was an Abbotsham woman, born and bred, and had, we believe, lived the whole of her life at Lake and Pusehill. A very few of the inhabitants of Abbotsham were better known or more respected. We ourselves can remember her when quite a girl, and can recall the kindness and good nature with which she would receive our boyish visits, when we rode home her father’s horses from the plough, at one time our daily delight. After her marriage, the united cares of a large family

and a large farm made heavy demands upon her strength and her time. But

no one ever asked in vain for her help, where it was possible to give it. In all great Parish Festivals, whether a Bazaar for the Bells, or a Jubilee Dinner or a Harvest Home tea, we were always sure of her most willing cooperation.

Nor was she ever unmindful of her poorer neighbours. Surely we may believe that in her case, as well as in that of others better known to the world,

“Her prayers and alms have gone up for a memorial before God”. She was laid to rest near other members of her family on February 10th, and the church was filled with an immense number Of sorrowing friends who came from all parts of the neighbourhood to show their affection for her, and their sympathy with those she has left to mourn.

The School has reopened after a long period of enforced illness, and the number of children in attendance is rapidly increasing, though there is still a good deal of sickness about, in the shape of colds and coughs, and other minor ailments. Last Sunday for the first time for some months, the Church also seemed to have assumed its proper look. The seats so long deserted in obedience of doctor’s orders, were once more occupied by their usual tenants, and Vicar, choir, and congregation rejoiced once more in being able to meet together in deep thankfulness. When we compare the last outbreak of scarlet fever with previous visitations, and can record more than thirty cases, with no fatal results, whereas in former years, as many as 3 and 4 have died in a single family, we may well thank God for His great mercy in thus sparing us.

BAPTISM February 7th Geraldine May, daughter of Frederick and Harriet Barnacott

BURIALS

February 10th Ann Brown, aged 52 years.

February 12th Beatrice Frances Scott, aged 16 years.

**(March 1894).**

BURIALS

March 15th Frederick John Braunton, aged 11 months.

March 18th Rosamund Slee, aged 6 months.

March 20th Emma Harriet Jessie Bale, aged 1 year

March 22nd Medora Eleanor Yeo, aged 2 years

The month which has just passed will long be sadly remembered by very many of this Parish for it has seen the unwonted sight of the funerals of four

quite little children. It would seem as if the scourge of Influenza, which has hitherto spared the little ones, has now attacked them, and in three of the four cases the illness was of a very short duration> the attack being so violent that the poor little children had no chance of fighting against it. Never can we remember such a week of mourning, never was the deeper meaning of Easter as the Day of Resurrection brought more closely home, and we may fairly say that the heart of the whole village has gone out in true sympathy with the bereaved parents.

On Easter Tuesday a very interesting lecture on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was given by the Rev. R. Perkins, District Secretary. “Pompeii the City of the Dead” and “Italy and the Bible” were illustrated by some very beautiful Magic Lantern slides. In spite of many counterattractions the attendance was a fairly good one and a collection of lOs 9d was handed over to the Hon. Sec. at the close of the meeting.

**(April 1894)**

BAPTISM

April 1st. Hamilton James Shelton, son of John and Marianne Cole.

Mr William Blackmore’s Concert in aid of the Choir outing took place, as announced, on April 26th, and was a great success. Mrs Stobart kindly came with her band of Appledore girls who played the “Toy Symphony” with much spirit and greatly delighted the audience. Several of the Ladies Band also came over and played various selections, and Miss Hopkins and Miss Tatem each gained an encore for their songs. The Choir contributed a glee “Since first I saw your Face”, and Messrs Bazeley and Fowler also sang, the latter contributing a comic element. A large audience was present, but it was a little disappointing to find that, comparatively speaking, few of the parishioners came to support the concert.

We are glad to be able to report that the young oak tree is budding famously, and there is now every prospect of its settling down to grow steadily on, so that the great grandchildren of this present generation may have an oak tree to play round, when we, and our old oak have passed away into forgetfulness.

**(May 1894).**

BURIALS  
May 21st. Charles Ley. aged 14.

The Confirmation at which the Candidates from this Parish will be presented

will take place at Littleham Church on Thursday, June 7th.

The Church is at present being thoroughly cleaned and coloured. And the

opportunity has been taken to open out the two windows, which were discovered in the Chancel Arch when the roughcast was taken off the tower

some few years ago. They are very interesting old windows, and their history goes far back into the middle ages. Two of the most celebrated

Architects of the day have both expressed their opinion recently, that these windows ought to be re-opened, and we think that the result will be very satisfactory.

Miss Vidal have kindly promised a prize for Needlework in the school, a number of their best made articles were submitted for judgement, and the

result has been that Annie James and Emily Slee received the prize for their excellent work. At the same time Miss Vidal gave prizes for the most regular attendance, and these were gained of the Girls by Bessie Slee, of the Boys by Charles and Alfred Tallin, both of whom had attended every time the school was open.

The visit of the Diocesan Inspector to examine the School in Religious

Knowledge is expected this month. it may be interesting to know that when Sir Cameron Gull came on a political visit some time since, he declared our

school room to be one of the brightest and neatest that he had seen in North Devon

**(June 1894)**

MARRIAGE

June 16th. Frederick James Warren and Martha Braunton.

BURIALS

June 7th. John Turner aged 78 years.

June 7th William Arthur Brown aged 13 years.

Since our last issue we have had to mourn the loss of a prominent and much

beloved parishioner, our late Churchwarden, Mr John Turner of Coombe. For several years a great invalid, he yet possessed such a strong vitality, and

was in the intervals of his asthmatical attacks, so bright and vigorous that somehow or another we have fancied that he would be spared for many years. But at the end the summons came somewhat suddenly, and he passed away quite peacefully, almost before it was realised that he was really

anything the worse. Mr Turner was one who, throughout his long life, loved

and did his best to uphold the honour of his own parish. Abbotsham had been his home for so many long years, that his one great delight was to promote in every way its happiness and welfare. He was a steady supporter of the Church, and before his illness there was no more constant and devoted

attendant, and no good object connected with the Church ever wanted his

cordial help and assistance. Never was he happier than with a little child

on lap or riding on his horse, and he would talk for hours about the little ones and their ways. The writer, known to him from childhood, associated with him in almost every public work connected with this parish for the last 14 years, it is a happy memory to be able to preserve, of these years undimmed by anything like mis-understanding, and made bright by constant evidence of confidence and esteem on his side, and of affection and respect for him on ours.

We have also to chronicle another death, which has brought heavy grief into

a home already sorely visited. It is only a short time ago that we had to

speak of the sudden death of Mrs Brown of Pusehill. Now one her children has been taken almost as suddenly. Little Arthur Brown, till a year ago, oneof our brightest and most regular scholars was seized with some attack on the brain, the result, it is supposed, of a blow received some time before, and after a few days unconsciousness he died. He was a bright happy little boy, a great favourite, and his death we feel sure, a very heavy blow to all hisfamily, who we offer our deepest sympathy.

The Vicar has nominated Col. Nind to be his Churchwarden in the place of Mr

John Turner. The latter has held it since the death of Mr E.U. Vidal.

The Cottage Garden Show which will be held this month is rapidly approaching its Jubilee. Founded in 1845, this years show will be actually

the 50th, but following the analogy of the Queen’s Jubilee, we propose to

defer the celebration of our Jubilee till 1895, when, if all be well, we hope to hold one on such a scale as has never been known in Abbotsham.

The Choir Festival was held on June 20th at Bideford, and was attended by

our Choir. The service went very well and the music exceedingly pretty, and a large congregation much enjoyed the service, and the most excellent sermon preached by one, who, if not actually an Abbotsham man, is at least next door to it, the Rev. Richard Turner.

**(July 1894).**

BAPTISMS

July 15th Stanley James, son of James and Louise Jane Daniel.

July 15th Frank Daniel, son of Frederick George and Harriet Copp.

July 22nd Florence Daisy, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth A. Woodcock.

On Thursday July 26th the annual outing of the choir and ringers took place. The place selected to be visited being Hartland, there was no need for a very early start, and the party assembled at the oak at a quarter to 10. We had a very comfortable drive to Hartland Quay. We expected to find everything ready for dinner, but to our dismay there was no crockery or cutlery to be had at the Hotel. But by courageous foraging we managed to unearth sufficient plates and knives and forks to admit of dinner being got successfully through in two detachments. After dinner most of the party adjourned to a field close by where the Cottage Garden Show was being held and various sports. At the cocoanut shies such well directed shots showered upon them, particularly from the ladies of the party, that new baskets had to be brought to carry off the spoil. Tea was held in a tent on the field, and soon after the Ringers went off to ring a peal on the Church bells. As there was nothing more to be done, “Home” was the word, and about

10 o’clock saw the whole party safely back, having enjoyed themselves most thoroughly from start to finish.

At a meeting of the School Managers it was decided to give prizes for regular attendance in each Standard. The prizes for 1893 will be given to:

Standard v. F. Pickard 363. E. Thompson 352.

Standard iv. Jos. Bale 384. E. Champion 375.

Standard iii. Charles Tallin 387. Charles Slee 375.

Standard ii. AIf Tallin 387. A. Best 373.

Standard i. P. Cole 383. B. Slee 383.

Infants. T. Slee 385. B. Glover 378.

**(August 1894).**

BURIAL

August 22nd William Fulford aged 80 years.

On Thursday August 15th all the girls whose names are on the Sunday School Register had a picnic down on the beach under Cornborough Cliffs. A merry party assembled about three. Tea was under the supervision of Mrs Sealy, Mrs Nind, Miss Vidali, Miss Miles and Mrs Nutt. After, various games were indulged in, and a pleasant afternoon was only brought to an end by inexorable time.

**(September 1894).**

BAPTISM

September 2nd. Rachael Maria, daughter of Thomas and Maria Braund.

The Harvest Festival services were held on Sunday September 9th, an earlier

date than in many years, owing to the harvest having been a quick one. The Church has never before been so crowded, many having to go away in the evening, unable to find any sitting room at all, but the number of communicants, though up to the average at the early service, can scarcely be considered satisfactory at mid-day. In the morning the Vicar preached, inthe evening the Rev. Studley Vidal, the latter emphasising the need in these days, when the old ways are rapidly being lost, of cultivating to the utmost the feeling of mutual respect and friendliness between employer and employed. The collections were for the North Devon Infirmary and Bideford Dispensary, and amounted to £8. 2s 6d.

On Wednesday the Festival was continued, and again the weather was propitious. The usual Sports were held in the Vicarage Fields, and the

proceedings were enlivened by the Hungarian Band who played during the

afternoon. Two new features were introduced, the first being a Veterans

Race for men over 50 which after a gallant struggle was secured by John

Pennington. The second was a Quoit match between picked teams of Married and Single. While all this was going on, a very busy time was being experienced by the ladies who had kindly volunteered to pour out tea in the

schoolroom. The room was then cleared in time for the Concert at 7 o’clock. Miss Prior had kindly undertaken to bring over her children’s Orchestra. The Vicar’s two children made their debut on this occasion, little Miss Sealy playing a duet with Miss Prior with such gravity and precision, while her brother’s playing of a Serenata for the violin was well received. After the concert the room was cleared and dancing began, and was kept up merrily until the Vicar sounded “Lights Out” about 10.30.

On Friday September 21st at Parkham Harvest Festival a Bellringing

competition was held and our ringers entered. Ringing was not quite so

good and they took third place. The team was the same as last :- R. Yeo

(tenor), 5; Glover 4; J. Dannell 3; E. Woodcock 2; C. Pickard and R.W. Sealy(treble).

A Woodcarving Class will be held on alternate Tuesdays commencing on Tuesday October 9th at 7pm. The class will be taught by Mr Gillett. Any

who wish to join are requested to send their names to Mr C. Pickard Junr. and it is hoped that a good class may be formed and that no unfortunate mishap may lead to its discontinuance as was the case last year when both the Night School and Carving Class had to be abandoned owing to the Scarlet Fever.

**(October 1894).**

BAPTISMS.

October 17th. Sylvia Maud daughter of William Ernest and Alice Maud Dunsford.

October 21st. Charles Henry, son of Archibald Groves and Bessie Branton.

October 28th. Cecil, son of Reuben and Mary Ann Dark.

BURIAL.

October 9th William Hearn aged 18 months.

Subjoined is the Account of the Harvest Festival Receipts and Expenditure

for the year:

RECEIVED. £ s d

Subscriptions 5 19 6

Taken at Tea 4 1 3

Taken at Concert 1 8 6

Taken at Aunt Sally 0 1 3

11 10 6

EXPENSES

Prizes at Sports 2 15 6

Band 2 10 0

Expenses at Tea 4 15 10

Labourer etc. 0 5 0

10 6 2  
In Hand £1 4 4

**(November 1894)**

Before these lines are in print the first Parish Meeting for Abbotsham will have been held and another great step taken in the onward progress of country life. Parish Councils may be said to be the practical expression of

the feeling that men in the country parishes are really men now, able and

willing to take a more direct part in the management of the affairs of their own villages. A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the matter. Men, who have their own ends to serve, have gone up and down the breadth of the land declaring to the labourer that he must rejoice at being at last freed from the tyranny of the Squire and the Parson. But the labourer is not quite so foolish as some of his pretended friends think. And he knows quite well that, if there is any tyranny at all, which one may very much doubt, at least the tyrants are not the Squire and the Parson. It sounds very well on a political platform, but it isn’t true, and the labourer knows it, as well as, or better than anyone else. The plain English of it is, that up to quite recent years the labourers have not been able to manage the village affairs, simply because the great majority of them have had to go to work so early in life, that they may never have learned to read or write. And so the management of all the business matters naturally fell into the hands of those who were best able to do it.

And, if the honest truth were told, we believe that it may be said without fear of contradiction that, taken as a general rule, the Squires and the Clergy have been the best, and sometimes the only friends whom the poor have had, But now things have changed. Education has spread, all men rich and poor alike are able to read and write, and feel in themselves the power and the wish to manage their own business instead of having it done for them. And no one, who thinks at all, can wonder at it or blame them for it. From this time forward all parishioners will have a voice in their own village matters. They will be able to put forward their needs and grievances, and to try and get them put right. If they want to push themselves up, and get on a little, they will be able to try the experiment, without feeling that difficulties are being put in their way. For my own part I welcome the Parish Council not as a thing, which is going to work miracles, or make everyone rich or everyone happy, but as the natural result of the spread of Education and knowledge. I do know even that the work will be done better in the future than it has been in the past. There will be good men and bad men as long as the world lasts. But at least men will be able to say now, “I wanted to have a voice in managing my own affairs and I have got it”. Personally I feel rather like what we must fancy Samuel felt, when the people came to him and said they wanted a King. The change must come and has come. It is difficult to say one does regret it. Because after so many years amongst you all, as boy and man, any change seems at first a little uncomfortable. But I have no misgivings about it. I cannot claim to be such a man as Samuel was. But I am not afraid to say that during the fourteen years that God has allowed me to be Vicar of this Parish, I have tried to do my duty as Chairman of the Vestry as best I could. And as a member of the Parish Council, if I am elected upon it, I hope I shall not forfeit the respect or affection which I believe you have had for me in the past.

R. W. Sealy.

Rumours are flying about, especially among the children, that sometime about Christmas week a Christmas tree will be exhibited in the Schoolroom.

We hope the rumours may be true.

The Drawing Examination will be held on Friday 7th at 10.15am.

**(December 1894).**

**BIRTH.**

On June 14th at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward Woodcock

of a daughter.

(June 19th 1894 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A Parish Council meeting was held in Abbotsham on Saturday night, the Rev.

R.W. Sealy, Vicar, presiding, to hear the Parish Council Act explained by Mr Lawman of Torrington. Afterwards a representative committee of nine was

appointed to ascertain the wish of the parish on the Council question, and

arrange for the election of councillors at the Parish Meeting by a show of

hands if possible. Mr Lawman is in great demand just now, he being a specialist on this new and most perplexing Act.

(November 20th 1894 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

For the eight seats on the Parish Council, the following were nominated - J. Bale, A.H. Boyd, J. Brown, G. Cork, G. Heywood, J. Heysett, A.G. Hunt, Wm. Littlejohns, James Moase, John Pennington, Charles Henry Pickard Jnr, Rev. R.W. Sealy, J.C. Taylor, C.T. Turner, W.H. Turner, Colonel Winterscale and E. Woodcock.

(December 11th 1894 BG).

**GOOD FRIDAY AT THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.**

The weather being remarkably fine, the friends at Abbotsham had a very

successful gathering. Abbotsham Good Friday Teas have always been noted for being well attended, and last Good Friday proved no exception. From four till seven o’ clock the ladies were presiding over the tea tables, and

considerably over £9 was realised by the tea. A public meeting followed,

the Chapel being well filled. The Pastor, Rev. F. Durbin was in the chair,

and earnest addresses were given by Mr G. Ellis and Mr W.T. Goaman, and these were interspersed with solos and readings.

(April 16th 1895 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On the 21st inst at Abbotsham the wife of R.H. Yeo of a daughter.

(May 28th 1895 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Yesterday morning at Abbotsham Churchyard the funeral of the late Mr

Thomas Henry Glover of Abbotsham Post Office was conducted by the Rev.

Frank Durbin, the Baptist Minister of Bideford. Mr Glover has been a

deacon of the Baptist Church at Abbotsham for many years, and it was the

wish of his relatives that Mr Durbin, as his pastor, should conduct the funeral. A short service was held in the Chapel, and concluded at the graveside. The Rev. R.W. Sealy, the Vicar, who readily gave every facility for the internment was present in the churchyard. The Vicar’s conduct was much appreciated, and compared very favourably with that of certain clergymen in other parts of the country on some recent occasions.

(June 11th 1895 BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 7th at the Post Office, Abbotsham - Thomas Henry Glover aged 66

years.

(June 11th 1895 BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 4th inst at Cornborough, Abbotsham - Alethea Eleanor Sealy, infant

child of Capt. W.S. Vidal, Royal Engineers, aged 6 months.

(July 9th 1895 BC).

**BIRTH.**

On July 21 st at Sea View, Abbotsham, the wife of H. Courtice of a daughter.

(July 23rd 1895 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COTTAGE GARDEN SHOW**

The above Society is to be congratulated upon having held a show without

intermission for no less than fifty years, and on 31st ult its Jubilee Exhibition was held. This year part of the Exhibition was held in a tent in the Vicarage grounds, the school being the chief locale. There can be no two options about it that this year’s show, which brought many visitors to Abbotsham, was a champion event, the addition of poultry being a welcome attraction, so much that it may be permanently included in the future. There were 124 entries in this department. The Judges were - Poultry-Mr J.G. Dare; Cage birds and pigeons-Mr S.C. Betty; Rabbits-Mr J.H. Hicks; Special prizes were given by-Rev. R.W. Sealy, Mr R. Yeo, Mr W.H. Thornton, Mr S.C. Betty and Mr C.H. Pickard. Of the vegetables, there were 25 classes- one prize being given by the Abbotsham Parish Council. There were 9 classes for flowers, 4 for fruit, and 4 for honey.

(August 13th 1895 BG).

**DEATH**

On the 14th inst at Teneriffe, William Sealy Vidai, Captain Royal Engineers, late Chief Instructor Submarine Mining at Portsmouth, seventh son of the late Edward Urch Vidal of Cornborough, Abbotsham aged 35 years.

(January 21st 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

News has been received of the death of Captain W. Sealy Vidal, Royal

Engineers, at Tenerife. Unfortunately influenza was followed by consumption, of which he died. He had gone to Teneriffe for his health.

He leaves a widow, but no family. He entered the service in 1879 and

became a Captain in 1889.

(January 21st 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 27th at Kenwith, Abbotsham, Maj. General Hickman Thomas

Molesworth aged 75 years.

(January 28th 1896 BG).

**FUNERAL**

The mortal remains of the late Maj. General Hickman Thomas Molesworth,

R.A. were laid to rest in the pretty little churchyard of the Parish on

Wednesday morning in the presence of a large number of gentlemen of the

district. The coffin was drawn from Kenwith House at noon. At the lych

gate the cortage was met by Rev. R.W. Sealy. The coffin of polished oak

with silver mountings bore a breast plate-”Maj. Gen. Hickman Thomas  
Molesworth, born 7th August 1820, died 22nd January 1896”.

(February 4th 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 15th at Abbotsham - Bessie Wade aged 39 years.

(February 1896 BG).

**BIRTH**

On April 5th at Hearts of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward Woodcock, of a

daughter

(April 14th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 8th at Stoke, Hartland, T.F. Friendship of Abbotsham to E.A. Lewis

of Stoke.

(April 14th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

About 60 parishioners attended the Abbotsham Annual Parish Meeting last

evening for the election of a Council. Rev. R.W. Sealy presided, but finding that he was one of the ten gentlemen nominated, he vacated the chair, Mr Rickman taking his place. Mr A. Boyd offered to retire, but Mr Thornton insisted on doing so, and as Mr Charles T. Turner’s nomination was invalid, the seconder having made his cross without getting it witnessed, the eight remaining were declared elected - Rev. R.W. Sealy, Messrs A. Boyd, George Taylor, Moase, Woodcock, Bale, C. Pickard Jun. and W.H. Turner. The Council is therefore unchanged.

(March 10th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Fanny Dunn, a native of Abbotsham having been born at Cornwater Farm, 79 years ago, has died at Newport, Mon., and was buried there. She

has been a confirmed invalid for many years.

(May 5th 1896 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 17th at the Infirmary, Bideford, F.J. Brent of Abbotsham aged 28

years.

(May 26th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On 3rd inst at St. Mary’s Church, Bideford, Richard Cook of Bideford to

Isabella Sanders of Abbotsham.

(October 6th 1896 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On October 21st at St. Mary’s, Bideford, William Shaddick of Bideford to

Edith Mary Bright of Abbotsham.

(October 27th 1896 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham School took no less that twenty five prizes at a Competition of the Devon Plain Needlework Association, which is held every year. Of these

prizes, fifteen were gained in a two and a half hour competition, which is, of course, a real test. The remaining ten prizes were awarded for work done

during the year. Mrs Nutt, the mistress, is to be congratulated on the success of her School, which comes out far ahead of any other.

(November 17th 1896 BG).

**DEATH**

On January 25th at Abbotsham, Elizabeth Dark, aged 79 years.

(February 9th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On February 6th at Abbotsham the wife of T.F. Friendship of a son.

(February 16th 1897 BG).

**DEATH**

On February 7th at Westacott, Abbotsham, George Ellis aged 62.

(February 16th 1897 BG).

**THE GREAT GALE**

Not since the memorable blizzard has the West of England been ravaged by

a hurricane such as that which raged with cyclonic force on Tuesday night

and Wednesday morning. It was, and still is, pitiful to walk in the country, so many noble trees lie prostrate, pulled up by their roots. At Moreton Park there are several mighty trees lying with their trunks absolutely in line, and the general trend everywhere is from east to west.

(March 9th 1897 BG).

**DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCILS**

Abbotsham - Elected, no contest.

James Brown, Pusehill; John Bale, Rickardsdown; James Moase, Claycott;

Charles H. Pickard Jun. Shamland; Robert Walpole Sealy, Vicarage; George

John Taylor, Abbotsham Court; William Henry Turner, Barton, Bideford;

Edward Woodcock, Rickardsdown.

(March 23rd 1897 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

At the first meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday April 14th, there

were present:- Messrs Bale, Brown, Moase, Pickard, Taylor, W. Turner,

Sealy and Woodcock. The Rev. R.W. Sealy was elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr G. Taylor, the Vice Chairman. Mr C. Pickard Jun. was

elected Clerk of the Council. Messrs J. Brown and J. Moase were appointed

Overseers for the year. The Clerk reported that the Lord of the Manor had

promised to appoint a Pound Keeper, and see that the Parish Pound was kept available for the Parish. The Chairman was asked to call a meeting to

discuss the best means of celebrating Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee.

(April 27th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 16th at Winsford Cottage, Abbotsham, the wife of John Gibbett of a

daughter.

(June 23rd 1897 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Parish Council was appointed to form a committee to arrange Jubilee

festivities at Abbotsham, and the members invited the following gentlemen to join them - Col. St Aubyn Molesworth, Messrs W.H. Thornton, C.R.C. Hibbert, W. Graily Hewitt and J. Phillips. A Ladies Committee of Mrs Sealy, Miss Turner, Miss Taylor and Miss Vidai was appointed to assist in the arranging of the tea, and a Sub Committee of Col Crosse, Messrs Maynard, W. Sealy Vidal and E. Woodcock arranged the Sports. Mr A.H. Boyd and the Hons. O and D. Scott undertaking the fireworks. The rejoicings commenced yesterday with a Service in the Parish Church at 11 o’ clock. The parishioners adjourned to Abbotsham Court, which Mr George Taylor had

generously placed at the disposal of the Committee. Here, all the men of

the parish were entertained to dinner at 1 o’ clock, Subsequently the

women and children were feasted. The afternoon was devoted to Sports

and in the evening a firework display. At 10 o’ clock a bonfire was lit at Boatlake Hill. Altogether June 22nd will be a red letter day in Abbotsham annals. On Sunday there was a special Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in the

Church, the authorised form for the day being used.

(June 23rd 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On June 26th at the Parish Church, Abbotsham by Rev. R.W. Sealy - Albert

Tallin to Lydia Sanders - both of Abbotsham.

(July 6th 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On July 8th at Roath, Cardiff (by licence) Edward Glover of Abbotsham to

Mary Harris Brooks of Axbridge.

(July 13th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On September 21st at Riccards Down, Abbotsham the wife of C.R.C. Hibbert

of a son.

(September 28th 1897 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 9th at the Bible Christian Chapel, Bideford - James Lang of

Buckland Brewer to Miss Curtis of Greencliffe, Abbotsham.

(October 12th 1987 BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 13th George Curtis of Swimbridge (Formerly of Abbotsham) aged

62 years.

(October 19th 1987 BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On October 21st at Abbotsham - Arthur Edward Coombe to Amy Beatrice,

younger daughter of the late R.W. Newman of Bideford.

(November 9th 1987 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

As Mr George Taylor of Abbotsham Court was returning home on Tuesday night he was thrown out of his carriage, which was completely overturned going around a sharp corner. He sustained several injuries, including broken ribs. With care and attention, his medical adviser says, he may be ble to get up in ten days.

(November 23rd 1987 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Annual Meeting of the Church Sunday Schools Teachers Association for

the Deaneries of Hartland and Torrington was held on Saturday week at Abbotsham. A service was held in the Parish Church at 3 o’ clock when a

large number of teachers and clergy from different parishes attended. After

tea a meeting was held in the Schoolroom, presided over by the Rural Dean

of Hartland.

(November 30th 1987 BG).

**DEATH**

On December 13th at Bowood, Abbotsham, Harriet Vidai, widow of the late

Edward Urch Vidali of Cornborough, aged 73 years.

(December 14th 1897 BG).

**BIRTH**

On January 11th at the Heart of Oak, Abbotsham, the wife of Edward

Woodcock of a daughter.

(January 25th 1898 BG)

**DEATH.**

On January 23rd at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, the wife of Robert Allan,

aged 41 years (late of Sutcombe).

(January 25th 1898 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 14th at Westacott, Abbotsham, the wife of William Squire, of a son

(still born).

(March 15th 1898 BG).

**VIDAL v BIDEFORD, WESTWARD HO, APPLEDORE R’WAY**

At Bideford Town Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Under

Sheriff of Devon, Mr T.W. Windeatt of Totnes and a special jury sat to assess damages in the matter of land to be taken by the Bideford, Westward Ho and Appledore Railway from the estate of Mr Edward Wyndham Granville Eyre Sealy Vidai at Cornborough, Abbotsham. The claim was £1,000 and the

quantity of land proposed to be taken 5 acres, 3 roods and 4 perches. The

jury returned a verdict for the complainant thus - compensation for land £420; compensation for severance etc £580 - a total of £1,000.

(March 15th 1898 BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - no contest. W.H. Turner, the Barton, Bideford; R.W. Sealy,

the Vicarage, Abbotsham; Charles H. Pickard, Shamland, Abbotsham; James

Moase, Ciaycott; Edward Woodcock, Rickards Down; E.W.E.S. Vidai, Combe

Cottage; Ceo. J. Taylor, Abbotsham Court; James Brown, Pusehill.

(March 22nd 1898 BG).

**THE ELECTION.**

Abbotsham - Mr J.L. Giddy was presiding officer for the Rural District Council Election yesterday - Mr Sealy Vidai was elected with 32 votes. Mr Turner 29 votes.

(April 5th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 12th at the Parish Church, Meeth - Herbert James Heywood of Lake

Farm, Abbotsham to Annie Hurford of Meeth.

(April 26th 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Sunday - sermons being preached by the Rev. F. Durbin in the afternoon and

Mr W.T. Goaman in the evening. A public tea and meeting followed yesterday.

(September 20th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On September 20th at Northam Wesleyan Chapel - John Moore Metherall of

Upcott Farm, Bideford to Maria Heywood Brown, eldest daughter of James

Brown of Pusehill, Abbotsham.

(October 4th 1898 BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On 19th at the Parish Church Abbotsham by Rev. R.W. Sealy - Robert E.L.

Hookway of Bideford to Mary Brayley, daughter of Charles Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham.

(October 25th 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

At a special meeting last Tuesday morning Bideford Rural District Highway

Board decided that the road from Bowood Cross Abbotsham to the Upper Lodge, should immediately be made the necessary width, so that it might be taken over by the County Council. The Surveyor will carry out the work at a cost not extending £200.

(December 6th 1898 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On December 3rd at Winsford, Bideford, the wife of R. Dark, of a son.

(December 22nd 1898 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday 12th inst Mr C. Berry F.R.H.S. of Exeter, staff instructor under the Devon County Council, concluded a course of lectures on Fruit Culture,

including practical outdoor demonstrations ¡n various parts of the parish. At the close of the lantern lecture on Monday, the Vicar expressed the hearty thanks of those who had been privileged to attend the course.

(December 22nd 1898 BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Father Christmas has this year brought his usual generous gifts to the

children of the parish. On the Wednesday after Christmas Day all the

children were invited to tea at the Vicarage, and after tea they adjourned to the Schoolroom where a beautiful Xmas Tree was found, all lighted and

covered with presents. On New Years Eve the Choir and Ringers were entertained at supper by the Vicar and Mrs Sealy. After the supper the party indulged in dancing until it was time to ring the Old Year out. On Thursday afternoon the children attending Abbotsham School gave a performance of the operetta “The Silver Penny”. In the evening a second performance was given to a crowded and delighted audience. At Abbotsham Poultry Show last week, Mr A.J.C. Hunt won first and “special” for the best Hamburgh bronze medal for the best bird exhibited by a member of the Poultry Club, and “special” for the second best bird shown by a member of the BidefordFanciers Society.

(January 10th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Devon County Council wrote to Bideford Highway Authority saying that they

had made an order to main the road between Bowood, Abbotsham and Buckleigh Cross. The Surveyor said the widening had been completed and now it needed coating.

(January 17th 1899 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 12th at Landcross - Richard Goad of Landcross to Elizabeth Caroline (Carrie) eldest daughter of Robert Allin of Abbotsham.  
(April 18th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful sale of work has been held at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham to liquidate the debt of £70 which has been incurred by the

purchase of a piece of land adjoining the Chapel and the erection of

boundary walls and store house. Mr T. Goaman JP opened the sale. At

1 o’clock there was a public luncheon to which about 50 sat down, including

members of the Episcopalian and Free Churches. The sale was continued on Thursday afternoon followed by a tea. In the evening a sacred musical

service was given by the Bideford Baptist Choir. The proceeds amounted to

over £41.

(January 24th 1899 BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

At Abbotsham there were twelve candidates for eight seats - John Bale;

James Brown; George Heywood; Col. Molesworth; J. Moase; C.H. Pickard Jun; G.J. Taylor; C.C. Turner; C.T. Turner; W.H. Turner; E.W.E.G. Sealy VidaI; and E. Woodcock.

(March 14th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a satisfactory attendance at Abbotsham on Thursday evening when Mr Soares, the Liberal candidate, gave an address, dealing principally

with the House of Lords. On the motion of Mr J.J. Lamerton, the meeting

pledged itself to support Mr Soares’ candidature.

(April 25th 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday April 24th Mr Stallworthy of Exeter concluded a successful

course of lectures on Poultry Keeping held in the Schoolroom, the average

attendance being about forty.

(May 2nd 1899 BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 18th at Abbotsham - Thomas Chapple Holman aged 83.

(May 23rd 1899 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

“The Cornishman” of May 25th reference to the late Mr T.C. Holman of

Abbotsham, says, “The interest of Penzance in this venerable and much

respected man arises from the fact that he was the father of Miss Holman,

who has gained so much respect as assistant at the “Queens Hotel” and

manageress of the “Union Hotel”.

(May 30th 1899 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On June 26th at Abbotsham the wife of W.H. Moore, of a son.

(June 27th 1899 BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The body of the late William Turner J.P. of the Barton, Bideford who died on Friday October 6th aged 71 years, was interred at the Abbotsham Churchyard on Wednesday morning. There was a long cortege. The Rev. Sealy read the burial service.

(October 17th 1899 BG).

**BIRTH.**

On the 20th inst at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, the wife of Charles R.C.

Hibbert, of a son.  
(October 24th 1899 BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 15th at the Registry Office, Bideford, Robert Alun to G.E.

Finnegan, both of Abbotsham.

(October 24th 1899 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at Abbotsham, William Glover aged 83 years.

(January 30th 1900 BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 31st at Bideford - Susannah widow of the late Thomas Pridham

of Abbotsham aged 83 years.

(February 6th 1900 BG).

**BURGLARY.**

At Devon Assizes on Tuesday, Thomas Gent, aged 38, labourer of Abbotsham, was charged with two burglaries at Fremington. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.

(February 13th 1900 BG).

**HEALTH OF BIDEFORD DISTRICT.**

The Medical Officer of Health for the District presented his annual report on Tuesday last. At Abbotsham there were eight deaths and fifteen births.  
(February 27th 1900 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Dr. Sinclair Thompson gave the first of a course of lectures on “Ambulance”

on Monday. There was a large attendance despite unfavourable weather. Among those present were the Rev. R.W. Sealy, Messrs Moase, Woodcock and Pickard - parish councillors, and a number of the gentler sex. The lecture and demonstration in bandaging were closely followed, and with practice there should be found in Abbotsham a body of people well able to render the greatest service in case of emergency.

(March 6th 1900 BG).