

Race Hampton B.C. 762 1905

My Mother
E. Davis

Please don't destroy this.—Pass it on and interest another.

A BAPTIST MECCA.

A COUNTRY CHURCH in the time of
The Commonwealth.



THREE miles due West of Horsebridge Station, and four miles from Stockbridge lies Broughton, one of the prettiest as well as one of the most interesting villages in Hampshire. The Roman Road from Winchester to Sarum is near it, and stretches over the downs well nigh as perfect as when the Romans left. On these downs are several ancient barrows, both round and ring. The site of a Roman glass works, discovered by the late Rev. E. Kell, F.S.A., is a great attraction to antiquarians, while the wide sweep of forest and field, stretching like a vast panorama, from inland region to the distant main, is admired by all who assay the ascent to these breezy uplands.

THE CHIEF ATTRACTIONS

however to Baptist pilgrims are:— The Baptist Chapel; Anne Steele's Cottage; the Park in which she wrote her poetry; her Tomb in the Churchyard, and the Baptist Library. In this last-named is a unique collection of 1,500 volumes, and many interesting relics, in-



cluding the old Church books dating from 1655; Anne Steele's Bible; the portrait of John Collins the donor of the Library; also a portfolio of rare mezzotint drawings, as well as botanical & natural history works with hand-painted illustrations.

VIEW OF CHAPEL

THE HISTORIC CHURCH,

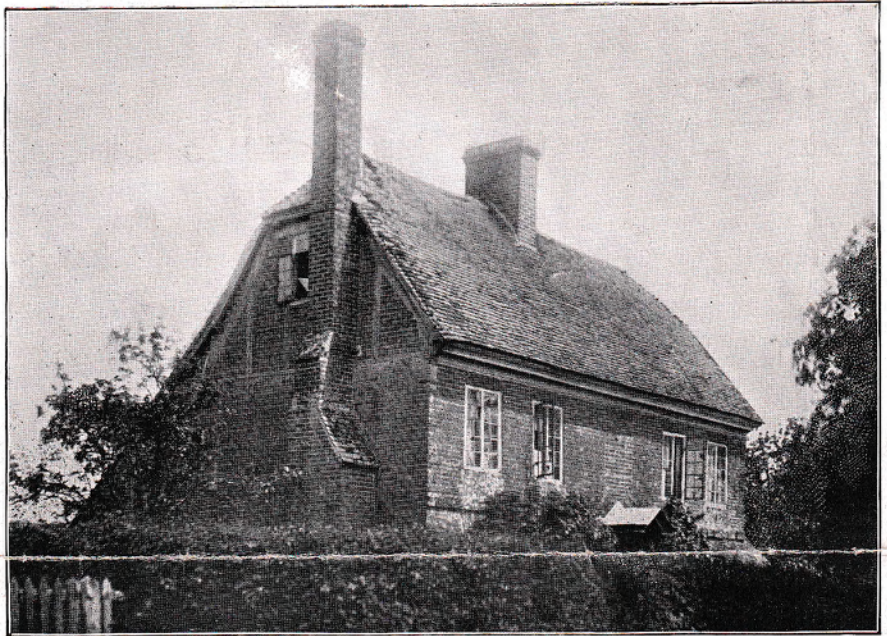
dating from April 3rd, 1655, is the **Mother of all the Churches** in the Southern Baptist Association, and has given earnest and able pastors to many a Baptist flock, and reared sturdy souls not a few, who have been a credit to the denomination, and of great usefulness in the world.

Among the more eminent must be named,

ANNE STEELE, THE BAPTIST POETESS.

She was a child of the Manse, her father, William Steele, being Baptist Minister from 1739 to 1769, having previously assisted his uncle, Henry Steele, as preaching elder for a period of twenty years.

Her poetry has not only enriched the psalmody and hymnody of our own denomination, but has made the Church Universal her debtor, for her hymns are sung in thousands of sanctuaries in this and other lands. They were published with other poems in two volumes under the nom-de-plume of *Theodosia*. After her death, a new edition, including a third volume, with an introduction by Dr. Caleb Evans, was issued.

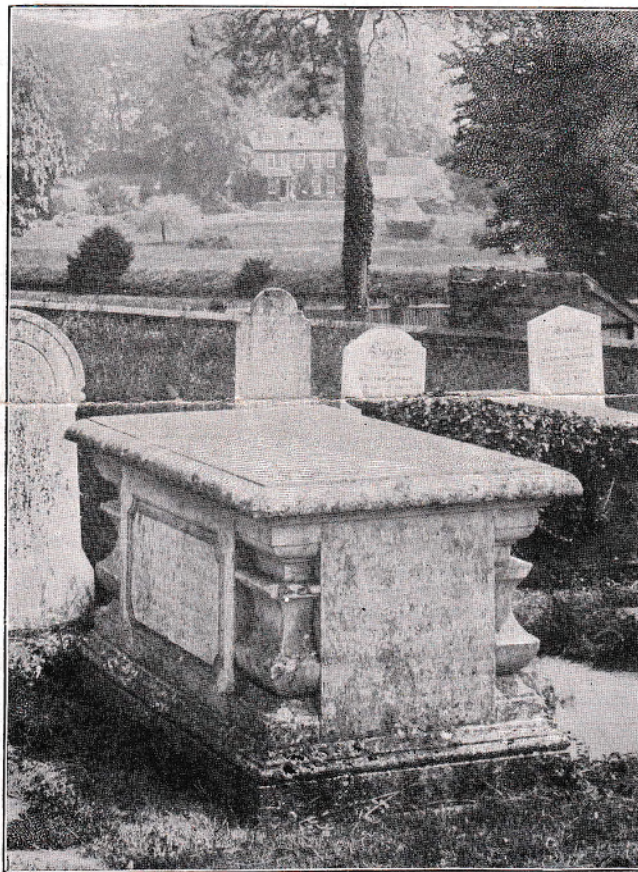


ANNE STEELE'S BIRTHPLACE.

The profits of her works were devoted by her to purposes of benevolence, while those which accrued after her death were appropriately assigned to the Funds of the **Bristol Baptist College**. She died in 1778, aged 61, and was buried on the south side of the Churchyard in a plain altar tomb, in which her father had been laid nine years earlier.

Our illustration of the Tomb, shows in the background, the fine old country house in which she lived with her brother. It is beautifully situated amid lovely scenery, and it was here on the Terrace Walk, commanding sylvan surroundings, that she came under the inspiration of the poetic muse, and strung her tuneful lyre.

Unlike some sacred lyrists, she has had no biographer; yet she did that which exceeds in importance and value the works of many who have received greater



ANNE STEELE'S TOMB.

honor. Her usefulness has far outdistanced her fame: she exerts an influence where her history is unknown; she ministers by many a sick-bed; she furnishes the song in many a night of affliction. Surely she is worthy who hath done this, of some permanent and useful Memorial. For this, what place could be deemed more appropriate than the Village in which she was brought up, and what scheme more suitable than that of seeking to consolidate the work of the historic Church to which


her father ministered so faithfully and long, and of which she herself was so worthy and useful a member.

ANOTHER BAPTIST LIGHT.

In 1791, William Steadman, a student from **Bristol College**, and considered "a young man of great promise," settled at Broughton. He was eventually raised from the obscurity of a country pastorate to the prominent position of College President, and, subsequently, plain William became **Dr. Steadman**.

As the first Principal of what is now **Rawdon Baptist College**, he did much to mould the ministry of his time. Our veteran Minister, the Venerable John Aldis, was one of his students, and evidently a favourite too, for he won the heart and hand of the Doctor's daughter.


During Steadman's ministry at Broughton he earned for himself the title "**The Father of Home Missions**," for, by his aggressive evangelistic zeal in the whole neighbourhood, and his preaching tour in Cornwall, he gave incentive to other Churches to undertake similar work in the neglected districts of our country.



AN APPEAL FOR A Commemoration Scheme.

We wish to raise **£500**

AS A THANKOFFERING TO GOD 



For His great goodness to this Ancient Church during **A QUARTER OF A MILLENIUM**, and as a Slight Recognition of His Gift to our Denomination in particular, and to the Church of Christ in general, of so sweet a Singer in Israel as Anne Steele, and so Sturdy and Successful a Pioneer of Home Missions as Dr. Steadman.

The importance of our Village Churches is now being emphasised, and their cause ably advocated, by our beloved President, **Rev. F. B. Meyer**. May we not therefore confidently and reasonably appeal for help on behalf of *this* Village Church, which for a period extending over 250 years, has been a helper and feeder of other Churches, and whose history is an heirloom and an inspiration, not to our denomination alone, but to the whole great Free Church Family.

This Appeal is supported by **the Argument of Necessity** in addition to that of Sentiment, for the Chapel, which is nearly as unique as the history of the Church itself, is in a very dilapidated condition.

A PLAN OF RENOVATION

has been decided upon, which will not altogether destroy the Ancient Character of the Building. The old high-back oaken pews, (reputed on reliable authority to have been fashioned out of timber salvaged from **H.M.S. Royal George**, wrecked off Spithead in 1782), are to be re-modelled, and made into comfortable seats without seriously altering their antique appearance.

AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCHOOLROOM

is necessary for the successful prosecution of the work; the Interior and Exterior of the Chapel, the present Schoolroom, the Manse, and the old Library, are to be thoroughly renovated, and, in addition, a Chapel Kitchen and other offices are to be built.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY!

We have a limited number of . . .

Manuscript Sermons by Anne Steele's Father,

whose helpful ministry she herself has graciously acknowledged. Anne, without doubt, listened to these sermons, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the preaching of the Pastor is reflected in the poetry of the Poetess. We shall present one of these **rare and interesting relics** to each of the 25 most generous donors to the scheme.

We propose further, to publish as . . .

A 250th Anniversary Souvenir,

a **BROCHURE** bearing the title and sub-title at the head of this circular. It will be profusely illustrated with a remarkably interesting series of photographs, and will not only contain the complete Chronicles of the Historic Church, but also The Story of Anne Steele, a Short Sketch of Steadman, and Pen Portraits of other **Baptist Worthies** whose names are associated with the old Church.

An Anthology is also being prepared for this Souvenir, and we invite replies to the following:—

- (1) What is Anne Steele's best hymn?
- (2) What hymns of hers have helped you most?

As an Appendix to this book, there will be a printed List of all Subscribers and Collectors of 10/- and upwards. These names will be inscribed on **an Historic Roll**, which will be kept with the Archives of the ancient Church, in the Broughton Baptist Library.

The Work of Renovation is begun. May we therefore most urgently plead for a liberal and early response, in order that, we may be spared the incubus of debt.

Subscriptions may be sent to:—

HENRY A. TREE, *Pastor and Secretary*,
Queenwood Rd., Broughton, Stockbridge, Hants.

M. WHICHER, *Treasurer*, The Square, Broughton, Stockbridge, Hants.

M. BATCHELOR, *Deacon*, High Street, Broughton, Stockbridge, Hants.

Cheques should be crossed, London & County Bank, Andover.

Letter of Recommendation from the Association Secretary.

I have the utmost pleasure in commending the Appeal of the Pastor and Church at Broughton to the sympathy of Christian friends, and earnestly solicit a generous response to it.

This Historic Church is renewing its youth in its old age, and is worthy of the help, not only of all Baptists, but of all Evangelical Christians.

JOSEPH HASLER,

Secretary of the Southern Baptist Association.