

Churchyard Wall - 1884

The wall enclosing the churchyard had a new addition to it (as reported in Keble's Gazette 11th October 1884 - p 8).

It was almost completed and was being paid for by Mrs Susan Gray of Birchington Hall and the dean & Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral. There was also a tool house to be included. The cost of this was greater than anticipated and donations were being welcomed.

The tool house was attached to the churchyard wall.

CONSECRATION of the CHURCHYARD

29th November 1884, Keble's Gazette reported that the Churchyard extension mentioned above was consecrated by the Bishop of Dover. There was no specific account of the service, unfortunately.

CHURCHYARD EXTENSIONS

There were several extensions to the churchyard over the centuries. The original section stands on the high ground immediately surrounding the church. There is on photo showing this piece from the south side with the wall at the edge of the high bank and its gate leading up to the south porch.

The first of these extensions was 1842, followed by a second one in 1884 and a third extension in 1915. (see Notes by ATW in **Slide Box 14 : page 3** In a further note on **page 6a** he states that the churchyard was enlarge FOUR times, but if this is correct, the date for that 4th extension is not listed.) Some of the land that gradually became included was gifted to the church, some was bought and one small piece was 'taken', according to the descendants of Wilson, the carpenter of Jessamine Cottage!

[The piece in dispute was the triangle between the path to the SW gate, the Canterbury Road and the lower edge of the bank, which is now used as a memorial garden for the burial of ashes. Mr Wilson, who lived across the road, used to use this piece of land to store his spare planks of wood, and although he had never actually bought it, he had used it for so long, he considered it his property. He was therefore very irate when the Vicar of the time (the Rev. H. Serres) suddenly fenced it in as part of the latest enlargement in 1915.]