

## **Consett\_Guardian\_09\_November\_1888**

### FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY AT GREENCROFT.

The Primitive Methodist Connection have had preaching services and a society at Greencroft Cottages for over 30 years. Through the kindness of the colliery owners, they have conducted these services in various cottages and rooms; and, after passing through various changes, the members of the society and congregation thought the time had now come when they should have a place of worship of their own. Preparations were made to realize this much-to-be-desired object.

On Saturday, the foundation-stone ceremony in connection with the new building took place. The Y.M.C.A. Mission Brass Band met at the Lizzie Colliery Old School- room, and played along into Greencroft to the place where the service was to be held. Rev J. MaGee (circuit minster), Stanley, gave out hymn 142 (new hymnal), which was sung with good effect, accompanied by the Mission Brass Band. Mr C. Graham, Annfield Place, offered prayer; after which, Mr Philip Reay, Annfield Plain, read the following portions of scripture :- I Kings, viii. 22- 31, and the 84th Psalm. Hymn 816 was then sung. and although the weather was extremely wet and cold, there were about 300 persons assembled to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation- stones of this chapel.

Rev J. Magee introduced Mr P. Reay to lay the first stone. He said that he was sorry Mr J. Priestman, J.P., was not able to be present, and read a letter from that gentleman, with a donation of £5; and from another gentleman, a note for £1. Mr Reay proceeded to lay the first stone; and, in doing so, said he was very glad to perform this little service. He held in his hand a bottle which contained a quantity of matter. There was in it the following :- Five farthings, one penny, one halfpenny, one three penny piece, and one four- penny piece; that week's issue of the Consett Guardian, which, he said, was as good and interesting and instructive a household paper as anyone could wish to have in their house; a copy of the Newcastle Daily Leader, copy of the Primitive Methodist World, a circuit plan, the balance sheet of the circuit (showing its numerical and financial condition), and a host of other matter. He also gave a short address on the work of Christian churches. After the bottle had been deposited in the cavity of the stone prepared for it, and adjusting the stone, Mr Reay declared it duly -laid in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Mr C. Graham laid the next stone, and observed that he was not a mason. This was new work for him but he was ready to do all he could to help on this noble object. But he said after all it was not stones and mortar they wanted to-day, but what would pay the contractor.' After having arranged the stone in its place he declared it duly laid in the name of the Trinity. He hoped the place would be built without any accident to any of the persons engaged in it.

Other stones were laid by the following ladies and gentlemen-Mrs C. Graham, Mrs P. Reay, Mrs J. Magee, Mrs J. Bainbridge, Mrs Herdman, Mrs W. Reay, Mr Thomas Graham, Mr G. Bainbridge. and Mr J. Wilkinson. Rey J. Magee and friends took part in the ceremony. A collection was taken which amounted to over £31.

## **Newcastle\_Journal\_03\_September\_1937**

While engaged in demolishing the old Methodist Church at Greencroft, Annfield Plain, Mr T. H. Worley, of Tantobie, has come across a bottle embedded in & corner stone which contains five farthings, one halfpenny, one 3d piece, and one 4d piece all in a splendid state of preservation, and some newspapers. The church which was built in 1888, is being demolished owing to colliery workings undermining it to such an extent that it is considered unsafe. Mr Worley said yesterday that it was usual to find a receptacle containing coins in all churches when they were being pulled down, but he did not find the bottle in the place he expected to see it.