

Photocopy of typescript account of the death and funeral of Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Edward Mason Wrench, formerly with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, Derbyshire Regiment, in the Crimean War, and with the 12th Prince of Wales Royal Lancers in the Indian Mutiny

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EXTRACT FROM DRESSROLL VOLUME 1

No. 5382.

Edward Mason Wrench Born in London 1 July 1833.
Died at Buxton 12 March 1912.

Asst Surgeon 34Ft 1 Decemeber 1854 CRIMEA WAR

Asst Surgeon 12 Lancers 22 August 1856 INDIAN MUTINY

RESERVE: 2 December 1862.

FRCS England 1870.

VD(Voluntary Decoration) 1893

MVO 1907.

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THE LATE DR. WRENCH

Impressive Funeral at Baslow

Duke of Devonshire a Mourner.

All that was mortal of Dr. E.M.Wrench, M.V.O, F.R.C.S., J.P. (whose very sudden death took place at Buxton), was reverently laid to rest in Baslow Churchyard, on Friday, the 15th inst. Manifestations of respect and esteem for the deceased gentleman were observable on every hand, and practically every householder in the whole of the picturesque village had drawn down the blinds; the tradesmen put up their shutters, and here and there were to be seen Union Jacks fluttering mournfully at the half mast. Baslow was in deep mourning and the interment of the revered Dr. Wrench was one of the most impressive funerals which has taken place in the old-time village for a long time past. From all the countryside surrounding Chatsworth, and as afar afield as Bakewell, Buxton, Sheffield, the people came, all bent upon paying a last tribute of respect to one who was so well-known, honoured, and admired. Nearly every villager who was able to do so was present at the last sad rites. With all its impressiveness, however, there was a sweet simplicity about the funeral which seemed to be well in keeping with the character of the man the people mourned. Dark clouds and fleeting showers of rain added to the mournfulness of the scene. Amongst the mourners were His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and the Marquis of Granby (representing the Duke of Rutland).

The coffin, which was covered by the Union Jack, was borne by bearers from Park Lodge, the deceased gentleman's residence. The bearers were: Messrs, Reuben Sheldon, John Staley J. Sheldon, T. Hulley, G. Siddall, S. Frost, C. Watson, G. Hearnshaw, W. Brightmore, John Bennett, and J. Hulley.

Assembling at the Stockdale Institute about 2.30 o'clock the various deputations formed into procession under the direction of Superintendent A. Lakin, of Bakewell, who had with him Police-Sergeant Morley and a number of constables. Colonel H. Brooke Taylor, of Bakewell (a great personal friend of the deceased), had charge of the general arrangements, and his un-failing courtesy and organising ability were greatly appreciated. Immediately following the coffin were the principal mourners: Mrs. Wrench (widow); Dr. Branson Wrench (son); Mr. F. Houlton Wrench, A.M.I.C.E., L&R&L.B.A. (son); Mrs. R.S.C. Edleston (daugh); Mrs. F. Houlton Wrench (daughter-in-law); Mr. Gillam Wrench (grandson); Miss Letitia Wrench (grand-daughter); Mrs. James Jackson (sister); Miss Dorothy Jackson (niece), present representing also Mr. Edward Jackson, M.I.C.E. Mrs Edward Jackson (sister); Dr. R.S.C. Edleston (son-in-law); Dr. R. Houlton Jackson (nephew); Mr. Herbert Wright (nephew); Mr Hugh Wyatt (nephew); representing Mr. T.H.Wyatt, M.V.O., Mrs T.H.Wyatt (sister); Mr. Francis H. Jackson (nephew); Mr. and Mrs E. Fanshaw (cousins); Dr. Rockcliffe (cousin); Miss Mary Manwaring (cousin); Mrs Edith Bigsby-Chamberlin (cousin); Miss Isabel Rigby-Chamberlin (sister); Rev. W. Norton Wright, M.A, (St. Stephen's, Sheffield) the servants, Mr. W. Strutt, Miss Kate Barlow, and Miss Rose Addey.

Representative Bodies.

The various public bodies, associations, and authorities were represented by the following:

Magistrates of the Bakewell Petty Sessional Division:- Messrs. C.E.B. Bowles, the chairman (Wirksworth), A. Clay (Darley Hall). W. Nixon (Eyam), G. J. Marples (Thornbridge Hall), W. Brierley (Litton), H.C.Heathcote (Winster), B. Armitage (Bakewell), and F. J. Taylor (Chairman of Bakewell Urban District Council).

Derbyshire Medical Society and Infirmary: Dr. Luce.

Chesterfield and Midland Medical Union: Surgeon Captain Shea and Surgeon-Lieut. Chawner; Bakewell and District Medical Association Drs. P. S. Fentem, T. Fentem, and C. W. Evans.

Derbyshire County Council: Mr. H. R. Crossland, C.C., Nether Padley, Grindleford.

Baslow Urban District Council: Messrs. R. H. Mabbott, J.P. , Jos. Eades, F. Vick, W. H. Dent, G. Sheldon, and Fedk. Sheldon.

Stockdale Institute: Messrs. J. H. R. Tasker and R. J. Sheldon.

Baslow Loyal "Invincible" Lodge of Oddfellows: Messrs. G. H. Yeomans, Jas. Holmes, Wm. Brightmore, J. A. Hibbert, and G. Herrington, Wm Brightmore, junr., G. Norton, and G. Udale

Baslow School Managers and trustees: Mr. A. J. Tomlinson.

Baslow Red Cross Society: Mr. A. Wheen and Mr. C. H. Armitage. (County director).

Baslow Church Council; Mr. Frank Staley.

Baslow Church Lads' Brigade: Lieutenants J. J. Hoggand B. Sheldon.

Curbar School Trustees: Mr. W. Barnsdall.

Bakewell and District Naturalists' Club; Mr. W. Storrs Fox, F.Z.S., and Mr. Wm. Boulsover.

Lady Manners School (Bakewell): Mr. W. H. C. Jemmett, M.A. (Headmaster), and Mr. C. J. Bowmar (bursar).

Whitworth Institute: Rev. E. Evans.

Whitworth Hospital: Dr. Luce.

Bakewell and District Veterans' Association and National Reserve: Colonel H. Brooke Taylor, Surgeon-Lieut-Col, John Knox, Major Robinson, Captain T. Swann, Quartermaster-Sergt. Dakin, and Messrs. C. H. Glossop, J.P., H. Woodiwiss, C. Woodiwiss, Jos. Smith, Hugh Rose, all of Bakewell, and W. Fletcher and Jos. Shimwell (Edensor).

Army Service Corps: Veterinary-Lieut. Rawlins and Staff-Segt.-Major Brown (Chesterfield).

Detachment of 6th Batt. Notts and Derbyshire Regt. (Territorial Force) under Colonel G. M. Jackson T.D., Major Goodman, Liert C. H. Brooke Taylor, and Sergt, Instructor Pullen.

Other gentlemen who attended, in addition to the Duke of Devonshire and Marquis of Granby, already mentioned, were: Mr. J. P. Cockerell (Agent to the Duke of Devonshire), Mr. A. P. Payne-Gallway, J.P., C.C. (Agent to the Duke of Rutland), Mr. J. P. Maine (Librarian at Chatsworth), Messrs. F. G. Barnes, F. Jennings, and J. Maclauchlan (Chatsworth Estate staff), D. Peat (headkeeper, Duke of Rutland), Dr. Dyson and Miss Dyson (Sheffield), D. H. W. Lander (Hathersage), Messrs, F. Lees (Ashford), W. R. Pitt-Dixon (Longstone, B. T. Burdekin (Eyam), and W. H. Hawley (Bakewell).

At the Church and Graveside.

Arrived at the Parish Church of St. Anne's the coffin was borne inside and a very impressive service was conducted by Archdeacon Noakes (Derby), Revs. James Smith (vicar of Baslow), W. V. Bagshawe (Baslow), F. S. Shaw (Eyam), and T. F. Salt (Curbar), Other clergy present included: - Rev. H. W. L. O'Rorke (Edensor), J. R. Luxmore (Ashford-in-the-water), and J. H. Hewetson (Beeley), The hymns "Lead Kindly Light" (Dr Wrench's favourite), and "Now the labourer's task is o'er", were sung by the crowded congregation and choir. The

organist played the Dead March from "Saul". At the graveside the hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was again sweetly sung, the scene in the little God's Acre as the final rite was performed being very impressive. As many as could took a last farewell look at the coffin within the ivy clad grave, and slowly the crowd melted away, the bells in the ancient church tower meanwhile rolling out a muffled peal.

Wreaths and Floral Tributes.

There were a large number of beautiful wreaths and floral tributes which were reverently laid upon the grave. They were as follows:-
Mrs. Wrench (laurel wreath), "From your loving wife Annie."
From the children and grandchildren (wreath-)
Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.
Duke and Duchess of Rutland.
Lord Granby.
Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Arkwright.
Mrs. H. G. Watson.
The children of Baslow School.
The officers of the Army Service Corps, Chesterfield.
The Rev. C. Cutler.
Mr. T. H. Wyatt, M.V.O. Mrs. Wyatt, and the children.
The Rev. E. C. Bedford.
Mrs. Wyatt and Montagu Wyatt, of Western Patrick, Hants.
Docie and Edith Swinhoe and Ruby T, Summer Smith.
Harry and Reg, Thorold and Gertrude.
Trustees of Whitworth Institute (Wreath.)
Committee and Members of the Baslow Unionist League.
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mabbott.
Baslow and Bubnell Urban District Council.
Mrs. George Cammell and Miss Iris Cammell.
Mr. and Miss Goodwin.
Dr. R. H. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson (Bakewell)
Mrs. Turner and family.
Rev. W. Vale Bagshawe and Mrs. Bagshawe.
Captain and Mrs. Claude Birch.

In addition to the above particulars we are informed that a telegram was received from the Vererans' Association of Stockport, regretting that they could not be represented as it was found impossible to make the necessary arrangements in time. Amongst the retired officers present was Captain Dakin, of Millers Dale, Mrs Gregory, of Eyam, sent a private carriage.

SYMPATHETIC PUBLIC REFERENCES.

BAKEWELL MAGISTRATES' TRIBUTE.

At the Bakewell Police Court on Friday last, kindly and sympathetic reference was made to the late Dr. E. M. Wrench.

Mr. W. Nixon said that before the ordinary business of the Court was begun the magistrates had a duty to perform, which, he was sure, would commend itself to all, and that was to make fitting reference to the late Dr. Wrench. They met that morning, he said, under a very dark cloud indeed for they had lost by death the oldest member of that magisterial bench. Not only was the late Dr. Wrench the oldest magistrate in that division, but he was also one of the most useful by reason of his professional ability and his long and varied experiences of the world. Dr. Wrench possessed many characteristics which were highly appreciated by his brother magistrates. In the decisions and deliberations of the Court Dr. Wrench's helpfulness was most valuable.

He (Mr. Nixon) was sure that everyone who had known Dr. Wrench would miss him greatly. He was most courteous with all and had the greatest consideration for the feelings of others. He was only paying a very small compliment indeed when he said that Dr. Wrench was a man whose place would be difficult to fill in the life and work of the whole district. He was a true specimen of all that was best and noblest in man, a thorough English gentleman. It was most pathetic, perhaps, that he who during a long and useful life had done so much to alleviate the sufferings of other people should have been called away in the manner in which he died, alone and away from his home. There was some compensation, however, that he had not been a sufferer from pain and that he had been spared from a long and wearisome illness at the end of his life. There was no man amongst them who was so widely known as the late Dr. Wrench and none so highly esteemed and respected in every walk of life, in the homes of the poorest as well as in the great Palace of the Peak. In every home he visited the genial doctor was welcomed as a friend and counsellor. He (Mr. Nixon) and his colleagues on the bench felt that they had suffered a great personal loss. The name of Edward Mason Wrench would be long remembered when they thought of the man, what he was and what he had accomplished in his lifetime. He was honoured by his Sovereign and beloved by all who knew him. He stood head and shoulders above his fellow men in the good he wrought in that neighbourhood. Mr. Nixon moved that a most sincere letter expressing deep regret be sent to the sorrowing relatives of Dr. Wrench.

Mr. H. C. Heathcote, in seconding, also testified to the sterling worth and qualities of Dr. Wrench. He had been associated with him in various ways for many years and had always found him to be a man of many splendid qualities. In the work of the Whitworth Hospital trustees he showed the liveliest interest almost up to the very last. He (Mr. Heathcote) was reminded, when thinking of their late friend, of two lines in one of Wesley's hymns;

"My body would my charge lay down
And cease at once to work and live."

Truly, Dr. Wrench was a patriot, benefactor, and Christian.

The Chairman (Mr. C. E. B. Bowles), who entered the court after the other gentlemen had spoken wished to be associated with the sympathetic remarks offered in respect to Dr. Wrench, whom he had known for many years, ever since boyhood. A more sincere and loyal friend than Dr. Wrench it would be difficult to find anywhere.

The motion was carried in silence, everyone in Court rising.

NATIONAL RESERVISTS AND THE LATE DOCTOR

Speaking at a meeting of the National Reserve Movement, in Bakewell, on Friday night, Col. H. Brooke Taylor who presided, said he could not allow an occasion like that to pass without referring to the very great loss they had all sustained in the past day or two by the sudden death of Dr. E. M. Wrench, of Baslow, who had served his country splendidly in years gone by. (Applause.) Dr. Wrench had taken a very great and keen interest in this movement of the National Reserve and he had expressed his intention only a few days ago of being present on that interesting occasion. Not only Bakewell and Baslow but the whole countryside had sustained a very heavy blow by the death of their old friend. (Hear, hear) As a grand old Crimean Veteran they would very much have liked to have seen him at their gathering that night and to have heard him relate some of his experiences once again. But that was not to be. As they were all aware Dr. Wrench was very well known to all of them. He was probably the most versatile man in this part of the country, certainly one of many parts, always willing and ready to give a helping hand. (Hear, hear) It did not matter what work Dr. Wrench was called upon to do, he did it well.

His cheery presence was always much welcomed, and his assistance in many ways was of the most valuable character. In many departments of life, social, military, and archaeological, he took a prominent part. (Hear, hear) In each of them he was equally at home. Small wonder then that Dr. Wrench would be greatly missed. Only about a fortnight ago he showed a party of members belonging to the Bakewell and District Naturalists Club through the beautiful gardens at Chatsworth, explaining everything in his own wonderful way. They little thought then that he would be taken away from them so soon. Concluding, Colonel Taylor remarked that he was sure the life of Dr. Wrench ought to be an example which all of them should follow. They honoured and admired him as a true patriot and a public-spirited man. He was sure he was only expressing the feelings of all present when he proposed that a vote of sincere sympathy be passed with Mrs. Wrench and the bereaved family and that a letter to this effect be sent them.

The vote was passed in respectful silence, the company meanwhile rising to their feet.

PULPIT REFERENCES

At Edensor Parish Church, on Sunday morning, the Rev. W. Vale Bagshaw alluded to Dr. Wrench, in his sermon, as follows:-

"Once more we have been reminded that this is not our home, and that we must all, sooner or later, pass through the grave and gate of death. Some of us here to day have lately lost relations near and dear to us, and we have all within these last few days suddenly lost one who we may say has been the kindest of friends the truest of neighbours to us all, and active worker for good, for his neighbourhood, for his country, for his God. Dr. Wrench was always ready in every good work. In his own profession he was able and resourceful, whether in the trenches, in the cottage, or in the mansion. His was a figure well known and loved in all this countryside, and his keen and helpful interest in all our public work brought him into touch with all who had good work to do. Vigorous and active to the very last he died as he would have wished to die, not on a lingering bed of sickness but out in God's fresh air. Whilst we are still mourning we are justified in taking this happy view of death as being the gate of everlasting Life."

SUDDEN DEATH OF DR. E. M. WRENCH

EXHAUSTED WHILST CYCLING AT BUXTON,

A NOTABLE CAREER

DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IN THE CRIMEA.

With a tragic suddenness and under circumstances of the most melancholy description, the death took place of Surgeon-Lieutenant Colonel Edward Mason Wrench, M.V.O., J.P., of Park Lodge, Baslow, on Tuesday afternoon. In the morning he left home for a cycle ride, and he then appeared to be in his usual good health. The next that was heard of the noted doctor was in the Ashwood Dale Road, Buxton, at ten minutes to two, he evidently having suddenly collapsed, for he was seen leaning against the railings. A woman named Mary Cullen a patient in the Devonshire Hospital, was walking in the Dale when she saw him get off his machine, go to the side of the road, and catch hold of the railings. A carter named Austin Duffy came up at the same time, and gently laid him on the ground. Assistance was summoned and Mr. Shaw, manager of the Gasworks, who lives close to the spot, and Dr. Hendry, were quickly on the scene, but the doctor was then past all human aid. He died without speaking.

His bicycle rested against the railings close to him. The body was removed in a motor car to Messrs. Booth and Sons' mortuary, Hogshaw. It was not known who the aged cyclist was until the police found his card upon the body, and a flat circular pinholder contained the initials E.M.W. Superintendent James telephoned the sad news to Dr. Edleston, of Baslow, his son-in-law. Dr. Wrench was 78 years of age and leaves a widow who is now nearly 81 years of age, and three surviving sons - Mr. J. H. Kirke Wrench, residing in Chicago; Dr. Branson Wrench, who is in practice in Durham; and Mr. F. Houlton Wrench, A.M.I.C.E., of Sheffield. He had been subject to heart attacks recently, but as stated he left home on Tuesday morning in the best of spirits, to enjoy what was his favourite recreation, a cycle run.

The news of his sudden death cast a gloom over Baslow, Bakewell, and the whole of the country-side, and the sad feeling was accentuated by the tragic circumstances associated with it. To his bereaved wife and family go out the sincerest and most heartfelt sympathies of everybody in West Derbyshire. Not only in medicine and surgery had Dr. Wrench made a name for himself, but he had a distinguished career as a soldier, he having served throughout the Crimean War. Further, he devoted his life to good works, to anything and everything in fact that could in any way conduce to the betterment of the lot of the people. In West Derbyshire his name will long writ large as that of a man whose greatest object was the improvement of those about him.

In Russia and India there was no Volunteer Battalion that could show a more distinguished soldier in its ranks than the Medical Officer Surgeon-Lieut-Colonel E.M.Wrench, formerly of the 2nd Vol. Battalion Sherwood Foresters, Derbyshire Regiment. He embarked for the Crimea in October, 1854, and arrived at Balaclava in advance of the 34th Regt.. to which he was gazetted assistant surgeon on November 3rd of that year. He was placed in charge of the wounded at Inkerman in the hospital in the Russian Military School at Balaclava, of which he subsequently became possessed of the official seal and was afterwards attached to the 28th Regt. with whom he served in the trenches of the left-attack in December, 1854.

On the arrival of the 34th Regt., then the 1st Battalion Border Regt., he remained with it during the rest of the campaign, doing duty in the right attack trenches during the terrible winter of 1854-5 and was present at the capture of the quarries on June 7th and successful assault of the Redan, June 18th, and the final capture of Sebastopol on September 8th, 1855, and the assault on the 18th June. He was mentioned in dispatches for "courage, coolness, and professional skill under a very heavy fire", and received the Crimean medal and clasp for Sebastopol with the Turkish medal. He returned from the Crimea with the 34th Regt., in July, 1856, and was transferred to the 12th Prince of Wales Royal Lancers and embarked in medical charge of the squadron of that regiment for Madras in the following month. He was on active service with the 12th Lancers during the whole of the Indian Mutiny 1857 and 1858, and at the close of the campaign "excellent services of Assistant Surgeon Wrench in medical charge of the left-wing of the 12th lancers" was brought to the special notice of the Brigadier General of the Medical Department by Lieut. General Sir Patrick Grant, K.C.B., who was present with the Central India Field Force at the affair of Kubrai, the battle of Banda, and numerous skirmishes in the Jungles of Bundelkund, when in pursuit of Tantia Topee, and other rebels, receiving the Indian Mutiny medal and clasp for Central India. Surgeon Col. Wrench returned to England in 1860, and retired from the Army in 1862. In January, 1864, he joined the 9th or Bakewell Company of the 3rd Battalion Derbyshire Volunteers as ensign, vice Sir Joseph Paxton, resigned, for which he served as ensign and lieutenant and was gazetted surgeon to the Battalion on the 23rd March, 1870. He was promoted Surgeon-Lieut., Colonel on the 3rd April, 1892, and received a further decoration in January, 1893. In those days the deceased gentleman is spoken of as an official always ready to take part in any work which had for its aim the efficiency and benefit of the Battalion.

How the news was received in Bakewell and Baslow

Sorrow - deep, profound and sincere - was expressed on all hands on Tuesday afternoon in Bakewell, Baslow and district, when it became known that Dr. E. M. Wrench had died under such pathetic and even tragic circumstances whilst cycling from Buxton. Although the deceased gentleman had reached an advanced age, he was always such an active and vigorous man that the painful news of his death could hardly be realised. Only an hour or two before his death he had been busily discussing the affairs of the day with old friends, as was his wont, just in his usual genial, unostentatious way. It was a great shock, therefore, when the people throughout a wide district heard of his death. The deceased gentleman was one of the most interesting personalities who have ever resided in the Baslow district and he will indeed be greatly missed in many circles, for he was a man of many parts, and invariably found pleasure in everything he undertook, and he always endeavoured to impart something of this enthusiasm to others. As one of his closest Bakewell friends remarked when discussing the sad death: "We have lost one of the most interesting of men, and his place can never be really filled again in our midst." That is a sentiment which will be re-echoed by all who knew the deceased. The number must be legion, and they will feel his loss very keenly. Dr Wrench, M.V.O., F.R.C.S. (Eng) V.D., J.P. (1898), was born on the 1st of July, 1833, and was thus in his 79th year. The deceased gentleman, who was the son of a London clergyman, the Rev. T. W. Wrench, rector of St. Michael's Cornhill, took medicine as a profession, and in this he made rapid headway. Whilst serving in the Crimea, having joined the Army Medical Staff in 1854, he was the only officer who never missed a trench duty through sickness.

DR. and MRS. WRENCH'S GOLDEN WEDDING

It is questionable if the residents of Baslow ever more heartily and happily joined in a celebration than they did in that of the Golden Wedding of Dr. and Mrs. Wrench on April 9th last year. For weeks prior to what was one of the most auspicious events in the history of the village, relatives and residents vied in friendly and loving rivalry in order to do honour to a gentleman and lady who were simply idolised. The opportunity presented of showing heartfelt appreciation and paying loving tribute to the most worthy of couples was eagerly seized, and Dr. and Mrs. Wrench were the recipients of quite a shoal of hearty wishes and congratulations from friends far and wide, for no names were more revered than theirs throughout the length and breadth of West Derbyshire. One of the handsome and valuable presents received on that occasion represented a loving tribute from nine brothers and sisters, whilst another present was from forty-nine nephews and nieces. Lady Edward Cavendish sent a beautiful casket with her heartiest congratulations and best wishes. In addition to the other numerous presents, Dr. and Mrs. Wrench found on their breakfast table a beautiful basket of flowers in which was artfully concealed a gold brooch for Mrs. Wrench and a gold fountain pen for Dr. Wrench. Mr. Frank Goodwin, solicitor of Bakewell, presented the happy couple with two silver gilt spoons, facsimiles of one which has been in the possession of their family for over 200 years. There were several interesting presents, showing the love and esteem in which Dr. and Mrs. Wrench were held.

HIS MARRIAGE

It was on April 9th, 1861, on his return from service in India, that Dr. Wrench married his cousin, Miss Annie Eliza Kirke, daughter of Mr. William Kirke, J.P., of East Markhan Hall, Notts. In order to pay a visit to his son, grandchildren and great-grand child, Dr. Wrench, still showing the hardihood of his nature, voyaged to America.

ATTENDED ROYALTY

It was in the world of medicine and surgery that the late Dr. Wrench gained fame and honour. He attended the late Lord Edward Cavendish through serious illness at Chatsworth in the early part of 1887, and afterwards accompanied him to the continent. Whilst the late King Edward was on a visit to Chatsworth the late Dr. Wrench had the honour of attending him professionally, and one of his most cherished memories was the ceremony when the late King Edward, on the occasion of his last visit to Chatsworth, personally decorated him a Member of the Victorian Order, informing him at the time that the honour was conferred for personal services rendered for his long association with the Army. On another occasion Dr. Wrench had the honour of taking King Edward's photograph whilst on a visit to Chatsworth. King Edward took much pleasure in hearing Dr. Wrench tell of his many interesting experiences whilst serving in the Crimean War. The deceased was also consulting surgeon to the Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale. Although taking comparatively little part in professional work of late at Baslow he still remained in partnership with his nephew, Dr. Jackson, of Bakewell, and Dr. Edleston, his son-in-law, of Baslow. He very frequently visited Bakewell. Dr. Wrench was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and afterwards a Fellow in 1870.

At Chatsworth, Baslow, and all the district round, the late Dr. Wrench was almost worshipped, his skill as a medical man being of a high order. To the humblest cottager on the Chatsworth Estate he was a friend, as he also was to three successive Dukes of Devonshire at Chatsworth, and he held similar appointments

as surgeon, in 1862 to the Seventh Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth and to the eighth and the present Duke. Dr. Wrench still maintained his military bearing right up to the time of his death, despite his advanced age. Of late he had frequented Bakewell to attend the weekly sitting of the Bakewell justices. Cycling was one of the exercises he enjoyed. He, however, sometimes arrived on horseback, looking very spruce and active. Dr. Wrench retired from the 3rd Battalion Derbyshire Regiment in 1900, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He also received the Victorian Decoration Order for long and honoured service.

A MAN OF MANY PARTS

In many other spheres of life and activity Dr. Wrench was a prominent and always welcomed figure. He was one of the staunchest of church men and had held the office of churchwarden at the Baslow Parish Church at which he was a regular and devout attendant. He was of a most kindly and generous disposition, giving largely to local philanthropic objects while the Queen Victoria Jubilee Clock at Baslow Church will always remain an instance of his generosity. Dr. Wrench was president of the Bakewell Naturalists Field Club, and it is only a week or two ago since he personally conducted a large party of members of the Club through the beautiful gardens at Chatsworth, explaining many rare plants which he had known for fifty years.

AN INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING COMPANION

Dr. Wrench was also a geologist of more than local name and fame. Chatsworth he knew intimately and no one could have wished for a better guide to the wonderful things treasured there than he. When the British Association visited Chatsworth being in conference at Sheffield-Dr. Wrench conducted a large party, explaining tersely and lucidly everything of interest. The deceased gentleman was a strong and ardent Conservative, and during the past few months he took by no means a small part in the re-organisation of the various forces in connection with the Conservative Party in West Derbyshire. On the occasion of the annual dinner in connection with the Bakewell Conservative Club, held at Rutland Arms Hotel, a few weeks ago, Dr. Wrench delighted everybody with one of the best little speeches of the evening. He then appeared to be in the best of health and spirits and thoroughly enjoyed the musical part of the programme. In many other ways Dr. Wrench was a decidedly useful man. He was a Freeman of the City of London, and a Liveryman of the Drapers' Company. He was appointed a magistrate in 1898, and took a great deal of interest in the proceedings which engaged his attention at the Bakewell Police Court, asking many questions when there appeared to be any doubt about a case. He always evinced a sympathetic interest in everything that occupied his attention.

Before he left Baslow on Tuesday he chatted with several people in the village; indeed, he signed one of Mr. R. H. Mabbott's nomination papers in connection with the forthcoming Urban District Council election at Baslow. Whenever he cycled into Bakewell from Baslow he always appeared to have enjoyed the spin, and used to remark to some of his brother magistrates "that cycling was a fine pastime."

Baslow, as well as the whole countyside, has indeed lost a true and devoted friend, and one whose place it will be difficult to fill. He had been in Baslow for so many years that he seemed like a part of the place itself. In the Red Cross Society movement Dr. Wrench keenly interested himself from the commencement and his valuable advice was thankfully accepted. The important developments initiated by the Duchess of Devonshire had always his practical support.

As a tribute of respect and esteem the flag on the Town Hall buildings, Bakewell, was on Wednesday hoisted half - mast.

THE INQUEST

The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Dr. Wrench was held by Mr. Sydney Taylor, coroner for the Hundred of High Peak, at The Bungalow, Hogshaw, the residence of Mr. Booth, undertaker, to whose mortuary the body was removed. Mr. Philip Hinch, of Fairfield, was elected foreman of the jury. After the jury had viewed the body, the Coroner said: Before I take any evidence I should like to say eith what great personal regret it is that I am obliged to hold an inquest on Dr. Wrench. I have known him personally for over 20 years and he was one of the BEST KNOWN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN DERBYSHIRE.

He was an old Crimean doctor, and was well known to everybody, and particularly about Bakewell. I remember him lecturing here in Buxton 30 years ago. He was deeply interested in archaeology, local history, local geology, and he was an authority on place names, on the origin of names of places. It is only within the last two or three years, on the occasion of the last visit of King Edward to Chatsworth, that the King conferred upon him the Victorian Order. Over a very large district in Derbyshire he is a man who will be very much missed.

The first witness was Dr. Richard Edleston, of Baslow, son-in-law of the deceased. He said he had just seen the body, which was that of his father-in-law.

By the Coroner: He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons? - Yes, and L.S.A. He lived at Baslow, and was 78 years of age.

He had been in active work up to the present time? - Yes.

Could you tell me when ne left Baslow yesterday? - Soon after ten o'clock.

With the intention of coming to Buxton? - Yes.

Are you able to tell me how he came? - He cycled to Hassop, three miles from Baslow, and then took the train to Buxton.

Then do you suppose his idea was to cycle back from Buxton? - Yes, he had not taken a return ticket.

Might I take it that such a journey as that was quite within his power? - Well, for the distance to Hassop, but I think the distance from Buxton to Baslow would be a big strain upon his heart.

He was cycling daily? - Yes.

Was he aware of having any weakness? - Oh, yes. He TWICE HAD HAD RHEUMATIC FEVER, which had left him wiht a defective mitral valve of the heart. During the last two years th condition had got worse. On two previous occasions he had had attacks of heart failure, once in London at the time of the Coronation, and once in Baslow a few months ago.

So that there is no doubt about it that he was suffering from heart disease which was the result of the rheumatic fever? - Yes.

He did not carry any medicine for the purpose of warding that off? - No. I saw him before he started, about nine o'clock, and he appeared to be quite well then.

Except for this condition of the heart threere was nothing the matter with him? - No.

Ruth Cullen, a patient at the Devonshire Hospital, was the next witness. She said she came from Longsight, Manchester.

The Coroner: Yesterday I think you were down what we call Ashwood Dale, near the gaswork? - Yes.

About what time? - We left the hospital about one o'clock, and we walked very slow.

You know where the gasworks are? - Yes.

Did you see anything of a gentleman with a bicycle? - Yes, when we got near him.

Can you tell us wherabouts that was? - Do you know the gas manage house? - No. I thought he was repairing his bicycle. When I got near a young man came along with a load of stone, and he said " There is something wrong will you help me with this old gentleman?"

He was stooping over the hedge? - Yes.

Where was the bicycle? - It was near him.

Against the hedge? - Yes.

And some one came to help you, Austin Duffy? - Yes.

You saw there was something the matter with him and put him down on the floor? - Yes.

Could anything be done for him? Was anything done for him on the spot? - Nothing, only rub his hands. We watched him breathe three or four times.

Do you know Dr. Hendry? - No, I am a stranger here.

Did Dr. Hendry come whilst you were there? - Yes.

A young man named Austin Duffy deposed that he was a carter and lived in Bennett Street.

By the Coroner: Yesterday were you in Ashwood Dale Road near the gasworks? - Yes.

At about what time? - I could not tell the time exactly.

Were you brining your cart from one place to another? - Yes, from the sewerage works.

Can you tell me when you left the sewerage works? - About a quarter to two or something like that.

Was your attention called to something by the side of the road? - Yes.

Whereabouts was that? - I was just coming past the houses by the sewerage works, past where the coke is piled up. I watched until I got close on to him, and i said "hallo," but he never spoke. I pulled his hat off, and the lady took hold of the bicycle. He had his hand on the bicycle. He was ON HIS KNEES AGAINST THE HEDGE.

You and this woman got there about the same minute? - Yes. She got hold of the bicycle and put it by the side of the railings. I got hold of the gentleman and undid his collar. I took his gloves off and straightened out his hands and legs. He was taking his last breath. The lady shouted for a "bobby," and a "bobby" came in a minute.

Police Constable Cowleshaw said he got to the place at five minutes to two.

The Coroner; Was Dr. Hendry there? - No.

Had he been? - No.

Dr. Hendry came soon afterwards? - A few minutes afterwards.

Dr. Wrench was quite dead? - Yes, he would be dead when I got there.

You brought the body to the mortuary here? - I did not come, the sergeant came.

I was going to ask you about marks on the body? - He did not appear to have had any fall at all.

You did not examine the body? - No.

Mr. Booth (a Juror): There were no marks.

Police Sergeant Hickman said he examined the body and there were no marks whatever on it.

Is there anything at all about the bicycle damaged? - Nothing at all.

Could you tell us what things there were on the bicycle not connected with the bicycle: I don't mean tools? - There was a canvas bag on the front. It contained three egg sandwiches, and one orange, wrapped in paper, also an apple and one square sponge cake. They were all wrapped separately. I should like to say that when I was there the body was on the footpath. Mr H. Froode, who was staying at the Haddon Hall Hydro, was passing with his motor car and asked if he could reder assistance. This I gladly accepted, and the body was conveyed to the mortuary.

The Coroner: I think you have had enough evidence, and that you will have no hesitation in saying that death was due to heart failure to which we know from his son-in-law he was suffering.

THE VERDICT

The verdict returned was "died suddenly from heart failure due to mortal disease."