

Old Family letters

Dan Woodley was recently sorting through family papers when he came across some bits from his Great Grandfather, Reverend Irvine Kempt Anderson which will be of interest to others. IKA was Rector of Mary Tavy (or Tavy St Mary) from the 1890's until he died in 1923 and thus was a near neighbour of SBG and knew him well.

Dan's mother knew her Grandparents well (died in 1936) as she lost her own mother in her early 'teens and lived in school holidays at Mary Tavy Rectory for five or six years.

It was his mother who told him how close her Grandfather was to SBG and that both were on the Dartmoor Exploration Committee and in the Devonshire Association. They spent many happy days on the Moor together mapping hut circles etc. and Dan owns various maps "surveyed by IKA"

However, what may prove more widely interesting are three letters written by SBG to Dan's Great Grandmother;

The first, dated 1896, may be thought a leg-pull by a modern Vicar like David Shacklock as it announces that he is going abroad for three or four years to get his children educated! It also mentions meeting "the Kellys" which is a major coincidence as Dan's mother and father took rooms in Kelly House, near Lifton, immediately after he was demobbed from the War and where he spent a few school holidays before joining the Navy. (Dan thinks there was but one Kelly around then, John Kelly whom he thinks, lived somewhere quite close but not in the big house). Can anyone help with this?

The second offers his Great-Grandmother condolences on the death of her mother. (whom he remembers well and who after vacating the Rectory lived in a house in Mary Tavy called Tavy Dale close to the Church)

The third is a very chatty and friendly letter, written before his Great-Grandfather's death.

Dan makes the observation that SBG'S character shines right out of the letters. (Supplied but unfortunately not published due to poor reproduction)