

THE STONE ROWS OF DARTMOOR.

PART VI.

BY R. HANSFORD WORTH.

(Read at Sidmouth, July, 1903.)

"THE Stone Rows of Dartmoor, Part V.,"¹ appeared in the *Transactions* for 1896 (vol. xxviii., Ashburton), and like the preceding four parts, was the work of the late R. N. Worth. I have felt no doubt as to the propriety of adopting the title for the present contribution, and making the latter an element of the same series.

During the past six years I have "rediscovered" a stone row known to the late C. Spence Bate and added three entirely new finds to the already long list of these remains; to place these on record I offer the present paper to the Association.

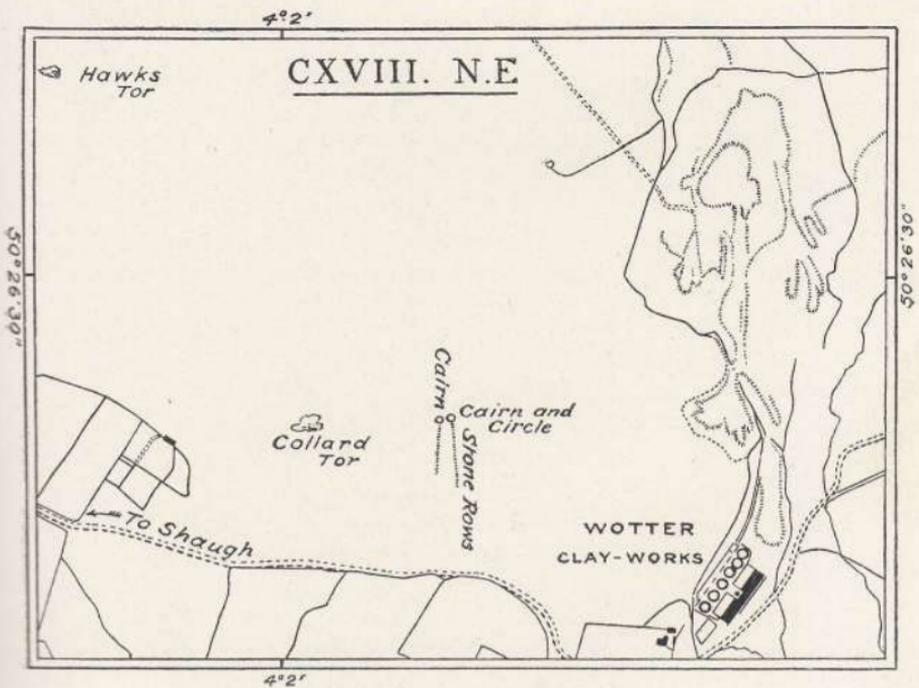
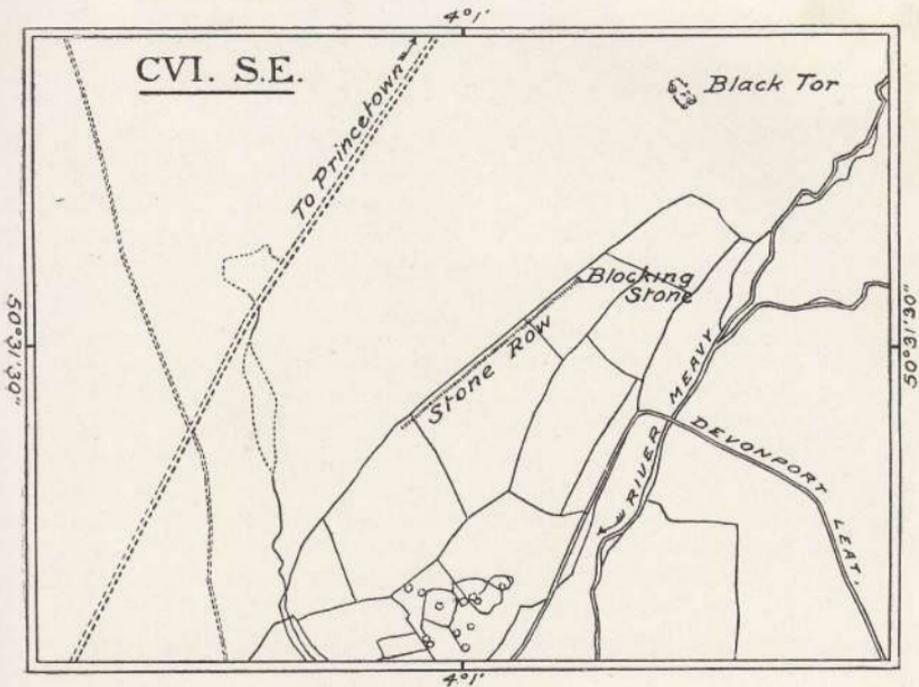
Curiously neither of these rows lies in what may properly be called the inmost recesses of the Moor, but all are on the borders, in districts which have been my own accustomed haunts for many years. Their tardy discovery is an earnest that the list is probably yet far from complete.

A precise knowledge of the whole area of Dartmoor appears to be an attainment of great difficulty.

Six-inch Ordnance Survey, Devonshire, Sheet CVI. S.E. On the slope of *Black Tor*, south and a little west of its summit immediately inside the enclosure wall. The accompanying small plan gives the position of this row.

Here is a row which runs parallel to the enclosure wall and a few feet to the south and east of it. Its total length is 950 feet, or thereabout, and it terminates at the north-east in a blocking stone. From the position of this blocking stone, and from other indications, it is fairly clear that

¹ By a misprint described as Part IV.



the row was originally double and the northern members have been obscured by the wall of the enclosure.

The stones which still remain stand well away from the foot of this wall, for the more part, and are most certainly members of an ancient row. There was sufficient material of a smaller and more handy size available for the construction of the hedge, and hence probably one half of the avenue was spared, while the other was partly utilised as a foundation.

The following is a description of the row, commencing with the southern termination. The distances are not precise in all cases.

First stone, 1 ft. 1 in.² × 1 ft. 0 in. × 2 ft. 3 in. high; 7 feet to centre of next stone, which is 2 ft. 7 in. × 10 in. × 2 ft. 3 in. high; 6 ft. 6 in. to centre of next stone, which is 11 in. × 11 in. × 2 ft. 0 in. high. Including the above, there are ten stones in the first 60 feet; a cross hedge is then met. In the next field over this hedge are two stones, then a gap of 13 yards, then ten stones somewhat irregularly spaced; the last of these ten measures 1 ft. 8 in. × 1 ft. 1 in. × 2 ft. 6 in. high. A twist in the hedge then brings it over the row and obscures the latter, but presently we find a stone standing clear, then eight yards on another; four yards, and another; a further four yards, and another; nine yards on, another stone; eight yards on, another; four yards, a stone; four yards, a stone; nine yards, a stone; eight yards, a stone; four yards, a stone measuring 1 ft. 7 in. × 1 ft. 7 in. × 2 ft. 8 in. high; two yards, a stone; 6 ft. 6 in., a stone; and in the 23 yards to next hedge six stones, wider apart, near hedge. In the next field in about 270 feet are 24 stones and a blocking stone, the latter measuring 9 in. × 3 ft. 5 in. × 2 ft. 6 in. high. The row is perfect for a few stones before its northern termination in the blocking stone. Here and there on the outer face of the hedge are stones which look like the second members of the "avenue."

Six-inch Ordnance Survey, Devonshire, Sheet CXVIII. N.E. *Collard Tor*, a little east of summit. The accompanying small plan gives the position of these rows.

Two single rows, each headed by a cairn, are here associated. The eastern cairn is surrounded by a circle of 26 ft. 6 in. diameter, of which five stones still stand, and one stone is approximately in place.

² The first dimension is always taken in the direction of length of the row.

A row starts from this cairn in a direction $3^{\circ}20'0''$ east of south. The following are the details. In this case the measurements were taped, and each gives the distance of a stone from the centre of the cairn.

○ Centre of cairn. 17' 0", stone, doubtful; 28' 6", stone; 40' 0", stone, doubtful; 45' 0", stone, fallen; 51' 0", stone, fallen; 66' 0", stone, fallen; 71' 0", stone, fallen; 77' 0", stone, fallen; 81' 0", stone, fallen; 103' 0", stone, fallen; 106' 6", stone, fallen; 108' 6", stone; 121' 0", stone and smaller stone coupled with it; 138' 0", stone; 147' 0", stone, fallen; 162' 0", stone, fallen; 171' 0", row crosses old hedge; 178' 0", stone; 185' 0", stone; 190' 0", stone, measures $2' 6'' \times 1' 4'' \times 3' 1''$ high; 201' 0", stone; 204' 0", stone, doubtful, fallen; 206' 6", stone; 210' 0", stone; 215' 0", stone, fallen; 220' 6", stone, fallen; 236' 0", stone; 242' 0", stone; 246' 0", stone; 260' 0", stone, fallen; 269' 0", stone, fallen; 275' 0", probably blocking stone, fallen.

Total length 275 feet, fourteen stones standing, fifteen stones fallen, three stones which doubtfully belong to row.

The second cairn lies 47 ft. 0 in. distant from the first, measured centre to centre, and in a direction $6^{\circ}10'0''$ north of west. This cairn has no circle around it. The row lies in a direction $2^{\circ}10'0''$ west of south, a divergence of $5^{\circ}30'0''$ from the direction of the first row.

The following are the details:—

○ Centre of cairn No. 2. 14' 0", stone, doubtful; 21' 6", stone measuring $2' 2'' \times 1' 3'' \times 2' 2''$ high; 26' 6", stone measuring $2' 6'' \times 1' 3'' \times 1' 10''$ high; 33' 0", stone, sunk; 39' 6", stone, fallen; 43' 0", stone, fallen. Four stones apparently displaced to eastward follow; these were not measured. Then we have: 65' 0", stone, fallen; 71' 8", stone measuring $2' 8'' \times 1' 2'' \times 1' 4''$ high; 77' 0", stone, fallen; 84' 8", stone, fallen; 87' 6", stone, doubtful, fallen; 94' 6", stone, fallen; 101' 0", stone, fallen; 108' 0", stone, sunk; 111' 0", stone, doubtful, sunk; 117' 0", stone, doubtful, sunk; 120' 6", stone; 128' 0", stone, sunk; 134' 0", stone, fallen; 144' 0", stone, doubtful, fallen; 153' 0", stone measuring $3' 0'' \times 1' 6'' \times 2' 1''$ high, leaning; 161' 0", stone; 168' 0", stone, sunk; 173' 0", stone; 181' 6", stone, fallen; 187' 0", stone; 192' 0" to 197' 6" occupied by single large stone 4' 0" high; row has been disturbed following this; 204' 0", stone, doubtful, large, fallen; 208' 0", stone, fallen, length 4' 0"; 215' 6", end of row, blocking stone $1' 2'' \times 3' 4'' \times 2' 10''$ high. Distance to row No. 1 at this end 65' 0".

Total length 215' 6". Ten stones standing, four sunken, ten fallen, ten doubtful.

These two cairns, the one with its circle, the both with stone rows, are further evidence, if such were needed, of the sepulchral associations of this class of remains.

Six-inch Ordnance Survey, Devonshire, Sheet CXIX. N.W. On the slope of *Pen Beacon*, two cairns, both marked on the Ordnance Map: the western cairn is on a line drawn between the summit of *Pen Beacon* and *Parkland Plantation*; the second cairn is about 400 yards away in a south-easterly direction. According to C. Spence Bate (*Trans. Devon. Assoc.*, vol. v. p. 549 *et seq.*), both these cairns had short "avenues," consisting of four stones apiece, when he examined them in 1872. I find the north-western cairn still has an "avenue," but I am doubtful as to the other. The "avenue" which I find has its first pair of stones situate at about 12 feet from the original margin of the cairn (the cairn has been much disturbed and considerably spread), and the second pair is situate 12 feet from the first. The first two stones are both standing, and measure 2 ft. 0 in. \times 0 ft. 6 in. \times 1 ft. 6 in. high, and 1 ft. 8 in. \times 0 ft. 6 in. \times 1 ft. 6 in. high, respectively. They are 1 ft. 10 in. apart.

The second pair consists of one standing and one fallen stone, the standing stone measuring 1 ft. 4 in. \times 0 ft. 5 in. \times 1 ft. 0 in. high, the fallen being about 3 ft. 0 in. in length. The direction of the row is approximately $30^{\circ} 10' 0''$ west of south. There are no signs of more than these four stones, but the ground which would have been occupied by the remainder of the row has been disturbed and partially excavated, and is now one mass of rabbit burrows.

The cairn which has the row has no circle, and the cairn which has no row has a circle.