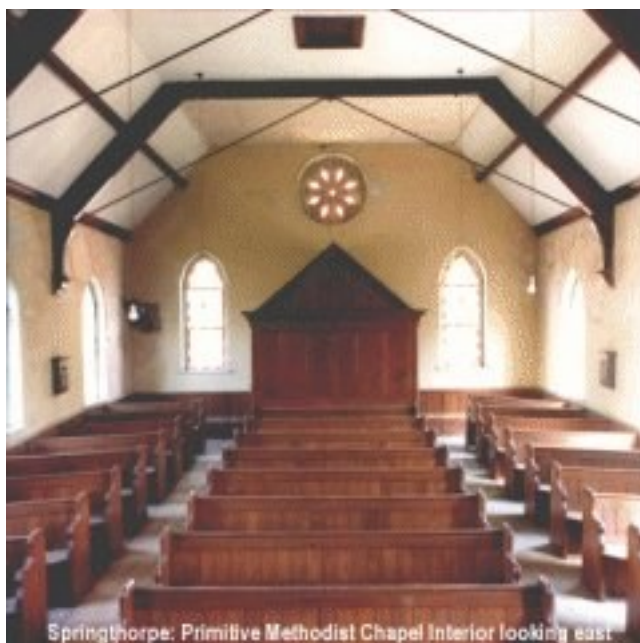




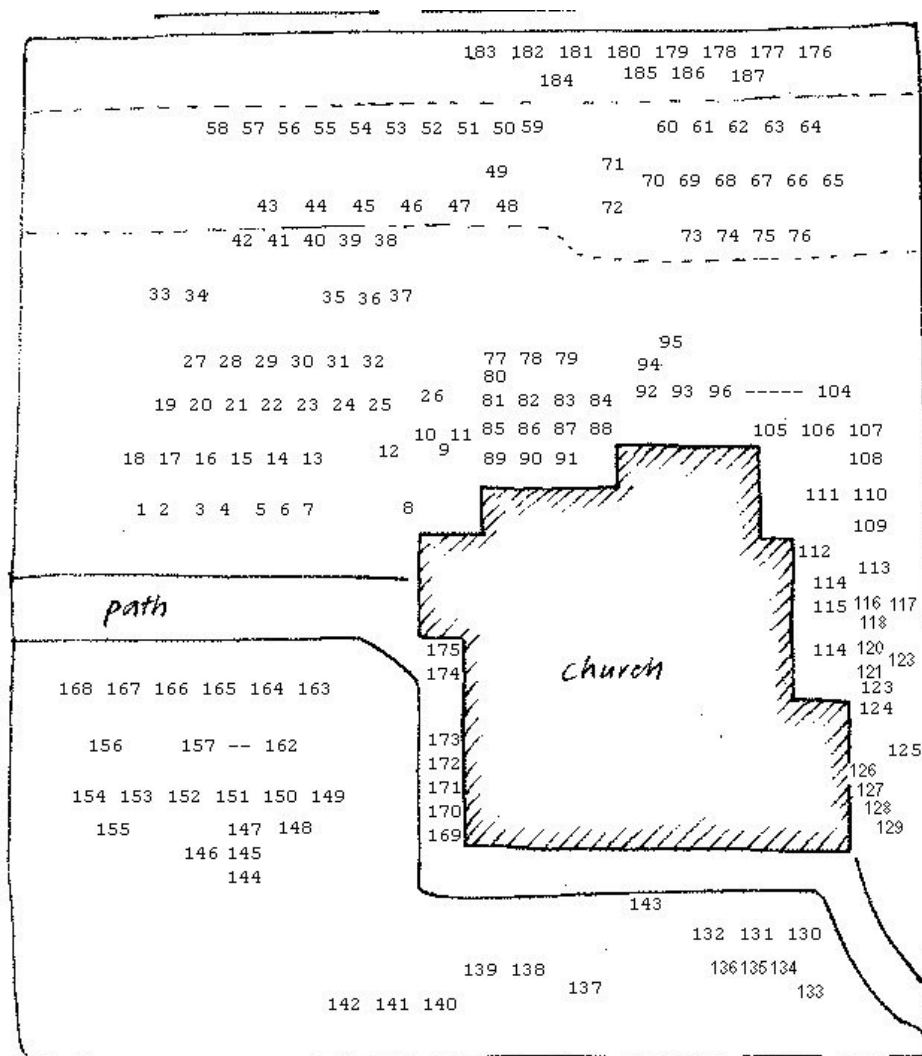
Springthorpe: Primitive Methodist Chapel Interior looking west



Springthorpe: Primitive Methodist Chapel Interior looking east

Chapel Interior

Chapel Interior



Churchyard Plan



THE MAIDEN'S CROWN

Mary Hill A YOUNG WOMAN WAS RINGING THE CHURCH BELL
ON SHROVE TUESDAY WHEN HER ARM BECOMING ENTANGLED
BY THE ROPE SHE WAS CARRIED UP TO THE ROOF AND THEN FELL
ON A LARGE STONE NOW FORMING THE BASE OF THE FONT AND
WAS KILLED. AT HER FUNERAL THREE MAIDENS DRESSED IN
WHITE PRECEDED THE COFFIN CARRYING THREE WHITE CROWNS
WHICH WERE AFTERWARDS HUNG UP IN THE CHURCH ONE ONLY
OF THEM NOW REMAINS.

A garlande freshe and faire
Of lillies then was made
A signe of her virginitie
And on her colf in laide

Six maidens all in white
Did bare her to the ground
The bells did ring in solemn sort
And made a solemn sound

In earth they laide her there
For hanginge her was a weep
So shall the fairest face abide
At lengthe be broughte to laye.

OLDE BALLADE TELLINGE OF A MAIDEN WHO
DIED ON THE DAY OF WHICH SHE WAS MARRIED.

JOHN MILBURN

ORGANIST

1893

Maidens Garland Description



Maidens Garland Description

**Maiden's Garland made for Mary Hill,
killed whilst ringing the Pancake Bell on Shrove Tuesday 1814**

Maiden's Garlands were carried at the funeral of any unmarried girl as a symbol of chastity and were later hung in the church as a memorial.

The custom used to be widespread. Gilbert White, writing of Selbourne Church in the eighteenth century remembers "when its beams were hung with garlands in honour of the young women of the parish, reputed to have died virgins; and recollect to have seen the clerk's wife cutting, in white paper, the resemblance of gloves and ribbons to be twisted into knots and roses to decorate these memorials of chastity".

The wording indicates that the custom had already died out in Selbourne, though it was still carried on in the next parish.

According to the Rector of Springthorpe, writing in 1892, Mary Hill had three garlands and three gloves carried before her coffin by three maidens

dressed in white. By then only this garland still existed.

The reference to gloves, also mentioned by Gilbert White, is interesting. It is thought that they seem to have been a challenge to anyone who might question the chastity of the dead girl.

At Abbots Ann in Hampshire, the only place where the custom survives, there are five white gloves on each garland but as none of the surviving examples are earlier than 1900, it is impossible to say if this is regional variation or a later introduction.

The replica hanging in the church was made in 1983 by members of a Community Enterprise Agency Scheme under the direction of Moya Page.

Maidens Garland Description



Maidens Garland Replica