



Type: Journal Article

Gadfield Elm Chapel

Author(s): Randall L. Hall

Source: *BYU Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Spring 1987)

Published by: BYU Studies

Page(s): 12

Abstract: A short poem about the chapel at Gadfield Elm, the first meetinghouse owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Great Britain.



BYU Studies is collaborating with Scripture Central to preserve and extend access to BYU Studies and to scholarly research on the Book of Mormon and other Restoration scripture. Archived by permission of BYU Studies.

<http://byustudies.byu.edu/>

Gadfield Elm Chapel

First meetinghouse owned by the Church in Britain

Tucked obscurely in the corner
Of some farmer's field
The small, stone chapel dwindles
With no apparent honor.

The walls are crumbling, slowly,
Flooded by a rising tide of slender weeds.
The grey slate roof lies slumped upon the floor
In uncontested disarray.

It is a pale, unlikely sanctuary
For the word of God.

That spoken word
Once transformed itself into the air
Our forebears breathed,
The blood, that even after several generations,
Pulses quick in recognition
Of the mildest echo still abiding here

A gently simmering catalyst inviting us
To witness
And to praise.

—Randall L. Hall