

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1960

The Gloucestershire Community Council Local History Committee has decided once more to issue a Local History Bulletin. For this number the original pattern has been followed but suggestions and criticisms for future use will be very welcome.

THE N.C.S.S. STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The eleventh Annual Meeting was held at Friends House on November 13th 1959. The thorny problem whether Local History is to be considered merely a hand-maid to National History or a study in its own right was discussed at an Open Forum. The programme also included a paper by Dr. Hoskins on "The Early Growth of Towns" and by Dr. Finberg on "The Market Town". Precis of both lectures can be obtained from the National Council of Social Service (26 Bedford Row, London W.C.1.) at 4d. a copy and the Bulletins of the Standing Conference which contain much interesting information and extremely helpful book lists can be obtained by any applicant at a yearly cost of 2/-.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Committee is still following up the results of the W.I. competition on "Our Village during the last Hundred Years" held in 1958. Such fascinating material was sent in, much of it hitherto unrecorded, not only by the prizewinners, Alveston and Birdlip, Chedworth and Mickleton and in the fifteen commended entries but scattered through everyone of the seventy accounts received, that some form of publication seemed desirable. Financial considerations made it impracticable to publish many of the best accounts in full and the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes and our Committee have therefore made a grant to Mrs. Cunnington, editor of the Alveston gentry to enable her to write a Social History of Gloucestershire during the last hundred years compiled from the memories and entries collected in these records. It is hoped that in due time this account will be published.

The Committee has offered two prizes this year for essays on a subject chosen by the candidate and relating to Gloucestershire local history, one for adult competitors and the other for pupils attending secondary schools. The subjects submitted for approval in the adult competition range from the effects of the Seven Years War on the life of ordinary people living in the County at that time, to an entry on the early history of the Port of Gloucester. Twenty-five entries have been promised by the schools so that the judges will have a lively and varied task. Entries for both our competitions are now closed but adult students may like to be reminded that the University of Leicester offers an annual prize of £25 for a Local History Essay. Enquiries should be made to the Department of Local History, University of Leicester.

With the help of the County Education Committee, our Committee has issued a questionnaire on the teaching of Local History to the staffs of secondary schools in the County. An analysis of the replies shows that there is a very real desire to include this subject but that it presents certain difficulties specially to new-comers to the district. A shortage of available class material, such as maps, film strips, classified lists of sites and buildings, and a good text-book on country history was reported. The Committee is still considering the best methods of offering co-operation.

The survey of Carved Tombstones in the County begun in 1953 is still proceeding and Mr. L.J. Jones of Swindon has recorded 5,600 stones and photographed many of them. There are still many districts which have not been covered, however, and the work is urgent as the carvings weather and in some cases faculties may be granted for the removal of the older stones in churchyards. Offers of help in the Forest of Dean and the Severn Valley are particularly needed and Mr. G.M. Robins (6 Beaufort Buildings, The Spa, Gloucester) will gladly supply forms and instructions to volunteers. At first sight, the interest of this survey may seem purely local but it has already had international repercussions, for Mr. Robins' help has been invoked in the indentification of Button Gwinnett's tombstone in Savannah. Georgia. Button Gwinnett, born at Down Hatherley, emigrated to Georgia and became President of the State. He signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and his own signature has reached a scarcity value of £20,000. He was killed in a duel in 1778 and the site of his tombe was lost. Recent excavations in the Colonial Cemetary at Savannah have revealed a skeleton showing bone injuries similar to those from which he died and also a fragment of the base of a tombstone which has been found after research to have been in all probability quarried at Sea Mills, Bristol and shipped from the dock there. The fragment is of Old Red Sandstone and is inscribed 238T 7 or V. Information on any similar tombstones in the Bristol district dating from the later part of the eighteenth century bearing numbers and letters or signed by the mason would be welcomed by Mr. R.N.Mann of Bristol City Museum.

LOCAL EXCAVATIONS

Captain H.S. Gracie has kindly contributed the following notes on the excavations at St. Peter's Church, Frocester.

"In 1952 the Parish Church of Frocester became redundant and demolition commenced. When the site was clear excavations, under the direction of Captain H.S. Gracie, F.S.A., and with the aid of the Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society, were begun and lasted for two seasons. Though detailed results are not yet to hand, the following sequence was revealed :- 2. A Roman building of some consequence, the rooms being heated by hypocausts and probably having tesselated pavements, though these had been entirely removed by robbers or gravediggers. The latest pottery was made well into the 4th century.

3. After a period of abandonment the stone was robbed from the walls and a cemetary was laid out on the site. An unusually large Saxon pot was associated with the cemetary.

4. A late Saxon or early Norman church was built, the foundations cutting through some of the Saxon graves. The Roman foundations were utilised where convenient.

5. In the 13th century the old church was pulled down and a new one built with narrower but longer nave.

6. The north aisle was added in the 14th century.

7. This church was pulled down to ground level except for the south porch in 1850 and re-built. The same foundations were used for the tower, on the north-side, and the north wall west of the tower.

8. This church wasdemolished in 1952, leaving the Medieval porch and the Victoria tower as land-marks. Three flint scrapers suggested still earlier occupation.

An interim report was published in Vol.77 of Trans. B.& G.A.S. and the final report is awaited.

Most of our readers are no doubt aware of the excavations at Cirencester sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries, Cirencester Archaeological and Historial Society and the B.G.A.S. Corinium was the largest town in Roman Britain after London and in the 4th century probably one of the provincial capitals. Beneath the soil are remains of public and religious buildings and cemeteries, including the military cemetary associated with a very early Roman fort. Systematic investigation over a period of years would not only enable experts to fill in gaps in the history of Cirencester itself but throw new light on life in Roman Britain. Last year, work started in the Parsonage Field and uncovered domestic quarters built in three phases dating from the beginning of the 3rd century into the 4th century. Scraps of pottery, not associated with any of the floors, extended in date from the 1st to the 5th centuries. This season it is intended to cut a

/section ..

section through the city's defences and it is hoped to locate the gate by which Akeman St. entered the town. Contributions to further this work should be sent to Ivan Sheppard, Esq., Hon. Treasurer Cirencester Excavation Fund, Lloyd's Bank House, Cirencester, Glos.

The Gloucester Roman Research Committee report that a further length of the Roman town wall there has been discovered by the Midland Electricity Board on their King's Square site. The Board intends to preserve it and have it available for show in their basement.

COUNTY NEWS

A most cheering event for all Local History students in the County is the resumption of work on the Gloucestershire section of the Victoria County History. For years Gloucestershire has been represented only by Vol.II and readers have cast envious glances along the library shelves to the splendid series enjoyed by luckier workers in some other districts. Now the Gloucestershire County Council have appointed Mr. C.R. Elrington to prepare the volume containing Parish histories. This is an enormous task and will take a long time to complete, but it will make an amazing difference to students to have a well-documented and factual outline of any given parish's history on which to base more extended work.

It is also most welcome news that the Ministry of Works has purchased property containing remains of the Black Friary at Glouces-The east range was purchased in 1955 and now the Ministry ter. have acquired the house which incorporates most of the choir and transept.of the 15th century church and the south range which is "the only building in England known to show how the Black Friars in the 13th century designed their quarters to encourage study and the training of recruits. It contains 20 of its original 26 moulded window recesses with provision for wooden screens between them to turn rooms for communal study into individual cells for sleeping." The Friary was founded in 1241 and Brother William of Abingdon its builder was reproved by Henry III for replacing his spiritual discourses to the King by three words, "Give, give, give!" An extremely interesting and well-documented article in the Archaeological Journal for 1882 traces its history from its hey-day in 1246, when the King gave 41 marks to buy a plot of land for the site of the Church and other necessities to the Brotherhood's poverty-stricken and at the Reformation when the seven brothers were living in misery, their plate mortaged and their chalices of copper or tin. After their dissolution the buildings were purchased by Alderman Thomas Bell, Clothmaker and capper who turned the Church into a dwelling house and the buildings into a factory. During the centuries which followed the buildings have passed through many vicissitudes and some years may be spent in removing additions and restoring the fabric before the Friary will be opened to the public.

A celebration in Gloucester which it is pleasant to record has been the centenary of the opening of Gloucester Museum. From small beginnings in three rooms provided by Sydney Dobell, the Gloucester poet and literary critic, the Museum has grown and prospered and now is divided into three branches, for besides the main building, the Folk Museum is housed in Hooper House, Westgate Street and the Museum of the Gloucestershire Regiment adjoins it. Students of local history much enjoy the excellent displays in all three museums and will be glad to know that a brochure containing photos of ten treasures, including the Birdlip Mirror, a most modernistic sculptured head of a Roman soldier and a London Sergeant's Mace bearing the cipher of Fhilip and Mary, has been issued to celebrate the centenary.

NEWS FOR THE SOCIETIES

The chief work of the B.G.A.S. is the publication of its Transactions but the Council has been closely associated with the Cirencester excavations and negotiations over Blackfriars. The Forest of Dean Society are organizing a recording scheme and record sheets are being issued to members on request. It is hoped to hold an afternoon Brains Trusts at which the first batch of records will be discussed. This Society is considering the possibility of publishing Transactions once or twice a year at a probably cost of 1/6d - 2/- a number and would be very glad to hear of possible subscribers outside the Forest which would help to make the venture practicable. The Society of Thornbury Folk issues its Bulletin three times a year and since its first publication in 1946 has issued 41 numbers. A new member, Mr. Roydon Brook, has composed a "Thornbury Minuet" dedicated to the memory of the Old Gloucestershire Musicians who played in Church before the installation of organs. The Cirencester Historical Society's programme of Winter lectures (1959) seemed particularly interesting including a series on Roman Towns in Britain, which will have given members an excellent background to the excavations in their own district, and three talks by Miss Iris Brooke, A.R.C.A. on English costume. The Wotton-under-Edge Society report a very successful year with a member-The Society has its own Library housed in a fine room ship of 119. beside the Tolsey Clock. Their Winter programme shows that they took special interest in the Bristol centenary.

We hope members will have good weather to add to the enjoyment of their summer programmes and no doubt many of our readers will find time to visit three attractive events taking place this summer. An exhibition of records and books relating to the Civil War and Commonwealth commemorating the tercentenary of the Restoration is being organised by the County Records Office and the City Library and will be held at Wheatstone Hall about July 15th-27th. A Bisley Parish Reunion Festival in aid of the restoration of All Saints Church from May 26th -June 4th includes the traditional Dressing of the Wells at 2.45p.m. on May 26th and a temporary Museum will be open at the Old Bell on May 28th-31st. "Son et Lumiere" will be presented at Gloucester Cathedral every week day from August 8th - 24th and enquiries should be sent to the Business Manager, 4 Millers Green, Gloucester. In conclusion we thank all who have contributed material for this newsletter and ask that reports for the Autumn number shall be sent to Miss Griffiths, 10 Westfield Place, Bristol 8.

PUBLICATIONS

<u>Alveston</u> - <u>Our Village within Living Memory</u> (1st Prize entry in W.I. Competition) obtainable from Miss Roe, Severn View, Almondsbury, Bristol. 5/9d post free.

<u>Daglingworth</u> - <u>The Story of a Cotswold Village</u> by Olive M.Griffiths, with a chapter on Daglingworth in Roman Times by Jocelyn M.C. Toynbee. Obtainable from Gloucestershire Community Council, Community House, College Green, Gloucester. 2/10d post free.

<u>Dymock</u> - Parish Registers ed. by Irvine Gray and J.E. Gethyn Jones. Published by Record Section of B.G.A.S. Obtainable from Miss E.Ralph Council House, Bristol 1. or the Vicar, Dymock 12/6 to members of B.G.A.S. 25/-d to non-members.

<u>Guide to Henbury</u> compiled by Hallen and Henbury W.I. Obtainable from Mrs. Jutsum, 13 Wyck Beck Road, Brentry. 2/10 post-free.

Index to Gloucestershire Notes and Queries issued by G.C.C. Local History Committee. Obtainable from Sir Isaac Pitman and Son Ltd. Bath. £1. 0.10 post free.

Local History in School Obtainable from National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Row, London W.C.1.

Dillon's University Bookshop Ltd., 1 Malet Street, London, W.C.1. invite anyone publishing a local history book or pamphlet other than a Church history (unless the church is of exceptional interest) or local guides which are not historical works to send tham a copy with details of price and trade discount. All such works will be listed in their catalogue.

PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS RECEIVED BY THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE 1959

Family and Estate

Deeds, estate and family papers of Bagehott-Delabere (Southam) Clifford (Frampton-on-Severn), Cockrell (Sezincote), Codrington (Dodington), Denison-Jones (Leonard Stanley), Dobyns-Yate and Ricardo (Bromsberrow), Ellenborough (Southam etc.) Guise (Elmore) Hall and Gage (Newland and Staunton) Hyett (Painswick), Winytour (Lydney 13th cent -1897).

Solicitors

Crossman (Thornbury: deeds, office papers, records of Lloyd, Peach, Rolph and other families, Alveston and Olveston inclosure papers, 1522 - 1916.

/Official

Official

Records of Cheltenham Town Commissioners, 1786-1852; Winchcombe and Wotton-under-Edge Town Trustees, 1656-1935; Coleford and Stroud Petty Sessions, 1827-1929; Cirencester and Sodbury turnpike,1769-70; Haw Bridge trustees, 1823-33; Coroner, Glos. Upper District 1917-54.

Parish

Blaisdon, Charfield, Churchdown, Daglingworth, Deerhurst, Dodington, Duntisbourne Abbots, Eastington (Stonehouse), Elmstone, Hardwicke, Flaxley, Frampton-on-Severn, Rodborough, Lower Swell, Tetbury, Tewkesbury, Tirley, Upton St.Leonards, Westbury-on-Severn, 1624-1939.

Manorial

Alveston, 1791-1843; Oxenton, 1455-1736; Prestbury, 1365-1575; Thornbury, 1558-1934; Upton St.Leonards, 1589; Wapley and Codrington, 1820-60; Langley & Swineshead Hundred, 1781-1847.

Deeds

Many parishes, 13th cent. - c.1900.

Maps

Dodington, Marshfield, Old Sodbury, Wapley & Codrington etc. 1744-1820; Lydney, 1574; Thornbury, 1716.

Miscellaneous

Proclamation signed by Charles I at Painswick, 1643; plantation records of Codrington estate in Antigue and Barbuda, 1681-1912; minutes etc. of Westbury-on-Severn farmers club, 1840-44.

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLECTION - Recent accessions

Books etc.

Langston, J.N. Old Catholic landowners in Gloucestershire.

Delderfield, E.R. The visitors brief guide to the Cotswold country.

The Life of the Parish Church of St. Paul, Gloucester, 1883-1958.

A history of the Gloucester College of Art 1858-1958 and its contributions to the city.

/Bristol ..

Bristol Record Society, Cartulary of St.Mark's Hospital, Bristol.

Ashton, Helen, Return to Cheltenham.

Alveston W.I. Alveston: Our village within living memory.

Clark, Sir George. The Campden Wonder.

Whitfield, C., A history of Chipping Campden and Captain Robert Dover's Olympick Games.

Griffiths, Olive M., Daglingworth: the story of a Cotswold village.

Purefoy, Canon Brian. The pictorial history of Tewkesbury Abbey.

The parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Thornbury.

Williams, R.V. and Holst, Gustav, Heirs and rebels.

Lee, Laurie, Cider with Rosie.

Fisk, Dorothy, Edward Jenner of Berkeley.

Huxley Gervas. Endymion Porter: The Life of a Courtier.

Gurney, Ivor. A Fourth Volume of ten songs.

Warren, Rebecca. Where no mains flow.

Steers, F.W. editor. I am, dear Sir ...

Warburton, Wm. A critical and philosophical enquiry into the causes of prodigies and miracles.

Archives Nov. 1959 - March 1960

50 deeds relating to Nos. 2,4,6,10 and 17 Sherborne St. 1823-1923.

13 deeds relating to 11 and 13 Sweetbriar St. 1829-1899.

Deed relating to Oxbode. 1684.

Deed relating to St. Mary de Crypt Parish. 1798.

13 deeds relating to St. Mary de Crypt Parish. 1798.

13 deeds relating to Windmill field, 1685-1794.

21 deeds relating to Columbia Street, 1832-1900.

/Corporation

Corporation of Gloucester: deeds presented by G.F. Hoar of Worcester, Mass. U.S.A.

Records of the Gloucester Coffee House Co.Ltd. 1878 - 1952.

Will of Robert Frampton, Dean of Gloucester.

Letters written from the trenches in the 1914-18 war by Ivor Gurney to Catherine Abercrombie.

Jenner, Edward, "Instruction for vaccine inoculation" a letter.

Matson Church of England School log-books.

EXCAVATIONS IN OR ACCESSIBLE FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Requests for permission to visit the sites, offers of help etc. should be made to the Directors of the Excavations).

Director	Place	Description	Comments
Dr. R.H. Hilton University, Bristol.	Upton, Blockley.	Medieval Village Site.	July.
K.T. Barton, Esq. City Museum, Bristol.	Star Inn, Shipham, Somerset.	Roman Villa.	Weekend from April 2nd on- wards. Volun- teers welcome.
Prof. R.J.C. Afkinson.	Overton Down	• Making experimental earthwork with antlers and other primitive tools.	July7-30th.Needs 30 volunteers. Apply to Mrs,P. White. 72 Keynsham Rd. Cheltenham.
J.Wacher, Esq., F.S.A. c/o Miss Barker, Baunton Grove, Chelt.Rd. Cirencester.	Cirencester.	Section of town defences.	April-May. Help urgently needed.
Mrs.C.Bennett, Tolbury House, Brunton, Som.	Lamyatt Beac Nr.Brunton.	on, Roman Celtic Temple.	About April 4th- June 1st.
Dr.F.T.Wainwright F.S.A. Ingleby, Newport on Tay, Fife.	Cricklade.	1st century to end of Middle Ages. Anglo-Saxon period specially important	

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Subject & Tutor	Organisation	Place.	Remarks			
Field Archaeology (E.J.Mason)	Folk House, Bristol 1.	R.B. Site Dundry.	12 meetings 7-9p.m. April 28th and succeeding Thursdays Fee 10/-			
Medieval Records for Local His- torians.(F.W. Brooks).	Historical Association 59A Kennington Pk. Road. S.E.11.	Hull Univ.	July 28th- Aug. 8th. (open to non- members).			
Exploring Somerset.	Som.Education Committee.	Dillington House (Adult Educ.College) Ilminster.Som.	Aug.15-22nd. Apply to warden.			
Roman Britain (A.L.F. Rivet, M.A., F.S.A.)	Extra-Mural Depts. Univer- sity of Bristol and Sheffield.	Royal Agric. College, Cirencester.	Aug.6th - 13th. Apply Director of Extra-Mural Studies. University of Bristol.			
Archaeology for Sixth Forms.(R.J. Crocker, F.B.A.)	Preston Montford Field Centre, Nr. Shrewsbury,Shrops	Montford.	Apply to Warden Aug.20 - 27th.			
	SUMMER PROGRAMMES					
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society						
May 31st - Bia	bury and district. sley dlow and district.					
Cheltenham and Gloucester Historical Association						
	rford.					

June 11th	-	Worcester
July 2nd	-	Bennington Hall and Eye Manor, Nr. Leominster
		(All open to non-members on application to the
		Secretary)

April 30th	-	Avebury Circle. Avebury Manor.
June 1st	-	Cricklade Excavations, Dr. F.T. Wainwrigh
June 11th or 18th	-	Salisbury Cathedral. Old Sarum.
June 29th	-	Uley Bury and Camp.
July 9th	-	Compton Wynyates. Rollright Stones.
July 26th	-	Quenington Court & Church - Coln.St.Aldwy Church.
Cotteswold Natura	lists'	Field Club (Archaeological Section)
May 18th	-	Ebrington. R. Villa (Excavations by Mrs.0" and Church.
June 8th	-	Reading Museum and Thatcham.
July 22nd	-	Avebury and West Kennett.
Aug. 24th	-	Silchester.
September	-	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
Forest of Dean Lo	cal Hi	
May 7th	-	Visit to North Somerset.
June 4th	-	Certain places near Monmouth.
July 2nd	-	Rural Hereford.
Aug. 6th.	-	TreoWen.
Sept. 3rd.	-	Gloucester Cathedral and its Close.
Society of Thornb	ury Fo	lk
June 23rd	-	Winchester.
Wotton-under-Edge	Histo	rical Society
April	-	Horton Court and Hawkesbury Church.
May	-	Stourhead and Shearwater.
June	-	Capt. Spencer Churchill's House, Blockley
July.	-	Compton Wynyates and Stratford.
Aug.	-	Chedworth
Sept.	-	Bristol Cathedral and St.Mary Redcliffe.
-		RS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ETIES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1960
	0001	

President -	The Very Rev. Seriol Evans, The Deanery, Gloucester.
Chairman -	A.A. Scott Esq., T.D., 4 College Green, Gloucester.
Hon.Secretary -	Miss R.Ralph, M.A., F.S.A., Council House, Bristol.
Hon. Treasurer -	Hon. W.R.S. Bathurst, M.A., F.S.A., 40 Corn Street,
	Bristol 1.

President - T.Hannam-Clark, Esq., D.L. 4 Lansdown Place, Cheltenham. Hon. Sec. - R.M.S. Pick, Esq., Brook Lodge, Nr.Park, Cheltenham. Hon. Treasurer- J. Trigg, Esq., Monkscroft Sec. Mod. School, Cheltenham.

Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society

President - H.E. Viscount Dunrossil, P.C., G.C.M.G., Q.C., Chairman - G.B. Young, Esq., Freefolk, Berkeley Rd. Cirencester. Hon. Secretary - Miss M.S. Holland, M.A., 49 Victoria Rd. Cirencester. Hon. Treasurer - B. Relf, Esq., Lloyd's Bank, Cirencester.

Cotteswold Naturilists' Field Club

7

President - Mrs. M.L. Sprague, B.A., F.L.S., 7 Hatherley Rd. Cheltenham. Hon.Secretary - W.W. Jackson, B.Sc., Petherton, Sydenham Rd. Cheltenham. Hon.Treasurer - A.G.Moxley, Esq., Winshill, The Avenue, Cheltenham.

FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President	 C.Scott-Garrett, M.B.E., DSC. Lydney, Glos.
Chairman	 T.H.Selwood, Esq., B.A., Wilmot Lodge, Bakers Hill,
	Coleford, Glos.
Hon.Secretary	 R.Cope, Esq., 26a Market Place, Coleford, Glos.
Hon. Treasurer	 T.H. Selwood, Esq., B.A. Wilmot Lodge, Baker's Hill,
	Coleford.

Society of Thornbury Folk

President	 Sir Algar Howard, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., M.C.
	Thornbury Castle.
Chairman	 S.R. Luce, Esq., Friezecroft, Rudgeway, Bristol.
Hon. Secretary	 B. Stafford Morse, M.A., Corderies, Alveston, Glos.
Hon. Treasurer	 Mrs. I.M.F. Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society

President	- R.H. Bassett, C.M.G., O.B.E. Glentworth, Coombe,	
	Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.	
Chairman	- D.Milner, O.B.E., M.A., A.R.C.A., R.W.A. Oakfield House,	,
	Ellerncroft Rd. Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.	
Hon.Secretary	- Miss D.F. Grimes, 3 Orchard Street, Wotton-under-	
	Edge, Glos.	
Hon. Treasurer	- A.H. Jotcham, Esq., Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge.	