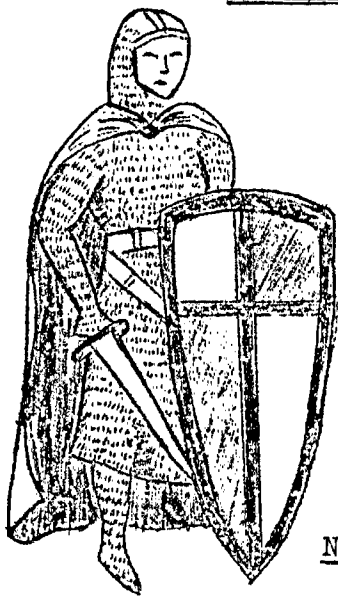


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

SPRING 1961.



NO. 3

Presented by:-

THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

of the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1961.

In this number we include, besides the usual features, a summary of a prize essay on Friendly Societies and Club Day in Mickleton, 1787 - 1939, by Mrs. Darvill, a progress Report on the results of the appeal for information on Gloucestershire Canals by the Secretary, and a note on the New Land Utilisation Survey by Dr. Alice Coleman. A copy of the Canals report is being sent to all who have kindly supplied information. The notes sent by the County Museums have been grouped together in a separate article instead of being incorporated in the Newsletter.

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

The Standing Conference on Local History held its twelfth Annual Conference on November 11th 1960. The Open Forum in the morning consisted of a discussion on "The Recording of Contemporary Local History by Local History Recorders", which I was invited to open. The afternoon session was devoted to two papers on Early Industrial Remains, the first on the Industrial Archaeology of County Down by Dr. E.R. Green of Manchester, who gave a most interesting account of buildings connected with the early linen industry, and the second being a most stimulating account by Mr. L. Walrond, Curator of Stroud Museum, on the Industrial Survey he is making in the Stroud Valley which he described in the last number of this bulletin. There was an exhibition telling the "Story of the Village within Living Memory", in which the entries of Alveston and Birdlip for our competition on this subject were two of the records displayed.

To help me compile a short report on Local History Recording in this country for this meeting, a questionnaire was issued by the Standing Conference to the Secretaries of all County Local History Committees, who were most generous with their help. It was very interesting to see how much active history making, as well as lectures and excursions, has been undertaken, sometimes by comparatively small groups. Otford and District Local History Society, near Sevenoaks, for instance, keep scrapbooks of press-cuttings, hand-bills etc., and a file of parish magazines, make local history records of older people's memories, and mark every building in the parish and specify it on a schedule giving dates of erection and details of repairs. They are also forming a collection of dated photographs, many of which record scenes before drastic changes which have taken place. Gravesend Historical Society is an example of a highly organised larger group in which many members take an active part. A team headed by an industrial chemist made a detailed survey of a Roman site, an electrician undertook the orderly arrangement of local exhibits, their commercial artist made Field Path maps, and a solicitor and retired journalist correlated details from documents and made a typed transcript of names in apprenticeship rolls and rate books, many of which were almost illegible in the originals. A schoolteacher and housewife organised visits and lectures and the school examined the local flora. In the discussion at the Conference, stress was laid on the importance of photographic records and the use of modern methods, such as tape-recording, were discussed.

The Standing Conference report in their Spring Bulletin that over a hundred replies were received to their request for suggestions for future pamphlets. Their new publication "Introducing Local History" can now be obtained from the National Council of Social Service, Publication Department, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. for 2/10d. post free. It contains such extremely useful information as the organisations willing to give specialist advice to the local historian and the addresses of County Record offices with their hours of opening.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

The booklist on County Local History, prepared for the Committee by the Chief Librarian, Gloucester City Library, is now completed and will be on sale in a few weeks time. It is intended as a general introduction to reading county history and will be obtainable from Community House, College Green, Gloucester, price 6d. post free. The Committee hope it will fill a long-felt want.

The Secretary received many fascinating answers to our appeal for information on Canals and some excellent photographs, details of which appear in her Report. Offers of help in interviewing and recording the memories of people still living who have valuable information to give are badly needed. This work is urgent and as Mr. Rolt reminded us, "Next year may be too late". Volunteers are also needed to complete the survey of Carved Tombstones in the County particularly in the Vale of Gloucester and the Forest of Dean. Photographers and recorders are needed and Mr. G.H. Robins, 6, Beaufort Buildings, The Spa, Gloucester, will gladly give further information.

The Judges of our Prize Essay Competition for Secondary Schools reported that the first prize should be awarded to Frank Dobbins of Kingswood Grammar School for an essay on the Battle of Lansdowne. This competitor had done field-work of his own and "felt" his story, not merely reproducing material from books. Sara Grocott of Stroud High School was placed second for an entry on Roman Gloucestershire, which again showed original work and an effort to interpret her material. This year Group Entries for Schools as well as individual efforts will be accepted for our School Prize in the hope of interesting Secondary Modern Schools as well as Grammar Schools. The Adult Essay Prize was won outright by Mrs. Darvill, Hidcote Cottage, Mickleton, for an admirable essay on the Friendly Societies of that village. So much general interest is being taken, at the moment, in the history of these Societies and their emblems that it is most satisfactory to be able to include in this number a precis of her material though it is, of course, a very restricted summary of her long and detailed prize entry.

A RELIC OF BRISTOL'S CITY WALL.

After the diversion of the Frome from its original course near Baldwin Street to the line running from Broad Quay to Prince's Wharf and the rebuilding of Bristol Bridge in the middle of the thirteenth century, a defensive wall was built facing the marsh and running behind the present King Street from the Avon to the Quay. According to William of Worcester, there were two towers, both rounded on the outside, in the marsh wall, one of which was evidently on the site of the first Public Library, since the grant of 1615 conveyed "a tenement and tower adjoining on the Town Wall near Avon Marsh". A considerable length of the wall was revealed in 1818 when a wool warehouse was built at the back of Cooper's Hall.

Last year excavations, conducted by the City Museum, behind St. Nicholas Almshouses revealed a semi-circular bastion containing a basement area of three stand-ins of which two still retain their arrow slits. This bastion probably dates from about 1300. It must have proved serviceable during the unsettled period from 1312-16 when the citizens were engrossed in struggles with their own oligarchy, the Constable of the Castle, the Lords de Berkeley holding Redcliffe, and the forces of the Crown, which culminated in a threatened siege of the City in 1314 and a very heavy attack by the Royal Forces in 1316.

During the first half of the sixteenth century the city walls generally were no longer considered essential to defence and building both on and against them was permitted by the authorities. The bastion, however, remained intact and may have been a picturesque and appropriate feature of the landscape when the citizens waged a mimic war for three days on the Marsh to entertain Queen Elizabeth I. By the early seventeenth century

however, building was taking place outside the Marsh wall and it apparently served no defensive purpose in the Civil War. At some point between 1625-50 the bastion, which had cracked on its western side, was partially demolished and converted into a dwelling house, and in 1650 the bastion was included in the grant made for St. Nicholas Almshouses. The remains of the bastion were then concealed by the constructional works necessitated by the marshy quality of the ground. A conducted walk, led by the Curator of Bristol Museum, will begin at 7 p.m. on May 3rd at St. Nicholas Almshouses and provide an opportunity for students of local history to see this very interesting relic of the City walls.

WILLIAM TYNDALE AND BRISTOL BAPTIST COLLEGE.

The Bristol Baptist College Exhibition of Bibles held in March to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the Authorised Version and the publication of the new translation held material of particular interest to visitors from Gloucestershire. The exhibition itself was an admirably balanced whole, and included facsimiles of early Greek texts and actual Medieval illuminated manuscripts, two fourteenth century scripts of the Lollard Bible, cases illustrating the translations preceding the Great Bible, two black-letter folios of the Authorised Version, and material to illustrate subsequent revisions. There were such unexpected riches as John Bunyan's Concordance bearing his signature and a Bible taken from one of Cromwell's soldiers at Naseby.

But the greatest treasures to Gloucestershire men and women were found in the section devoted to William Tyndale, in which we could see for ourselves not only copies of his translations of the Pentateuch and the Book of Job, but the only complete copy of the first edition of his translation of the New Testament which is known to exist. There seems to be no firm evidence that William Tyndale was born at North Nibley but scholars do not doubt that he was a member of the family of Tyndales who were connected with Malksham Court at Stinchcombe and he probably spent his childhood in this district. After a career at both Oxford and Cambridge, where he came in contact with the New Learning and the teachings of Erasmus, Tyndale became the tutor of the children of Sir John Walsh and lived at Little Sodbury Manor. It was during his stay there that Tyndale decided to use his Greek learning to good effect and cause "the boy that driveth the plough" to know the Scriptures in his own tongue.

In the exhibition, moreover, was a copy of that very "Pocket-Dagger of a Christian Soldier" by Erasmus, (the copy here shown being an abridgment by Coverdale) which Tyndale translated and presented to his master and mistress, when Lady Walsh had asked him why they should believe his arguments before those of doctors of divinity with incomes of two and three hundred pounds a year. This work changed their outlook and as Lady Walsh was a member of the Pointz family of Gloucestershire of which Thomas Pointz, the English merchant who so nobly befriended Tyndale in Antwerp, was a distant connection, it is interesting to wonder whether her name was a bond between the two men.

The collection of Bibles in the Baptist College from which this exhibition was drawn is outstanding, and the College generously states that "it is always willing to allow visitors to see the Bibles".

VICTORIA HISTORY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

We have received the following report on the progress of the first new volume:-

"The Editor (Mr. Elrington) and Assistant Editor (Miss Thomas) are continuing their work in the area round Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water. Among the parishes of which they have already written the history are Adlestrop, Bledington, Broadwell, and Condicote. It will naturally be some time before these are published, in the volume that will cover the thirty parishes in the hundred of Slaughter and the upper divisions of Tewkesbury and Westminster hundreds. One of the difficulties in writing parish histories is finding out about recent changes in the villages - changes in the last twenty years or so. Many people can remember them in a general way but few remember precise dates and facts; so it is always a help to know of people who have recorded buildings that have been demolished, possess old photographs of their village, or have made a note of the date of recent events".

TOOLS FOR LOCAL HISTORIANS.

Every student of Local History in the county must at some stage in his work use the Gloucestershire Collection in Gloucester City Library, but not all of them are so fortunate as to be able to consult the printed Index before they arrive and there are a large number of accessions since this Index was issued. The three Local History pamphlets issued by the City Library therefore have been warmly welcomed. No. 1 gives a list of the principal collections of archives in the Library and regulations governing their use. No. 2, issued last November, is entitled "Wills proved in Gloucestershire Peculiar Courts", and acts as a supplement to the British Record Society's Calendar of Gloucestershire Wills; it contains an article on Peculiar jurisdiction and probate records, and lists wills and inventories of Bibury, Bishop's Cleeve and Withington Peculiars, now in the Librarian's custody. The third pamphlet gives a most valuable analysis of records relating to parishes in Gloucestershire deposited in the Library, including the Volume No. of the Hockaday Abstracts and Phillimore's Marriages, the date of the first Bishop's Transcript of the Parish Register and details of the terriers, tithe-maps and deeds available. Nos. 1 and 3 are issued free and No. 2 is priced at 2/-.

The second tool for Local Historians is still in the making and is very rightly described by Dr. Coleman in her article as a modern Domesday. In the new Land Utilisation Survey she is initiating, the most detailed information is being collected and will be available later to students both on printed maps and, it is planned, by the original field maps made by workers and county reports written by experts. Even the secondary uses of orchard land for grass, animals or soft fruit, the division of moorland into bracken, heather and cotton-grass areas and the exact crop in each field in addition to its type are being recorded, to quote but a few instances of the thoroughness of the survey. Industrial buildings are being identified by markings illustrating 14 categories and enthusiasts are invited to enter additional material on the back of their maps, such as products, raw materials, labour, transport and markets. Anyone who has tried to build up comparative pictures of the state of agriculture and industry in his district at various periods using local records will envy the researcher in the future who can consult this analysis of such amazingly rich and varied information.

NEWS FROM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society report that a prominent member has given £1,000 to start a Fund for the preservation of fine Table Tombs in the County. Many of them show brilliant craftsmanship and all too often are falling into decay. The object of the Fund is to provide small grants towards repairs of those which are most artistically important. Grants will be made on the recommendation of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Church House, Gloucester, who will be glad also to receive further donations.

The Society's projected Historical Atlas of the County is now in course of preparation and, it is expected, will be on sale by the end of the year. The next volume of the Transactions will be a double one, the additional part being a survey of Gloucestershire Barrows by L.V. Grinsell and H.E. O'Neil and will be on sale to non-members who should apply to the Secretary.

The Forest of Dean Society has published its first Occasional Paper. This is a delightful account of Newnham-on-Severn entitled "The Little Hill" and can be obtained from the Secretary, The Rev. R.J. Mansfield, Newnham Vicarage, 1/4d. post free. The booklet is to be warmly recommended to those who have visited the little town and to anyone who enjoys a breath of the country in a bedside book. One of the members of the Society, Dr. Scott Garrett, is researching into Relics of the Civil War and has published an article on the artillery used, based on a review of the cannon balls found in ten different localities in the Forest.

The Cheltenham Historical Association draws our attention to a new and promising item on their programme, "A Sixth Form Forum", to encourage young enthusiasts. The Society of Thornbury Folk have published two numbers recently, No. 19 Series 2, containing a most interesting article on the history of schools in the district which includes a heroic effort in penmanship by the seventeenth century Keeper of the Thornbury Clock-house, and an Index covering June 1947 - September 1960. Members of the Cirencester Historical Society are planning to take an active part in the excavations and Summer School to be held there this Summer, and have therefore slightly curtailed their activities.

LOCAL HISTORY AND ADULT EDUCATION.

The very brief details which we can supply on Summer Courses and Schools cannot give any idea of the delights and excitements which can be enjoyed by the enterprising this summer. One can, for instance, attend a concert setting of Shirley's Masque, Cupid and Death, lectures on Medieval stained glass and ecclesiastical embroidery, or visit the still surviving Whitsun festivals in Wiltshire to study Folk Dancing. It is well worth collecting local programmes specially as it is not easy to include in any one list courses spreading over very varied interests and widely differing dates.

Our own Adult Education Authorities catered for a very wide range of places and interests last winter including such courses as that on The Gloucestershire Village Labourer 1750-1850, during which students worked themselves on a wide selection of documents from the County Records, on the Regional History of South Gloucestershire held at Downend, the Roman Archaeology of the Marshfield District and Country Houses in the English Social Scene given at Wick. Classes can be arranged for the Summer Session and at Oldland, for instance, a short course will include visits to a typical Medieval Church and market town and an inspection of early field systems. Cirencester, with its excavations and Summer School on a Roman subject, is becoming a notable centre of interest for students of Romano-British civilisation, and students at last year's Summer School there were so fired with enthusiasm that they have arranged a Spring expedition to Roman Gaul, based on Avignon. It should be remembered that the Resident Tutors plan their courses well in advance and are glad to receive requests for classes. This summer is not too early to make enquiries about possibilities if any village wishes to have a course on Local History next winter.

Once again we wish to remind our readers that suggestions and material for this Bulletin will be warmly welcomed as the Committee wish to provide as full a service as possible, and to thank all contributors to this number.

Olive Griffiths.
Editor.

CANALS ENQUIRY. A PROGRESS REPORT.

The Committee's appeal (Bulletin November 1960) for information about Gloucestershire Canals was very kindly taken up by the local Press, with the result that the Secretary received a number of individual responses; it was very encouraging to find how many people took the trouble to write at length, to call, or look out photographs, or offered time for reminiscence. We are specially indebted to:-

Mr. F. Lloyd for the gift of a baker's dozen of beautiful snapshots of the Thames and Severn Canal 1923-57.

Mr. T.R. Smith for another large collection of Thames and Severn pictures, 1959.

Mr. C. Lane for the loan of the "Wave and Lapwing" excursion booklet.

Mr. R. Wood, who made a personal call with photographs of the trow Finis, and talked about his family's long connection with trow-owning, and navigation of the river and canal. It seems possible that we may be able to complete the life-story of their last trow "Finis".

Mr. D.V. Webb has written in seven thrilling instalments, recollections of the canal docks, of the craft, their fleet marks, vital statistics, owners or origin; a regular Jayne's Ships for any time after 1899.

Mr. W. King, who was born at Lechlade, gave up a morning to talk about the Round House and river, with illustrations from about 1900-1920, having an early engraving of the Round House for comparison.

Mr. W. James also devoted an afternoon to telling about the Birmingham terminal in the eighties.

Mr. Timbrell made some very helpful suggestions for sources of information and sent his early recollections of a toll-house on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

Mr. Hanks reported a tradition that when barges entered Sapperton Tunnel at Tunnel Inn, the donkeys drawing the barges were turned loose and re-appeared under their own guidance at Daneway Inn where they waited for the barges to emerge. He recorded another tradition that several fatal accidents took place during the building of the tunnel and the bodies of the workers were buried at Sapperton Church. An examination of parish records of churches near the canals would obviously be very useful.

Mr. C.P. Teague offered recollections of the Gloucester-&-Ledbury, and a conundrum; as he sent a stamp for a reply the Secretary would be relieved to learn the answer. Mr. Teague was born in 1876, February; he understands the New Railway, to Ledbury and Malvern, was opened in 1881; he certainly had the distinction of taking the first ticket from Barber's Bridge to Malvern, where he had a day out; this must have been at the age of 5; but in that case, he cannot account for a very clear recollection of the coal wharf at the bottom of Highnam Hill, and men shifting coal in hand-barrows from a longboat lying alongside; he wonders whether 1881 was actually the year in which work was begun upon the railway? He also wonders whether there was a lock near Rudford Church, as he has a faint recollection of being taken there for a walk.

Several kind writers have given the names of old people connected with the river who could tell their tale, and we were honoured with a letter from a lady of 90, whose father, born in the month of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal's opening, was taken on to the bank in order to be present as the first boat went up.

Help has also come from the Women's Institutes and a writer from without the County could show us her father's name upon the stonework of the Sapperton Tunnel at Coates.

To all who have taken trouble for no rewards we owe our best thanks.

As its present task the Committee has undertaken no more than to collect and record oral information, to note the whereabouts of records and to deposit the product of its search with the County Record Office for the use of historians. At present there is an opening here for someone with a gift for organising the collection of oral information and the time to do it, as well as for more workers. The Secretary would welcome a serious offer to organise the work.

So far as our information goes, its trend suggests that the lesser canals have already almost gone from memory, even as waterways, much less as working concerns; a good deal more remains in people's minds about the Berkeley Canal, and as conversation almost surely swings to navigation and ships that go down to the sea, it must be inferred that its continuous life comes from its position as a Midlands sea-way - even though it were so often despised as a soft and expensive option by the trow-masters.

E. Vowles.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND "CLUB DAY"

IN MICKLETON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

1787 - 1939.

by Marguerite Darvill.

Societies or Clubs for mutual help in time of misfortune or old age evolved naturally from the trade guilds formed after the break up of the feudal system had given independence to the workers.

Against the background of threats of invasion, wars abroad, and the uncertainties of the Government's financial policy, agricultural workers in Mickleton formed their first Society. Records of most early Societies perished with them, but fortunately the Articles of this one, An Union Society, Milk Maid Inn, 1787, have survived and give a vivid picture of the proposed meetings at the King's Arms, and the benefits which it was hoped would come to members. Evidently a pauper's funeral was the chief dread of all, for there is much stress on provision for "decent burial". Discipline and proper behaviour were strictly enjoined at all meetings, understandably at a time when penalties for small breaches of the peace were often more severe than for serious crimes. Article XXXIV provided for an annual service of thanksgiving, followed by a celebration in which the whole village could join, on Saturday in Whit Week, a custom which was continued in Mickleton until 1939.

Friendly Societies were open to failure from attempting too much, and, having no legal standing at first, to fraud by the unscrupulous, and many came and went before legislation was introduced to give them more security. Not that this was achieved without opposition since sturdy independence is ever apt to be suspicious of interference. The Act of 1875 left them to administer their own affairs under the aegis of the Central Office at the Registry of Friendly Societies in London.

The Mickleton Societies were no exception, but from the ashes of one Club another arose. No. 281 in the Register of Friendly Societies is the Mickleton Union Friendly Society, founded in 1834, registered in 1836, which lasted until the passing of the Insurance Act in 1911 made it difficult to keep up membership, and it was dissolved while there was still money left to distribute. Since 1906 this Club had held its annual celebration jointly with the Cirencester Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society, as it was then called (which had started a branch in 1892 which still flourishes) and members now passed into this larger Club, taking with them the banner and staves of office which were always carried on Club Day. Tables of benefits and contributions are quoted and the Rules are compared with those of the earlier Club.

Other Clubs run on different lines are described. A Sick and Dividend Society at the Butcher's Arms attracted members in 1891, working on the system of collecting subscriptions and paying out what remained as a dividend at the end of each year. No records survive.

The Mickleton Provident Benefit Club, known locally as the "Cock and Hen Club" lasted from 1857 until 1946. It was not connected with any public house, but had its office at the Parish Vestry. There were no social events connected with it. This Club, being run on the deposit principle, survived the Insurance Act of 1911. The Rules provided for benefit in illness and old age, in proportion to the amount contributed, for both men and women and their families. It was finally dissolved for lack of new members.

The description of Club Day at Mickleton over the years is taken partly from records in the Evesham Journal and partly from first-hand accounts. There are illustrations of Club Day activities, and a list of references to the sources of information used.

A MODERN "DOMESDAY SURVEY".

1960 and 1961 are witnessing the making of some truly up-to-date historical records in the form of the Land Use Survey.

Over a thousand volunteers are taking part. Working with six-inch maps in the open air they are making a record of orchards, woodlands, crops, types of factory or heathland, in fact, all the ways in which the surface of Britain is being used this year. Between them they have undertaken nearly eighty-five percent of the country and it is hoped that volunteers will be found for the remaining fifteen percent during 1961.

The major part of Gloucestershire has already been undertaken, but ten areas are still "blank". They correspond to the ten Ordnance Survey 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch maps:-

S.T. 69	Falfield, Stone.
S.O. 93	Bredon Hill, Teddington.
S.P. 03	Gretton, Stanway.
S.P. 12	Bourton on the Water.
S.P. 00	Ampney, North Cerney.
S.P. 10	Fairford, Hatherop.
S.U. 19	Lechlade, Cricklade.
S.U. 09	Ashton Keynes, South Cerney.

Each of these areas is forty square miles. It is hoped that volunteers will undertake a whole map area, organising their own teams of assistants if they feel it is too big an area to tackle single-handed. The Survey Organiser, Miss Alice Coleman of King's College, Strand, London, W.C.2., would be very grateful for offers of help.

The mapping is a voluntary service, and volunteers have been very generous in providing their own six-inch maps. Over one hundred and twenty of them have sent in completed maps, which are crayoned in nine colours, and present a gay, colourful and informative record. The regional characteristics of local areas are spotlighted in strong contrast. For example the browns and purples of the Fens where cereals, sugar beet and vegetables predominate, are quite different from the red and grey of industrial towns, the red and yellow of heathland with gravel workings, or the light and dark greens of pasture with woodland. These field maps will be reduced to the scale of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the mile, and printed on maps representing eighty square miles. The first two printed maps are expected to appear in March 1961.

Most of the surveyors report that they have found the work stimulating and interesting. It takes them out of doors in fine weather and gives them a detailed insight into their local area with a corresponding fascination. Collaborating with friends on this work has given it a very sociable nature.

The first map to be completed in Gloucestershire was S.O.91, surveyed by Mr. A. Downes of St. Paul's College, Cheltenham.

The second map S.O. 72 and 82 was surveyed by Mr. W.G. Heap of the King's School, Gloucester.

Details of the purpose and procedure of the Survey are given in a special handbook which includes helpful hints on crop identification, etc. It can be obtained from Miss Coleman, price 2/6d.

A. Coleman.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"Kempley Church and Paintings" by J.E. Gethyn-Jones. Pt.1 including 13 photographs. 16/6d. paper: £1. full cloth. Order from J. Bellows Ltd., Gloucester or from the author, Dymock Vicarage, Glos.

"Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain" by S. Frere. (Proceedings of the C.B.A. Iron Age Conference). 37s/6d. post free. Order from The Secretary; C.B.A., 10, Bolton Gardens, S.W.5.

"British Archaeology. A Booklist." Published by C.B.A. and obtainable as above. 5s/10d. post free. Intended for amateurs and teachers of history, geography and Latin. Section on children's books for class and home reading.

"Early Charters of West Midlands" by H.P. Finberg. 50/- Leicester University Press.

"Two Thousand Years in Exeter" by W.G. Hoskins, 16/- . Obtainable from J. Townsend & Sons Ltd., Musgrave House, Weston Way, Exeter.

REPORT FROM MUSEUMS

IN AND CONNECTED WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Bristol City Museum excavated the Bastion on the Marsh Wall last year to which reference has already been made. It is promoting an excavation on a Roman site at Whitchurch, barely outside the Somersetshire boundary of the city, and will probably excavate along the line of the medieval wall of the city during the late summer. Accessions for 1960-1 include the following items from South Gloucestershire, a Cheese Press from Alveston, wheelwright's tools, shaft and rawe patterns, etc. from Aldsworth, Winton and Bibury, a carrier's cart from Arlington and a probable Iron Age sword from Winterbourne.

The Curator of Stroud Museum sends the following report:-

"My survey of mills etc., makes slow progress. The demolition of Stratford Abbey, Stroud, has caused rather a stir. It was a clothier's house of three room plan, enlarged considerably in 1699 by Giles Gardner. Early in the nineteenth century it was turned into a technical college. After a major restoration, it became a residential college for girls. Though closed in 1939 its high reputation was, and still is, well known over a wide area. It has been considered by many to have been the town's greatest architectural loss since the demolition, at the end of the war, of the famous almshouses in Church Street. The house was unsafe and a comprehensive record has been made of all its noteworthy features, many of which are to be incorporated into house restoration schemes in the district. Although this has roused so much interest it is but one of the many houses I have recorded prior to demolition.

Though of less aesthetic appeal, a house in Bowbridge Lane demolished during 1960 was of equal importance in that it contained a medieval cruck truss. These are rare in central Gloucestershire, where, with the exception of Frampton-on-Severn, only two others are known to me, at Painswick and at Leonard Stanley.

Recent gifts include a painting of Brimscombe Basin before the Turnpike road to Stroud was made, a stone cannon ball from Randwick found less than a mile from a similar example dug up in 1955, and a part of the collection of the late A.J. Morris, consisting of watches, brooches and other personal objects of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries".

The Gloucester City Museums send a report of many varied activities.

"ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTER, OCTOBER 1960 - MARCH 1961

In March 1961 Professor I.A. Richmond, University of Oxford, trenched an area at Kingsholm, just north of Sweetbriar Street, where it was thought that remains of the early fortress of the Second Legion would certainly be found. The fortress seems to have been occupied between about 49 - 75 A.D. No trace of the timber remains of the barrack-blocks of the fortress was found, and it seems likely that the true site is to be sought further north.

In February building-operations began at the Bon Marché site, St. Aldate Street. The contractor's first cutting uncovered the walls and floors, including a very small piece of mosaic with a rope pattern border, of a Roman building in the housing-block to the east of that excavated by the City Museum in 1958. The building seems to have had a small courtyard with a verandah: one of the limestone columns from this verandah is on display in the City Museum. Other finds include an almost complete cavetto-rim jar and the base of a samian dish with the potter's stamp Victorinus (mid-late second century). The work continues.

The City Museum, with Gloucester Roman Research Committee, plans to excavate on a scheduled site at the rear of the Technical College in Brunswick Road during the summer. Mrs. H.E. O'Neil, F.S.A. will direct the excavations, whose aim is to secure a section through the defences of the Roman city, inwards from the inner face of the City wall, and to relate these defences to the built-up area of the City itself.

(Volunteers will probably not be needed for the excavation, which is expected to start on June 12th).

GLOUCESTER MUSEUMS

In view of the interest now being taken locally in inland waterways it is with pleasure that the Gloucester Museum announces the addition to the Folk Museum collections of a narrow-boat head light, presented by Mr. Frank Simpson. This lantern, which is over two feet high, has a large "bull's eye" lens behind which is placed an oil lamp. It is decorated in the traditional manner with red and white roses on a dark green background, and cleaned and renovated it makes a most attractive exhibit. Unfortunately nothing is known of its history, but it may have been used on a boat which regularly traversed the Sapperton Tunnel.

During the winter months an extensive reorganisation of the Folk Museum has been in progress. The main entrance gallery has been given a "new look" by the construction of built-in showcases, and these will enable more of the Museum's collection of domestic bygones to be shown. At the same time, structural alterations at the rear of the Ground floor have made possible the opening of another exhibition gallery which will be devoted to the story of pastoral farming and livestock, and where the mounted specimens of the traditional Gloucestershire farm animals - Gloucester cattle, Cotswold sheep, and Old Spot pig, may be shown side by side.

The opportunity has also been taken to re-site one of Gloucester's largest and most famous local bygones, the City South Gates, in a new position where they can be seen to greater advantage."

At Cheltenham Museum & Art Gallery a Local History exhibition entitled, "Cheltenham in Olden Times" was held in the Art Gallery from February 4th - March 25th. This selection from maps and old prints etc., proved most popular and was attended by 13,590 members of the public. Attendance of schoolchildren and teachers during February and March numbered 1,594. The Schools Museum Officer therefore will evidently find enthusiastic audiences for his talks on this subject and on Transport in Cheltenham, the Regency Period there and Ancient Britons and Romans around Cheltenham. These accounts will be illustrated by visual aids and museum specimens. The Museum & Art Gallery have received recently five prints of Cheltenham including "Promenaders near the Royal Well" (c.1825), and purchased a set of six Ackerman Aquatints (1813) depicting The Crescent, the Montpellier Pump Room, Old Wells and Pump Room, Hygeia House, Well Walk and the Assembly Rooms. One Play-bill of the Assembly Rooms (1854) and two relating to the Royal Old Wells (both 1856) and the Pawnbroker's sign from Norfolk House, Well Walk, have also been added to the collections.

Two seventeenth century tradesmen's tokens have also been presented, a half-penny of Henry Fawler of Chipping Norton bearing a duck on the obverse, found in a garden at Southam, and a half-penny of Stephen Wilcox of Newnham showing the Cutters' Arms found in the roof of Anaen House, Upper Bath Street. A collection of flint arrow-heads, scrapers and other implements, most of which were found in the late nineteenth century at Leckhampton or Charlton Abbots, has been donated by the executors of Mrs. E.M. Lewis.

The Curator has also supplied details of the following archaeological finds in the Cheltenham district, October to March 1961. A Roman coin was unearthed at Bishop's Cleeve near the Old People's Home (GRID REF. 9570-2747). It is a copper Aa of Commodus (180-192 A.D.) Obverse: Laureate bust of Emperor facing right. Reverse: Figure walking to right holding spear and possibly standard.VIIII.SC. A neolithic axehead found at Oxenton, near Church Cottage, in 1948 (GRID REF. SO 598-314) has been presented to the Museum and is on loan to the S.W. Group of the C.B.A. for petrological examination, and arrangements also have been made for a second axe found at Arle in October 1957 near Messrs. Tungum's Factory (GRID REF. SO.927-238) also to be examined.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE,
Shire Hall, Gloucester.

List of Principal Accessions, 1960.

Family and Estate:

Sotheron-Estcourt (Shipton Moyne) (additional): court rolls, surveys and manorial records of Shipton Moyne, from 1317, and Dursley, from 1400; deeds and estate papers of S. Glos., N. Wilts., Herts., and Yorks., from c.1150; family papers, diaries, and correspondence, chiefly 18-19th cent., political correspondence, 1799-1875, letters of James Wolfe concerning the Jacobite rebellion, 1745; correspondence and diaries of Major-Gen. J.B. Estcourt (1802-1855), and naval papers, 1793-1846.

Howard (Thornbury) (additional); Thornbury Hundred, borough and manor court papers, 1683-1908.

Lawrence (Dowdeswell) (additional): deeds and estate papers of Sandywell Park estate, 1727-1884.

Solicitors:

Mullings, Ellett & Co. (Cirencester): about 600 deeds of Fairford, Ashchurch and Maiseyhampton, (Barker family), 1535-1883: deeds of Cirencester, etc., from 1673; Griffiths & Williams (Cheltenham): office and legal papers, c.1795-1850.

Yeend, Middleton & Yeend (Cheltenham): manorial records and deeds of Stow-en-the-Wold and Mangersbury, 1547-1825.

Official:

Coleford, Dursley, Whitminster, and Wotton-under-Edge Petty Sessions, from 1872. Stroud Guardians, Highways Board and Rural Sanitary Authority, 1866-1918. Courts of Sewers (Upper & Lower Levels of Glos.) orders and papers, 1738-1838 (additional).

Ecclesiastical:

Dean and Chapter of Gloucester (additional, from Church Commissioners): about 1100 deeds and leases, 17-19th cent., surveys, 1649-c.1800.

North Forest Rural Deanery: minutes, 1851-1913, visitation book, 1909-25.

Parish:

Avening, Bagendon, Blaisdon, Coberley, Hompstead, Highnam, Kingswood, (Wotton), Leckhampton, Leigh, Leonard Stanley, Tytherington, from 1699.

Deeds:

About 600 of many parishes, 1564-1903.

Maps:

Deerhurst and Leigh, 1815, Kingswood (Wotton), 1852, Leckhampton, 1778, 1835, Kings Stanley, 1817, Stroud, c.1690.

Miscellaneous:

Minutes of commoners of Marsh Common, Almondsbury, 1792-1816.

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES.

Recent additions to Gloucestershire Collection.

Books, etc.

- ABBEY (Matilda). Genealogy of the family of Tracy of Toddington.
BILSON AND CRUMP MEADOW COAL CO. Partnership deeds. 1855. Manuscript.
BRITISH RECORDS ASSOCIATION. Catalogue of the Astley Papers.
FORESTRY COMMISSION. Guide to Westonbirt Arboretum.
GLOUCESTER UNION. Parish of Gloucester overseers' minute book
1901-1927. Manuscript.
GURNEY (Ivor). Heretics all: manuscript song written and signed
by the author.
HADFIELD (Charles). The canals of South Wales and the border.
KNIGHT (Sid E.) Cotswold lad.
NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO. Directory 1900 (with Gloucestershire section).
PEACOCK (R.W.) An address to the prisoners in the castle of Gloucester
for trial at the Summer Assizes 1814. Manuscript.
PUDNEY (John). Bristol fashion.
WANTNER (Abel). History of Gloucestershire. Microfilm. (Original in
the Bodleian Library, Oxford).
WHITEFIELD (George). Journals, published 1960.
WINSTONE (Reece). Bristol in the 1890's.
WORCESTER CONSISTORY COURT. Microfilm of wills and administrations
proved at Worcester 1451-1541. (Includes Gloucestershire wills
prior to 1541 proved at Worcester). 5 reels.

Deeds, documents, etc.

- Act for repairing the several roads leading from the town of Tewkesbury
12 Geo.I, c.24.1725.
Gloucester Diocesan Records. 3 Act books, survey of diocese, 1 precedent
book. (From Gloucester Diocesan Registry).
Documents relating to properties in Southgate Street, Gloucester.
(From Lapage Norris, Solicitors).
Lease of lands in Taynton. (From Dr. K. Tomlinson)
Parish records of St. Nicholas, Gloucester. (Transferred from
Gloucestershire County Records Office).

EXCAVATIONS IN OR NEAR BRISTOL.

Requests for permission to visit sites, offers of help etc., to be made
to the Directors of the Excavations unless otherwise stated.

<u>Director.</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Description of Site</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Dr. R.H.Hilton	Upton, Blockley	Medieval Village Site	July 8-27th. No help needed. Visitors welcome.
S.C.Stanford, F.S.A. University of B'ham, Edmund St. B'ham.15.	Croft Ambrey, Herefds.	Iron Age Hill Site	July 31-Aug.26th 20 men, 10 women needed, trained and untrained.
J.S.Wacher, F.S.A. Dept.of History, University of Leicester	Cirencester	Corinium incl. part of Basilica.	Mar.29-Apr.25th Volunteers needed.
Capt.H.S.Gracie, The Yew, Pinfarthings, Amberley, Glos.	Bagendon	E. Iron Age Camp.	Mar.21-Apr.4th
G. Connah, Esq. Museum of Classical Archaeology, Cambridge.	Pewsey, Wilts.	Neolithic Causeway Camp.	July 4-24th. Volunteers needed.
W. Wedlake, C/o P.J.Greening, Esq. Camerton Excavation Club, 19, Portland Place, Bath.	Nettleton, Wilts.	Mausoleum - Temple site.	Saturdays Apr.22nd - Sept. 30th. One week in Aug. 10 men 5 women needed.

TRAINING SCHOOLS IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Place & Type</u>	<u>Comments</u>
G. Webster, F.S.A.	Barnsley (R.Villa site) Advanced Course	July 15-29th. Only Wroxeter trained or equivalent students. Apply Director Extra-Mural Studies, University of B'Ham, B'ham. 15. 10 gns. weekly.
S.C. Stanford, F.S.A.	Wroxeter	Elementary, July 15-29th. Intermediate, Aug.19-Sept.2nd. Apply as above. 18 gns per fortnight.
Curator, Colchester Museum.	Flatford Mill Centre.	Aug.23-Sept.6th. Practical Excavation. Apply Warden, Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Nr.Colchester. £8. 0. 0. weekly.

E X H I B I T I O N S

Art in Roman Britain. Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, E.C.2.
June 27th-July 22nd (to celebrate Jubilee of Society for Promoting Roman Studies. Sculpture, Painted Plaster, Table-ware, Pottery, Fine Glass-Ware).

SUMMER SCHOOLS

<u>Organisation and Place.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Univ. of Bristol, Wills Hall.	Architecture in W.Country. (W.R. Leadbetter, D.A)	Aug.5-12th. Apply: Sec. W.E.A., 7 St.Nicholas Street, Bristol,1, before May 13th.
	Bristol & West in English History. (R.Perry, Ph.D)	As above
British Summer School, Cirencester.	Roman Villa in Britain.	Aug.12-19th. Apply: Dr.F.T.Wainwright, F.S.A. Ingleby, Newport-on- Tay, Fife.
Thwaite Hall, Cottingham, Nr.Hull. (Univ. of Hull 2 L.H. Socs).	Lost Lands & Settle- ments. Social History of Eng.Architecture. Local History from County Records. Eng. Provincial Towns 1700-1830.	July 28-Aug.5th. Apply: Sec., Lincoln Local History Society, 86, Newland, Lincoln.
Oxford University, Balliol College.	Local History (W.E.A. Summer School)	July 22-Aug.5th. Apply: F.V.Pickstock, M.A. O.U. Tutorial Classes Comm.Rewley House, Wellington Square before May 23rd.
Urchfont Manor (Nr.Devizes).	Romans in Wessex	June 16-18th. Apply to Warden.
	Country Houses of Tudor and Jacobean Age.	July 21-23rd.
	Exploring Wiltshire	Aug. 12-23rd.
Dillington House (Nr.Ilminster).	Civil War in Somerset.	July 14-16th. Apply to Warden.
	Exploring Dorset.	Aug. 21-28th. Apply before Aug.7th.

Summer Schools (Contd)

<u>Organisation and Place.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Folk House, College Green, Bristol. 1.	Excavating an Archaeological Site. (Old Bishops' Palace)	Apr.27th. 10 meeting Course. Apply to Warden.
	Fine Craftsmanship in W. Country (Med. Churches)	Apr.19th. 6 meeting Course. Apply to Warden.
	Exploring Gloucester- shire.	Apr.20th. 4 meeting Course with three Sat. excursions. Apply to Warden.

ALTERATIONS IN "OFFICERS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE" SPRING 1961.

A full list of names and addresses of officers will be reproduced in the autumn Bulletin. Corrections to be made to last year's list run as follows:-

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

President: Dr. Joan Evans, D.Litt., LL.D., P.S.A., Thousand Acres,
Wotton-under-Edge.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society.

Delete: H.E. Viscount Dunrossil (deceased) President.

Cotteswold Field Club.

President: Captain H.S. Gracie, R.N., The Yew, Pinfarthings,
Amberley, Gloucestershire.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

WINTER AND SUMMER 1961.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Jan.16th "Archaeological Journey to the Troad". Prof. J.M. Cook.
Feb.20th "Strange History of Cirencester Borough". Dr. C.D. Ross.
Mar.11th A.G.M. "Cathedral Life in Gloucester in early
Seventeenth Century". Presidential address by the
Dean of Gloucester.
May 6th Excursion to Pauntley and district.
July 19-22nd Weekend in Reading, Windsor and district.
Sept.16th Excursion to N.Cotswolds.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Historical Association.

Feb.24th "John Wesley". J.D. Walsh, M.A.
Mar.17th "Medieval Origins of Modern State". H. Bell, M.A.
Mar.18th Sixth Form Forum at Grammar School, Cheltenham.
May 5th A.G.M. Recent Volumes of V.C.H.
May 27th Excursion to Matson House and Painswick.
June 10th Excursion to Ashleworth Court and Manor.
June 24th Excursion to Croft Castle, Church, Leominster.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society.

- Feb.13th "Road to Harwell from Avebury and White Horse to Present Day". Prof. H.A. Hodges.
Feb.20th "Changing Shape of Parish Church". Rev.P.Hammond.
Mar.2nd "Cave Paintings". E.J.Mason, Esq.,
May 11th Excursion to Dyrham Park and Bath.
May 29th A.G.M. "Ancient Crosses". Canon C.W. Grensted, D.D.
May 31st Excursion to Coln Rogers and Bibury conducted by W.I. Croome, C.B.E.
June 17th Excursion to White Horse Hill, Uffington Church, and Gt. Coxwell Barn.
July 8th Excursion to Chipping Campden and Snowhill Manor.

Cotteswold Field Club (Archaeological Section)

- April 21st Excursion to Cirencester excavations.
May 17th Deerhurst Saxon Church and Roman Road Shuthonger Common.
June 14th Clear up Nympsfield Long Barrow.
July 12th Excavations at Llanmelin, Near Caerwent.
Sept.8th Visit to Frocester excavations.

Forest of Dean Historical Society.

- Mar. 4th "Prehistoric Mendip". E.J. Mason, Esq.,
April 8th "Some Surviving Legends and Superstitions of a Breconshire Parish". Canon D. Parry Jones.
May 6th Excursion to Talgarth and Black Mountains. (Joint meeting with Breconshire County History Committee).
June 3rd Excursion round the Forest.
July 1st Excursion to Birtsmorton Court.
Aug. 5th Picnic Meeting on May Hill led by F.W. Baty, Esq.,
Sept. 2nd Visit to Ledbury arranged by The Rev. and Mrs. Kimbell.

Society of Thornbury Folk.

- Mar. 3rd "Bristol between the Wars. 1939-14". Reece Winston, Esq.
Mar. 21st Film of Berkeley Hunt.

Wotton-under Edge Historical Society.

- Mar. 27th A.G.M. "Jersians". R.H. Bassett, C.M.G.
April 26th Excursion to Dyrham Park.
July 26th Visit to Gloucester Cathedral guided by the Dean of Gloucester.

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