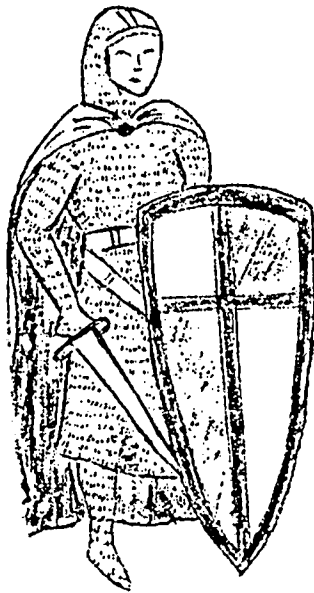


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

AUTUMN 1961.



NO. 4.

Presented by:-

THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

of the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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# LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1961.

The Gloucestershire Community Council Local History Committee has received with great regret the resignation of their Secretary, Mrs. Vowles, who has done so much to extend their work to include our Schools. Every new officer has their special contribution to make and Mr. John Gwynne, Deputy Secretary to the G.C.C., who suggested the Canals Enquiry, will obviously be no exception to the rule. It is extremely interesting to notice in reports of the Standing Conference for Local History how very greatly the County Local History Committees vary in structure, policy and methods of work. Our own Committee had a very unusual beginning as a Sub-Committee of the Adult Education Committee, and in this number the Resident Tutor, Mr. W.R. Taylor, gives a short account of our development up to the outbreak of the last War.

Notice of several entries for the Schools Project Competition have been received and whether all these are completed or not, it is very satisfactory to know that Schools are working on such subjects as a Survey of Elkstone and Cowley, carried out at Cowley Manor, Ancient Burial Grounds in Gloucestershire, the River Chelt and the condition and fate of some Gloucestershire Monasteries at the Dissolution. The Canals Survey has resulted in the re-discovery of much information on Severn Trows which Mrs. Vowles has summarised for this number, and members of the Inland Waterways Association have offered to interview during the winter some of the men and women who have memories of canal life to recall for us. The County Library has asked for a larger supply of the Book List compiled by Mr. Parrott for the Committee so its usefulness will be extended yet further. The Committee revived an earlier tradition this summer, availing themselves of the kindness of the local branch of the National Register of Archives who offered a block of seats at their Annual Meeting, and invited representatives of the Local History Societies to hear an excellent account of the work done at Headquarters, including the compilation of detailed indices of material reported to them. Representatives were entertained to tea at Church House and so given an opportunity to meet our Officers and Committee and one another.

The Standing Conference for Local History will hold its Annual Meeting in London on November 10th. The Open Forum will discuss the use of Ecclesiastical Records for Secular Subjects under the guidance of Miss D.N. Owan, F.S.A., and papers on "Ports and the Sea" will be read by Mr. M. Bouquet, author of "No Gallant Ship" and Mr. B. Greenhill, the authority on Merchant Schooners. The Standing Conference has taken over the management of the periodical "Amateur Historian" which will, in future, contain its own Bulletins. Annual subscriptions (15/-) or orders for single numbers (3/10d. both post free) should be sent to The Secretary, Standing Conference for Local History, National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, W.C.1., as it will not be obtainable from newsagents. It is to be hoped this venture will receive generous support for, with present high printing costs, any project allowing good research work to see the light of day deserves warm encouragement.

## COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Council held its July meeting at Bristol Museum. In his Presidential Address on "Archaeology and History; Britons and Saxons in the Post-Roman Centuries", Professor Myres gave fascinating details of the co-existence of both races in the early fifth century, including settlements of Germanic mercenaries on the Saxon Shore and near Romano-British Towns such as Caistor-by-Norwich. He pointed out "a busy British usage of Lydney, financed by an unofficial coinage, long after the accepted date for the end of Roman Britain", and ended by commenting on the pottery imported from Carthage and even from Byzantium and Egypt by the upper classes of Cornwall and South Wales. He suggested that King Arthur's table-board was furnished by far more artistic and durable vessels than his Saxon contemporaries possessed, and that in 500 A.D. a silk dress was less of a rarity in Cornwall than in Cambridge. The Museum authorities prepared a special exhibition

which included finds from a Neolithic site on Mendip near the supposed route of the Stonehenge blue stones, a bronze torc from Winscombe, a sword blade and prong-like object both possibly Iron Age from Bury Camp, Winterbourne (Glos), and finds from the Saxon palace site at Cheddar.

At this meeting and in its communications to members, the Council has pointed out the urgent danger of unconsidered demolition of minor scheduled buildings for which only two months notice need be given. It urged Societies to appoint local representatives who could investigate threatened buildings and estimate their archaeological value. For Gloucestershire the B.G.A.S. is the recognised body to whom official notification of demolition etc., is sent, and the Secretary would be most grateful if Local History Societies would suggest special investigators for their districts and send her their names and qualifications. The Council stressed that both Societies and individuals ought to make photographic records of ancient buildings, whether scheduled or not, and suggested volunteers should work in co-operation with local libraries and museums. It reported that the National Buildings Records are now housed at Fielden House, 10, Great College Street, Westminster, S.W.1., and that Mr. R.W. McDowall (The Old Granary, Gt. Eversden, Cambridge) is recording threatened buildings in England and will follow up requests for help. The Council also recommended the formation of smaller groups within larger societies to study architecture and antiquities. It has been found that such a group can establish friendly relations with villagers and train its own members in a way which is impossible on large-scale expeditions. The Council also feels that the grants made by the Carnegie Trust for training in field-work have not been taken up by local groups who might well enjoy this opportunity. Grants are made for field-work projects undertaken by Societies under skilled direction and cover instructor's fees and the cost of tools and equipment. Applications for grant aid should be made to the C.B.A. Group 13 of the C.B.A. which includes Gloucestershire has produced a 6d. Guide to Air Photographs and Archaeology in the S.W., and has stocks of excellent pamphlets on the Protection of Earthworks and Chance Finds at 1d. each, obtainable from Bristol Museum.

#### SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS CONFERENCE AT GLOUCESTER.

On April 28th the Society, which, like the C.B.A., is seriously alarmed by the threat to so many buildings of historic interest and beauty, held a Conference in Gloucester attended by representatives of local authorities in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Oxford, officers and individual members of the S.P.A.B., and representatives from the Bristol Civic Society, the Gloucester Architectural Association and the C.P.R.E. Miss E. Davies addressed the Conference on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the legislative and administrative aspects of the protection, reconditioning and improvement of old dwellings and buildings. The speaker described the grants available to householders for improvement of old property and the meeting learnt how much property of historic interest in Bristol, Bath and Bradford-on-Avon had been saved from demolition by this means or through purchase by the Local Authority and Housing Associations who reconditioned the buildings before reletting. The need for a generous grant towards re-roofing was raised during discussion, and it was explained that County Councils have statutory powers to make such grants though the right does not appear to be exercised. Mr. D.G. Martin, A.R.I.B.A., gave a very valuable paper on methods of repair and conservation, and it was encouraging to realise how often restoration is an economic proposition.

The Parliament Room in which the Conference met was itself an excellent object lesson, showing how a derelict and unsafe fifteenth century timber structure can be restored to full use. In the afternoon, the party were taken on a tour in the Stroud area to see buildings in various states of repair from examples in urgent need of rescue to others which are re-occupied after successful restoration. The first was Tudor House, Leonard Stanley, where traces of an early three bay cruck-house, probably dating from the fourteenth or fifteenth century, survive in the form of two cruck-bases and half a side wall to wall-plate level containing two pre-glass windows and doorway. The house received additions or drastic alterations eight times before the seventeenth century. The early work was timber-framed

and the later work of stone. The house was saved by the owner, who received an improvement grant. The expedition then visited King Stanley where they studied a fine group of timber-framed cottages in the High Street. One of these is empty and has a closing order on it which seems lamentable as it is a fifteenth century building of two bay type with a lateral chimney; a further cruck behind the chimney suggests it was part of a continuous range, a characteristic of town architecture. It also contains early painted decorations on the roof-beams, a very unusual feature in the Stroud area. At Piccadilly, Stroud, a house dated 1751 was examined, built as two separate units but with an exterior rather suggestive of that of a seventeenth century wealthy clothier's house. One of the units is being restored by the owner without a grant in order to convert the property into one large dwelling house. At Randwick the high aesthetic quality of an R.D.C. housing estate was much admired, and the large amount of dry-stone walling replaced after highway improvements was appreciated.

A smaller group were later taken to Corse Court, north of Gloucester, which was chosen as an extraordinarily interesting building in imminent danger of decay. It is a complete, moated, medieval cruck-house, the trusses having pierced ornament above the collar, probably of thirteenth or fourteenth century work. There is evidence of a Hall running up the height of the two solar storeys at each end, and also traces of a central hearth with chimney or smoke outlet in the roof. (We are indebted to Mr. H. Trew, F.R.I.B.A., and the Curator of Stroud Museum for reports on this most important Conference).

#### ALVESTON OLD CHURCH AND ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, NORTHLEACH.

During the summer the preservation of two Gloucestershire Churches presented urgent problems. At Alveston the future of the Old Church, which now lies some distance from the modern village, has harassed both the Parish Council and archaeologists alike, since the state of the roof has long made safe entry impossible. The Church is an extremely interesting one and stands on a prehistoric site. The first written reference seems to be its presentation to the Abbey of Gloucester by Walter the Sheriff in 1107, and it is possible that it caught the eye of William Rufus, who was taken desperately ill when hunting at Alveston. He was moved to Gloucester and, expecting to die, as watchers of "Son et Lumiere" will remember, tried to compound for his sins by appointing St. Anselm to the See of Canterbury, which he had left vacant for years, diverting its income to the royal revenues. The nave of Alveston Church had no aisles and the thirteenth century craftsmen who raised the open timber roof were faced with an extremely large space to span. The outer walls have splayed under its weight and during this century fallen slates and broken windows have allowed the interior to suffer grievously from wind and weather. In future, such a redundant Church will be examined by the Advisory Board appointed by both Archbishops with power to demolish, convert to other uses or restore with a grant from a National fund. But for Alveston such help would come too late; the Diocesan Advisory Board therefore recommended the acceptance of the generous offer made by the Bristol Siddeley Engines Ltd., who own the adjacent Manor House, to strip the roof, cap the walls and remove the accumulated debris from the floor. An excellent photographic record has been made and it is hoped that the Church, which contains Norman, thirteenth century and Perpendicular work and holds many architectural problems, will soon be re-opened to visitors. Many of its fittings including the Norman font and Laudian altar table can be seen in the modern Church of St. Helen's on the main Gloucester Road.

The other Church in the County which is in dire need of help is that of St. Peter and St. Paul, Northleach, for which the Bishop of Gloucester has launched an appeal for £20,000. This Church was greatly beautified by the fifteenth century woolman, John Fortey, who rebuilt the nave. At the East End, Fortey and his builders carried the continuous row of the clerestory windows across the Chancel arch, a development which is found in Cirencester, Chipping Norton, Chipping Campden, and, in a less ambitious form, at North Cerney. Though this method should be architecturally sound, Mr. Croome has explained that at Northleach the designers undertook a rather daring experiment for the window is of exceptional width and has a particularly

flat "four-centred" arch which is not so strong as a sharper one. In spite of this arrangement, they surmounted the window by a heavy battlemented parapet and at the central apex of the battlements by a large stone canopied niche, still holding its original statue of St. John the Baptist, John Fortey's patron saint. Though this experiment has enriched the beauty of the Church for four centuries, the stresses it has set up have bowed the window forward several inches, shattered the mullions and cracked much of the tracery, so it will be necessary to use modern methods and, in some places, new material to preserve John Fortey's great vision of light and grace for future generations. The Church has also suffered heavily from both death-watch and furniture beetle and from the ill-advised work of nineteenth century restorers who repaired the stone pinnacles with iron clamps.

The restoration work will include the repair and re-siting of the magnificent memorial brasses which help to people medieval Northleach for us and remind us of John Fortey himself and of Thomas Fortey, who restored churches and roads, his bride Agnes, who pleased him well, and her first husband, William Scors, who took advantage of the flourishing cloth trade in the Stroud valley and became a tailor. Thomas Bush, who became, not a woolbroker, but a member of the great Staplers' Company of Calais, has his memorial here, bearing the arms of the Staplers in the engraved canopy. It is not certain whether one of the remaining brasses commemorates the woolman, William Midwinter, who gave a legacy to the making of the road-loft and asked to be buried at the Chancel door under the blessed Crucifix of Our Lord, but he stage-managed a little drama in Northleach Church which spans the centuries for us. He collected wool for the Cely family who were London merchants, and in 1482 bethought him of a bride for young Richard Cely, then visiting the Cotswolds on business. It was arranged that the little lady he had chosen and her step-mother should meet Richard Cely and his wool-packer, William Bretten, on May Day at Northleach Church. The young couple must have eyed each other at Matins, after which the ladies visited a kinswoman. Before he returned to Church for Mass, young Richard sent them a bottle of Romney wine to refresh them after their mile long walk. He refused an invitation to dine but added a gallon of wine to his gift and received from them a roast heron. Later in the day he called on the young lady and drank wine with her and found her "young, little, and very well-favoured and witty". But on his return to London, Cely entreated for another bride and we must hope that the little Leymryke heiress had remained equally fancy-free.

Gifts to preserve a Church of such incomparable beauty and living traditions must flow as generously in this age as they were offered in the fifteenth century, and when the task is complete and thanksgivings crown the work, we shall be able to imagine John Fortey in his "best gown with fur" and hood of scarlet, or of "violet engreyned", rejoicing in the midst of us.

#### W.I. ENTERPRISE AT MICKLETON.

So much material on the care of ancient buildings has been sent us that this might well be called our Gloucestershire Preservation Number. The Gloucestershire Federation of Womens' Institutes this autumn, however, has drawn the attention of the County to a very different method of linking Past and Present. The village of Mickleton won the third prize in our Competition, "Our Village during the Last Hundred Years", and has since published its entry in an excellent booklet, containing such delightful material as the Battle of Mickleton between Brunel's navvies, the police, armed with cutlasses, and the rival contractor's supporters, the early history of market gardening and an account-book for the general stores for 1851 covering goods from Black Antimony to Gamboon Trousers. Only a few of the photographs, offered by the village for the book, could be reproduced but, using them as a basis, Mrs. Darvill made a large collection of photos of village life past and present, from which she has obtained a film strip, now converted into a set of no less than 136 slides. Subjects range from the Club Day procession, abandoned when the overhead wires prevented the use of the immensely tall banner, the amazing history of the Manor House, whose Classical wings were later removed by a light railway to

form a separate house on a neighbouring hill-top, and a series of groups of school-children taken at different dates and showing a great improvement in physique as time went on. Mickleton itself is so interested in this record that half the cost was covered at the first showing. Children flocked in, newcomers have discovered the "unwritten history" of the village, and old residents have seen with pride and in some cases with regret for past delights, activities and pleasures long since abandoned. The Education and Public Questions Committee of the County Federation were quick to realise the importance of this experiment and kindly invited members of our Committee and other enthusiasts to a special demonstration of the slides at their Headquarters. Our representatives were most grateful for the opportunity of seeing this piece of work with which they were deeply impressed, and it is to be hoped that this enterprise will be widely copied by villages, societies and schools in the County.

#### A PRIVATE LIBRARY OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

The Gloucester City Library has received from Southgate Chapel the library of James Forbes, preacher in Gloucester Cathedral (1654-60) and one of the Congregationalists who attended the Savoy Conference in 1658. James Forbes himself was a very interesting figure. He spent a great deal of his life in the Nonconformist Ministry in Gloucester or the country round about and was considered by Bp. Frampton, who was himself a tolerant man "to be the source of all schisms we have had in and about Gloucester". He served at least two prison sentences, worked as a cobbler, and had to move several times to avoid arrest; he was actually excommunicated for a period. However, he survived to enjoy more than twenty years of limited religious toleration and died at 83, after fifty-eight years in the ministry and left behind him this fine collection of over 1,000 volumes. One incident in his career shows that, in times of great difficulty, the sufferings of these divines was mitigated because they did not lose their legal rights and knew how to use them. We find in 1680, the Earl of Anglesey, Lord Privy Seal, writing to the Mayor of Gloucester criticising him for reviving the Five Mile Act against Mr. Forbes when it had become generally a dead letter, and advising him to promise his victim peace and quiet after his release for he would be entitled to bring counter-actions against the authorities both for refusing him a copy of his warrant and "riotously destroying of all the utensils where they used to assemble". James Forbes educated many nonconformist students for the ministry and it is pleasant to think that, true to Puritan traditions, he evidently gave them a wide choice of reading and encouraged their minds to range far and wide.

The Chief Librarian reports that:

"Over and above the theological interest of the collection, however, the Library is one of the best examples of a private library to survive from the seventeenth century. It is extremely interesting to discover the riches among the non-theological volumes. There are, for instance, good editions of many classical authors. Among the Greek writers, one notes Homer, Hesiod, Aristotle, Aristophanes, Isocrates, Hippocrates, Demosthanes, Plutarch. Latin literature is represented by such authors as Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Seneca, Cicero, Cornelius Nepos, Suetonius.

A group of books clearly indicates the collector's medical interests. Attention is drawn to Thomas Cogan's Haven of health (1612), Thomas Burnet's Thesaurus medicinae practicae (1673), Robert Lovell's Compleat Herball (1665). There are various Pharmacopeias dating from the second part of the 17th century.

No Reformer could ignore History and there are a number of works relating to William III and Charles XII. Mention can be made of Roger Coke's A detection of the Court and State of England ... (1694), and of a very interesting edition of the Anglo-Saxon laws. Interest in the Middle Ages is indicated by the presence of a copy of the Gesta Romanorum. St. Gregory's "Pastoral care" makes a somewhat surprising appearance in an edition of 1629.

School text books form another small but extremely interesting group. They are mainly Latin primers and include Corderius's famous "Colloquies". French is represented by John Wodroephe's Marrow of the French tongue (1625). There are assorted dictionaries, and a Hebrew grammar by John Buxtory. The teaching of logic and metaphysics is the theme of a most unusual group, including The arte of Logicke by M. Blundeville (1619), and Logicae artis compendium by Robert Sanderson (1657).

Perhaps the greatest excitement comes from discovering, among these remnants of the past, volumes that have become known as masterpieces to later ages. There is, for instance, a good Latin version of Castiglione's Courtier, an abbreviation of Sir Walter Raleigh's History, Locke's "Essay concerning humane understanding" (1694), Sir William Temple's "Observations upon the United Provinces of the Netherlands (1693), Bacon's "Sylva Sylvarum with New Atlantis", and Pascal's "Les Provinciales" (1658)."

#### NEWS FROM BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

An exhibition to commemorate the sixcentenary of the establishment of Justices of the Peace organised by the Bristol Record Office revealed the interesting distinction that whereas in Gloucestershire and other Counties Justices have always been appointed by the Crown, once Bristol ranked as a County (1373) the Mayor automatically performed the duties of a J.P. and in the Charter of 1499 it is expressly stated that the Mayor and Aldermen should ex officio act as Justices of the Peace for the City, a practice which continued till 1835. It would be extremely interesting to know how far this affected local administration of justice and whether other county boroughs ever had this privilege. The City Archivist would welcome researchers on these questions.

At Cheddar, Mr. Rahtz is undertaking an emergency excavation on the site of the Saxon Palace. Cheddar is mentioned in Alfred's will and a royal palace there is noted in a grant by King Edwy. It was while hunting there that King Edmund nearly rode over the edge of the Gorge where his quarry and hounds had fallen; after this miraculous escape, he pardoned St. Dunstan with whom he had quarrelled and installed him as Abbot of Glastonbury, an interesting parallel with William Rufus and Alveston. The palace was granted by King John to St. Hugh of Lincoln who presented it to Joscelin, Bishop of Wells. Mr. Rahtz will be working till Christmas but has already excavated the thirteenth century Chapel of St. Columbanus which was still standing and two earlier buildings have been traced beneath it, a substantial late Saxon stone building and a smaller earlier one with a footing of rough stones for a wattle-and-daub superstructure. The Palace lies East of the Chapel and a tenth century ditch and rampart have been found, thrown up over ninth century occupation levels. A lead-smelting hearth and bell-casting pit may be linked with the thirteenth century Chapel builders.

#### NEWS FROM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society has published an extra volume of Transactions (1 gn. payable to the Honorary Secretary) "Gloucestershire Barrows" by L.G. Grinsell and H. O'Neil. Besides a comprehensive report on individual barrows, it includes notes on Folklore, references in A.S. Land Charters and their later history. The "Gloucestershire and Bristol Atlas" published by the Society (printed by Lund Humphries, 21/- from any bookseller) is expected this November. It contains early plans of Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and Tewkesbury and the following County maps, Isaac Taylor (1777), Saxton (1577), Ogilby (Bristol to Banbury - 1675), Cary (1831) and a 1961 County map specially designed by the County Planning Department. Order forms for copies at 12/6d. can be obtained from I.E. Gray (Record Office) by educational bodies. Schools under Gloucestershire, Gloucester and Bristol Educational Authorities should not apply as bulk orders have been made on their behalf. This offer closes on February 2nd, 1962.

The Cirencester Historical Society has issued its Annual Bulletin which, besides the reports on Excavations, contains notes on the history of Stratton and Colesbourne. The Society has already carried out the proposals of the C.B.A. and formed a Photographic Sub-Committee to encourage recording of threatened buildings and excavations. Their first album of prints will cover the Dyers Court excavations.

The Forest of Dean Society's Occasional Paper, "Tramroads and Railways in the Forest of Dean" by Rev. J. Shirehampton (1/4d. post free) has completely sold out to members and railway enthusiasts at home and abroad; a small second edition is in preparation. The Society is considering the formation of a Junior Section to carry out work and research under its own officers. The repair and maintenance of a memorial erected by Italian P.O.W.s to Marconi has been undertaken by the Society. The accounts of the Mayor of Thornbury for 1660-1 appears in the current Bulletin of the Thornbury Folk, with a contemporary account of Harvest Home rejoicings in 1866 and an account of Jubilee celebrations in Alveston and Thornbury.

It is satisfactory to end our Bulletin with news of most interesting Adult Education courses in the County this winter. Subjects included are Tudor Gloucestershire, An Architectural Approach to Medieval Building, South Gloucestershire (1603-88) and the history of Architecture as a Social Barometer. Enthusiasts at Gloucester can study the history of Gloucestershire railways. We are asked to report that a residential weekend School on "Stone Houses, their History and Archaeology" will be held on March 3rd - 4th, 1962 at Cowley Manor. Further details can be obtained from L. Gore, 11, Royal York Crescent, Bristol 8. With this pleasure in store, we end this Newsletter.

Olive Griffiths.

Editor.

#### B O O K L I S T

(Compiled by L. Gore)

"English Farmhouse and Cottage" by M.W. Barley. 55/-. Routledge.

"English Genealogy" by A.R. Wagner - 55/-. O.U.P.  
Includes an excellent chapter on the social framework and reference to Berkeley, Giffard and Pointz families.

Essays in the Economic and Social History of Tudor and Stuart England. Ed: F.J. Fisher. C.U.P.

"Excavations on Defence Sites (1939-1945)" by W.F. Grimes, 84/- H.M.S.O. Three Gloucestershire and one Somerset site included. Valuable for field systems and lynohets.

"Westward Expansion of Wessex" by W.G. Hoskins. 10/6d. Leios. Univ. Press.

"Roman Military Advance under Ostorius Scapula" by G. Webster. Arch. Journal Vol.CXV. Fosseyway considered as a military frontier road.

"Wansdyke Reconsidered" by A and C. Fox. Arch. Journal Vol.CXV.

"Cirencester 1960. First Interim Report" by J.S. Wachter. Antiq. Journal.

The three articles available as reprints.



## T H E S E V E R N T R O W .

### A Tributary of the Canals enquiry.

The Severn trow was only a Canal boat under protest, but talk about canals so often turns towards the river that a brief account of our findings seems appropriate.

Three sources, covering roughly a century have been found; the Port of Bristol Authority's licenses, a ledger of Bullo Pill, and personal reminiscences. Further research might produce the history of a 19th century trow and of the river trade below Gloucester. The first two of these sources show the trow at work, her measurements, place of building, and her trade under which masters, even her last berth somewhere on the bank of the river which bred her. They were certainly built at Lydney, Gloucester, and Stourport and varied in size; those licensed since 1930 may represent the Blue Riband class, they certainly deserve it for endurance; "Safety", which in June 1961 lay in the Floating Harbour at Bristol, was built at Stourport in 1838; at the age of 120 years she is registered to make about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  knots under her own motor power. The capacity of the trows which carried coal from Bullo varied roughly between 60 and 100 tons, but the "Ark" left the Pill with 160 tons. Before the railways the trows were the heavy carriers for Gloucestershire; contracts for carrying Chepstow stone for the Valley roads were sound business and Thomas Wood II who owned a small fleet, held the contracts for Westbury, Maisemore and Deerhurst parishes; Berkeley Estate found it advantageous to own a trow for carrying their stone. Sand was also needed at the Severnside brickworks, and "Finis" was photographed taking up 70 tons off Longney Point.

One who haunted Gloucester Docks as a boy writes, "Now the true trow had their disposition like a lighter; i.e., fore-deck and after-deck; the middle portion was an open hold, but whereas the lighter was flat-bottomed, the trow had a bilge and keel; the rig was a foremast with topmast and a mizzen mast. Although I knew all of them, there are some which stand out in my memory. The "Finis", "Higre", "Spry", "Flower of the Severn", "Twee Gazusters", "Hannah", and "The J. & A.R.". They plied to and from Bristol chiefly, Newport and Cardiff". (Mr. A. Webb). Such strength and capacity left them, surprisingly, manoeuvrable enough to shoot Lydney Bridge. "Safety" is 75 ft x 17; with a capacity of 99 tons her depth is under 6 ft and with that build certain trows were said to have reached Barnstaple.

Names of the masters come from the Bullo ledger, but little more about them save, e.g., that the Wood family owned several trows and that "Finis" was their last. Thomas Wood II then took to farming at Rodley, exemplifying the occupations open to men of the river villages; as an old Frampton sailor puts it, "Before Cadbury came here a boy's only choice of job was to go on a farm or 'go to sea'."

The ports died, but the trows compromised with time. The new ones were steel; their sole mast served as a derrick and they were scarcely regarded as 'true trows'; belonging to the Severn and Canal Carrying Co., (about 1906) they were used like lighters, travelling under the steam of "two rather large tugs, Reliance and Resolute" of Gloucester; it was said that these two would tow their string from Worcester, by canal to Sharpness, and thence to Avonmouth.

Meantime the 'true trows' were being taken over by the newer trading companies. "Finis", the last ship to leave Bullo Pill, carrying coal to the Gloucester Tarworks, left the Woods about 1917; dismasted, she was last licensed at Bristol before 1930. "Flower of the Severn", "Hannah" and "Safety", "Twee Gazusters" were licensed since 1945 for use within the Port of Bristol; "Safety" alone of these is known to survive.

What information we have is enough to whet the appetite. Curiosity suggests other questions. What kind of life for the sailors? How long could a voyage take and what were its rewards? Was there a close season; if so, how did a man live? How many masters had a farm in the Valley, and how many oil-barge masters of today count sailors among their forefathers? How does the trow compare with vessels like the Medway barge? Who were the ship-builders, and why did "Finis" go to Brimscombe for dry-docking? Contributions to answering these, and other questions would be welcomed.

E. Vowles.

## LOCAL HISTORY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

From time to time the diverse activities of the Local History Committee prompt someone to ask, "Yes, but how did it all begin?" The reply might seem simple.

Our Director of Extra Mural Studies, Mr. W.E. Salt, O.B.E., M.A., B.Com. (at that time Resident Tutor in Gloucestershire) "discovered" the late Graham Castle and diverted him from his agricultural pursuits to undertake the General Secretaryship of the Community Council. Between them they evolved the courses of lectures "Life in Old England", with slides and other illustrations, which became the mainstay of the Council's contribution to the tri-partite scheme of Adult Education provision in Gloucestershire during the late 1920's and early thirties. History formed an essential background for the development of courses in Economics, Social Studies, etc.

Not surprisingly the Adult Education Committee was eventually confronted with requests for information as to "Where does our village fit into the picture?" and at the same time was made cognisant of Mrs. Atherton's campaign in 80 villages to stimulate interest in Village History. In Parkinsonian manner a sub-committee was set up to deal with the "Thorns", viz:

How "local" is Local History?

Who was properly qualified to lecture on Local History?

Which villages would co-operate?

Where were the records and materials to be found? (Glos., Worcs., Bristol, London.) ?

How and where would money be found to finance a Local History scheme?

Apart from the rare Tutor who possessed a fund of knowledge about some particular village, there were a few Tutors who could lecture on some aspects of county history or of particular regions. A beginning could be made with this and students encouraged to provide materials basic to the compilation of their own village history.

Happily a close friend of Mrs. Castle was persuaded to become involved. Dr. Olive Griffiths brought to our labours the scholarship and qualifications previously lacking. She, in turn, interested Miss Audrey Hicks and together they evolved a "sister act" in which their respective interests combined to produce a course of high standing. With the inclusion on the panel of Mrs. Betty Vowles, Mr. Creeth and others it was possible to design progressive courses. Starting with a regional study with a wide membership, succeeding sessions became more concentrated and, in the best examples, the hard core of now real students presented written work which, when edited, could be published as a Village History.

Often, however, the villages where it would have been "convenient" to have courses were lukewarm in support. The keenest groups to study were just as naturally situate in villages where essential records were either non-existent or deposited in Worcester, Bristol, or even London! Relevant books, too, were scarce and dear. Extra expense was thus involved and while a small grant from the N.C.S.S. was more than welcome, it was hardly adequate.

Local History was found not to be so dull as some had thought. How could it be with lecturers of Potto Hicks's humour and of the gaiety and charm of Mrs. Ruth Burtt? Her invitation to villagers to rummage for costumes of other days filled Village Halls with rare, and startling, treasures!

Treasure of another kind was soon to raise an issue. Curators of local museums are always interested in local "finds" and, since these gentlemen were co-opted members of Committee, the question of where "finds" should be deposited often evoked some lively discussions. As it became evident that quite important treasures could be concealed in a cottage bookshelf, or even under a floor as in Wiltshire, where a valuable spoon came to light, a proper system of allocating "finds" was worked out.

By this time classes combining Local History with regional Geography and Geology were in being, while village single lecture activities were often sponsored by Women's Institutes. It was found that class members often made valuable contributions, both as regards information and "finds". In one village a class conducted by Dr. Griffiths, developed from an initial short course by Graham Castle, discovered a Roman Villa.

Naturally the spate of activities attracted the attention of our very good friend Mr. W.S. Dann, H.M.I., who inspected some of the formal classes. I was encouraged to arrange a special conference of Local History Tutors, at which Mr. Dann was able to advise us on many points, e.g., it was questioned whether Local History could become "too local", and a plan was made to blend local history with regional and national history.

At a meeting on October 12th 1938, it was reported that the Executive Committee of the Community Council, impressed with the strength of the Local History sub-committee and the volume of work which had been achieved, had decided that it should become a full Committee of the Council.

And so the sterling efforts of the Chairman, Mr. P. Sturdy, and Committee Members received due recognition.

Among the activities of the new Local History Committee were:

- (1) the formation of a Local History Recording Scheme. Record forms were circulated by Tutors in their classes. Out of session meetings and Day Schools were organised to sustain interest.
- (2) Organisation of Local History competitions, e.g., "The Story of a House".
- (3) Co-operation with the N.C.S.S. Local History Committee was further developed.

Alas! the sands were running out. Within a year we were at War; in 1941 the activities of the Local History Committee were suspended. Thus concluded the first phase of Local History in Gloucestershire. The Question remained - How much might be blotted out before the Committee could resume activities?

W.R. Taylor.

"SCENE. A COURT BEFORE MR. JUSTICE SHALLOW'S HOUSE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE".

No county can lay claim to a more vivid description of the activities of the Justices of the Peace than the glimpse given by Shakespeare in Henry IV. Pt. 2. Justices Shallow and Slender are met, not merely to exchange good tales of their riotous youth at Clements Inn, but to discharge their duties as magistrates by selecting recruits from the muster roll to follow Falstaff to the wars. Elizabethan magistrates were accustomed to such unpopular tasks and in 1601 these powers were greatly abused in Denbigh to sway parliamentary election results there. Here we see Mouldy, Bull-calf, Wart and Feeble pricked for duty. We hear the well-worn excuses; Mouldy's dame depends on him to ease her drudgery, Bull-calf has a hacking cough caught when ringing the Coronation peal. True to country experience also, in Feeble's otherwise commonplace acceptance of his lot springs up a phrase of stark majesty, "We owe God a death".

It was only right therefore that the sixcentenary commemoration of their office was held in Gloucestershire and a Records Exhibition brought to vivid and exciting life the multitudinous duties with which the centuries burdened these Keepers of the King's Peace. The first Peace Roll of 1361 has happily survived and we could learn the sad story of Walter Baker of Ruardean, slain by a woodward in the Forest of Dean, and be suitably scandalised by the Chaplain of Newent and his friends who broke into the Prior of Newent's park and robbed his table of two choice peacocks.

The earliest Indictment Book of Gloucester City Quarter Sessions recalled that stirring Sunday in Upton St. Leonards, September 5th 1652, when William Launder of Matson called the preacher a knave and rogue and threatened to stab the horrified parishoners who tried to silence him. The first Gloucester Sessions Book (1636) showed the magistrates busily regulating the preservation of salmon, eels, pike and other fish, cancelling an ale-taster's licence because manslaughter had taken place on his premises, noting that George Leigh of Wotton had reluctantly ceded an encroachment and appointing a High Constable and two ale-tasters at Badgeworth and Upton St. Leonards. Much of the magistrate's work was done out of court and no doubt there was a noisy scene in 1736 when depositions were taken because Mary Webb, wife of a Thornbury grocer, had assaulted Elizabeth Lewis of Rockhampton whom she accused of witchcraft. The village constable presented offenders and the cases in 1739 reported by William Green of Rangeworthy were typical minor offences. All alehouses were licensed by the magistrates and licensees, unlike the landlords of the Bell and Crown, broke up illegal pastimes such as dicing, card playing and skittles.

One of the most important duties of the Justices was the supervision of Poor Law administration. The examination of paupers' settlements was a tedious routine for the magistrates but could have tragic results for men like John Took of Tetbury, examined by Daniel Lysons the historian, for paupers could be moved about the country like pawns, uprooted from their familiar background to save the county's purse. The County Treasurer's Accounts for 1756 revealed other facets of the magistrate's work; expenses incurred in conveying prisoners to gaol, the constable's charges for moving paupers, the salary of the County Surveyor were all audited by the Justices. Other documents illustrated such duties of the Magistrates and Clerk of the Peace as licensing chapels, registering Enclosure Awards and maintaining bridges.

The Justices usually mitigated the harsher penalties and when we found nine Gloucestershire convicts sentenced to transportation in 1748 it was a shock to realise that this was a merciful substitution for branding. But that the briefest stay in gaol could well be a death sentence from typhus was realised by that enlightened Gloucestershire magistrate Sir George Onesiphorus Paul, (1746-1820) and the report of a committee under his chairmanship recommended the building of a new gaol and five houses of correction designed by William Blackburn, an architect of advanced ideas, and better allowances to prisoners to counteract the effects of "gaol distemper".

The County was evidently well satisfied with the old order and petitions showed them unwilling even to exchange Dogberry, Seacoal and Oatcake with their lanthorns for a paid constabulary. Future generations owe much to the country gentlemen who by ceaseless pressure battered into the English people a sense of law and order.

(Compiled from notes supplied by the County Records Officers).

#### REPORT FROM MUSEUMS IN AND CONNECTED WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

No report on Museums in our district would be complete without a reference to the American Museum opened at Claverton, Bath, this summer. Entire rooms, from a keeping room of 1690 to a New Orleans bedroom a little earlier than the Civil War, have been erected and a touch of genius in the arrangement makes one feel tavern keepers, Shakers, settlers, belles and Indians will return home at any moment. This season only there was a selection of Folk pictures and portraits from the Abbie Aldrich Rockefeller Collection. There seems to be no comparable collection of such paintings in this country though our own journey-men painters were working freely in the seventeenth century, but Gloucester Folk Museum have just acquired the twelve early seventeenth century portraits of Mayors and benefactors which formerly hung in the Council Chamber. They are good examples of a technically poor but most endearing phase of English Art upon which research workers might well concentrate.

At Bristol Museum's excavation at Whitchurch, R.B. coinmoulds dating from 270-280 A.D. were recovered by Mr. Rahtz. "These give a rare opportunity to investigate the production of a series of R.coins - almost certainly contemporary forgeries - of a type found in the vicinity of the Polden Hills and other parts of England and France". A lecture on "New Developments in the Archaeology of the Dark Ages" by C.W.Phillips, M.A. (Archaeology, O.S.) will be held in the Museum Lecture Theatre on February 21st, 1962. Accessions include two flint arrow heads from Over Park, Almondsbury, Iron Age pottery from Blaise Castle hill-fort, a few small R. finds from the Aust end of the new Severn Bridge and a stone axe from Olveston.

The Curator of Stroud Museum reports:

"Our exhibition of Bibles proved one of the most successful ever organised. Who suggests that religion is dead?! The earliest was the 1549 edition of the Matthew Bible.

Among the more important donations to Stroud Museum have been a very good archaeological collection made in the Uley area, a series of early spectacles received from a Stroud optician, some good pieces of early medieval pottery from a local building site, some early medieval roof tiles and the greater part of the series of standard weights and measures once held by the 'Manorial Court Leet of Bisley'. These weights and measures were purchased during the reign of William IV from Messrs De Grave, one of several London firms making such instruments at that time. Only the smaller weights are missing.

In the Spring number of this Bulletin, mention was made of the demolition of Stratford Abbey, Stroud. It has now come to our notice that the contractors found in the rubble walls a complete 17th century clay pipe bearing the maker's name. This was given to an interested motorist. There is reason to believe the pipe is of particular interest, and information as to its present whereabouts would be much appreciated".

Cheltenham Museum has received a gift of 135 Roman coins, part of a hoard found near the Chessels field, Heath Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, in the 1880's and now presented by Mrs. O'Neil, F.S.A. Other accessions include a Stage Coach Bill for the Rival running from the Bell Hotel to the Belle Sauvage, London, in 1841, and three sketches of characters at Cheltenham Fair, 1835-7.

The Gloucester City Museum lent five exhibits to the exhibition of Roman Art in Britain this summer, the first century military tombstone of Rufus Sita, the Romano-Celtic limestone head from the Bon Marché site in 1934, the Medusoid Antefix found near the Cathedral and two votive tablets found near Bisley.

#### Gloucester Folk Museum.

A notable addition to the Museum is the collection of horseshoes assembled by the late Mr. Joe Price and presented through the generosity of his family. Joe Price, who had a forge in Bearland, was one of the finest craftsmen in his trade, and won many awards for his skill, including the championship of All-England. He was also well known as a physical culture expert and achieved international fame for his feats of strength.

The collection, one of the finest in the country, includes a wide variety of shoes and will be extremely valuable for reference purposes. A selection from the collection will be incorporated into a new exhibit on horse-shoeing to be arranged in the museum during the Winter.

The Museum has recently acquired two paintings of schooners which traded to Gloucester in the late 19th century. They are the "Edith" and the "Saltram", which both met disastrous ends. The "Saltram" was sunk in a storm in the Irish Sea in 1900, and the "Edith" destroyed by fire in Glasgow Docks in 1914.

The Deputy Curator would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any personal recollection or information about these vessels.

### Witcombe Roman Villa.

During August Mr. E. Greenfield on behalf of the Ministry of Works excavated at the Witcombe Roman Villa. This is the second season of a series planned by the Ministry in order to elucidate points in the villa's plan and history and to make more of it open to the public view. The villa was first excavated by Samuel Lysons who began work in 1818, but died in the following year. Mrs. E.M. Clifford, F.S.A., re-excavated the north-west wing in 1938, but was unfortunately not able to re-examine the centre and east wings.

### The Bon Marché

Building work on the site of the new extension to Bon Marché (Gloucester) Ltd., south of St. Aldate Street, has added slowly to the plan of the Roman City. Within the area of the extension are parts of three masonry buildings, two of them at least - separated by a side street from the third - being probably shops. Under all three buildings the wattle and daub walls of earlier timber buildings can be traced. Along the north side of the area runs the earth bank behind the Roman City Wall, whose line here is along St. Aldate Street. Within and parallel to the bank is an intra-mural street, which is met at a T-junction by the side-street mentioned above. A specially interesting find, unfortunately not stratified, has been a small limestone altar with a figure identified by Professor J.M.C. Toynbee as being probably Attis, playing on a syrinx, carved on its shaft. The altar is of unusual shape in that the figure, which is in high relief, projects laterally beyond the sides of the shaft of the altar; and the shaft is round in its lower part. The work continues, and is being watched by the City Museum.

### Bronze palstave from Newent.

An important surface find of a bronze palstave was made during building operations at "Crown House" cottages, Newent. The palstave has been presented to the Museum by Mr. C. Davis. It is of Middle Bronze Age type, low-flanged and without a side loop, and has a Y decoration below the flange. This type of axe is rare in this area.

2" x 2" colour transparencies of the Gloucester Museums and their collections have recently been placed on sale, at 1/6d. each.

So far the following subjects are available:-

1. Celtic Mirror. 1st Century. Birdlip.
2. Silver gilt brooch. 1st Century. Birdlip.
3. Bronze knife handle. 1st Century. Birdlip.
4. Limestone head, Celtic. 1st Century. Gloucester.
5. Roman votive tablet. Bisley, Gos.
6. Samian ware bowl. c.150 A.D. Gloucester.
7. Glevum ware vessels. 1st - 2nd centuries A.D. Gloucester.
8. Viking stirrup. Barber's Bridge, Gos.
9. Saxon coins minted at Gloucester.
10. Tripod pitcher, c.1200. Gloucester.
11. Crozier, Limoges enamel. 13th Century.
12. Court suit. 18th Century.
13. Lady's dress. 1875-80.
14. Lady's dress. 1855-60.
15. The wheelwright's shop. Folk Museum.
16. The Hooper mace. 16th Century.
17. Lantern clock by Jasper Lugg, Gloucester, c.1680.
18. Farmhouse fireplace. Folk Museum.
19. Coracle. River Severn.
20. Grasshopper shop sign. 18th century. Gloucester.
21. Exterior of Folk Museum (Bishop Hooper's Lodgings)
22. Roman military tombstone. c.50 A.D.

## RECENT EXCAVATIONS.

At Gloucester Mrs. O'Neil carried out an excavation for the Gloucester Roman Research Committee on "a site to be developed for classroom accommodation behind the Technical College in Brunswick Road, Gloucester. A trench, 90 ft. long was dug and the evidence produced the N. face of the Roman town wall placed in front of a gravel bank, the latter faced back and front with clay. In the clay on the back of the bank, three superimposed ovens were found with a large stoker's pit. This feature of ovens in a clay bank is associated with military camps and with the find of sherds of early date on the floor of the ovens as well, it is clear that the bank belongs to the early period of Roman occupation and is therefore a legionary camp."

### Cirenoester Excavation.

(This account is reproduced by the kind permission of Mr. Wachter and the Cirencester Historical Society).

"The Excavations which have recently taken place in the centre of Roman Cirencester, under the direction of Mr. J.S. Wachter, F.S.A., for the Cirencester Excavation Committee, have uncovered not only part of the Basilica and shops and streets; they have also revealed for the first time evidence for the fort founded by a detachment of the army of Claudius immediately after the invasion of Britain. The presence of this fort has long been suspected but its exact position was never identified, until the present excavations exposed sections of its two ditches and also timber buildings within the fort. These ditches lay beneath part of the Basilica of the later civil town of Corinium, and probably form the northern boundary of the fort.

The west end of the Basilica, first excavated by Mr. Wilfred Cripps in 1897, was also uncovered. It now appears likely that it was originally built in the Flavian period, towards the end of the first century A.D., but owing to the presence of the filled-in fort ditches below it, the walls sank and cracked, so much that in the first half of the second century it was entirely rebuilt from the foundations upwards. It now consisted of a large aisled nave terminating in an apse at the west end. Along the south side of the nave was a range of rooms, no doubt used as offices. A large and imposing colonnade separated the whole building from the street which flanked it to the south. Fragments of column drums found in these excavations and parts of Corinthian capitals found previously attest the architectural magnificence of the building, while pieces of green marble from wall veneers show the sumptuous nature of its internal decorations. During the fourth century it was again partially rebuilt, and some alterations were made to its internal plan.

Beyond the Basilica and the street on its south side was a parallel colonnade fronting a long hall which gave access to an internal courtyard.

Ermin Street, one of the main streets of the town, ran past the west end of the Basilica, and a section of it was exposed slightly further south. Here again were colonnades, this time fronting shops, a number of which were excavated. In one, a small courtyard contained a well, with an unusual feature in the form of a well-head cut from a single block of stone. The same shop also had a small hypocaust in one room, while the remains of an earlier shop on the same site produced fragments of finely painted wall-plaster.

Here then must have lain the economic and administrative centre of the town; the Forum to the north of the Basilica, and streets lined with rows of shops."

J.S. Wachter.

At Oakley Cottage, Cirencester, part of one of the poorer-class cemeteries of Corinium was salvaged by Mr. Richard Reece. "Over forty cremations buried in urns were recovered but often only in halves, or smaller fragments. There were also at least seven inhumations, but these especially had suffered from the mechanical excavator . . . . It has been shown that the cemetery was in use from soon after the conquest to some date in the fourth century. The pots are either household cooking pots, or else "seconds" bought cheaply in the local market for this special purpose. The majority belong to the black burnished cooking pot series. No grave goods were found except with one burial, this in itself suggesting a poor community. These people had a life far from that usually associated with the wealthy Roman. Their diet was extremely coarse, no person had lived to a greater age than 40; all remains showed signs of powerfully developed muscles and hard physical work. In short this group of remains suggests very strongly a slave community in Corinium."

Richard Reece.

#### U P T O N 1 9 6 1.

Mr. Rahtz sends the following interim report on work on the medieval village site described in our Spring Number 1960.

"Further work was done on House A. The north part of this, AA, was partly dug in 1960; this year's excavation showed some indications of timber structures of earlier date than the house, and probably of the later twelfth century. A large area excavation was begun of the southern part of the house, which resolved itself into two further subdivisions, AB and AC. The rubble layer resulting from the destruction or collapse of these was exposed, photographed, drawn, and removed in certain areas.

It now appears that House A is a complex of walls of varying dates; it is about 110 ft. long by about 20 ft. wide. The oldest part appears to be AC; a central hearth implies that this was the living-building, and probably dates from the late twelfth or early thirteenth century; to this was added AB, probably originally a byre, with drains; in the last phase, probably in the later thirteenth century, AB became a yard with a wall on the W side and AC on the S side; AA was added, probably as the new byre, with drains. The pottery suggests that the main occupation did not extend long after the mid-fourteenth century.

The surviving walls stand to a height of some three feet in places, and there is some evidence that they were not much higher in medieval times; the roof timbers probably rested directly on these walls; the roof itself was of thatch, turves, or shingles.

The finds have been recorded and classified by a research student; she has begun to form a type series of pottery, and some pots have been reconstructed and drawn. Metal finds include a key and some buckles; a stone quern was found built into a wall.

The completion of House A and its environs will take several years; in 1962 it is hoped to excavate the main parts of the house down to floor level, and to do further work on the underlying levels."

#### FROCESTER COURT, ROMAN VILLA.

Some years ago, when the field was last ploughed, Mr. E.G. Price of Frocester Court observed Roman potsherds, tesserae etc. on the surface of a small patch of darker soil. He asked the writer to investigate the area and excavation began this summer. The building, as far as can be seen from one season's work, is much larger than expected and would appear to be a medium sized villa. The field, across the road from the Medieval tythe barn, is known as "Big Stanborough". The name alone suggests a large building.



The main feature revealed this year was a corridor 85 feet long and at least 11 feet wide. Rows of large tesserae, white Oolite from the nearby hills and purple Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean, formed a wide border. The middle was filled with a series of about 20 different patterns in red, white, blue and yellow. Some of these are thought to have been designed by local artists, and two of them have not been seen elsewhere. Unfortunately only four can now be worked out in full detail, the rest having suffered severe damage or complete destruction by the plough. That any should have survived is remarkable since they are only seven inches below the surface. Towards the end of the occupation one end was divided off by a light partition and apparently used as a kitchen or living room. Much of the pavement had been destroyed by fires lit directly upon it, and part had been roughly mended with crazy paving.

Behind this part of the corridor was the original kitchen, a large room whose exact size has not yet been fully determined. The kitchen contained a small cooking furnace and a large one that might have been the bake oven. Both were built of stone which soon disintegrated under the intense heat, necessitating frequent rebuilding. The floor, too, had been patched many times. Towards the end of the occupation the purpose of this room had been changed. A new floor, of cobble stones filled in with sand and soil, had been laid over the old one to convert the room into a store. This had been burnt down and the charred remains of barley were recovered. The remaining rooms behind the corridor seem to have been used for domestic purposes, including a possible smithy.

At the other end of the corridor a good room was opened up. This had an unusually well-built channel-type hypocaust. The floor had gone but the large number of small tesserae in the filling of the channels suggested a good quality mosaic pavement. The many fragments of painted wall plaster indicated an attractively decorated room.

The plan, together with the results of trial trenches sunk beyond the limits of this year's work, shows that the villa consisted of the main corridor with the domestic quarters at the back and the living rooms in wings at each end. There are also indications of out-buildings or, perhaps, an earlier farm house in the same field about 100 yards away.

The coins are well distributed between 250 and 375 A.D. They suggest occupation from the late third century until at least the end of the fourth. The pottery also is from this period, though it has not yet received expert examination. Other finds included brooches, rings, bracelets, beads and pins. The most remarkable small find was a set of four carved bone spoons with handles in the shapes of weapons - a spear, a sword, an axe and one missing.

The subsequent history seems to be that the building stone, to the bottom of the foundations in many places, was robbed in the thirteenth century to build the tythe barn. The site was then levelled, the robber trenches being filled from all available sources. The medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing swept away half the remaining floors but protected those parts that were under the ridges. Over the last twenty years cross-ploughing has reduced the ridges until the modern plough has begun to take its toll of the surviving patterns.

The exact dates of next season's excavation have not yet been fixed but it is planned to have two concentrated periods in April and August. Helpers will be welcome on a voluntary basis, including beginners; but the latter should be able to give at least seven consecutive days at the start of their work. Prospective helpers should get in touch with the writer.

H.S. Gracie.

## BARNSELEY PARK EXCAVATIONS, 1961.

The joint project organised as a course for advanced students by the Extra-Mural Departments of the Universities of Birmingham and Bristol had a most successful start this year.

Six and a half squares, 12 ft. x 12 ft. were opened up at an angle of 45 degrees to the main line of the Roman buildings as the first stage in a selected traverse across what appears to be the main range on the west side of the site. Surface conditions indicate the presence here of substantial remains and these proved to be part of a large raised platform and the beginning of a domestic wing.

It is not possible at this stage to give any more than a brief indication of the sequence of events in the history of the building. The earliest structures consist of dry stone walls and other features which may be associated with second to early third century pottery. These may have belonged to barns and other out-buildings and may possibly have been the stone foundations for timber work. In the area explored, these early buildings had been deliberately demolished and the site levelled off into a courtyard area paved with small flat stones. The fact that fourth century pottery was sealed below this yard shows that this event took place late in the history of the building. Subsequent to this, heavy stone pitching had been laid on the courtyard floor as a massive stone platform, presumably as a raised yard or standing of some kind.

Only one room of the domestic wing was explored. The building consisted of good quality masonry, and the discovery of a mid-fourth century coin in a mortar layer at offset level shows that this building must be associated with one of the above developments. The one small room partially explored was 13 ft x 11 ft internally and had in it a channelled hypocaust which had become disused, filled in and a new floor laid over it. Drastic alterations had been carried out to the buildings to the north of this (square 6) where some of the walls had been reduced and heavy stone packing placed over them.

All the coins recovered from the excavation belonged to the second half of the fourth century and appeared to go down to the end.

There was no evidence of any destruction in the area explored, and it would appear that this part of the building gradually collapsed when it ceased to be used.

A certain amount of small scale stone robbing had been carried out, but for the most parts the remains are in a remarkable state of preservation and immediately below the humus, while the natural subsoil was discovered in this area at an approximate depth of 3 ft.

A feature of the excavations was the number of small finds totalling over a hundred and the remarkable state of preservation of the bronze and iron work. A number of fragments of very fine glass vessels was also discovered, demonstrating the richness of this villa.

Although only tentative conclusions can be reached after the first season's work, everything points to this project developing into an excavation which will probably have results of some considerable interest and perhaps significance in the history of this type of establishment.

The structural and stratigraphical complexities suit it most admirably for the training of experienced students.

The site has been used for testing the possibilities of various geophysical survey methods and it has been shown that the best results are obtainable from a detailed electrical resistivity survey. This work carried out by Mr. Anthony Dunk of Birmingham University proved to be most valuable and it is hoped that this collaboration will be extended in future years to our mutual benefit.

G. Webster.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLECTION  
SEPTEMBER 1961.

- Rev. R.J. Burton. Notebooks relating to prehistoric earthworks in Gloucestershire. 1920-33, MS.
- T.B. Sands. The Midland and South Western Junction Railway. 1959.
- Ministry of Transport. The Ross Motorway. 1960.
- P. Andrew. Ordeal by silence. 1961.
- E. Delderfield. The Cotswolds. 1961.
- H. Beddington. Forest of Dean humour. 1961.
- W. Shirehampton. Tramroads and railways in the Forest of Dean. 1961.
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government. River Severn basin hydrological survey. 1960.
- City of Gloucester official guide. 1961.
- Rev. J.E. Gethyn-Jones. St. Mary's church, Kempsey, and its painting. Vol. I. 1961.
- The Littleton Times (Microfilm).
- R. Jasper. Arthur Cayley Headlam. 1960.
- G.E. Aylmer. The diary of William Lawrence 1662-1681.
- A.N.L. Munby. The dispersal of the Phillipps library. Phillipps Studies No. 5. 1960.
- Canon J.B. Goodliffe. School chaplain. 1961.

Archives

Miscellaneous 19th century deeds relating to Gloucester.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES 1961-2.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

- Nov. 13th "Gloucestershire Maps". I.E. Gray, Esq.
- Dec. 4th "Hadrian's Wall." A. Warhurst, F.S.A.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society.

- Oct. 2nd "Tracing Lost Roman Roads". I.D. Margary, M.A., F.S.A.
- Oct. 30th "Cirencester East Gate". J. Wachter, F.S.A.
- Nov. 27th "Excavations at the Iron Age Hill fort of Conderton Camp on Bredon Hill". N. Thomas, F.S.A.
- Feb. 5th "Iron Age Bog Burials". Mrs. M.A. Cotton, F.S.A.
- March 5th "Stonehenge". Prof. R.J.C. Atkinson, F.S.A.
- March 19th "History of the Devon Farmhouse". Dr. W.G. Hoskins.

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club.

- Oct. 12th "Dowsing and Radiesthesia". Mr. J.C. Maby
- Nov. 15th "Arab Architecture". G. Brackenbury, Esq.
- Dec. 12th "The Holy Land." Miss J.E. Mills.

Forest of Dean Historical Society.

- Nov. 4th "Edward Bell and William Jones of Newland." Brian S. Smith, Esq.
- Dec. 2nd "Report on Work near Monmouth." A.L. Sockett, Esq.
- Feb. 3rd Film Afternoon.

Society of Thornbury Folk.

- Oct. 26th "Gardens of Gloucestershire." W.R. Brooks, Esq.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

- Oct. 27th "History of the Bible." Canon Buckley.
- Nov. 24th "Three Years in Morocco." E.C. Matthews, Esq.
- Jan. 26th "Richard Jefferies." A.A. Foster, Esq.
- Feb. 23rd A.G.M. Presidential Address. R.H. Bassett, C.M.G.
- Mar. 29th "Canada". Most Rev. Archbishop Carrington, D.D.

OFFICERS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1961.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

- President - Miss J. Evans, D.Litt., LL.D., P.S.A., Thousand Acres,  
Wotton-under-Edge.  
Chairman - A.A. Scott, Esq., T.D., 4 College Green, Gloucester.  
Hon. Secretary - Miss E. Ralph, M.A., F.S.A., Council House, Bristol.  
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