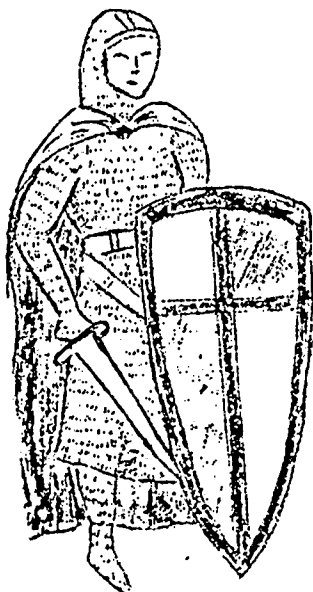


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

SPRING 1962.



NO. 5.

Presented by:-

THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

of the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1962.

Material for the Spring Bulletin has flowed in to the Editor in a most satisfactory way this year. It includes a review of Mrs. Clifford's magnificent work on Bagendon by Professor Finberg, a contributed appreciation of Professor R.H. Tawney, who spent so much of his retirement in the county that he may be claimed as a Gloucestershire man by adoption, and an account of the Tinplate Mills at Redbrook by the Secretary of the Forest of Dean Society. When Local History Studies were first proposed, some authorities doubted whether students who had not an academic background could usefully work on original sources. Both schools and Adult Education classes have shown that, under a trained leader, such workers can indeed share the happy experience of "finding out facts which are not only new to you, but new to everyone". The County Records Officer reports for this very Newsletter that there has been an unusual increase in the number of searchers this January and February; students from St. Mary's and St. Paul's Training Colleges, Cheltenham, and Westminster College, Oxford, visited the Records Office and school children from Winchcombe School spent a day there working at a project on their town's history. Occasionally, however, a class programme, based on local documents, has not attracted a sufficient number of members and has therefore been cancelled. So, in this number, the Bristol City Archivist, the W.E.A. Organiser for South Gloucestershire and Mr. John Bosanko of Chipping Sodbury County Secondary School, whose pupils won first prize in our Project Competition this year, have written short accounts to point out the interest and pleasure to be obtained from these materials, specially when team work is involved. Mr. Elrington's report on the progress of the Victoria County History reminds us that history is continually in the making. "Under the joint sponsorship of the County Council and of London University's Institute of Historical Research, steady progress is being made with the volume that will cover the area round Stow-on-the-Wold. Mr. Elrington and Miss Thomas (Editor and assistant Editor) have now written the separate histories of fifteen out of the thirty parishes to be included in this volume and in the course of research they sometimes unearth fascinating pieces of long-forgotten evidence, which will all help to shape this large and comprehensive history of the county".

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

The Annual Meeting of the Standing Conference for 1961 was held on November 10th and attended by 110 delegates. The Open Forum was led by Mrs. D. Owen, F.S.A., who reported on the Use of Ecclesiastical Records for Secular Subjects. In a delightful paper reprinted in "Amateur Historian" she reminded her listeners of the existence of Bishops' Registers, Visitation records, glebe terriers and less familiar material such as Bishops' licences to surgeons and midwives, testimonials for ordinands, and depositions and responses in ecclesiastical cases. The paper shows what a wealth of material on subjects ranging from "lost villages" and interludes and plays in churches to an eyewitness account given in 1606 of the last Abbot of Rievaulx hawking and hunting in side kirtle of white kersey, black corner cap and tippet of black, can be found in such documents, often now accessible in Public Records Offices.

The Secretary's report includes a notice of the Historical Association's intention to publish "Guides to Records" in "History". Details of the cost of single numbers of "History" and offprints of the articles themselves can be obtained from 59A, Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11. The Omnibus Society, Eros House, 111, Baker Street, London, W.1. has copies of reports on its researches into road transport for sale. The Standing Conference Notes end with the news that Biddenden (Kent) held a Local History Exhibition attended by 850 visitors and made a profit of £140. This most satisfactory result may perhaps tempt still more Gloucestershire villages to undertake this way of re-discovering their own past and sharing the results with other people. Our Local History Committee has, on occasion, guaranteed an insurance premium, which is payable in advance, and might be willing to do so again if time for consideration was allowed them.

THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

A C.B.A. handbook on Industrial Archaeology is in progress and it is pleasant to know that its editor is a West Countryman, Mr. Kenneth Hudson of the B.B.C. Bristol. The Council suggests that regional Archaeological Societies should approach their County Councils for details of proposed road-works and obtain permission to send viewers and recorders to observe such sites. Group XIII (which includes Gloucestershire) has published a "Guide to Air-Photographic Archaeology in the South West" and bulk orders for six or more copies (5d. per copy) should be sent to Mr. L.V. Grinsell F.S.A., at Bristol Museum. Mr. Grinsell reports that this group is arranging an open meeting on November 10th at 2.15 in Gloucester (probably at the Wheatstone Hall) to be addressed by Professor Ian Richmond on a Roman subject.

The Research Committee on Ancient Fields set up by the British Association to encourage research on the actual ground remains before more evidence is destroyed has published a booklet entitled "Ancient Fields" by H.C. Bowen (8/- post free, 3, Sanctuary Buildings, Gt. Smith Street, London, S.W.1). Information on Celtic fields which have remained unploughed in recent times is particularly sought but detailed survey work on field systems covering large areas followed by the excavation of the settlements that farmed them and then the actual fields is warmly recommended to qualified individuals or to learned societies who could probably obtain a Carnegie grant through the C.B.A. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary of the Committee, Dr. P.D. Wood, Department of Geography, University of Reading.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

At our Spring Committee the judge reported the results of the Schools Competition for an Essay or Group Project on Local History held in December 1961. Eighteen pieces of work were presented and some 90 boys and girls took part. The first prize was divided between Nigel Hutchings and Barry Wall of Cirencester Grammar School for their essay on Corinium and an excellent group entry compiled by boys and girls of Chipping Sodbury Secondary School while visiting Cowley Manor. They were particularly commended for their enterprise in collecting material. Thinking of interviewing the butler, for instance, and measuring the depth of the stream with a rope and block. The second prize was divided between Janet Bourton (15) of Tewkesbury High School for her essay, and the William Romney School, Tetbury, sixteen of whose pupils (14 year olds) presented a survey of Tetbury History in 53 large charts. This task, which might have daunted far older scholars, "caused", they told us, "a lot of argument but we had a lot of fun as well". The standard of the individual essays was as high as ever and the prize-winners have a right to be proud of their achievement; it was the first time that the Committee had invited group entries on project lines and the results were so happy that it has been decided to offer prizes for both types of work in 1962 and to invite Youth Groups also to compete. The Committee considered a request that the Bulletin might be circulated to Secondary Modern Schools and, by the kind co-operation of the County Education Office, this will be done in future.

The Committee is also sponsoring a Village Competition, to be organised by the Women's Institutes but bringing in other helpers in the villages, for the best set of slides not more than 36 in number, illustrating the history of the chosen village from the earliest times and accompanied by explanatory notes or commentary not exceeding 1,000 words. Time allowed for the competition will extend into 1963. Both photographers and recorders are badly needed in certain districts to complete the survey of Carved Tombstones in the county. Volunteers should apply to Mr. G. Robins, 6, Beaufort Buildings, The Spa, Gloucester. The contribution to the Canals Survey promised by the Inland Waterways Association has been held up by weather and the urgent claims of the Kennet and Avon Canal but will be undertaken during the summer. Other volunteers should get in touch with our Secretary. It is good to know that the Coombe Canal area will be included as a Gloucestershire Nature Reserve.

While the Committee cannot claim the praise, it is most satisfactory to learn that the Weekend School on "Stone Houses of Gloucestershire", arranged at Cowley Manor by their member Mr. Gore, was an unqualified success. Thirty-nine students were accepted from a long list of applicants and besides lectures from Mr. S. Jones (Investigator for Stafford & Leics. V.C.H.) they visited typical sixteenth and seventeenth century farmhouses and town-houses in the Duntisbournes, Daglingworth and Cirencester.

THE SAXON PALACE AT CHEDDAR.

No apology is needed for including a further report of this excavation outside the county limits, for readers of the local Press will know what high expectations this site has roused in archaeologists and how its claims to investigation have been pressed by the Ministry of Works in spite of the problems caused by the local Education Authority's building programme. This is natural since only one other Saxon palace in this country, that of Edwin of Northumbria, has been scientifically excavated. Since our last report, Mr. Rahtz has undertaken another season's work on the chapel site and surrounding land and exposed remains of medieval halls. On the northern part of the site are two ditches which may be defensive works or possibly fish ponds or other water-works. One ditch is dated as ninth century by coins of Ethelwulf, Burgerd and Athelstan found in and above the silting. The other must be later than Athelstan as its up-cast was thrown over the former ditch. A coin of Ethelred II was found in the pushed back up-cast, thus dating either its construction or levelling; some pottery and metal finds were found with this coin. A building containing iron-smelting features had been erected over the levelled remains of both ditches.

Under the Chapel and continuing N. towards the ditches lies a building some 80 x 18 ft. long and probably of ninth century or earlier date of which half has already been excavated. The walls are represented by pairs of postholes, the inner row of which are sloping, so the building may have been two-storied with a first-floor hall. If any building on the site can be identified with Alfred it will be this one. A stone object has been discovered with carving reminiscent of the Alfred Jewel and it is to be hoped that before the excavation is over further evidence of the connection will come to light. The earliest ecclesiastical structure under the thirteenth century Chapel is probably tenth century and near it is a complex of postholes and timbers associated with a coin of Edmund which probably represent the W-end of the tenth century Palace buildings. Round this Chapel is the first stone Chapel dated to the eleventh century by a coin of Ethelred II. This was rebuilt in the later thirteenth century as the now ruined Chapel of St. Columbanus.

South of the Chapel are three buildings soon to be completely excavated. One contains tenth to twelfth century pottery and its plan is not yet revealed. The second is a massive, aisled hall, 110 x 60 ft., probably twelfth century in date, originally of timber slot and post construction; later the outer walls were replaced by stone ground walls and the arcade reduced from ten bays to six. The E. end was rebuilt, probably as a first floor block with a stone-lined garde-robe pit. The last building is apparently a three room block of stone ground walls, pottery finds suggesting a thirteenth century date though finds extend into the fourteenth century. The outcome of Mr. Rahtz's third season which is just beginning will be eagerly awaited by those who admire Alfred as a translator who added his own very human comments or as the warrior King depicted in Chesterton's "Ballad of the White Horse". (Compiled from a report by Mr. Rahtz and notes of his lecture to the B.G.A.S.)

THE DYRHAM PARK (BLATHWAYT) MUNIMENTS.

The County Records Officer reports that last May Mr. J.R. Blathwayt deposited his large collection of family archives remaining at Dyrham Park after its transfer to the National Trust. "The records deposited are almost entirely concerned with the Blathwayt estates at Dyrham, Bath and Porlock. Most of the official papers of the only prominent member of the family, William Blathwayt (c.1649-1717) Secretary of State and a leading civil servant in the reign of James II and William and Mary, were sold and dispersed earlier this century.

William Blathwayt married Mary Wynter, heiress of the Dyrham estate (and a cousin of the Wynters of Lydney) in 1686, and soon after her death built the present mansion between 1692 and 1704. Correspondence relating to this vital period in his private life includes letters from his step-father Thomas Vivian and his uncle Thomas Povey (a friend of Pepys) during Blathwayt's first official post as secretary to the English Ambassador at The Hague, Sir William Temple, and a lengthy correspondence with Sir Robert Southwell of King's Weston, Bristol, about his proposed marriage. Preserved almost in their entirety are letters, estimates, drawings, accounts and memoranda relating to the building of Dyrham Park, which already have been used for articles in 'The Connoisseur and Country Life and for the National Trust's Guide to the house.

There are no volumes of estate accounts, but it was the practice of the family, following the example of Secretary Blathwayt, to keep all receipted estate and household vouchers. Two great series of bundles begin in 1686 and continue to the present century, consisting of about 30,000 bills. They give an intimate picture of the household expenses and estate management especially during the 18th century.

In the 19th century members of the family were regular correspondents among themselves, and kept diaries. Although none of them were national figures, there is valuable material for the study of a Victorian landed family. The Blathwayts were typical of their kind, educated at public school and university, sportsmen, army officers, clergy, magistrates, and squires, making tours in England and Europe, but concerned most with their own family, estate, and neighbourhood.

Other items of particular interest include manorial court rolls and surveys of Dyrham from 1571, official correspondence and papers of Secretary Blathwayt including the agreement with Matthew Locke, his predecessor, for his appointment in 1683 as Secretary at War, which was not sold in 1910 as stated by his biographer, G.A. Jacobsen (William Blathwayt, p.203), and letters from Humphrey Repton, the landscape gardener, 1800-03."

"TRANSPORT FROM STAGE COACH TO SPACE SHIP." EXHIBITION AT CHELTENHAM MUSEUM.

This exhibition, held in connection with the Schools Museum Service, must have delighted both small boys and older visitors. The horse-drawn transport section contained a good set of diagrammatic drawings of coaches, carriages, etc., showing essential differences of construction, and Mrs. Vowles who visited the Exhibition on our behalf feels she now realises the exact differences between a phaeton, brougham and growler! A gentleman's sedan chair in beautiful condition with a seat cushioned in green and white cut velvet was on exhibition and a hand-brougham, like a sedan chair but hung on wheels and drawn by an attendant. This vehicle was used as late as 1920. Highly interesting post-cards revealed uncluttered pre-motor streets but a print of 1824 entitled "Eccentricities in the High Street" showed a road which could hardly have been fuller, with a tandem-driven phaeton, the hand-brougham drawn by a tottering ancient, three horse riders and interested spectators. The hazards of coach travel was illustrated by a print showing the horses floundering through a flood. The standard of co-operation expected from passengers was emphasised in the bill advertising the Rival which ran from La Belle Sauvage, London, to the Bell, Cheltenham, in 9½ hours, one minute per stage allowed for changing horses, quarter of an hour stop at Oxford for refreshments and passengers requested to cause no unnecessary stops by the way! Horse-buses, the first

service dating from 1890, and trams were well illustrated and the various Public Transport Companies were represented. Tramway maps provided names of landowners en route through Churchdown and a beautiful map of Gloucester, specially surveyed for a tramway project in 1843, showed a charming engraving of the Port. The seal on the document recording the sale of the Cheltenham Omnibus Company in 1901 to T. Nevins, promotor of the Electric Tramway, showed a representative horse-drawn bus. The Company's assets included 33 horses, 5 omnibuses and 3 charabancs and harness and goodwill for advertisement boards valued at £50-60 p.a. Photos included records of the latter ends of the last cars, one of which remained at Staverton till last Xmas housing first a family and then hens; another was used as a tool-house for the market-gardens.

The first train in Cheltenham, so the admirable notes supplied for teachers tell us, was a horse-propelled tram-road for conveying stone from Leckhampton Quarries to the town. This successful project was followed in 1811 by a line from Gloucester Docks to Cheltenham to carry coals. The wheels ran on the flat part of the rail with a flange on the rail itself to prevent derailment. The Birmingham-Gloucester line surveyed by Brunel by-passed Cheltenham but after heavy public pressure, the line was finally designed to include Cheltenham instead of Worcester and was completed in 1840. To save expense Lansdown Station was created out of a private house, the line running through the cellars! The Great Western line from Gloucester to St. James Station was opened in 1847 operating on a mixed gauge track, the last broad gauge train running on May 26th 1872. Visitors to the Exhibition must have noted with envy the excursion arrangements for the 1851 Exhibition in London, six days duration, 14/6d. 1st Class, 10/6d. 2nd Class, children half-price!

The Air Transport Section included two very interesting portraits of pilots by Sir William Rothenstein. A section devoted to Space Travel data consisted mainly of photographs but the Teachers' Notes included a Bulletin on U.S. Orbital Flight programmes issued by the American Embassy. An illustrated questionnaire for children must have driven home the information so happily acquired. (Compiled from materials supplied by the Cheltenham Museum and Mrs. Vowles).

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society's Atlas has been in great demand, large orders being taken for the schools. Members have been heard loudly regretting they did not take up more reduced copies as presents for their friends. The Parish Registers of St. Mary's Dymock have been published by the Record Section and can be obtained from the Secretary (25/- post free), Mr. I. Gray and the Rev. J.E. Gethyn Jones being the Editors. Dymock is one of the few parishes for which the paper register (1538-1625) survives and Mr. Gray has analysed its contents and compared them with the parchment transcript. The Committee are glad to announce that the "Guide to Gloucestershire Parish Records", which will be warmly welcomed by students anxious to find the riches promised by Mrs. Owen, is with the printers. The Cirencester Historical Society is starting a "non-Roman" Museum, at present in one room only, but they hope that as the collection grows, more space will be available. The Secretary of the Forest of Dean Society has been asked to re-edit Miss M. Wood's book on Newnham-on-Severn (1912). The original work contained interesting material on the Forest of Dean, the Civil War action in Newnham, and the history of the larger country houses in the neighbourhood and Mr. Mansfield is including matter not available to the authoress and bringing it up-to-date (available from the editor in late Spring, 10/6d.). Another publication, appearing in late April, to which readers will look forward is "Wotton-under-Edge - Men and Affairs of a Cotswold Town" (Museum Press: 35/-) by Mr. E.S. Lindley, member of our Committee of long standing and for several years Secretary of the Wotton-under-Edge Society. No doubt this publication will take pride of place in the Tolsey Library which the Wotton-under-Edge Society has just renovated in keeping with its historical background. The January Bulletin of the Thornbury Folk contains a most dramatic account of "John Allen and the Poaching Affray of 1816" which is a really valuable contribution to nineteenth century social history.

It is evident that Local History in the County is in a most flourishing state and no doubt this summer will produce many exciting projects for record in our Autumn Bulletin.

O.M. Griffiths.

(Editor)

BOOK LIST
(compiled by L. Gore, B.A.)

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|------------------|--|
| T.G. Barnes | The Clerk of the Peace in Caroline Somerset - Leicester University Press. 10/6d. |
| T.G. Barnes | Somerset 1625-1640.
A County's Government during the "personal rule". O.U.P. 40/- |
| Eileen A. Gooder | Latin for Local History.
Longmans. 21/- |
| G. Martin | The Town. Vista Books 25/- |
| A.W.B. Simpson | An Introduction to the History of the Land Law. 21/- |

ARTICLES

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Margaret Gelling | Place Names and Anglo-Saxon Paganism.
Univ. of Birmingham Historical Journal.
Vol.III. No. 1. 1961 |
| T.B. Trappes-Lomax | The Family of Poyntz and its Catholic Associations. (Reference to Iron Acton and Tockington).
Recusant History. Vol. 6. No.2. 1961 |
| J.S. Wachter | Cirencester, 1960. First Interim Report.
Antiquaries Journal. Vol. XLI. 1961.
Available as an off-print. |
| L.J. Walrond | Cloth Mills of the Stroud Valley.
Gloucestershire Countryside. Feb-March 1962. |
| W.E. Wightman | The Palatine Earldom of William Fitz Osbern in Glos. and Worcestershire. 1066-71. Eng. Historical Review. LXXVIII. Jan. 1962. |
| P.D. Wood | Strip Lynchets Reconsidered -
Geographical Journal. CXXVII. Dec. 1961. |

BOOK REVIEW

E.M. Clifford, Bagendon: a Belgic Oppidum. A record of the excavations of 1954-56. W. Heffer and Sons Ltd., Cambridge. N.D. (1961). XX+288 pp., illustrated. £3. 3s..

To the historian it often seems that archaeologists conduct their operations in rather haphazard fashion. Not that there is anything haphazard in the way archaeological techniques are applied, once the exploration of a site has begun; it is the initial choice of site that is all too frequently dictated by non-archaeological or non-historical considerations. A new store, let us say, is to be built for Messrs. X in the centre of an old Roman town; the bull-dozers are already at work; some fragments of tessellated pavement are uncovered; and a 'rescue dig' is hurriedly organized. After several weeks of toil we are informed that the main

street in the Roman period lay several yards further east than had been supposed. Such a discovery, however interesting it may be to the initiate, hardly opens a new chapter in the history of Roman Britain; and the historian, while recognizing the inevitable limitations under which archaeologists prosecute much of their research, cannot help wishing that their efforts might sometimes be more purposefully directed.

No such criticism can be levelled at Mrs. Clifford's excavation of Bagendon. Here the site was chosen of set purpose and with an informed appreciation of its possibilities. The analogy of Maiden Castle and Camulodunum suggested that just as these Belgic strongholds performed the function of tribal capitals until they were superseded in the Roman period by Dorchester and Colchester respectively, so Bagendon would turn out to have been the capital of the Dobunni and their Belgic rulers until the Romans built Corinium. And so it has proved. This site of about 200 acres, less than three miles north-west of Cirencester, has yielded abundant evidence of occupation as a major Belgic oppidum for some half a century from its foundation, which is placed in or about A.D. 10. At the end of that time it seems to have been abandoned peacefully, and the civilian population was resettled on the new Roman site at Corinium.

The evidence unearthed by Mrs. Clifford and her collaborators included thirty-five coins, together with coin-moulds and other apparatus of a mint. These finds have provided Mr. D. Allen with material for a full study of the Dobunnic coinage (pp.75-149); and this in turn has enabled Professor C.F.C. Hawkes to re-interpret the whole history of the Dobunni (pp.43-67), brilliantly illuminating their relationship with the other Belgic principalities and with the Roman invaders. Finally, Mrs. Clifford turns to the subject of the British resistance headed by Caratacus. Here she is on more speculative ground, but she gives persuasive reasons for believing that after the surrender of the Bagendon Dobunni, Caratacus chose Minchinhampton as a suitable base from which to carry on the fight, until Roman pressure drove him beyond the Severn.

The letterpress of this fine report includes authoritative chapters on the brooches, pottery, and other objects found during the excavations. It has been handsomely printed, in a style worthy of its importance, with 58 plates and 71 other illustrations. Mrs. Clifford deserves our warmest congratulations. She and her assistants have added an exciting new chapter to the early history of Gloucestershire and of Britain as a whole.

H.E.R. Finberg.

THE TIN-PLATE MILLS OF REDBROOK.

A link with the distant past has just been broken in the Forest of Dean by the closing down of the tinsplate mills at Redbrook on the Wye.

Tradition tells us that some kind of work in metal has taken place on or about this site from time immemorial, but definite records of the very early days are wanting. Nevertheless it is well known that tinsplate has been produced in Redbrook since 1771, and that before that date copper had been worked there. The year 1961 however has seen the end of a long story when the world's last remaining manufacturers by the pack mill process ceased production.

It was early in the XVIIIth century that the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England took a lease of the site which was known to have been in operation as a copper works from 1700. The copper ores were obtained locally from mines higher up the valley at whose mouth the works lie. There is still tangible evidence of those days to be seen in the walls which border the drive up to the offices - once the Manager's house - for blocks and capping stones were moulded from the slag obtained in the smelting process and built into the walls. It is possible that these moulded blocks may have been a regular by-product, since there is a report that these materials were exported to Bristol where they were used for building purposes.

The tinsplate works were erected at Redbrook in 1771 and contemporary references were soon being made. The first was in 1774, with another in 1794 while two years later a "Guide to Monmouthshire" refers to "a small stream called Redbrook where some iron and tin works give animation to the romantic scenery". From that time the "Redbrook" brand became famous and its uses spread far and wide. Quite recently, a licensed house in Gloucestershire was being modernised and the builders discovered steel sheets marked "Redbrook 17--" had been nailed to the underside of upper floor joists and painted to form a ceiling.

Throughout the years the firm developed a speciality in the manufacture of the thinnest hot-rolled steel sheets in the world, being 0.0025 of an inch in thickness. This plate has been used for hermetically sealing drugs and most foods which when exported could be affected by tropical conditions. It has also been used for sealing tobacco and cigarettes. These special plates have been exported to every country in the world with the exception of Greenland and Spitzbergen, indeed the last consignment to come off the rollers was destined for Assam.

But these specially thin "taggers" could not be produced without rolling a much larger proportion of heavier tinsplate, and in disposing of this the manufacturers could not compete with the plates produced in profusion and at less cost by the large number of strip mills which have been installed all over the world in recent years. Indeed, most of the pack mills had to close down some time ago, and Redbrook alone was able to survive for four or five years because of its unique product and arrangements which had been made with some of its old customers.

Throughout the years of its existence the company and its predecessors have been pioneers in methods of manufacture. As early as 1798 a drawing showed two rolls in operation. The one was driven by a water wheel and the other by a steam engine - the first use of steam in a mill of this kind - The engine was both designed and built at the works.

The factory was completely rebuilt in 1936/37, and ten years later was one of the first mills to change from coal to automatic oil burning furnaces, and in 1949 when it was equipped throughout with electricity it had almost completely abandoned the use of steam since the most modern type of machinery was then installed.

The situation of the Redbrook mills had always been an important factor in their success. Almost on the banks of the Wye the firm found river transport a useful medium as long as navigation was possible and after that both the railway and the road, each of which followed the course of the river, took its place in turn. The Forest of Dean made its contribution as well when specially constructed tramroads brought to the mills supplies of iron ore, coal and charcoal.

The site is being vacated as soon as possible in the hope that other industry will follow and absorb the workers, so that all the machinery was quickly dispersed. But the record is not lost for it is good to know that during the last month of the mills being in full operation, both the B.B.C. and I.T.A. visited the site and made a comprehensive photographic record of the equipment and the processes.

R.J. Mansfield.

R. H. TAWNEY
(Contributed)

Professor R.H. Tawney, who died early this year, is worthy of grateful remembrance in Gloucestershire and by all who care about the growth of a spirit of community. Though not a Gloucestershire man, he had many associations with the county and its neighbours. In old age he would still sometimes recall the times he spent in boyhood at Brislington, which he remembered as a self-contained village, quite separate from Bristol.

In adult life he became a great lover of the Cotswolds and year by year, as opportunity offered, he would return to his cottage there, to work and to walk and to enjoy the countryside and the company he found. His interest in the county flowed over into his academic studies. It found a notable expression in the article on 'A seventeenth Century Occupational Census' which he and his wife jointly published in the Economic History Review in 1934. Here, in a model piece of local historical writing, is an extraordinarily vivid and detailed picture of the county of Gloucester in all its thriving economic variety at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Nowhere has the early industrial eminence of the county been more clearly demonstrated and for no other part of England at this time has the local economy been more plainly and concisely analysed.

But it would be quite out of place to claim Tawney exclusively for any confined locality. He was a historian and a thinker whose studies followed where his sympathies were engaged, and his sympathies were vast. His range moved from Tudor England to twentieth century China, from the pressures which once bore upon a vanished English peasantry to those which moulded a modern proletariat, yet, since it was alien to him to be a dilettante, it was the range of a deeply informed and perceptive man. Wide as was his scope, his work had a clear unity that was imparted by his own interests and personality. He had a passionate belief in the capacity of ordinary men and women to create a rich and varied life for themselves, and in the obligation of society so to order itself as to encourage and not frustrate their capacity. It was a belief which guided his own undertakings and his political outlook, which gave him a criterion of judgment in his historical and sociological studies, and which imparted the breath and strong pulse of life to all his published work. His outlook was no mere starry-eyed unrealism. He knew that a fair wage and security for the future are among the aids to the good life, just as well as he knew that bread alone is no fit diet for the whole man. His gift for combining the down-to-earth and the visionary informed each aspect of his career. It showed in the ready perception of need and of practicability which made him a pioneer of extra-mural and W.E.A. teaching. It helped to make him the trusted nominee of the miners. It gave variety and illumination to his academic studies. Though he spent many years as a teacher of economic history, Tawney had no interest in the refinements of economic theory and would have repudiated the name of economist. But no reader of his long introduction to Wilson's Discourse on Usury could underestimate his ability to unravel complicated economic argument, nor was any man ever more sensitively aware of the impact of the economic on the rest of life. In Religion and the Rise of Capitalism the two strands of his outlook are perfectly blended in a work which will long continue to reward all who are fascinated by the endless action and reaction between the spirit of man and the organized forces of society, and all who care for splendid prose.

Tawney would not have claimed much for himself. Once, in a review, he reminded an eminent historian, too openly impatient of the errors of earlier writers, that "all flesh is grass, and historians wither quicker than most". Many of his historical judgments have been challenged. More, perhaps, will be challenged in future: some degree of error is the inescapable price of boldness, and his stature is not lessened. But he was much more than a historian. In him was a rare blend of the man of common enjoyment, the intellectual and the prophet, made acceptable by simplicity and unaffected sincerity, and made more effective by an eloquent mastery of words. Of such the memory does not wither, but stays evergreen.

THE STUDY OF LOCAL RECORDS

(1) In an Archives Office.

Ten years have now passed since the first class met in the Bristol Archives Office to study the records of Bristol. It began as an experiment to see whether those who were interested in local history would welcome the opportunity of studying original records in an organised manner. It was also an attempt to make available the records of the Archives office to those who were unable to consult them during the usual office hours.

For whilst the Bristol Archives Office is charged with the duty of preserving historical documents of the city, mere preservation is not enough. The result has been interesting and encouraging.

How has it been done? The class is held in the Bristol Archives office under the auspices of the University of Bristol Extra Mural department. During the winter months, for twenty periods of two hours, between 12 and 20 people meet either to pursue a subject in which they are particularly interested or to work on a small group of documents. At the end of the session, the members of the class read papers which afterwards are bound and issued as a typescript 'Notes on Bristol history'.

What kind of people has the class attracted? Over the ten years the members have been drawn from all walks of life, including teachers, typist, bank clerk, personnel officer, railway worker and housewives. Few of them had had previous experience of working on records. In fact, most of them had not before handled original documents. To all of them it was a new venture which proved so stimulating and worthwhile that some have been attending for the whole ten years.

There have been two lines of approach. Some years the student was left free to work on a particular subject in which he had a special interest, provided the records were available. Subjects chosen covered a wide range including the admiralty court, certified industrial schools, log book of a slaver, company of porters, elementary education in the nineteenth century, the history of an almshouse, St. Paul's fair, a charity school in the eighteenth century, building operatives in the eighteenth century, the Creswicke family. At other times, all the members of the class together studied the documents of a particular period such as 'Bristol during the French Revolutionary wars'; each person working on one aspect of the subject.

The course included some formal lectures and study in the reading of sixteenth and seventeenth century handwriting.

These classes have proved a means of making history more real, of showing how records can be used and are the basis of research. Although the purpose of the class was not primarily to carry out research work, much good work has been done, making a modest contribution to our knowledge of Bristol history.

E. Ralph.

(2) In a Secondary Modern School.

Obviously, the use which can be made of local records in a Secondary Modern School is limited. Nevertheless, each year, through the co-operation of the County Records Officer, the collection of records relating to Cowley Manor is studied by some of the pupils of one school in South Gloucestershire. A party of third year boys and girls stays at Cowley for a week and undertakes a local survey while there, using, amongst other things, these local records.

The account of the Manor in the Domesday Book is a starting point as far as documentary evidence is concerned. Unfortunately there is virtually no other material available relating to the history of the Manor before 1700. For the 18th Century there are Manor Court Books dating from 1703 and Terriers for 1762 and 1802. These are formidable documents to present to children, but they can be used as a source of illustrative detail. This can be most revealing and interesting to children provided it is presented in small quantities. More use, no doubt, could be made of these sources if the staff concerned were able to give the time to studying them for themselves in greater detail.

A 19th Century "History of the Demesnes" provides a wealth of detailed information, including maps of the area before and after enclosure. The "Inclosure Agreement" itself, of 1739, has been studied on occasion. The use of such material as this helps to make day to day teaching come alive. Unfortunately Cowley does not show evidence of a very pronounced 'strip system', but other maps have been provided which have vividly illustrated this point.

Old maps are perhaps the most profitable material for study by Secondary Modern School pupils. Children who are familiar with the handling of maps can make good use of these, discovering for themselves how parish boundaries and farms have changed, as well as local detailed knowledge which it would be impractical to present to them in any other form. Two children, on one occasion, found great satisfaction in studying an old crop map, and then finding out how the same fields were being cultivated today.

Where photographs or old drawings exist they are also useful. Photographs of Cowley Manor thirty years ago show a very different house from the one we know today; while earlier ones still reveal a much smaller house. The children, from looking at these, can return to the present and, with the clues provided, can see for themselves how the house has been altered and enlarged over the years.

This is just one isolated example of the use, by a group of less academic school-children, of local records on a limited scale. Given the appropriate facilities, and suitably qualified and interested staff in the schools, a vast field for original and stimulating work can be found for children in local record material. The facts discovered may be unimportant in themselves, but the experience is useful in that it is a valuable way of illustrating remote book learning, as well as providing an introduction to a sound method of historical scholarship.

J. Bosanko.

(3) In Adult Education.

The demand for classes in local history is a steady one. This is perhaps not the place to wonder why this should be so but simply to record that more and more people are taking an interest in a particular place or area. Many are studying history for the first time since they left school, many are finding it an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Some are newcomers to South Gloucestershire, others have lived here all their lives and not a few express surprise that the study of local history can be so interesting. "We never did anything like this at school," or "I hated history at school" is a not uncommon reaction. Clearly Mr. Bosanko's pupils will not be strangers to the idea that the study of history involves the use of documents, maps, etc. but the majority of persons are; they have been taught history but not what is involved in being a historian.

There are several ways in which local history students may be introduced to sources. Firstly and fortunately the primary documents for the study of any area are readily available - namely maps. Maps physical, geological, soil, (if they exist) early Ordnance Survey maps 1" to 6" and even 25" and now of course the Atlas of Gloucestershire maps. Maps which will provoke the question "Why is the village in this precise spot?". Maps which will provoke enquiry about the relationship of the parts of a chosen area to the whole and about the relationship of the smaller to the larger settlements. Why and when for example did Hawkesbury Upton become larger and more important than its parent village? Why do some parishes present a picture of scattered but connected hamlets and others contain but one settlement of any size?

Secondly the possible answers to the questions which these primary sources suggest must be shown to be based upon the use of local and national records. These are submitted as evidence in the enquiry and form the basis of class discussion. Local knowledge may modify conclusions or may need to be gently shown to have no basis in fact, but the scrupulous use of record material and concern for the truth about the past is the discipline within which the class works.

Thirdly, classes may be introduced to source material through the use of photo-stat copies of documents, especially of the 16th and 17th century; taught how to read them, what questions a particular class of document may be expected to provide answers to and also their limitations. Here leases, wills, inventories and personal documents are most frequently used. Clearly the amount of work of this kind which can be done depends upon many factors, but it is being done and given the mobility of our own society it is not too much to hope that in time some students will find their way to the Record Offices and to the Record Classes of the kind described by Miss Ralph.

L. Gore.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS, 1961.

Gloucestershire Records Office,
Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Family and Estate:

Agg (Cheltenham) (additional): deeds, from 1709; accounts, 1786-1826; family and estate papers, from 1730.

Blathwayt (Dyrham): court rolls, manorial surveys and rentals of Dyrham, 1571-1850, Hundred of Grumbolds Ash, 1773, and Langridge, Weston, Charlcombe and Porlock (Somerset), 1705-1833; c.2,100 deeds and leases of Dyrham, north Somerset, and London, chiefly 17th to 19th cent.; c.50 estate rentals, 1680-1880, maps, 18th-19th cent., and other estate papers.; very large series of estate and household vouchers, c.1651-1910, including building accounts for Dyrham Park, 1692-1708; estate correspondence, from 1681, including c.300 estimates and letters about building of Dyrham Park, 1681-1710, and from Humphrey Repton, 1801-3; personal correspondence (c.3,500 items) and diaries, 19th cent.; c.70 household inventories, from 1601.

Hodges (Arlingham) (additional); court rolls of Gossington Hall in Slimbridge, 1533, 1548, rentals of Arlingham, 1500-1800; 51 deeds of Arlingham; correspondence, 1755-1865, including letters from Dr. Edward Jenner, 1782-1823.

Kingscote (Kingscote) (additional): Abbot Newland's illuminated pedigree of the Berkeley family, 1490-1; 75 deeds of Newington Bagpath, Uley, etc., 1727-1878.

Newton (Bitton): 1,148 letters relating to Barr's Court, Bitton and Grantham (Lincs.) estates, 1654-1743, including coal mining in Bitton and Oldland, 1660-1761; rentals, 1654-1716, estate accounts, 1657-1743; 58 legal papers about Kingswood Chase, 1666-92.

Dutton (Sherborne) (additional): estate accounts, 1723-33.

Strickland (Deerhurst) (additional): deeds, estate papers, and building plans of Apperley Court, 1742-1898.

Trye (Hempsted): deeds of Hempsted Court, 1653-1801; genealogical notes and pedigrees.

Whittington (Cold Ashton): deeds and estate papers mainly of Bitton and Cold Ashton, 17th-19th cent.

Solicitors:

Bircham & Co. (London): 450 deeds of Rookwoods Estate, Bisley, and Edgeworth Manor, from 1649.

Little & Bloxham (Stroud): deeds and miscellaneous records of Clutterbuck (St. Mary's Mills, Minchinhampton), Eycott-Martin (Stonehouse), Stanton (Stroud and Rodborough) and other clients, and of Stroud, Painswick, Randwick, Stonehouse, and other parishes, 17th-19th centuries.

Pennington & Sons (London): 950 deeds of Gatcombe Park estate, Minchinhampton and Avening (Sheppard and Ricardo families), 1616-1882; estate map, 1823.

Vizard & Son (Monmouth) (additional): Newland tithe accounts, from 1872; deeds of Dursley and Ruardean, 1777-1866.

Manorial:

Over Lyppiatt in Bisley, Pauntly, Shipton Sollers, Sudeley Rectory, Tockington, 1619-1836.

Deeds:

About 900 of many parishes, from c.1260.

Maps:

Newent, c.1825.

Parish:

Arlingham, Blockley, Chipping Campden, Condicote, Dyrham, Eastington, Elmore, Longhope, Newent, Norton, Olveston, Oxenhall, St. Briavels, Sapperton, Chipping Sodbury, Stroud, Sudeley, Thornbury, Todenham, Westonbirt.

Official:

Coroner for Forest Division, 1868-1942. Thornbury Rural Sanitary Authority and District Council, 1868-1929.

Miscellaneous:

"Protection" from Charles I, 1643; life of John Roberts, the Quaker, c.1725; Painswick Free School book, 1736-1806; local historical notes of Paul Hawkins Fisher of Stroud, 1787-1871, and 63 deeds etc. of Stroud, 1618-1877; correspondence of Austin family chiefly about Wotton-under-Edge Troop of Yeomanry, including letters of 5th Earl and Countess of Berkeley, 1793-1810; Stroud Subscription Rooms minutes and accounts, 1832-89; diaries of Mrs. F.W. Maitland (wife of the historian), 1889-99.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL MUSEUMS.

The Curator of Gloucester County Museums reports:-

"A fine collection of flint implements is at present on loan to the Gloucester Museum, where part of it is on exhibition. The flints which range in date from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age were collected by Mr. Gilbert Swainston from an area of about four square miles around his farm at Condicote. There are a large number of burial mounds in the vicinity as well as a possible "henge" monument. Mr. Swainston's collection helps to confirm the importance of this part of the Cotswolds in prehistoric times.

Re-organisation of the Archaeological displays in the Museum has included new cases devoted to Samian ware, and to the smaller pieces of Roman sculpture in the collection. A new case of Medieval pottery has been installed in the Entrance Hall and includes a number of recently found vessels not previously on exhibition.

A wall plan of Roman Gloucester and its neighbourhood has been put on display to pinpoint the sites of the more important structural remains and burial areas in and around the City.

Work has continued at the Bon Marché site and a further piece of mosaic pavement discovered during the early part of January has been photographed and recorded.

Gloucester Folk Museum.

Amongst recent accessions to the Folk Museum are two 17th century pewter spoons found at Upton St. Leonards and Kingswood. The Museum has also received a number of decorated clay pipe bowls made by H. Dewy, a Gloucester pipe maker at the end of the 19th century. These bowls were found beneath floorboards at a shop in Westgate Street where Dewy once had a factory.

A selection from the Price collection of horseshoes referred to in the last Bulletin has now been put on show in the Folk Museum; other new displays there include a case of items connected with Smoking. During the Winter the First Floor of the building has been re-decorated, and with the completion of this work the two small rooms devoted to Local History have been re-arranged to include more material associated with Robert Raikes, Jimmy Wood and other local personalities. The panel paintings of local benefactors are also being hung in these rooms as they return from very necessary conservation."

Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery have received as recent accessions a coloured aquatint engraving of the original Well Walk (1810) and two water-colour sketches, by P. Fischer, of Prestbury and the Tewkesbury Road and the chain of office worn by Presidents of the Dickensian Society. An Egyptian coin of the Roman period believed to have been found near Bourton-on-the-Water and a copper centenionalis of Constantine II (337-361 A.D.) from Staverton have been presented and also a mammoth's tusk unearthed in an alluvial bed at Beckford by a mechanical excavator, all stratification evidence being therefore unfortunately destroyed.

A lecture on "New Developments in the Archaeology of the Dark Ages in Britain" was given in Bristol Museum's Winter series of lectures by C.W. Phillips, M.A., (Archaeology, Ordnance Survey). A stone axe from Olveston was recently presented and also Iron Age pottery and a weaving comb from Blaise Castle hill fort. The Museum has purchased a number of Bristol mint coins, silver pennies of Henry III, a groat of Henry VI (1470-1), posthumous groats and half-groats of Henry VIII, and two silver pennies of Edward VI. A course of six lectures on "The Preparation of Archaeological Reports", arranged for April 26th and successive Thursdays, will cover such important points as accounts of excavations, descriptions of finds, illustrations, a discussion on the interpretation of evidence, and dealing with editors, the tutors being the Curator, Mr. Grinsell and Mr. Rahtz.

Stroud Museum is taking part in the Festival of Religious Drama and the Arts this year and will show the V & A. Exhibition of twelfth to sixteenth century illuminated manuscripts. H. Beard, senior pupil from Marling School, has done good work in cataloguing the medallions and early English coinage in the Museum's possession. Work on the survey of mills and mill houses continues to make steady progress as familiarity with the sites makes it possible to divide them into groups.

EXCAVATIONS IN OR NEAR GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1962.

(Application for group visits, offers of help etc. should be sent to Directors).

- BLOCKLEY. (Med: Village site. Director, Dr. R. Hilton, University of Birmingham. July 7th - 28th).
- FROCESTER. (Romano-British Villa site. Director, Capt. H.S. Gracie, The Yew, Pinfarthing, Amberley, Glos. Trained and untrained helpers. April 16th for 5 weeks. Aug. 1st onwards. Please no visitors until after harvest - site in cornfield).
- GT. WITCOMBE. (Romano-British Villa site. Director, Mr. E. Greenfield, Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, Office of Works. (Late May).
- CAERLEON. (Legionary Fortress. Director, Mr. G.C. Boone, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. May 29th - July 27th).
- CIRENCESTER. (Corinium. Director, Mr. J.S. Wachter, Leicester University. Helpers wanted, July

TRAINING SCHOOL IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

Barnsley Park, near Cirencester, July 14th - 28th.

Romano-British villa site including outbuildings in undisturbed park land. Two week's course for students from recognised training schools. A few beginners taken. Specialist instruction as required. Full explanation and discussion of work in progress to train future leaders of excavations. Director, Mr. G. Webster, F.S.A. Apply Director of Extra Mural Studies, The University, Birmingham 15., who will also supply list of other training courses organised by Birmingham University including Medieval and Industrial Archaeology.

S U M M E R C O U R S E S.

"The West Country in the 19th Century".

University of Bristol Summer School, Wills Hall, Bristol. July 28th - August 4th. Further information from:
P.L.C. Fryd, W.E.A., 7, St. Nicholas St., Bristol. 1.

"The English House in the Study of Local History".

University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge. Aug. 4th - Aug. 11th. Further information from:-
The Secretary, Board of Extra-Mural Studies, Stuart House, Mill Lane, Cambridge.

"The Records of Parish and Family and how to use them".

University of London. Wye College, Nr. Ashford, Kent. Aug. 18th - Sept. 1st. Further information from:
Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, Senate House, W.C.1.

"Field Archaeology on a Hill-Top Site". Aug. 1st - 15th.

Further information from:
The Warden, Dale Fort Field Centre, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

"The Archaeology of the Medieval Village".

University of Leeds. Malton, Yorks. July 28th - Aug. 4th. Further information from:-
Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Leeds. 2.

"Medieval Archaeology".

University of Nottingham & W.E.A. Torksey, Lincs. Aug. 11th - Aug. 25th. Further information from:-
J.T. Rhodes, 16, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

Summer Courses (Contd).

"The Study of Local History".

Oxford W.E.A. Summer School. Balliol College. July 21st - Aug. 18th.
Further information from:-
Secretary, Oxford Tutorial Classes Committee, Rewley House,
Wellington Square, Oxford.

"Exploring Wiltshire".

Urchfont Manor. Aug. 11th - Aug. 21st.
Further information from:-
The Warden, Urchfont Manor, Urchfont, Wilts.

"Surveying and Map Making". Aug. 8th - Aug. 15th.

Further information from:
The Warden, Juniper Hall, Field Centre. (suitable for Sixth Forms
and T.C. students.)

"Exploring Somerset".

Dillington House. July 6th - 13th.
Further information from:-
Dillington House, Dillington, Somerset.

S H O R T E R C O U R S E S.

"Anglo-Saxon Wessex."

Urchfont Manor. June 22nd - 24th.

"New Trends in Archaeology".

Dillington House. May 5th - 6th.

T O U R S.

Youth Hostels Association: Home Tours, St. Albans, Herts.

Offa's Dyke. O.T.15. July 28th - Aug. 4th.

Searching for the Past. Welsh Marches O.T.14^A Aug. 18th - 25th.
Dorset. O.T.14^B July 14th - 21st.

ALTERATIONS IN "OFFICERS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE" AUTUMN 1961.

Bristol and Glos. Archaeological Society.

President: Dr. Glyn Daniels, M.A., F.S.A.

Historical Association (Gloucester & Cheltenham branch).

President: Irvine Gray, Esq., The County Records Office, Shire Hall, Glos.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

Chairman: E.C. Matthews, Esq., The Warren, Wotton-under-Edge.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

SPRING & SUMMER 1962.

Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society.

- Jan. 8th "The Influence of the Medieval Tournament on the development of the English Theatre". Prof. G.W.Wickham.
Feb. 5th "The Saxon Palace, Cheddar". P. Rahtz, Esq.
March 10th A.G.M. Presidential Address by Miss Joan Evans, D.Lit. LL.D. P.S.A. on "Art in Gloucestershire".
May 5th Excursion to Withington.
July 18th - Weekend visit to Cardiff and district.
21st
Sept. 15th Excursion to Minety and district.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Historical Association.

- May 5th Excursion to Dyrham Park.
May 10th A.G.M. at Cheltenham. "History of the Parish Church". Mrs. Hart.
June 16th Excursion to Withington.
July 14th Excursion to Frocester and Leonard Stanley.

Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society.

- Jan. 8th "Some Recent Rescue Excavations in Cirencester". Richard Reece, B.Sc.
Feb. 5th "Time and Time-keepers". J. Callaghan, Esq. (for other Spring meetings see Bulletin Autumn 1961).
May 19th - Excursion to Sherborne, Dorchester, Maiden Castle, 20th and Montacute.

Forest of Dean Historical Society.

- Mar. 3rd "Something about Genealogy". A.N. Currer Briggs, Esq.
April 7th "Coaching Days". R.L. Court, Esq.
May 5th Excursion to Oxford.
June 2nd Excursion to North Cotswolds.
July 7th Excursion to Leominster and Mid Hereford
Aug. 4th Return to the Dean Road (Ramble).
Sept. 1st Excursion to Malvern Spa.

Society of Thornbury Folk.

- Mar. 20th "The Other Shore". Miss M. Burton.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

- April Frampton Court, Church and Farm.
May Clevedon Court.
June Half day to Coventry Cathedral.
July Claverton Manor (Bath).
Aug. Miserden Court.
Sept. Gloucester Cathedral (Personally conducted tour by the Very Rev. the Dean).

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