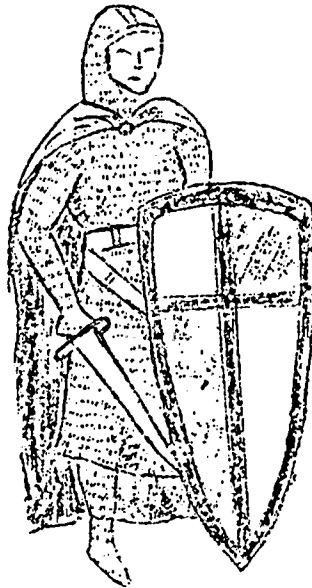


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

AUTUMN 1962.



NO. 6.

Presented by:-

THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

of the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Editor:- Dr. O.M. Griffiths

Chairman:

Colonel A.B. Lloyd-Baker, D.S.O.,
Hardwicke Court, Gloucester.

Secretary:

J.N.W. Gwynne, Esq.,
Community House,
Gloucester.

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1962.

There can be no more fitting introduction to this Newsletter than a report on the Graham Castle Memorial Lecture given at the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Community Council by Dr. Nicholson as his subject was Gloucestershire in National History. Our representative notes "that beginning with a suggestion that there was room for an authoritative twentieth-century history of Gloucestershire, he proceeded fascinatingly to link the barrows of the Cotswold heights with their distant origins in the civilisations of Egypt and Crete. He showed that the geographical characteristics of the county, lying between the mountainous frontiers of Wales and the Midland clays but cloven by a turbulent river, brought to it some of the great men and constitutional struggles of English history. He considered that the Romano-British culture had a more continuous life in Gloucestershire than anywhere else till the arrival of the Saxons and of these he pointed out that the centre of the strong kingdom of Mercia, the kernel of the Kingdom of Great Britain, had been at Winchcombe among the early sheep farmers, first founders of a great medieval trade. Considering the growth of the Norman administration and the evidence of medieval civilisation in the county, he saw in the administrative growth of the shire and the chartered towns the training ground for early Parliaments; the events of constitutional import of the later Middle Ages which took place in Gloucestershire, the passing of the Statute Quo Warranto in 1278, the murder of Edward II at Berkeley and John of Gaunt's Parliament showed on a local scale the process of bringing the feudal barons under control. Gloucester City had determined the course of history in two civil wars by shutting her gates on the vital river crossing, but the absence of serious vengeance after the Restoration and the attitude of the citizens of Gloucester to Charles II illustrated that element of compromise essential to the English system and to the constitutional control of absolute power."

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY.

The Annual Conference will be held on November 9th at Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road, London. The two main addresses in the afternoon will be concerned with "British Forests" and there will be an exhibition of Quaker Records. The Victoria and Albert Museum has arranged a Loan Exhibition entitled "Vanishing History" in order to draw attention to the need for recording old buildings due for demolition. The letterpress was compiled by Mr. P.D. Whitting, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Standing Conference, and the exhibition has been displayed in Warwick, Birkenhead, Altrincham, Stafford, Huddersfield and Nuneaton. We hope that it will be shown at our own museums in due course. "Amateur Historian", now published by the N.C.S.S., maintains its high standard and the last two numbers included articles on such interesting subjects as Home Photographic Methods of Copying Documents, Public Health in Medieval England and Merchants Marks.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Council's report dwells on the difficulties confronting efforts to save industrial buildings of historical interest but comments warmly on Mr. Walrond's survey of the Stroud Mills which he plans to extend to the lower Painswick, Newmarket and Slad valleys. They have appointed a full-time Research Officer in the Welland Valley with a continuous programme of excavations to cover two years. The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Research Committee is compiling a National Gazetteer of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic sites in this country and Professor Hawkes is enlarging his "System for the British Iron Age" given at an earlier conference meeting.

Group XIII of the Council, of which Gloucestershire is a member, is holding an Open Meeting in Gloucester on November 10th at which Mrs. Clifford will speak on Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds in Prehistoric Times, Professor Ian Richmond on Roman Gloucester and Cirencester in the light of Comparative Material, and Mr. Richard Reece on Minor Rescue Work in Cirencester. Captain Gracie will report on his excavations at Forcester Court, Mr. Rahtz on the Roman Coin Mould site at Whitchurch, and Dr. Tratman will describe Recent Work on Roman Roads in the Bristol Area. All seats will evidently be allocated before this number appears but we hope many of our readers will enjoy this notable programme.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

The Committee is once again holding a Competition for pupils of Gloucestershire Secondary Schools in a form which they hope will "encourage boys and girls to go out and search; to think and imagine, as well as read". Competitors are allowed their own choice of subject and are asked to present a written account which may be accompanied by drawings, photographs, maps and diagrams. Entries must reach our Secretary, Mr. J. Gwynne, at Community House by December 20th. It is interesting to note that, among material just circulated by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, are details of a Schools Competition run on slightly different lines to our own as there is a list of set subjects, though this is so comprehensive as to provide much freedom of choice.

This year the Committee, acting in conjunction with the County Records Officer and the Gloucester and Cheltenham branch of the Historical Association undertook a new experiment for schools which met with resounding success. A One-Day School was organised on July 20th for Advanced Sixth Formers in Grammar and Independent Schools with easy access to Gloucester. Pupils and staff from Cheltenham Grammar School, Pates Grammar School for Girls, Dean Close and the Ladies' College represented Cheltenham, Sir Thomas Rich's School, the Crypt School, King's School, and Denmark Road High School for Girls, Gloucester. Westonbirt School, Marling School and the High School, Stroud, Tewkesbury Grammar School and High School, Cirencester Grammar School and East Dean Grammar School completed a party of almost one hundred. "After a welcome by the Dean of Gloucester and short preliminary talks by Mr. C.R. Elrington, (Editor V.C.H. Glos.) on "The Historian and his Sources" and the County Records Officer on "Where Records can be found", the visitors went in three groups to the Cathedral Library, the Folk Museum where they were met by the Curator, and St. Mary's Gateway, where displays of records illustrating four subjects of different periods had been staged by Mr. Brian Smith and Miss Sears of the County Record Office". The Parliament Room was available for the lunch interval and the City Librarian arranged a display of books and printed material there. In the afternoon, Mr. P.V. McGrath of Bristol University gave a lecture on "National History in Local Records", which was followed by a discussion. The appreciation and enthusiasm of the Schools was so evident that the Committee hope to repeat this venture next year. The Competition for W.I's for a set of 36 slides illustrating Village History accompanied by notes or commentary not exceeding 1,000 words is still in progress. The Committee were glad to be allowed to contribute the account of Gloucestershire History to the excellent County Guide book covering all aspects of County Life from Folk Cooking and Dances and Songs to Prehistory, which was presented to members of Groups of Senior Branch Members from 43 British counties and 26 overseas countries who passed through Gloucestershire in July on their way to a "Save the Children Fund" Project in Bristol.

VICTORIA HISTORY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The Editor reports that:

"In the period April 5th - October 14th 1962 the drafts of six more parish histories have been completed. Miss Thomas has written the histories of Todenham and Lower Lemington, and I have written those of Clapton, Great Rissington, Little Rissington, and Wick Rissington. This brings the number of completed drafts up to twenty-two, of which sixteen are in typescript. The total number of parish histories in the volume now being written will be thirty: Miss Thomas is at work on Moreton-in-Marsh and Bourton-on-the-Hill, and I on Alderton with Dixton.

Of the six parish histories finished since April, those of Clapton and Lower Lemington, small and relatively insignificant parishes, are short. Lower Lemington is remarkable, however, for its diminutive but ancient church, Clapton (which according to Rudder had 'nothing worthy the attention of the naturalist or antiquary') for an unusual inscription in the church and for its strawberry allotments on the summit of the hill (the village used to be known as Clapton super Montibus). Todenham has a village less markedly 'Cotswold' than others we have so far worked on, for brick, 'black-and-white', and thatch have been used freely alongside the normal Cotswold limestone; this parish is unusually rich in medieval record material because until the Reformation it belonged to Westminster Abbey, whose archives have been well preserved. The three Rissingtons have several features in common: each has a picturesque stone-built village sited on the hillside, a church of peculiar features, and (in an area where most of the land was owned by monasteries in the Middle Ages) a long history of lay ownership. Perhaps their most marked characteristic, however, is a modern one - the continuous noise of aeroplanes from Little Rissington airfield, the presence of which has a social and economic significance as striking as any more venerable and more obviously 'historical' phenomenon."

BEYOND THE SEVERN.

One reader drew our attention to Mr. Dennis Potter's work on "The Changing Forest" (Secker & Warburg. 11/6d.) which he felt to be challenging and well worth reading. He suggested that a Forest of Dean resident should be asked for comments and the matter was referred to the Secretary of the Forest of Dean Society. He reports that in his view:

"Dennis Potter has an observer's eye and a photographic memory. He gives graphic descriptions of life in the Forest of Dean in his boyhood which conjure up vivid memories for those who know the district a generation ago and more. The chapels the club and the homes are faithfully portrayed with a wealth of detail which conveys even to the stranger an impression of the sturdy stock from which the old Forester springs. Revisiting his birthplace after contact with a wider world, he finds that 'pop' culture has made a gaudy onslaught on much of that which he holds dear, and that the old ways are withering under its attack and all that accompanies it.

His visits to the 'Pub' to the Saturday night dance, to one of the surviving 'levels' of a Freemaner, as well as many of his other more recent experiences seem to express a sense of some good thing which has been lost to his own contemporaries who are eagerly seeking new values to replace the old.

His 'social enquiry' however covers too small an area to be a real contribution to the very real difficulties of a peculiar district since, with few exceptions, he rarely goes outside the square mile of his own origin, and in justification of his title he emphasises the contrasts which have come into being, and while noting them, he has little to suggest by way of improvement or of directing those tendencies which he reports so faithfully.

"The Changing Forest" is a snapshot, sparkling and vivid in detail, of the subject which Mr. Potter desires to portray, but like all snapshots, the background is not completely in focus while the detail of the whole landscape, most of which is outside his Camera Angle, is never brought before the viewer."

We are sure our readers will want to examine for themselves a work which is evidently arresting and controversial and form their own conclusions.

There can be no two opinions we feel as to the value of Miss Mabel Wood's most enjoyable book on "Newnham-on-Severn", re-edited by Mr. Mansfield. (12/6d. from the Editor). Set by the riverside and constantly threatened by floods if "the daily whirlpool" overflowed the sea walls and suffering such constant erosion that the site of the Church was once moved further back from the edge of the Cliffs and, on the other hand, so close to the Forest that armed raiders could set fire to the Rectory, the town of Newnham has sturdily held its own. This history collects together both charters and references by earlier historians and is full of pleasant surprises from the excellent picture of the Civil War period built up from contemporary records in which we smell the powder and hear the saw-cuts as the Royalists cut down and storm the barricades and force the garrison out of the Castle and into the Church to the account of Ann Keith who died in 1772 aged 133, her eldest daughter being then 109. We hear of highway robberies by "jolly well-looking men" in 1760 and of the Westbury Schoolmaster of 1771 who overawed his pupils by wearing two dozen blue Death's head buttons on his coat. The local industries and the history of old houses in the neighbourhood are well described and good use has been made of the Parish records and early files of the Gloucester Journal. Illustrations include a fascinating portrait of Colonel Massie from Vicar's Worthies (1647 reprinted 1845), Views of the River from the Nab and the Newnham Sword of State. The book brings the town's glory so vividly to life that it deserves to be read far and widely and would prove a companionable bed-side book both to those who know the town well and those who have yet to visit it.

"FOR TWO YEARS SHAVING AT XMAS 1727 - ONE POUND"

In "Country Counting House" (Phoenix House Ltd., 1962) the Rev. A. Tindal Hart gives a most fascinating analysis of the accounts of two eighteenth century clergymen, one of whom was a Gloucestershire incumbent. The author agrees with Macaulay's description of the poverty of the clergy at the end of the seventeenth century. "As children multiplied and grew, the household of the priest became more beggarly... Often it was only by toiling on his glebe, by feeding swine and by loading dung-carts, that he could obtain daily bread; nor did his utmost exertions always prevent the bailiffs from taking his concordance and his ink-stand in execution". That tithes could raise burning problems is well illustrated in the records of our County where, in eighteenth century Tortworth, one vicar who provoked his parishioners found his milk curdled with rennet and a road blocked, deliberately adding a mile or more to his journey; the villagers finally delivered all tithe milk on the same day, flooding the vicarage with milk which would need "cheesing or buttering" at vast expense. Attempts to improve the prosperity of the Clergy were hampered during the first half of the eighteenth century by the Whigs, but by the end of the century, enclosures and better farming had greatly improved their incomes and their status, though the lot of the average curate was a hard one. Against this background Mr. Hart has set two characters whose account books show that their good management provided them with a comfortable livelihood from which they helped their poorer parishioners and relatives.

The larger part of the book is devoted to Squire Payne, Rector of Barnack in Northamptonshire, "a generous, open-hearted gentleman who spent his money freely, entertained hospitably, entered fully into the sports and pastimes of the countryside" and provided a tutor for "certain poor children in his parish and a never-ending stream of small benefactions", specially to victims of fire. The second part of this work gives us details from the Account Book of Henry Mease (1685-1746) who was first "Officiating Minister" of Cheltenham (1709-16), then curate of Staverton, Boddington and St. Michael's Bristol (held concurrently) and later Rector

of Alderton. During all this time he lived at Cheltenham and taught, possibly at Pate's Grammar School and certainly in a school of his own. He originally held a Fellowship of Jesus College, Oxford, but lost it in 1713 by not taking up his B.D. We watch his prosperity increase through careful investments and his success as a schoolmaster. In 1710 the purchase of two bottles of wine at 14/8d. for his god-daughter's christening may have seemed a lavish expenditure in a good cause, but by 1714 he could sport an expensive new hat worth £1. 6. 6. and take his landlord's daughters, Miss Polly and Patty to Cheltenham Fair and in 1715 he spent £3 on a pair of silver spurs. His school flourishing, he employed an usher and made special arrangements with the landlord of the "George" to supply beer for his pupils and he evidently did a little farming on his own account. By 1727 he could afford real luxuries, brandy, oranges and lemons, salmon and oysters and in 1732 he re-roofed his house with 7,000 slates costing 17/4d. He was extremely generous to his young relations and god-children insuring that his nephews were properly shaved and be-wigged. An extraordinarily large part of his time was spent in travel and in the period covered by his accounts (1709-35) he made 89 visits to Oxford alone, staying as much as a month at a time at the King's Head there. For the last eight years of his life he was Rector of Swindon, Glos., and was buried there in 1746. The story which Mr. Hart has built up with such skill is a delightful one and may be taken as a wise corrective to Macaulay's gloomy generalisations.

THE SAXON PALACE AT CHEDDAR.

The last session is now completed and it is unlikely that any major buildings in the school area are unexcavated. It is hoped that the unexcavated fields will be scheduled. The two ditches described in our Autumn Bulletin are now identified as storm-water drains one pre-930 A.D. and the other 930-1000. In the first were stratified in sequence 3 coins of Ethelwulf, father of King Alfred, Burgred (c.870) and Athelstan, whose victory over the Danes and their allies is celebrated in the Saxon epic, The Song of Brunanburgh, and whose gift of land to the men of Malmesbury is still commemorated when portions change hands. The second trench contained a coin of Ethelred the Unready. The first Long Hall is probably ninth or early 10th century in construction and so may possibly have been associated with Alfred. Three minor buildings standing W.E. and S. of this hall and also dated pre-930 have been revealed. To the period 930-1000 a West Hall and latrine have been assigned as well as the earliest Chapel and a corn mill of a rotary animal type and a flagstaff post-hole. The period 1000-1130 is represented by the 2nd Chapel, a 2nd West Hall 3 ft. narrower than the first, a drainage ditch cutting through the corn mill and an iron smelting building over the levelled-off storm-water drains and eastern boundary ditches. In 1130-1210 a 3rd West Hall was built and an Aisled Hall to the east of it 110 x 60 ft. long, with which coins of Henry I were associated. In 1210-75 a second Aisled Hall was built of narrower span than the first, with fewer bays and an outer wall of thin stone. This was rebuilt in 1275-1350 without arcades and the lime-kiln, bell-casting pit and 3rd Chapel are now assigned to this period. In 1350-1400 a large building of uncertain plan, not wholly excavated, was erected and the 4th Chapel, shortened to the length of the Saxon nave and still standing. Three major buildings of the period 1400-1600 with stone-footings have been located outside the school area but not excavated. (Compiled from notes lent by Mr. P. Rahtz).

NEWS FROM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

The Secretary of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society reports that the Council has been informed that the Winchcombe Abbey site is now safe from building projects and that the Ministry has acquired the Friars Lodge at Black Friars, Gloucester, which means that the whole of the site of the Church has survived. Cirencester Historical Society has again issued an excellent Newsletter containing an article on Stained Glass by Mr. W.I. Croome. The Society has now established a museum of local interest, supplementing the fine Roman collection, in a small room at the Corinium Museum. It has been open two afternoons a week from

April to September and has attracted about 300 visitors. Exhibits range in time from a type series of local fossils through the Neolithic and Bronze Ages with a polished flint axe and bronze palstaves to Saxon times represented by the shield boss of a warrior buried on a local Roman pavement. A good collection of medieval pottery fragments contains tiles from the vanished Abbey and exhibits include a series of local tokens, a 1630 Bible printed in Cambridge, a wool-weight, leech jar, remains of Cirencester stocks, a man-trap, Victoriana including a local prescription book of 1842, and the Town Crier's bell. It is hoped that other material will be forthcoming. The Gloucester and Cheltenham branch of the Historical Association paved the way for the One Day School for VI Formers by a Sixth Form Forum for Schools in the neighbourhood conducted by Professor Hurstfield at Cheltenham Grammar School and attended by over 100 students, an excellent way of encouraging the local historians of the future. The Society of Thornbury Folk's July Bulletin contained a most interesting article on a local Informer and the efforts of a member, supported by the Society, the R.D.C. and the P.C.C., has saved a noteworthy old building, the Pound by the Church. The Forest of Dean Society is still concerned with the preservation of the Marconi Memorial raised by Italian Prisoners of War and is supporting the proposed restoration of the formal gardens at Westbury Court, which are among the earliest of their kind in the country. The Wotton-under-Edge Society has sustained a great loss in the death of their President, Mr. Bassett, but report a successful summer season and increasing membership. No doubt they are enjoying both Mr. Lindley's history of Wotton and the delightful descriptions of life at Berkeley House (one of whose rooms is preserved in the V. & A. Museum) given in Miss Beach Tilling's "Over My Shoulder" (Hogarth Press 1962).

ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

In our last number three contributors pointed out the very valuable work which amateurs could carry out on original records with the help of expert guidance. The article in this issue by Mr. Lovell on the Barr Court Records which he examined during a University Sessional Course at Bristol shows very clearly the pleasure which an enthusiast student can receive and share with others.

A similar class at Mitcheldean last winter investigated the Parish Poor Law records. The Assistant County Archivist, their tutor, reports that in ten weeks the class produced a phenomenal amount of work on a type of record which, as Mr. Salt notes in the Preface to their report, can prove tedious to a single researcher. They themselves undertook all the research work, indexing and note-taking, and from their material Mr. Smith has compiled a human record which must make them feel well rewarded.

Mitcheldean proved an interesting parish for this particular study as it suffered an unusual series of misfortunes. The cloth trade failed early in the eighteenth century, the pin-making industry which followed it declined during the century and even the Market fell into disrepute when it was rumoured that its flies had spread from the body of a murderer hanged on Wigpool

The relation of casual relief and general pensions was carefully studied and the very high purchasing power of money compared with the sums dispensed by the authorities. In this light it was realised that the grant of £76 given over 18 years to the family selected for detailed study was generous. The class must have enjoyed discovering the humanity of the overseers, who prepared to welcome back a sufferer from Gloucester Asylum by airing her clothes, white-washing and cleaning her house and filling her coal-store. They appreciated the heavy burden on the small community of 550 people only 100 - 130 of whom were rate-payers in the year 1799 - 1821 when relief was never less than £300 and twice rose over £500, partly owing to the expense of maintaining militia men's families. The settlement papers showed them the very real difficulties which might prevent the poorest class from obtaining regular work and a fixed home; sea-faring and militia service, for instance, proved hindrances.

The work-house accounts were carefully studied and the careers of the paid Masters of the Poor were revealing. The Apprenticeship records threw a pleasant light on the overseers who took real trouble to settle families of children in the same district. It is no wonder that class-members felt that "some of our predecessors, walking up the winding street, fearing winter colds in their poor clothes, heading pins in the comfortless work-house" became as familiar as their present neighbours and the "eleven-year story of little William, the bastard boy was as real as watching a child's friend grow up". Next winter the Mitcheldean class will again study records and this time members will undertake a variety of subjects and write their own papers.

In South Gloucestershire a Class at Chipping Sodbury will examine Apprentice Indentures during a course by Mr. L.Gore, B.A. based on Town Trust Records and Wickwar and Downend will discuss "Civil War and Society in the Seventeenth Century" with him. Marshfield will study Domestic and Agricultural Buildings in the South Cotswolds 1500 - 1800 with Mr. Lowe, A.R.I.B.A. Other courses include "Houses of Gloucestershire" by Mr. F. Baty at Cheltenham, "Gloucestershire Churches" by Rev. R. Mansfield at Yorkley and Mr. R.D. Abbott, A.M.A. on the Archaeology of Roman Britain at Cheltenham and The Medieval Landscape at Gloucester. With these promises of interesting Winter study for many Local History students we conclude our Autumn Newsletter.

O.M. Griffiths.

(Editor)

BOOK LIST.

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

W.H.Burston (Editors) C.W.Green	Handbook for History Teachers Methuen	25/-d
H.P.R.Finberg(Editor)	Approaches to History, a Symposium Routledge & Kegan Paul	25/-d
P.J.Bowden	The Wool Trade in Tudor & Stuart England Macmillan	35/-d
M.W.Barley	The House and Home Vista Books	30/-d
C.Whitfield	Robert Dover and the Cotswold Games Henry Sotheran Ltd.	30/-d
E.M.Carus-Wilson	Merchant Adventurers of Bristol in the 15th Century Bristol Branch of Historical Association	2/-1

A R T I C L E S

J.S.Wacher	Cirencester 1961 2nd Interim Report Antiquaries Journal 42.1.(1962)
R.Lennard	Early Manorial Juries English Historical Review Vol. LXXVII. July 1962
DomH.Farmer	William of Malmesbury Life & Works. Journal of Eccles.History.Vol. XIII. April 1962
E.R.R.Green	Open Town Fields.Agricultural History Review, Vol. IX. 1962

M I S C E L L A N E O U S .

Ordnance Survey

Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age.
H.M.S.O. 17/6d

W.O.Hassell

Lists of Bodleian coloured transparencies.
W.O.Hassell. Bodleian Library. Oxford.

B O O K R E V I E W

WOTTON UNDER EDGE. Men and Affairs of a Cotswold Wool Town.
E.S.Lindley. (Museum Press. 35s).

Wotton under Edge has had a long and honourable history which Mr. Lindley has unravelled for us with great skill and scholarship. As he remarks, some national crises have passed it by though the villeins who suffered under foraging and looting parties in the reigns of Stephen and John may have resented their own part in making history. The most romantic events in Wotton's history, were due, however, to their local connexion with the Berkeleys. It was to his house on the site of Bradley Moat, for instance, that Thomas III retired with a convenient fever to avoid being implicated with the murder of Edward II in his Castle and it was from Wotton Manor house that the Lord de Lisle set out to do battle with William Berkeley at Nibley Green. Mr. Lindley has given us a particularly clear and valuable account of the great law suit between the Berkeleys and the Beauchamp claimants in which Wotton was so deeply involved. His pedigree showing how the claims descended to the Dudleys and the Sidneys has explained to one reader at least the inwardness of the Court warning to Henry Berkeley that if he resented Queen Elizabeth's massacre of his deer he might find the Earl of Leicester adding Berkeley Castle to his manor of Wotton. Mr. Lindley shows the debt which Wotton owes to the Berkeley Ladies, Joan who created the borough in 1253 and Lady Katharine, who founded there a school whose history is little shorter than that of Winchester.

Perhaps one of the hardest tests which one can apply to a history of a particular neighbourhood is to see whether it transcends purely local interests and ask whether it will attract the general historian and the reader with no connexions with the district. Mr. Lindley can claim to have satisfied the examiners on both counts. His descriptions of such matters as the development of the borough, progress in health and hygiene and local educational institutions are careful and factual and will be of use to students of these subjects. At the same time he gives us fascinating glimpses of the Mayor's wardrobe, for instance, and the mace whose head also did duty as a loving cup. His subtitle is "Men and Affairs of a Cotswold Wool Town" and he is able to make the affairs of the town for a time our own and we watch with sympathy the long struggle to obtain water, the efforts of the clergy to prevent horses in the churchyard disinterring the coffins, the ups and downs of the schools' records, and the complications faced by the Free Church School Board when Isaac Pitman, evidently as good a teacher as he became an expert on shorthand, suddenly embraced Swedenborgianism.

He brings to life for us many men of Wotton including not only Sir Isaac Pitman and Biddle the Socinian, but Stephen Hopkins of Wortley, a mutinous but evidently competent Pilgrim Father and Thomas Rous who gave Clive the opportunity "to lay the foundations of the Indian Empire and its Civil Service". If you want to know the exact stock of an innkeeper of 1784 or the possessions of a wealthy clothier in 1701 - 2 Mr. Lindley has the answers. The last point of his sub-title is made good by a very detailed study of the large number of clothing mills in the town itself and on the Avon Stream.

Mr. Lindley has produced a study which will be a godsend to Wotton under Edge families who can fully appreciate the references to local persons and houses. There is much pleasure in this book for the rest of us and this is greatly enhanced by his small black-and-white drawings and fine photographs.

In short, this is a book which must find a place on the shelves of all who are interested in our County's history.

O. M. Griffiths.

Barr's Court in the Eighteenth Century.

Among the larger houses of southernmost Gloucestershire in the 17th and 18th centuries was Barr's Court. This, the residence of the Newtons, was about two miles from the village of Bitton and the demesne lands were right on the edge of the Royal Forest of Kingswood. On three sides of The Square, as the site of the house is now called, is a moat, and on the fourth was a farmhouse. The Court was demolished about two hundred years ago, and the farm-house about six years ago. Leland records a visit there.

The Newtons, who acquired the property by marriage, had also large estates in Lincolnshire, and after the death of the first Baronet, his successors spent most of their time either in London or in Culverthorpe, leaving Barr's Court in the care of a steward. From 1706 to 1730 Thomas Dafter, and after his death his widow Mary, were the Stewards, and among the documents preserved at Gloucester are some letters of theirs. These, addressed to Sir John Newton at his house in Soho Square, London, tell mostly of Lord's rents, heriots and mining leases, but there are other things.

As already mentioned the estate was situate on the edge of the King's Wood which was then the haunt of gangs of villains which kept the neighbourhood in terror. In a letter written in December 1707, Dafter tells Sir John: "your tannant: William Liddgarte hase bene Robbed... and have Loste in mony 102£ and 30 or 40 pound in goods and a bused him vary much and it is thoute it will Coste his Sister hare Life it wase a matter of 10 hors mene and it was Done a bouthe 7 ore 8 a Clocke at nite which puts us all in grate fere". In his next letter he reported that the sister was dead "with the frite and hurte that She Recd by the Robbary thay have made atempte at Squir trycs hous and wee wase Desterbed withe sume noise a bouthe the hous one nite which made use to Remove oure Dwelling into the hather parte of y^e grate house for our security". And there was more trouble in 1722 when Squire Trye and Dafter's son were instrumental in bringing two rogues to justice and also in saving another from the gallows. Mrs. Dafter tells Sir John that this man had a "grate frand in esq trye and in my sone for he wase Condemed with y^e Reste: his mother was a Coocke to my ould master many yers and is nowe vary sarwisabl a mong har nabors when thay be seke and no one canne a kuse hare of anything of thes Crimes so har sone had frands for hare sake". He was "tranceported and 2 womene of oure gang". Mrs. Dafter's letters tell of estate affairs much as her husband's did, and there are also references to farming. In May, 1720, she wrote "we wase lickte to have a grate crape of haie this yere after this two Drye Sumars but this laste weecke wee had suche a grate tempeste of thunder and litning and Raine... that all our meds and grounds by y^e waters wase alle spilled it is not worth a cutting which will macke haie vary Dere againe: I ame vary muche trobeled a bouthe it... bute I Desire to submit to y^e will of god ase it is his plasure to give so to tacke". In her next letter she says that 45 acres in the meads and four acres of barley and beans were all spoiled. "I cannot express my trobele: not that I sete my Harte one the things of this world I truste bute to Doe my Duty and my hartly mening is to paie avary one". Her troubles must have touched Sir John's heart for in her next letter she wrote: "I Retorne youre Honar humbell and hartly thanks for youre kindness to me in my loss which is grate".

A drought in 1723 made her write: "It is a vary sade and Mallingcolly time: for y^e Cattell with us Do Crye for mete and water. my father is 85^t yeres ould and he saies y^t he and others naver nue suche a Drye time y^e begone so Rathe in y^e yere and to conter:mue".

Here's an interesting little item of family, (or should it be place-name?) history. In January, 1722/23, she writes telling of her bargaining about two lives to be put in a lease granted in 1683. They were willing to give £140 with a Lord's rent of 12/10 a year and the heriot the best beast or £4, "so if youre Honar please to grante it them it muste be purchised by a frand of Stoutes wife for it is a

good brothar y^t will Doe this for her... and her son thay be vary Desirous to keepe it in y^e name for it have bene Called Stouts Lefing at Stoutes Hill sum Hundres of yeres... he is a vary bade Husband y^t he Cannott Doe it him selfe so his wife ould have it Done oute of his pouar not to hurte she ore hare Child if it come to them".

So could one go on and on, from a note about beer at breakfast-time to a story of an undutifull daughter; for every letter affords some little vignette of life in a Gloucestershire village in the 1700s.

E. Lovell

The Redbrook Tinplate Works : a Note

It was appropriate that the last number of this Local History Bulletin carried an obituary notice of the demise of a Gloucestershire industry, the tinplate industry, by Mr. R.J.Mansfield. Since it is to be hoped that this short account will be followed up by a larger-scale attempt to tell the story of this most interesting works, it seemed worthwhile to set down here a little more of the history of the works. At the same time, some mention will be made of other references to the history of the work in the literature of the subject.

The first job that an inquiry into the history of the Redbrook Works will have to do is to settle when the works was founded and when tinplate was first made there. As E.H.Brooke points out in his Chronology of the Tinplate Works of Great Britain (Cardiff 1944) although Rhys Jenkins came across a reference to tinplate being made at Lower Redbrook in 1774, he also says that the English Copper Company did not sell their property there till 1790. Did Townshend and Wood erect a tinplate works at Redbrook in 1771 or were David and William Tanner the first to make tinplates there in the 1790s? Rhys Jenkins' account of "The copper works at Redbrook and at Bristol" is to be found in the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society LXIII(1942).

The Redbrook Tinplate Works seems to have had a most chequered existence though we don't know the full story yet. David and William Tanner only operated the works for a short period in the 1790s and manufacture seems to have ceased there in 1798 when they became bankrupt. In 1802 in his Guide through Monmouth, Glamorgan and Brecknock, G.W.Manby reports that the works were idle through litigation. Shortly afterwards, though I do not know when, the works was carried on by John James and William Cowley but this partnership was dissolved in 1809, according to The Cambrian, 11 March 1809. On 4 March 1818, the Hereford Times carried an advertisement of the sale of "a rolling mill and tin houses, with other conveniences, capable of manufacturing 200 boxes of tin plate weekly, together with a good family residence and nine workmen's cottages situate at Redbrook". By 1821, according to Brooke (quoting the Cambrian Journal, no date) the works was operating again. Nearly twenty years later, Leitch Ritchie wrote in his book on The Wye (1839) that the "Redbrook Stream serves the purpose of turning the wheels of some iron and tin works". But in the 1840s the works again seems to have been idle for in the Hereford Journal for 26 December 1849 there is a statement that the Redbrook Tinplate Works are to be restarted.

How continuously the works operated in the second half of the 19th century remains in doubt. It is not listed in S.Griffiths, History of the Iron Trade(1873) amongst the works in production in 1872 but it is to be found in the list in W.Lewis, The Tinman's Companion (1876) when the works consisted of 2 rolling mills. The brands were REDBROOK coke tinplate and L.R.B. (presumably for Lower Redbrook) charcoal tinplate. It would be interesting to know when these brand names were adopted. First used for plates made from iron, these names would later have been transferred to plates made of steel. Cheap steel was adopted by the tinplate industry following the introduction of the Siemens open-hearth process in 1868. Different works adopted steel at different dates. When was it first used at Redbrook? In July 1883 the Redbrook Tin Plate Co. was registered and it is this same company which

recently ceased production at the Lower Redbrook Works.

Throughout its history, the works remained a small one. The two mills of 1876 had become 3 mills by 1893 and 4 mills at a somewhat later date. At the end of the depression in the tinsplate trade in the 1890s, following the closure of the American market through the McKinley tariff the Redbrook Tin Plate Company bought the Tynnewydd Works at Pontynnewydd, also a small works with three mills. The Redbrook works, together with the Player's Works at Clydach near Swansea, built up a special trade in very thin tinsplate, known as taggers but this specialism took these works out of the main stream of the development of the tinsplate industry. Though very early attempts were made to use steam there they do not appear to have been successful for waterpower was still being used forty years later in 1839 and probably much later still. When was water-power last used at Redbrook? I believe that it was not till after 1850 that the tinsplate industry generally began to use steam (see my The British Tinsplate Industry, page 55)

As the history of the steam engine shows, making steam engines in the 18th century was a tricky business so the suggestion that such an engine was made at Redbrook in 1798 is of great interest. The only evidence I know of the Redbrook engine's existence comes from the Boulton & Watt collection in Birmingham. It would be remarkable if the Redbrook engine was not one of Boulton & Watts.

From steam power to electricity. In 1904 the Redbrook Tin Plate Co. appears to have been the first firm to drive its mills by electricity but again the advantages were not obvious and the example was not generally followed.

Thus the Redbrook Tinsplate Works was the scene of early attempts to use new sources of power. It was not, as far as I have knowledge, a place where new methods in the manufacture of tinsplate were pioneered. The rebuilding in 1936/37, the adoption of oil furnaces in 1946/47 and of electricity in 1949 were improvements of an out-dated form of manufacture. They enabled a handmill plant at Redbrook to continue to operate until 1961. It was not the most modern type of machinery which was installed at Redbrook but the latest modifications of an outmoded type. Just as Redbrook was being rebuilt in the 1930s, a modern plant was being built in Monmouthshire at Ebbw Vale. This works now continuously rolls, anneals and tins plate. Manual methods have given way to machine methods. So our regret at the ending of tinsplate making at Redbrook must be tinged with relief. Work in the old pack-mill plants was hard and the product was variable in quality. The coming of the strip mill, of continuous machine methods of making tinsplate, has brought not only easier and healthier conditions for the workers but also the production of a superior product.

Like Mr. R.J.Mansfield's contribution, this note sets down something of the story of the Redbrook Works. No doubt a much fuller account could be written and I shall be interested to hear of more information about the history of the works, the methods of manufacture, the source of raw materials, the size of output, the profitability of the works and also something from the side of labour, how many were employed there, about trade unionism, conditions and hours of work, and the relations between employers and workers. No doubt there are stories about the works by people still alive who worked there which are worth preserving. Before I close I would also like to appeal for information about another works which I believe made tinsplate in Gloucestershire, two centuries or so ago. According to a reference in S.Rudder, A New History of Gloucestershire, p.452, I think that tinsplate was made at Framilode. I would be interested to know whether any other information exists about this works and whether at Framilode there are still signs of a works, with a water-driven mill, surviving.

Walter Minchinton.

REPORTS FROM MUSEUMS IN AND CONNECTED WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

In the entrance hall of Bristol Museum a most stimulating exhibit has been staged to illustrate Bristol history. The Prehistory case contains

paleolithic material from Chapel Pill, Portbury, microliths from Doynton, the Westbury-on-Trym Bronze Hoard and material from Blaise Castle Iron Age Camp and is greatly enhanced by maps and pen and ink sketches of local sites. The Roman period is represented by the Kings-Weston Villa and a very detailed scale model and illustrations of reconstructed portions of the building are provided. A splendid series of Bristol coins, medals and tokens is accompanied by a portrait of Sir William Sharington, Master of the Mint 1547-9, and of St. Peter's Hospital, the Mint in the reign of William III. Among the exhibits illustrating medieval Bristol are Hoefnagle's plan of Bristol (1581), a brass-rubbing of a merchant and his wife and some metal pilgrims badges. Bristol Delft and Glass are well represented while Law and Order is enlivened by a rather Impressionist sketch of Prisoners being marched to the New Gaol after the Riots. A charming figure of Justice accompanied by a standard weight and measure, formerly carried in processions by an Inspector, presides over Weights and Measures. Industries are represented by Tobacco including an illustration of the original Wills premises in MarylePort Street and the Wine Trade among whose exhibits are an early leather bottling device and a typical Bill of Lading with its unexpected ending "So God send the good ship to her desired Port in Safety". The Museum Authorities report that a rescue excavation on the site of St. James's Priory, which produced no spectacular results afforded useful training for students and that Mr. Rahtz is carrying out, on their behalf, a 6 weeks excavation at St. Mary-le-Port Church, now in progress. Among the Winter lectures on their programme will be "Fakes, Frauds and Forgeries in Archaeology" by Dr. Glyn Daniels on December 12th and "The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar" by Mr. Rahtz on February 20th, both at 7.30 p.m.

Cheltenham Museum reports that there have been no Local History accessions since the Spring but that lectures have been arranged in conjunction with the Historical Association; these are included in our list of Local History Societies' programmes. A Wilson Memorial Exhibition has been planned for November 10th - 24th; on November 12th the Film "Ninety Degrees South" will be presented and on November 21st, Sir Raymond Priestley will lecture on "Scott's Northern Party".

The Curator of Stroud Museum notes "that among the many recent acquisitions to the Stroud Museum has been a small but very important roll of papers shedding further light on the activities and interests of the Ferrabee family, who made and later improved, the first lawn-mower at the Phoenix Iron Works near Stroud. With it came a number of sale bills relating to other local mills.

It is surprising how little locally made cloth has found its way into our collections. For this reason it was particularly gratifying to receive a child's cape of red material made at Eastington. Since several of the cloth mills were working within the last sixty years, it may not be unreasonable to hope that readers of this Bulletin may be able to help remedy this omission. A large and varied collection of folk material has been accepted. This includes several stamped clay pipes, adding to the rapidly growing series of local finds produced by Bristol and other makers. Whilst attendance figures for 1962 appear conformable with those of previous years, there has been a further marked increase in the number of University and College students using the Museum.

Preparations are well in hand for the 1962 Stroud Festival of Religious Drama and the Arts. The Museum will be displaying a collection of Illuminated 12th - 16th century Manuscripts loaned by the Victoria and Albert Museum. The exhibition will remain open till November 20th."

The Curator of Gloucester City Museums sends the following report of the activities of his Museums:

" CITY MUSEUM - In recent months three notable additions to the collections have been received. In September an Ancient British uninscribed gold stater, of the type attributed to the Atrebatas/Regni (Evans B.10, Mack 59), came to light and has been bought by the Museum. The stater was found at Kingsholm, Gloucester, some time prior to 1930 and; although it was not recorded at the time, the evidence for its find-spot is good.

The Museum has also acquired a silver penny of Cnut(1016 - 1035) struck at the Gloucester mint by the moneyer Godric. This coin is of particular interest in that it is without the small peck marks so characteristic of many coins of this period. Numismatists believe that the peck marks are a certain indication that the coin is from a Scandinavian rather than an English hoard. In the tenth and early eleventh centuries large quantities of coin (Danegeld) were paid to Scandinavian raiding parties, and pecking was the method used to test that the coins were of true silver and not merely plated.

Two exceptionally fine silver spoons by the Gloucester silversmith, William Corsley (1640 - 1691) have also been purchased. These are an Apostle (without the emblem) and a Puritan, both dated about 1670.

FOLK MUSEUM - Amongst recent accessions to this Museum may be mentioned a fine model of the barquentine, "Oberon", made locally about sixty years ago and presented by Miss M. Lewis of Upton St. Leonards. Miss Lewis' grandfather was at one time Harbourmaster at Gloucester and amongst other items presented by her are a set of buttons of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal which he wore on his uniform.

A number of additions have been made to the collection of dairying equipment, but the Museum would be grateful for information leading to the acquisition of a pair of genuine cooper-made wooden milking pails.

The Museum is making a film on the fishing methods used on the Severn and, during the past season sequences have been obtained of long-net fishing at Rodley, and of the putcheon weirs at Awre. Work on this will continue next season, and it is hoped that the finished film will be of interest to all students of local history.

In the task of recording traditional crafts in the county, photographs have been taken of the slating of roofs with Cotswold stone slates in the village of Withington, and the Museum is indebted to Mr. Percy Smith of Stow-on-the-Wold, not only for presenting the measuring rule which he has used in his trade for many years, but also for providing an interpretation of the picturesque names by which the various sizes of slate are known.

Amongst interesting local photographs acquired are three showing early cars in Gloucester, including a photograph of an automobile expedition to Robinswood Hill, with the occupants suitably clad in motoring costume.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM - British Railways (Western Region) have withdrawn from service Castle class locomotive No. 5017, which was named "The Gloucestershire Regiment, 28th/61st Foot", in recognition of the gallantry shown by the Regiment in Korea. The nameplates from the engine, together with the Regimental Crest which it also carried, are to be presented to the Museum through the kindness of British Railways.

Amongst other additions to the Museum may be mentioned a number of Boxing Cups won by Private J. Roberts whilst serving in India, 1907 -08. The Museum has also received from the Trustees of the 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion, an oil painting of Colonel John Gore who commanded the Bristol Volunteers during the Napoleonic Wars."

EXCAVATIONS.

BON MARCHÉ SITE, GLOUCESTER.

During the summer commercial excavations for extensions to the Bon Marché premises on the west side of King's Square, Gloucester, were watched by Mr. R.D. Abbott on behalf of Gloucester Museum. A further length of the Roman north-south street running parallel to the present Northgate Street was uncovered, and some investigation made of structures on either side. On the west side of the street stood a range of buildings, the most northerly of which was a barn or storehouse, with mortared floor and a wide doorway with wooden door pest and threshold. Adjacent to this were foundation walls of squared limestone blocks forming a suite of two rooms, part of a house built early in the 2nd century. In its later history, one room had acquired a tessellated pavement, but this was almost completely robbed, though much of its mortared bed remained in situ. These buildings were

separated from the street by a stone-built main drain and a shallow drainage gully at the side of the street surface. The eastern side of the street proved less rewarding, the Roman levels being much disturbed. Nevertheless, the deep stanchion holes which were dug provided evidence of rather squalid buildings, some of them with a series of trodden clay floors. There were also indications that industrial activity was also carried on on this side of the street.

In the later stages of excavation, two magnificent 13th century pots, a tripod pitcher and a spouted jug, were discovered intact, concealed in a shallow pit penetrating into the Roman levels. The tripod pitcher in fabric and design is very like a similar vessel found many years ago beneath Eastgate Street, and this recent find may very well be a product of the same kiln.

CIRENCESTER EXCAVATIONS 1961 (reprinted by permission from the Cirencester Historical Society's Newsletter).

"The excavations which took place during July and August in the garden of Leaholme, in The Avenue, were a logical continuation of those that took place at Easter. The main task was to follow up the hints, provided by the earlier excavations, of a first-century military occupation. The attempts were successful, and they revealed the position of the north side of a fort, which must have been established at Cirencester soon after the invasion of A.D.43. Its defences consisted of a turf rampart, laced with timber to give added resilience, and a pair of ditches separated by a strip 40ft wide, in which were placed additional obstacles. Inside the fort, substantial traces of timber buildings were found, but the depth below the modern ground-surface proved too great to allow the necessary uncovering of a large area for the building-plan to be recovered. As the Roman army moved forward in Britain, so the time eventually came for the fort to be abandoned, but not before the early seventies of the first-century A.D. The site was cleared and levelled before the army left, and a great deal of rubbish was shovelled into the inner ditch, to be found during the excavations - masses of coarse pottery, fine Samian vessels and some rare green glazed cups decorated with figures of animals and birds in high relief.

After the army had left, the fort, now cleared of its defences and buildings, was presumably handed over to the new civilian authority the civitas Dobunorum, to become part of the town which was beginning to grow, towards the end of the first-century. The Basilica, partly excavated at Easter, belongs to this period. At first, the part now covered by Leaholme garden seems to have been laid out as an open gravelled space, although some traces of timber buildings were found. Later, however, during the second-century a large masonry building was erected, with a single range of square rooms situated between colonnades, which probably served as a market. It flanked a street on its south side which separated it from the shops uncovered at Easter. This street was unexpectedly wide and it lay over the cut-down rampart of the early fort.

During the fourth-century the market was rebuilt, and soon afterwards, another building was placed close to its north side. Only its outer wall, 6ft 6 ins. thick, was found, and most of it must lie under The Avenue and the houses on the other side. But its massive nature is proclaimed by the thickness of the wall, which ought to suggest a public use. Few classes of building require walls of this strength, but until more excavation can be done, its function must remain hidden".

Summer Season 1962. "The most interesting part of the dig was concerned with the Amphitheatre, a large building situated outside the Town Walls to the south-west, and known to modern Cirencester as the Bull Ring. It was unfortunate that resources had to be diverted from this investigation to meet the emergencies elsewhere, but nevertheless, by concentrating on a small area of the Amphitheatre, some important information was gathered about its construction and history. One side of one of the two passageways leading directly into the arena was uncovered, and it was found that the banks of piled-up clay and stone, which carried the seating, had been at first retained by stone walls, both in the entrance passageway and round the circumference of the arena; at this period, the arena gate apparently consisted of a single portal. A fortunate find in the clay of the seating

bank was a denarius of Trajan which cannot have been in circulation before A.D.104, so that the initial building is certainly of second century date. Its later history is very complicated and a great deal more work will be required before it is fully understood. It seems that the stone walls of the passage were replaced by a timber revetment, and at some stage the gate was also rebuilt to include smaller doors flanking the main portal. At a later stage still, these smaller openings were blocked and the main portal narrowed in width. But the lack of datable pottery and coins means that these alterations cannot as yet be dated. This important, if limited, information will form the basis for future exploration.

Two other sites have added to the knowledge of the street system. One, near the Forum Car Park, where the new Police Station is soon to be built, revealed Ermin Street and another street at right angles to it. Here also were a succession of occupational levels and building dating from the late first century and fronting on to both streets. In one of the earlier buildings a twenty-foot length of a wall was found to be standing to a height of nearly six feet, with the painted plaster face still in position. The decoration included alternating panels of green and yellow above a black dado on which geometrical patterns had been painted in red and white. It is rare to find such large areas of undamaged decorated plaster in Britain, and it has now been lifted, a laborious and time-consuming process. After careful cleaning and restoration it will be placed on view in the Corinium Museum, where it will form a valuable addition to the knowledge of Roman house decoration in Britain.

A site in Victoria Road has confirmed the presence of another previously suspected street, parallel to Ermin Street but further east. This new evidence, together with that obtained in excavations during the last two years, now makes it possible to reconstruct the complete street plan of Roman Cirencester with considerable accuracy. Like other towns, such as Verulamium and Silchester, the land was divided by the streets into rectangular plots or insulae of varying size. In towns which decayed at the end of the Roman period and became covered with open fields, the streets can be easily identified by means of aerial photography, so providing a short cut for the archaeologist. Where a modern town has continued in existence on the same site as in antiquity, no such short cut is available, and only systematic excavation can produce the results. So far only two towns in Britain, apart from Cirencester, have received sufficient attention to reveal their complete plans: Canterbury, where the Roman street system was planned by Mr. S.S. Frere in his excavations between 1945 and 1956, and Colchester.

A trial section of the defences was also made at the south end of the town. This showed that the later stone wall followed, in this part of the circuit, the same line as the earlier fortification which consisted of an earth bank and ditch, and which was first identified in 1960 near the North-East Gate. For some as yet unexplained reason, the stone wall was found to be only four feet thick in place of the usual ten feet.

The fifth site examined was close to the north-west corner of the town. It would appear that this area was repeatedly flooded in Roman times and some interesting evidence was obtained of the method used to combat this danger. However, the ground must have remained unsuitable for buildings and none were found. But the same site yielded, for the first time in this series of excavations, substantial quantities of occupation material dating from the Middle Ages, a period which is, archaeologically speaking, still lamentably blank in Cirencester.

J.S.Wacher.

FROGESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA.

Excavations in 1962, under the direction of Captain H.S. Gracie, have shown that the villa was built in two stages. The first building was a block about 100 feet long and 25 feet wide, divided into two large rooms at the ends with a long hall and a narrow room in the middle. The east room had a well preserved floor of opus signinum and was evidently the master's living room. That at the opposite end appears to have been a smithy. The long hall was divided into three sections, but there was no physical evidence of division except in the state of the floors.

The west end of the hall was a kitchen and bakery in which there were a great bake-oven, a soak-away for waste water, a rubbish pit and a small cooking oven. The centre portion had a clean floor, possibly something in the nature of a store room or pantry, while a thick deposit of dirt, clay and ashes at the east end suggested a work room.

At an early date the corridor, exposed last year, and a room at each end were added. That at the east end had an opus signinum floor and was an additional living room. The west room had a typical T-shaped corn dryer.

About the middle of the 4th century an extensive internal re-organisation was carried out. A new floor was laid over part of the kitchen leaving this part of the hall as a bakery and grain store. The corn dryer was filled in and the room converted into a kitchen, in which the oven and corn grinding quern were still in position. The newer living room was given a hypocaust and tessellated pavement. The floor, unfortunately, was above the present turf line and so its existence could only be inferred from the quantity of loose tesserae in the hypocaust channels.

Probing with an auger has shown trenches, probably foundation trenches, in an area 60 feet by 30 feet at the back of the east wing. Further excavation is planned for 1963 to determine the use of these rooms and the period to which they belong.

BARNESLEY PARK EXCAVATIONS 1962.

The work started last year has been extended to seventeen 12 ft. by 12 ft. squares, and it is now possible to suggest a provisional phasing for the history of this area of the site.

Phase 1. at present consists only of several post holes with stone packing sealed below the earliest masonry. This shows that much of the site will require complete stripping if recognizable elements of these early buildings can be planned. So far there are no occupation levels associated with these structures.

Phase 2 consists of a series of dry stone wall structures in the southern part of the site. The pattern of these walls of varying thickness, and a curved structure with one face like the edge of a platform, is as yet too fragmentary and complex to understand. Overlying these structures to the south-west of boxes 1 and 2 is a deposit of charcoal with evidence of burning. From this have come two iron scythe-like objects each seven feet long. They are similar to those from Great Chesterford now in the Downing Street Museum, Cambridge. The presence of such large iron objects in this deposit suggests the destruction by fire of a building at this point, with subsequent lack of any attempt to salvage the metalwork. It seems unlikely that such objects would be discarded as scrap. Fourth century pottery has been recovered from the dry stone walling, showing that all the stonework so far investigated must belong to that period. The structures are covered by two layers of paving, the upper one with exceptionally large, well pitched stones. This year the lower yard produced a coin of Valens (364-378 A.D.), showing that it was in use as an open yard not earlier than the last quarter of the fourth century.

Phase 3 consists of the first substantial masonry wall, in the footings of which was found in 1961 a coin of Constantius II (337-361 A.D.). Part of this structure has been heavily robbed towards the west. The relationship of this wall to the yard levels has yet to be established - as has the type of structure to which it belonged.

Phase 4 consists of the addition of two rooms in poorer masonry in boxes 5 and 13. One room was fitted with a channelled hypocaust and a flue cut into the Phase 3 wall. This hypocaust later became disused and the flues blocked, including the main one in the Phase 3 wall. A large Stone step led from the narrow room to the east into the warm room and this showed considerable signs of wear. To the north (box 9) was heavy paving, normally to be associated with an open yard. This area was subsequently altered in a drastic manner. The paving slabs in the narrow room (boxes 5 and 13) were taken up, a threshold wrenched out of the Phase 3 wall without any attempt to make good, and the area packed with large stones, presumably to provide a solid platform for some unknown purpose. How much the domestic aspects of this building survived is not clear. The walls of this phase had cut away the dry stone structures and the domestic use is presumably associated with the lower yard and the alteration with the heavy pitching, but this has yet to be established conclusively.

Phase 5 consists of walls (boxes 10 and 11) overriding the heavy paving of Phase 4 but which may be connected with the drastic alterations mentioned above.

An investigation in the western part of the building revealed the presence of heavy robbing both of walls and floors (box 14). The only other discovery of note was that of a fragment of tile stamped ARVE/RI. Similar stamps have been found in the bath building at Listercombe Bottom, Chedworth and buildings in Cirencester. There are twelve examples in the Corinium Museum but the one illustrated is a different die from the one from Barnsley Park (J.R.S., xlv (1955) p.71 and Pl. xv, No. 15).

This season has clearly demonstrated the potential wealth of interesting structural detail and complex history which it will be the task of many years to study with benefit to us all. Mr. Collin Bowen kindly visited the site and spent some time studying the elements of a possible field system in the Park and a start was made in surveying these remains. If such a system can be established beyond doubt by its alignment to the known buildings it will be a distinct gain in knowledge of an unusual kind. We also had Tony Dunk working with us again extending his geographical survey which will be of considerable importance as a piece of research, as well as giving us indications of buildings in the adjacent areas (for a note on results to date see Antiquity, xxxvi (1962) p.133).

Graham Webster.

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES - ACCESSIONS TO LOCAL COLLECTION.

AUTUMN 1961 - 1962.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society: Transactions 1961, Vol. LXXX.

Hubbard, Arthur John and George. Neolithic dewponds and cattle ways.

Lapworth, Charles. A sacred chronology compiled for the use of the scholars of Winchcomb Grammar school.

Gloucester Record Office: Tewkesbury Borough records. A summary catalogue.

Harvey, John H. The origin of the Perpendicular style.

University of Bristol - Department of Extra-Mural Studies. The poor of Mitcheldean 1660-1834.

London Road Junior Boys' School. The National 1816-1962.

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PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

AUTUMN & WINTER 1962-3.

Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society.

- Nov. 12th "Bristol Merchants Commemorated by Monumental Brasses".
H.G.M. Leighton, M.A.
- Dec. 3rd "Frocester Court Roman Villa 1961-2". Capt. H.S. Gracie,
C.B., F.S.A., R.N.
- Feb. 4th "Vernacular Architecture & History in S. Gloucestershire".
L. Gore, B.A.
- March 4th "The Bristol Mint and Coins". L.V. Grinsell, F.S.A.

Cheltenham & Gloucester Historical Association.

- Oct. 11th "Adolf Hitler". A.J. Taylor, M.A.
- Oct. 26th "Problems of Historical Writing". Prof. R.W. Southern.
- Nov. 16th "King Alfred". R.H. Davis, M.A.

Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society.

- Oct. 11th "Iron Age Bog Burials". Mrs. M.A. Cotton, F.S.A.
- Oct. 22nd "Prehistory of Mendips". E.J. Mason, F.A.I.
- Nov. 5th "Berkeley Castle". Capt. R.J. Berkeley.
- Nov. 26th "Air Photography and the Archaeologist". A. Baker, Esq.,
Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham University.
- Jan. 21st "An Hellenic Cruise". Rev. R. Elphick.
- Feb. 4th "Nonesuch Palace". M. Biddle, F.S.A. Inspector Ancient
Monuments, Ministry of Works.
- Feb. 25th "Excavations at Frocester. Capt. H.S. Gracie, F.S.A.
- March 18th "Cirencester 1961-2. Excavations". J.S. Wachter, F.S.A.

Forest of Dean Local History Society.

- Nov. 3rd "Gloucestershire Churches" (Tour round Diocese in Colour).
Rev. R.J. Mansfield.
Dec. 1st "Inland Port". B.C. Smith, Esq.
Feb. 2nd Film Afternoon

The Society of Thornbury Folk.

- Oct. 30th "My Visit to Israel". Miss N.A. Ayres.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

- Oct. 26th "History of Surnames". Mrs. Matthews
Nov. 30th "Visit to Russia and other Slav Countries".
Miss Macartney.
Dec. 12th Social Meeting.
Jan. 25th "Alvar Temples". J.S. Waddington, M.B.E., E.S.A.
Feb. 22nd Annual General Meeting.
March 29th "The Police and the Public". J.S.H. Gaskain, M.B.E.,
Chief Constable of Gloucestershire.

ALTERATIONS IN:

"OFFICERS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE"

Cheltenham and Gloucester Historical Association.

- President - The Very Rev. The Dean, The Deanery, Gloucester.
Hon. Sec. for Gloucester - Miss Tregaskes, 82, Kingsholm Rd., Gloucester.
Hon. Treasurer - J. Trigg, Esq., 37, Horsefair Street, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Glos.

Forest of Dean History Society.

- Chairman - R.T. Kear, Esq., Station St., Cinderford, Glos.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

- President - Vacant till A.G.M.

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