

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

LOCAL HISTORY

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1964.

In this number, work on Parish Records takes pride of place and there are a refreshing number of new ventures to be discussed, the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, the new Local History Society at Pucklechurch and experiments in recording buildings at Marshfield and Cheltenham. The first volume of the Victoria County History covering Bourton-on-the-Water, Moreton-in-the-Marsh and Stow has gone to press and research on Deerhurst, Prestbury and Tirley has already been undertaken for the next volume on the Tewkesbury area. Two volumes of the Cirencester Cartulary ed. by Dr. C. Ross are expected shortly and the Gloucestershire volume of the English Place Name Society is also in the Press. The number of enthusiasts in Local History and archaeology are greatly increasing and more and more tools for their work are becoming available.

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

The Exhibition on "Vanishing History" arranged by the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Standing Conference shown at Bristol Museum in January deserved a more positive title, for it was not a mere record of vandalism but a practical demonstration on "How to Prevent Buildings of Historic Value from Vanishing". Three excellent stands proved that the best way of safeguarding the existence of an ancient building is to adapt it to a modern use. The enterprising residents of Cavendish (Suffolk) rescued a charming group of cottages near the Church from demolition and converted them into almshouses. It is good to know that they received many offers of help ranging from the S.P.A.B. to the Suffolk Electricity Board. The Trinity Almshouses (Mile End Road, London) were converted into living accommodation which could be let at an economic rent without endangering the magnificent seventeenth century brick exterior and the Chapel is now used as a Centre for the Handicapped. The Merchant Taylors Almshouses in our own City, one of the earliest brick buildings in Bristol, which has been converted into a Branch Bank, was the third example. The importance of preserving dating material such as wallpaper, which can be destroyed by workmen in a few hours, was stressed. The need for a thorough internal examination of any building under consideration was illustrated by photographs of Clock House, Little Stonham, Suffolk, where the chimneys alone give any indication on the exterior that the house is of interest, though it dates from 1493 and contains large portions of the medieval roof and fine sixteenth century plaster ceilings. One stand was devoted to fine building in our own district including cob and thatch from Cannington (Somerset) elaborate timber-work in Ombersley (Worcs) and Cotswold stonework at Tetbury and Chipping Campden. It is to be hoped that this excellent Exhibition will be shown at other centres in the County.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

The Committee regret the resignation of their Secretary, Mr. John Gwynne, whose kindly help and interest in the countryside were greatly appreciated. Until his successor is appointed, all communications should be sent to the General Secretary, Gloucestershire Community Council.

Since our last report the results of three Competitions have been announced. Fourteen entries were received for the W.I. Competition for a set of slides with introduction and commentary illustrating the history of their village. The first prize went to Chedworth for an entry with slides of very high quality covering many aspects of the village's history and a most competent commentary. Brookthorpe (2nd) concentrated on the agricultural and social history of the last few hundred years and the slides of buildings were particularly notable. Frampton (3rd) were praised for their choice of illustrations and Dowdeswell's and Bourton-on-the-Water's entries received commendation.

The Schools Competition for an essay on a Local History subject again produced some very promising work and the 1st Prize entry by J.M. Rogers (Marling School, Stroud) on Gloucestershire Railway Architecture was an outstanding piece of Industrial Archaeological Research. No printed material exists on this subject so the author cycled to an enormous number of stations and produced a very sound and scholarly piece of work illustrated by photographs which may ultimately prove of real historical value. Four prizes in this competition were won by Severn Vale Secondary School, Quedgeley; the 2nd Individual Prize, awarded to Shirley Hanham for a paper on Sir George Onesiphorus Paul, and the 3rd Prize in this section gained by Judith Day and Patricia Willott for a paper on Education in Quedgeley, the 1st group entry Prize for an entry on Robert Raikes and his newspaper and the 2nd group Prize for work on The Old Squire, Barwick Baker. All these entries were commended for their thoroughness and modesty, good methods of work and excellent presentation. The 3rd group Prize went to pupils of Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge, for an enthusiastic and sensible entry on the Battle of Nibley Green.

The last Competition was offered for papers by Gloucestershire residents over 65 years of age on their memories of life before 1918 (preferably before 1914). Forty-nine entries were received and the standard was very high indeed. The 1st Prize was divided between Mr. A.G. Dutton (Forthampton) for an excellent paper on this village including very interesting details on farming and farm machinery and on village characters, and Mr. H.A. Bennett (now at Stapleton) for an account of his early life at Oldbury. The 2nd Prize went to Mr. F.A. Chamberlayne (MaiseMORE) for a description of life on Severn-side as seen from the "Avonmore" and the "Berkeley Castle". Mrs. Bishop (Farmington) was 3rd with a simple and most telling account of the experiences of a carter's family. Five papers were Highly Commended and three more given an Honorable Mention including that of our oldest competitor aged 96. The Committee are hoping to obtain tape-recordings of many of the papers so that Old People's Clubs, Schools and Societies, may hear a programme based on these memories. A fuller account of the competition is given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Committee has decided to continue the photographic side of the Carved Tombstones Survey begun by Mr. Jones. Two hundred and fifteen parishes are still unrecorded and the Committee is now concentrating on the Forest and Dursley Rural Deanery.

A new competition, with a prize or prizes to the value of £15 for an essay, not exceeding 5,000 words, on some aspect of Gloucestershire industrial history or archaeology is being arranged this year, the closing date being December 31st. The subject may relate to any form of industrial activity at any period and could deal with manufacture, transport or engineering, but should not cover too wide a field. Full particulars can be obtained from the County Records Officer, Shire Hall, Gloucester.

A STAFF IN THE HAND.

The first point to be made in discussing the "Guide to the Parish Records of the City of Bristol and the County of Gloucester" (ed. Irvine Gray and Elizabeth Ralph. Printed for Records Section, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. 30/-) is the scope and purpose of the volume. It is a catalogue of the existing Parish Records in the County and the cities of Bristol and Gloucester, showing whether each document is still in the Parish Chest or has been deposited in a Record Office or with some other custodian. The records are listed under Parish Churches and classified according to their contents. Brief notes indicate the existence of material of special interest but the volume is, as its title suggests, a handbook for those who wish to investigate the records for themselves and not a detailed Calendar of their contents. No-one will find in this work any account of the births, marriages, and deaths of his fore-bears but will at once see whether the registers containing the information he needs still exist and where they are kept.

The average reader may at first glance feel that the book is not for him, but the Preface and notes will soon persuade him otherwise. He will want to know the exact nature of the remedy for the bite of a mad dog bought by the Churchwardens of St. Martin, North Nibley, and examine for himself the sad resolve of the Vicar of Temple Church (Bristol) recorded in the Burial Register for 1713 to report no more burials in linen since the Mayor's unmerciful snub to his Churchwarden or inspect the Prayer Book presented to St. Mary, Shirehampton, by a Quaker as a token of repentance for his assault on William Porter, a King's boatman. The notes on Records still remaining in their Parishes are necessarily more brief than for those on deposit but when our reader, becoming more and more enthralled with the originals, undertakes work for himself on the lines suggested by Mr. B.S. Smith, he will soon discover the fascinating possibilities in such descriptions as "includes general and local memoranda". At Little Sodbury, for instance, the Register thus described contains the excommunication in 1711 of a Churchwarden for pawning the Church Plate and a note which gives an interesting slant on national history for it reminds us that it was the month and year of Charles II's Restoration which saw the birth of the small German cousin, who would outlive five English Sovereigns and be proclaimed at Chipping Sodbury Cross as George I.

Those who are already serious students will at once realise the intense importance of this book and the debt historians owe to the Editors and to Mr. Lindley who visited so many of the 400 parishes on their behalf. They already understand the great variety of documents which the records of a Parish can cover, ranging in our region, as the illustrations show, from a fourteenth century grant of water supply to a detailed record of the expenses incurred by a mass emigration of Bisley folk in 1837. But for the first time, researchers will be able to note in peace and quiet at home what material is available for their project and map out their campaign, saving time moreover in identifying and dating records on the spot, work which cannot always be carried out in ideal conditions. Moreover a check list now exists covering not only the Registers and Vestry records but the general miscellany of papers, often of great interest, which accumulate in the Parish Chest and may so easily be weeded out and lost. While this Guide was being compiled serious losses have been discovered and unexpected treasures come to light, and it has been only too obvious that if an authoritative list is not available the death or removal of an incumbent may be followed by the disappearance of irreplaceable records.

Though this work has taken thirteen years to compile, in a sense it will never be completed for more material, such as the Broadwell registers recently found among Broughton Castle muniments, will appear and these additions will be reported in the B.G.A.S. Transactions. Work on the Bishop's Transcripts is still continuing though the great majority have been identified and listed in this volume. Lists of other types of record concerned with parish history will supplement this Guide, such as the catalogue on Gloucester Diocese Terriers recently issued by Gloucester City Library (free on application) which makes accessible most valuable material on tithe and glebe-lands from the sixteenth century onwards. But however the future may widen our knowledge of records which concern parish life, this volume will always remain a standard work of reference and a worthy monument to all who brought it into being.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The following account of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology has been received from the Chairman.

"Last September a one day conference on Industrial Archaeology was held at Stroud & District Technical College under the auspices of the University of Bristol's Department of Extra-Mural Studies. Because there was also a strong local interest, support was obviously forthcoming for further lectures on specialised topics. A course of ten lectures was held at Stroud between October and December.

By the end of this period a group of enthusiasts were keen to start some exploratory fieldwork themselves. Led by Mr. L.F.J. Walrond, the Curator of Stroud Museum, a party of eight successfully completed a field survey of the derelict but still standing remains of Monks Mill at Alderley, near Wotton-under-Edge. Measurements and photographs have enabled detailed drawings to be made of the structure and the water courses and several interesting new facts have come to light.

This survey was followed by a day trip to Trowbridge, once a thriving cloth town rivalling Stroud. Mr. Kenneth Ponting, an expert on the wool industry and its history showed enthusiasts several local buildings associated with the cloth trade, which included mills, a church and sixteenth century houses built by the clothiers outside the town.

Following the successful series of autumn talks, the University of Bristol has arranged a further spring series currently being held at Stroud & District Technical College and Mr. L.F.J. Walrond commenced this course with two well-illustrated lectures on the industrial remains in the Stroud Valleys and the interpretation of the surviving evidence associated with these remains.

A visit to the County Records Office in Shire Hall, Gloucester, was preceded by a talk by Mr. I.E. Gray on the work of his office and the details of many of the documents and maps which are available for inspection there.

On 3rd April, Mr. C. Cox will be lecturing on a survey of milestones which he has recently completed in the Stroud area.

During the summer months the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology are planning to arrange several weekend excursions to nearby places of historical interest. There will be a guided tour along parts of the Stroudwater & Thames and Severn Canals, a visit to the remaining 1885 beam pumping engine for the Severn Tunnel at Sudbrook, together with a look at the Newport Transporter Bridge which dates from 1906, and a conducted trip over the Stanley & Ebley Mills owned by Marling & Evans Ltd. of Stroud. Stanley Mill which dates from 1813 is of great architectural importance having a notable brick and stone exterior in the functional tradition together with most unusual internal traceried cast iron arches supported on rows of cast iron columns. Further afield, it is hoped to arrange another excursion to Wiltshire to view mills and the interior of one of the privately-owned clothiers houses together with a guided tour of Bradford-on-Avon led again by Mr. Kenneth Ponting.

Apart from these planned group activities, individual activities in the area include the following:

- Stroud Area milestones
- " " turnpike houses
- Bibliography of local railways
- Stonehouse-Dudbridge-Nailsworth-Stroud line
- Local clothiers and their pedigrees
- Distribution of tumbling weirs near Stroud
- Bibliography of canals
- Dickenson's Star Sauce factory
- Cranham potteries
- Machinery used in quarrying stone in Minchinhampton area
- Documentary records of all industries
- History of Lightpill Mill

Members of the group come from many different walks of life. There is a schoolmaster, toolmaker, farmer, solicitor, chemist, interior designer, several architects and also some school pupils on the books. New members are constantly being enrolled and if anyone is interested in joining this lively local group and learning more about the new and exciting subject of Industrial Archaeology details will gladly be given by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Warren Marsh, c/o Gleeds, 19, College Green, Gloucester. Mr. Lionel Walrond, of Stroud Museum, will be glad to hear from those interested in fieldwork."

TWO LOCAL VENTURES.

The Rev. J.E. Gethyn-Jones has written us the following appraisal of "Forest Story" by the Rev. R.J. Mansfield (5/6d. post free from the author, The Vicarage, Newnham-on-Severn.)

"The Dean Forest is an ancient Royal Chase, and an area as full of history as it is of trees. In spite of this we, the general public, and even the Foresters themselves, know so little of the Forest's past, its life-story, its people and its ways.

Guide-books focus one's attention on St. Briavels, Speech House, the Severn bore and little else. Popular histories and articles tell pleasant tales of witchcraft, charm or a certain ursurine demise - a "cause celebre!" The mining industry and the Verderers have been the subject of learned treatises. The lack, the great felt want, has been a history, brief yet covering the Forest as a whole. "Forest Story" is just that. The Vicar of Newnham, a Forester, born, bred and resident, in 56 pages has dealt with this vast subject - and vast it is - in an admirable manner.

In his Introduction the author says that he is not writing for the "scholar" - why should he? The learned and the serious students have the County Records Office or Bodleian to satisfy their needs. "Forest Story" is for "the ordinary person, the resident and the visitor;" and many such will be grateful to the vicar for his enterprise and research. This new history of the Forest has been told with a conciseness and clarity that pleases.

The pre-history section is adequate; giving a problematical picture, built up from evidence which is, of necessity, sparse.

Mr. Mansfield has been modest in his Roman claims for the Forest, while his reconstruction of life in Anglo-Saxon days is both reasonable and interesting - would that more was known about this dark chapter of our history. With the Norman the landscape, both local and national, becomes clearer. Here the author has shown his ability as an historian and story-teller. King John, Drake, Raleigh, Sternhold and Hopkins and the Free Miners flit across the stage; while Church, State, education and philanthropy, coal, iron, steel and British oaks and armaments and much else find their place. He skims, with commendable restraint, over much that would justify expansion.

I have known the Forest for fifty years, living both in it and just beyond its boundaries. Now for me, for the first time, its past has been peopled and made to live as never before. From "Forest Story" I have learned much, and in the learning have derived great pleasure. Others, resident and visitor alike, will, I am sure, endorse this view".

The Gloucestershire village most of us connect with the Tractarians is of course Southrop where John Keble wrote the "Christian Year" but Mr. G. Sanders in "Bisley and the Oxford Movement" reminds us of the "Bisley School", followers of his brother Thomas Keble who was vicar there. The history of this group, one of whom even destroyed a gallery of private pews singlehanded in his zeal, makes most enjoyable reading. The pamphlet can be obtained from the author, Buckhorn House, Bisley, 9d. post free, the proceeds being devoted to the Organ Restoration Fund.

"FOR FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS".

The great treasure which Bristol possesses in its Cathedral has been very slowly realised even by Bristolians themselves. Visitors were formerly rushed to St. Mary Redcliffe as a matter of course, but the Cathedral was only inspected if there was a spare hour to be filled. This truncated medieval building with a Victorian nave has been so long ignored in favour of the "goodliest parish church in England" that it is refreshing to find Dr. Pevsner ascribing the famous N.porch of St. Mary to a master-mason of the workshop responsible for the E. end of the Cathedral. During the present century, however, appreciation and understanding of the Cathedral's qualities have been steadily increasing. The excellence of the Norman Chapter House and the Elder Lady Chapel were early realised. Professor Tristram's rich use of gilding and colour brought out the full beauty of the carved bosses and of the reredos in the Eastern Lady Chapel. Now Dr. Pevsner points out the imagination and invention of the Master, who, between 1298 - 1330 raised

the Chancel, the Eastern Lady Chapel, the Berkeley Chapel and the Sacristy. The brilliance with which the builder attacked the problems and possibilities of a design in which the aisles are as high as the nave is so fully explained that it seems unbelievable that early critics condemned the amazing device whereby the weight of the chancel vault is conveyed to the outer walls as mere "carpentry in stone". We are enabled to appreciate fully the effect of light and space resulting from the unbroken sweep upward of the chancel piers and arches and the height of the aisles and the originality of the experiment whereby the tranverse ridge-ribs in the chancel roof vaulting are split to form kite-shaped lozenges, and the aisle bridges and vaulting arranged to give every possible "spatial surprise". The variety of the aisle window forms, the little masterpiece of vaulting in the Sacristy and the extraordinary combination of straight lines and curves in the Recesses are brought to our notice and we can realise why Dr. Pevsner claims that for "spatial imagination" Abbot Knowles' work here "is superior to anything else built in Europe at that time and proves that English design surpassed all other countries during the first third of the fourteenth century." While Knowles' work is obviously the chief glory of the fabric it seems probable that Street's nave will receive more admiration in the future than it has enjoyed in the past.

But while our admiration and enjoyment of the Cathedral has been so greatly increased, the fabric itself has been in danger. The gas and lead works nearby have rotted the exterior to such an extent that over £300,000 must be spent on restoration. Gloucestershire has a special link with the Cathedral for the original Abbey was a Berkeley foundation and their burial place and several of their monuments can still be seen. In the recess between the aisle and the Berkeley Chapel the Lady Joan was laid to rest in 1309 when her illness could no longer be held at bay by the constant exercise of sawing wood recommended by her physicians. Her husband, Thomas the Wise, was buried by her side in the building with which he had special connexions. In his youth spent at Bedminster, the Abbot had been his instructor and he in turn had feasted the Abbot every Lent. The Berkeley Chapel is named from a chantry endowed by Thomas III, the collaborator in the murder of Edward II, for his first wife Margaret, daughter of Roger Mortimer, the King's chief enemy. Her effigy can be seen in the Elder Lady Chapel, but the figure by her side is not of her husband who was buried at Wotton-under-Edge with his second wife, but her son, Maurice the Valiant, who was severely wounded in both thighs at Poitiers.

There could be no better time for school excursions and local history society expeditions than the present, when the whole building seems filled with life and enthusiasm. The Precentor will arrange suitable dates and provide guides for parties and Gloucestershire visitors will certainly be glad to contribute to the work for which the Chapter, never a wealthy body, has now no available funds upon which to draw.

"STUDIES IN DEAN HISTORY".

Once again the members of an Adult Education class at Mitcheldean have produced a most interesting record of their class-work on original records. The most striking contribution is the collection of papers on Little Dean Prison which owes its existence to Sir George Onesiphorus Paul and is the only one of his Houses of Correction which remains intact. The project is introduced by short papers on the appalling state of eighteenth century prisons and on the work of Paul himself who replaced the disgraceful buildings in this county described by Howard and made Gloucestershire the model for the penal system of England. The prison building is well described and though the open piazza and balcony shown in the original design never materialised, it evidently embodied many of his reforms, the single cells, the opportunities for exercise, the bathroom and fumigating room. It was, according to the Webbs, due to Paul and Paul alone that the unpaid turnkeys, who recouped themselves by screwing the last half-penny for necessities from the poor and providing drink, luxuries and opportunities for vice for prisoners with means, were replaced by salaried officers with a paid staff, responsible to the Justices and under their constant supervision. The papers show Paul's insistence on the duties of the Magistrates and his fury when, the day after a complacent report had been entered by a fellow Justice, he found Mary Rider and her child with the itch. He insisted on remedial treatment and the provision of changes of clothing and sheets for the prisoners.

He is seen forbidding the keeper to grow vegetables on part of the Airing Ground for fear lest he should be tempted to profiteer out of his charges. The food provided apparently did not always reach Paul's ideal of a daily meat meal with vegetables but tea and sugar were allowed to the female prisoners and extra provision was made for nursing mothers. The entirely changed attitude to the prisoners shown by the staff, who recognised they were human beings to be helped and not slaves to be exploited is well shown by the constant commendation of the keeper's wife who cared for the women and children, taught the illiterate and gave instruction on the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Catechism. It is even more strongly illustrated by the case of Thomas Knight, a consumptive, who not only received medical care throughout his confinement but, when no friends came forward at the time for his release, was nursed in the Prison Infirmary till he died.

These studies also include a paper on Mitcheldean Place Names compiled from appropriate records and the lively abstracts from the Church-Wardens' Accounts and the attempt to trace the history of a typical poor Mitcheldean family of the late eighteenth century bear out Mr. Smith's argument in his article that amateur historians can find wide scope for their energies in the Parish Records. It is no wonder that the students stayed long over the appointed hour when they were engaged on such exciting research-work.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

Cirencester Historical Society has sustained a great loss in the death of their Chairman, Canon Greensted, who gave them most generously of his time and experience and organised their Historical Museum. The B.G.A.S. Records Section's eagerly awaited guide to the County Parish Records has been already noted. It is pleasant to record the appearance of a new Local History Society at Pucklechurch. The members wisely asked for a course of Adult Education lectures and attended a series on Archaeology by Mr. C. Browne, Secretary of B.A.R.G. An unrecorded Roman road and occupation site have been discovered and the Group hope to explore the sites more thoroughly under their tutor's guidance. The Society has its own Newsheet and is already collecting field-names and material for future surveys and hopes to investigate local industries past and present, footpaths and ancient roads and the history of local architecture. At Marshfield work is being carried out on the history of local domestic architecture by a group who attended an Adult Education class by Mr. Jeremy Lowe who still gives them his help. Information given at Group meetings is entered on a card-index and large-scale map. At present the Group are relying on visual observation of exteriors, and building up an overall picture which will show which houses will repay a more thorough examination. They have certainly identified one timber-framed building and probably a second. At a later stage they hope to examine the documentary evidence available. The Cheltenham Society's Buildings Record Scheme, which has now been running for nine months is based on documents and personal observations. One set of cards covers the history of each building with the sources, manuscript, printed and graphic, while a second shows day-to-day changes such as conversions, demolitions, important decorations and changes of use. Their methods were examined by the City of Bath before undertaking a similar scheme. The Bristol Archaeological Research Group has issued the first part of their "Survey and Policy concerning the Archaeology of the Bristol Region" (5/9d. post-free from the Group, Bristol Museum). Though a highly technical work, there is much to interest the general reader. The effects of recent research on the dating of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages are discussed. We are told that oolite, probably from the Bath-Frome area, was used to build the W. Kennet Long Barrow and to temper the clay used for Windmill Hill pottery and that Sea Mills probably played a part in the Roman invasion of Wales and was certainly a ferry terminus for S. Wales down to the end of the Roman period. A clear analysis of the known sub-Roman and A.S. sites in the district is also provided.

ADULT EDUCATION.

Not only was it necessary to arrange a further course on Industrial Archaeology at Stroud to satisfy enthusiasts but Pucklechurch has insisted on a second course on Archaeology in the Field. Under Mr. Browne's guidance they will visit 10 places of interest including Hetty Pegler's Tump, Castle Farm, Marshfield (deserted Medieval Village) Avebury, Uffington and Lansdown. Mr. Abbott is again taking courses on Medieval Landscape and Buildings and Mr. L. Gore will lecture on the regional history of S. Gloucestershire at Yate. Since the list given in our Autumn number was compiled, W.E.A. courses on Gloucestershire Study by Mr. F.W. Baty were arranged at Cheltenham and Gloucester and he also organised a Weekend School at Cleeve Hill on "From Cotswold Edge to Severnside".

From the older residents to school-children there is a keen interest in the background which has shaped our present and we hope all investigators will have a good summer's work with fine weather to help them.

O.M. Griffiths.

B O O K L I S T

White	Life in Regency England	Batsford 21/-
Burgess	English Churchyard Memorials	Lutterworth Press £2. 10. 0.
Behrend	Gone With Regret. Recollections of the G.W.R. 1922-47.	Lambarde Press 25/-
Walters	Thirteen Rivers to the Thames.	Dent 25/-
Hartley	Water in England. (History of all its uses)	Macdonald £2. 10. 0.
Blair	Roman Britain and Early England.	Nelson 25/-

Reprints and Paperbacks.

Sturt	Wheelwright's Shop	C.U.P. 11/6d.
Richmond	Roman Britain (Revision of Penguin)	Cape 25/-
Paston Letters.	(Selection-Modernised Spelling)	O.U.P. (World's Classics) 8/6d.

Articles

Hanham	Fifteenth Century Merchant Family. (The Celys - connected with Cotswold Wool Trade)	History Today. Dec. 1963
Short Guide to Records Series.	Chantry Certificates Hearth Tax Returns.	History. reprints obtainable Hist. Assoc.

B O O K R E V I E W

The Steamship Great Western, the First Atlantic Liner
by Graham Farr (Bristol Branch of the Historical
Association, Local History Pamphlet, 2s. 6d.)

This series of Local History Pamphlets sets an admirable example. If historic cities and towns all over Britain could do likewise the total contribution to historical knowledge would be immense and of the greatest value to more general historians. That this latest addition to the series is well up to standard goes without saying because Mr. Graham Farr's name on any contribution to Nautical History is a guarantee that it will be at once accurate and highly readable.

Inevitably the dramatic story of the conception, birth and maiden voyage of the Great Western has been told before, but Mr. Farr's account adds many most valuable details, including extracts from the log of the first transatlantic voyage, which have not, so far as I am aware, appeared in print before. These details are of more than academic interest; they add a new depth to the story of a great achievement. But there is just one question that remains unanswered. I.K. Brunel is generally regarded as the creator of the Great Western; he was certainly the inspirer of the daring project and its Engineer-in-Chief. But he had not, so far as is known, any previous experience as a naval architect; hence the question is often asked: how much did Brunel actually contribute to the design of the ship? The question is of particular interest because of the subsequent claims of John Scott Russell regarding Brunel's Great Eastern, but apparently Mr. Farr has failed to find an answer to it. It is a difficult question which may forever remain open.

So far as the history of Bristol is concerned the story Mr. Farr tells is an extraordinary blend of triumphant achievement and crassly short-sighted stupidity. It was appropriate that the once premier port on Britain's western seaboard should have launched this splendid ship which, with Brunel's new broad-gauge line to London, gave Bristol a golden opportunity to scoop the transatlantic trade. Yet the Bristol Dock Company refused to enlarge their docks to accommodate her and, as if this was not enough, charged her crippling dues for the doubtful privilege of lying in Kingroad or off Morgan's Pill where she had to load and discharge by lighters. Small wonder that the Great Western was forced into the welcoming arms of Bristol's successful rival, Liverpool, which had had the foresight to provide floating landing stages for the larger ships that were so plainly on the horizon. Mr. Farr quotes a local rhymster who so aptly wrote:

'The Western an un-natural parent has,
For all her beauty;
Her mother never harboured her, and yet
She asks for duty.
Hull, Liverpool and other ports aloud
Cry "Go ahead!"
A certain place that I know seems to say
"Reverse," instead.'

The value of history is that we can all learn from it, for although time brings many changes - and never so rapidly as during the last century - human nature does not alter. Consequently historical situations do have a way of repeating themselves. The moral of this one is so obvious that it does not need stating and the pamphlet makes salutary reading for every staunch Bristolian.

L.T.C. Rolt.

PARISH RECORDS AND THE TEACHER

The publication of the Guide to the Parish Records of Bristol and Gloucestershire (reviewed elsewhere in the Bulletin) invites the question as to the value of these records in teaching, now that the importance of local history is more widely accepted. The Guide lists the surviving parish archives of the county, and tells where they may be found - in the parish chest, record offices, or elsewhere. The contents of the more interesting records, like vestry minutes or churchwardens' accounts, have been indicated, but the brevity of the lists and introduction presume that the user of the Guide knows what to look for.

Obviously, W.E. Tate's Parish Chest will have been consulted, but that older text book by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, English Local Government: the Parish and the County should not be ignored. There are articles on parish records in The Amateur Historian, and chapters in the general books on local history, although John West's recent Village Records, usually helpful for the teacher, is in this respect disappointing. An entertaining book that shows how records and old people's memories can bring local history alive is G.E. Evans, Ask the Fellows who Cut the Hay, while children may enjoy the imaginative Napoleonic War story by Harold Priestley, John Stranger, which was based almost entirely on parish archives.

The use that the teacher can make of the records will depend upon their location. If the documents are in a record office they will have been sorted, listed in greater detail than in the Guide, and repaired where necessary. They can be consulted in a well-equipped library, staffed by archivists familiar with historical problems, reading old handwriting, and helping inexperienced workers; there will be books, articles and documents to provide comparative material, while photocopies of selected records can be made for as little as 6d. a sheet, for the teacher to build up a school "archive library". The teacher may do his preparation there in comfort. By arrangement he may bring his class to be shown records, while small groups of senior pupils, or individual children, could actually work on documents under the supervision of the archivists, as in other counties. Gloucestershire schoolchildren seem to receive little encouragement to do this, and our county is no more inconvenient for travelling than, say, Essex. Alternatively, the archivist may be able to talk to the class at school on local history in general, bringing records relating to the district or special subject concerned.

If the records are still in the parish chest or safe, they may be in confusion and possibly in a damaged condition. The permission of the incumbent is necessary before looking at them, and with his co-operation the teacher might prepare work in the church vestry or vicarage study. Despite discomfort or inconvenience, on no account whatever should documents be borrowed, and the incumbent, as trustee of parish property, should not lend records. The editors of the Guide rather mildly note a few of the losses occasioned by "borrowing". Every one of those documents is unique. They may contain valuable historical information, perhaps not yet recognised, and that evidence should not be endangered by selfish or thoughtless action to-day. Children, however responsible, should not even handle the records in this state.

My suggestions for the practical use of parish records for the classroom must be modified by the teacher's own experience and knowledge, the capabilities of the children, and the availability of the records as indicated in the Guide, but here are a few possibilities:-

1. Parish registers: trace common surnames; get children to collect local surnames to-day. Use P.H. Reaney, Dictionary of Surnames to derive their origin.
2. Parish registers: work out population changes, epidemics, infant mortality, etc. Use with census figures given in Victoria County History, vol. II, and relate to public health (see 6 below). Give reasons for changes (bad harvests, enclosure, unemployment, better communications, etc.)
3. Churchwardens' accounts: trace repairs and restoration of church. Combine with a visit.
4. Churchwardens' accounts: trace purchase and lists of church goods. Use these to illustrate Reformation changes (Bristol parishes especially, see J.C. Cox, Churchwardens' Accounts).
5. Churchwardens' accounts: trace references to National events (coronations, bell-ringing for 5 November, military victories). Use with poor law and militia records for return of discharged soldiers and sailors in Seven Years' War and Napoleonic War.
6. Churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes: trace entries relating to the destruction of vermin, public health measures like vaccination, pollution of streams. Compare with modern public health measures, changing notions of pests and vermin, etc.
7. Vestry minutes: compare duties of parish officers with those of modern Parish Councillors.
8. Vestry minutes: show relationship between parish and county magistrates, using overseers-of-the-poor records as well. Compare with modern local government, results of Acts of Parliament.
9. Parish rating valuation and/or map: make list of houses and residents. Do a similar survey to-day.

10. Overseers of the Poor accounts: work out number of poor, increasing expenditure, methods of relief. Compare with modern relief by pensions, national assistance, sickness and other benefits.
11. Settlement papers: (suitable for group work). Trace the movement and jobs of poor people. Get children to do an "examination" of themselves or parents.
12. Apprenticeship indentures: (sometimes suitable for group work). Trace where and to what trade poor and illegitimate children were apprenticed; useful for local industries.
13. Surveyors of the Highways records: show changes in local roads system, road maintenance; use with Gloucestershire and Bristol Atlas. (This could develop into a wider survey of roads and transport).
14. Inclosure award: work out position of open fields before inclosure. Get the children to trace visible remains (curving hedgerows, long fields, ridge and furrow, old thick hedges, field-names). Illustrate social and economic changes following enclosure.
15. Tithe map: plot land usage of the 1840s, using photocopy. Make children plot land usage to-day, farming changes.
16. Tithe, inclosure or parish map: get a large scale Ordnance Survey map of the district and plot the old field-names. Get the children to find out present names. Get the children to plot the changes in the fields, (changing ownership, drainage, use of large machinery). Use library books to suggest origin of place-names.
17. Tithe, inclosure, or parish map: show building developments, using other maps when available. Use with census figures (see 2 above).
18. Schools records: managers' minutes, deeds, or charity records often give the early history of primary schools. School log-books should be either at the school or sometimes in the record office.

One or two other suggestions are given in John West's book, mentioned above, and no doubt teachers can think of many more; the scope for essay subjects for senior children is particularly wide. Teachers will, of course, use their judgement as to what records are unsuitable; local susceptibilities may be offended at the thought of bastardy papers or documents produced during a legal dispute being unearthed.

In all cases preparation by the teacher is vital, but the interest for the children (and teacher) in bringing the history lesson nearer home will repay the effort. The gap of centuries is closed by actually handling records of two or three hundred years ago, while children allowed to make their own research experience the challenge and humility of individual and independent work. Teachers sometimes complain that nowadays they move too frequently from one part of the country to another to make a study of local history. This is a poor excuse: the form of records varies little from one part of England to another, so that no new techniques have to be learned, and at parish level it is not difficult to discover local landmarks and personalities. With one or two local exceptions, so few history teachers come to the county records office at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, that I sometimes wonder if they have ever heard of it, or seen even one example of the raw material of their trade - a real, original document. Gloucester is not all that remote these days, and a record office is not an alarming place. In fact, it should be the starting point of all local history studies where the custodians and users of the documents may exchange ideas for their mutual benefit, and appreciate each other's needs. Every teacher will receive advice and help from the archivist.

Brian S. Smith

"THEY WERE THERE".

When my great-great Uncle William was drafted into the militia in 1807, he noticed that the paid substitutes who had received £50 or £60 down imagined they now possessed a bottomless purse and so were easily enticed into spending much of their prize on taking coach-rides, like the gentry, at full gallop but over and over the same piece of ground at 10/- a time. This story has always brought home to me more vividly than any work on economic history could do, the gulf between poverty and riches in Napoleonic days. It is these personal touches which can transform a by-gone age into a living, breathing present and which the Committee hoped the "Over 65" Competition would provide for the years 1885-1918, which after another World War seem shadowy to many of us and must appear unbelievably remote to the rising generation. Our hopes were splendidly realised.

We have shared the excitement of the lad who found a competitor in the first "Round Britain Air Race" who had come down in the wrong field and not only saw but touched his first aeroplane and treasured, as a relic, his handkerchief stinking with the fish oil dope. We really lived with another lad who watched boat-building on the Stroud Water and finally took work there but never helped to build the stern-wheelers which first fired his imagination. Changes on the farm came to life as we watched the men reaping with sickles or fagging hooks, the boys making hay-bands with a twister, the women working in hessian aprons, crossed-over shawls and white cotton bonnets and read descriptions of the first experiments in machinery, the mechanical harvester which was drawn by four horses and was no use except in fine weather, the first lorry in Mitcheldean called Dorothy and cultivators winched across the fields by cable, weighted down by small boys to prevent them overturning. The working horses were of course remembered, the lead draught horses tied to the wheels of the flour waggons during their rest, the plough horses which were disturbed by the hounds, and the horse and trap meeting their first motor-car. We were left in no doubt of the dust and mud on the road which sent boys walking over field tracks and kept ladies brushing their skirt braids and mending the hems. Differences in food and its preparation were brought home to us by the small boy called in from play to turn the joint on the spit whose clockwork has broken down and the mother carrying the water in which vegetables had been boiled down to the all-important pig.

Another fundamental change was recalled by the competitor who reminded us that in god-fearing households, the work-basket was covered on Saturday night and the wide separation of Church and Chapel was emphasized when the "Church" broke the swings and the Chapel children refused to share the blame. Both, however, had their Sunday School outings and there were feasts and circuses, heralded by organs topped by angel trumpeters. At Longney a rang-a-tang was played under the windows of brides and bridegrooms who skimped their wedding peal and at Newnham, ne'er-do-wells were burnt in effigy, including on one thrilling occasion the ferryman, the innkeeper's wife and the ferry-boat while the band played. At Longney there were still mummers at Xmas while wassailers at Stroud took a decorated barrel "all over the town". The life of Gloucester Port with German cargoes arriving in the Clio, Ino and Sappho was recorded and so was the wrath of "Sammy's Angels" from Moreland's match works if Southgate level crossing was closed at dinnertime. It made a bustling contrast to the picture of by-gone beauties at Cheltenham holding court in their bath chairs while still older residents visited the Old Ladies' shop for lace caps, mittens and shawls. Though the pace of life was so much more peaceful than our own two wars were fought in our period. Most of the competitors were too young at the time of the Boer War to remember more than the excitements of Mafeking night and the burning of Kruger in effigy but one had helped to collect horses for the Remount Depot. Our regulations reduced the material recorded on the first World War but one excellent account of ship-building at Chepstow at that time was received and German prisoners of war at work on Frampton-on-Severn gravel pits were mentioned. The appalling casualty lists were recalled by a carter's wife who gave lifts in her trap to men on leave from Cheltenham Station to their homes round Farmington and who quietly ended her paper, "But what I didn't like was taking them back".

As the whole forty-nine papers were read a very balanced picture of the period came to light. Most of the competitors remembers a healthy and happy childhood even if infancy and schooldays were short and a boy might spend all his holidays tying sheaves to earn 24/- for his mother. One competitor who is a S.R.N. however, remembered the hoards of filthy children, barefoot and verminous, who frequented Gloucester alongside the elegant ladies with puffed sleeves and their liveried footmen who thronged the Close for the Three Choirs Festival. Accounts of low wages were balanced by notes on the low price of food and clothing and the kindness shown by responsible people like the Vicar's wife at Farmington who made soup from a calf's head and supplied half the village on alternate weeks. Illness, apart from smallpox, played a small part in the reminiscences but the small provision for the out-of-work labourer, 1/- a week and a loaf for each member of the family is not forgotten and provoked the comment, "Those were not the Golden Days for the farm labourer". Alongside many descriptions of quiet pleasures and contentment was the reminiscence of the postmistress who saw an old woman weeping over her first "Lloyd George money" which would keep her from the Workhouse. One of the most noteworthy features of all the papers was the straightforward, lively language in which they were written and which we hope schools and societies will enjoy for themselves when the tape-recordings are available. Their vigorous spirit is typified by the competitor who has arranged in her will that a wreath of wild flowers shall be laid on her last resting-place with the inscription "From myself to myself with best wishes for a Happy Hereafter".

O.M. Griffiths

CIRENCESTER EXCAVATIONS 1963

The five-week season of excavations which was carried out at Cirencester has added important new knowledge of the Roman town. The dig was directed by Mr. J.S. Wachter, of Leicester University's Department of History, and over ninety people have been working there during this time. We are indebted to Mr. Wachter for this account.

"A garden in the town centre, shortly to be built over, has provided much information about the Forum, or central market and assembly place of Corinium. Part of the great central courtyard was exposed, and, in its latest stage, was found to have been surfaced with flagstones, which had become much worn and broken with use. No coins, dropped by merchants or customers, were found on these flagstones, and it must be assumed that it was swept and washed at frequent intervals, thus demonstrating the strict standards of cleanliness observed in important public buildings. The range of rooms fronting this courtyard on the north side was also examined, and in its initial phase was found to have been separated from it by a portico or colonnade 25 ft. wide. Later, in the second century, this width was reduced to 22 ft., and finally, in the fourth century, the open side of the portico was enclosed by a wall, and a tessellated floor, with a series of sections each containing a different geometrical pattern, was laid along it. This pavement, in varying states of repair, was traced for a distance of 70 ft., and it is known to continue under a neighbouring property to the east. In this last reconstruction, when some radical alterations were included in the plan, the courtyard itself was divided into two unequal parts by means of a thick wall built across it from east to west. At one point along the rebuilt portico a massive foundation had been constructed, on top of which traces of further tessellation and internal division walls had survived. It is difficult to be certain about its function, but it may have formed part of a shrine or small temple. These fourth-century alterations at the north end of the Forum are probably connected with other changes which are known to have taken place at about the same time, both in and south of the Basilica, where part of a street was curtained off with rows of shops at either end, and the enclosed area perhaps used as a subsidiary market place. Of great interest was the uncovering, beneath the Forum courtyard, of earlier levels containing streets and timber buildings. The Forum was originally founded towards the end of the first century A.D., so that these buildings probably belong to the time when Cirencester was still occupied by a detachment of the Roman Army. But they lie outside the known fort area and are almost certainly part of a well-developed vicus or civil settlement alongside it. One thing is certain: the immense size of the Forum and Basilica of Corinium, measuring overall about 550 ft. from north to south, are in keeping with the size of the town, and can only have been exceeded in Britain by those at London.

A single trench immediately behind a house in Dyer Street has enabled one of the last remaining untraced streets of the town to be firmly fixed on the plan. Only one more main street has now to be found and then the street plan will be complete.

A site near the Health Clinic in Watermoor Road produced substantial remains of a domestic or commercial building, but it was not possible to connect these with the house containing tessellated floors, found when the Clinic was built.

The line of the south-west defences was established in part of the Watermoor Hospital garden. The stone wall had been almost entirely removed by later stone-robbers, but the contemporary rampart, together with the earlier earthwork defences and the ditch survived in good order. The width of the robber-trench would suggest a wide wall, up to 10 ft. thick. It is likely therefore that the narrow wall, found last year near the south-east angle, is only a local feature. A great deal of dating evidence was obtained, confirming the late second century or early third century date of the town wall, and providing a mid second century date for the earthwork defences. The most surprising discovery here was part of a military rampart, with an oven built into its rear face and underlying the later town defences. This fresh evidence adds considerably to the military occupation of Cirencester and would suggest a complex succession of forts on different alignments. Unfortunately time did not permit further exploration of this interesting and important feature.

Additional work was also carried out at the Amphitheatre, where the side of the north-east entrance opposite to that exposed last year was examined, and also an area in the middle of the arena. The state of preservation on this side of the entrance was much better than on the other, and included some singularly massive masonry. The outside end of the entrance passage was also reached and its complete length is 96 ft. This must imply a seating ramp of great width and height, capable of accommodating a very large audience indeed. A little more dating evidence for the second period amphitheatre was obtained, and it would now seem to have been rebuilt about the middle of the second century. Certain features were suggestive of an even earlier timber period, but no time was available for their further examination, which must take place in the future. It was also found that the arena had been used in the late or post-Roman period, when a large timber building with cobbled floors had been erected, but its complete plan has not yet been recovered, and it is not possible to speculate on its purpose."

EXCAVATIONS IN OR NEAR GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1964.

Frocester. Romano British Villa Site. May 9 - Sept 30 (Tues. & Fri. excepted). Volunteers apply to Capt. H.S. Gracie, R.N., Flat C, Thrupp House, Stroud. Beginners accepted.

Cirencester. Corinium and poss. Abbey site. July 13 - Aug. 22. Volunteers should apply to J.S. Wachter, F.S.A., Dept. of History, Leicester University.

Readers are reminded that a Monthly Calendar of Excavations can be obtained from the C.B.A. 10, Bolton Gardens, London, S.W.5. 5/- post free.

S U M M E R S C H O O L S

"Town and Village Architecture in England".

Principal Lecturer. Mr. John Pilgrim, M.A. July 20 - 24. Apply to the Warden, Urchfont Manor, Nr. Devizes, Wilts.

"Recording the Industrial Past".

Tutor Owen Ashmore, M.A., University of Manchester Summer School, Bangor. July 25 - Aug. 8. Apply District Secretary, W.E.A., Orford Road, Manchester, 13.

"Industrial Archaeology".

Directors, Mr. Rix and Mr. Chaplin. Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire. Aug. 29 - Sept. 9. Apply: Director Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham, 15.

"Studies in Local History. The West Country in Georgian Times."

Tutor, Dr. Perry. Wills Hall, University of Bristol. July 25 - Aug 1. Apply: Mr. P.L.C. Fryd, 7, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, 1.

Youth Hotels Association. Home Tours (St. Albans, Herts).

"Searching for the Past"	Dorset	July 18 - 25
"Offa's Dyke"		Aug 15- 22
"Welsh Marches"		Aug 22 - 29

REPORTS FROM MUSEUMS
IN OR CONNECTED WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Gloucester City Museums report that:

"In recent months two important additions have been made to the Museum's collection of Anglo-Saxon and early mediaeval coins from Gloucestershire mints. The first is a penny of Stephen (1135-1154) of Brooke Type 1 by the Gloucester moneyer Gillebert, and the second a penny of William I (1066-1087) of Brooke Type V from the Winchcombe mint by the moneyer Goldwine. The latter coin was formerly in the renowned Lockett collection and is in superb condition.

The Whitworth Gloucester Aircraft Company have presented a fine series of six scale models of aircraft made by the Gloucester Aircraft Company at their Hucclecote factory in the years between 1920 and 1960. These make a valuable addition to the collections and illustrate the products of one of the most important local industries of recent times. The series includes models of the famous 'Gauntlet', 'Gladiator' and 'Javelin' fighters.

Folk Museum. The most notable single addition has been a fine model of a West Gloucestershire farm wagon, built to a scale of 2 in. to 1 ft. The model was made by Mr. Cliff Rogers and was based on a wagon formerly in use on a farm near Abergavenny. This type of wagon, with heavy, panel-sided body and broad wheels, was designed for use on the clay soils of the western part of the county, and in Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

Recent accessions to the Agricultural collection include an interesting wooden harrow from Eastington, and a rotary chaff-cutter from Barnwood. This latter is a comparatively modern piece of barn machinery made by Kells of Gloucester, and the Museum would welcome news of one of the earlier type of chaff-cutters, comprising a wooden trough and a guillotine knife. A quantity of post-mediaeval pottery discovered during commercial excavation in St. John's Lane, Gloucester, included a piece of an ale jug bearing the name 'New Bear'. This inn formerly stood in Longsmith Street, but had disappeared by the middle of the 19th century."

The City Museum has just published an excellent map of Roman Gloucester (1/- post free) based on the work of Mr. Fulbrook-Leggatt. Discoveries mapped include the line of the Roman wall with its angle tower near the Technical College and the interval tower discovered in King's Square, the Coin Hoard found in 1960, the large Burial Ground at Wotton Pitch and 38 mosaic pavements.

Stroud Museum has been greatly involved in the new developments in Industrial Archaeology and the Curator is in charge of the new Society's field work. Part of the Folk Room will be devoted to this subject and numerous exhibits have already been received for display. Other important gifts have included a collection of small Victorian and later objects and a large parcel of early medieval pottery from what appears to have been a moated homestead. When the sherds have been washed and re-assembled a more detailed report will be sent for the Bulletin.

The British Association of Numismatic Societies is holding its 1964 meeting at Bristol Museum this Spring. Among the speakers will be J.W. Sherborne, M.A. on the economic and historical background to the Bristol Saxon and Norman Mint, L.V. Grinsell, F.S.A., on the Bristol Saxon and Norman Mint and I. Gray, F.S.A., on Records and Tokens. Accessions to the Museum include Old Bristol Bank-notes, a William I silver penny minted in Bristol by Ceorl, "Two Stars" type, and a Henry I silver penny (type XV) minted in Bristol by Riccard. Conducted Summer Walks in Bristol will include Redcliffe and Bathurst Pasion (Aug. 12) and Brandon Hill (Sept. 2nd). Hoefnagle's map of the City in 1581 has been added to the series of facsimile maps for sale. The most important development at the Museum since last Autumn is the establishment of a Department of Technology. The new Curator, Mr. Neil Cossons, writes:-

"The establishment of a Department of Technology in the Bristol City Museum fills a long felt need in the South-West. The care of the scientific, technological and industrial monuments and relics of the region has hitherto been neglected in all but the rarest cases and the new department is aimed at remedying this deficiency. It will primarily be concerned with local items and the whole of Gloucestershire comes within the collecting area.

Already the Museum possesses fine collections of road vehicles and ship models, but examples of industrial machinery are almost non-existent. Over the next few years, therefore, we will be primarily concerned with building up a comprehensive collection in readiness for the opening of the new Museum. Gloucestershire items already in the collections include a superb farm waggon from Oldbury-on-Severn and a carrier's cart from Bibury. A more recent acquisition is a Dursley-Pedersen cantilever frame bicycle in almost perfect condition.

It has been obvious in the few short weeks that the Department has been at work that a tremendous amount of material exists although its potential value is often not recognised. If you possess or know of anything which you think may be suitable for the Museum's collections, please contact the Curator of Technology, at the City Museum, Queen's Road, Bristol 8."

LIST OF ACCESSIONS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE

Gloucestershire Records Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester. (Photo-copying facilities available for students).

Family and estate: Agg Gardner (Cheltenham) (addnl.):
political correspondence of Jas. Agg Gardner, M.P., 1847-57;
estate papers, 1843-67 incl. reports of Cheltenham College,
1845-57; 100 deeds, c.1600-1804, estate and family papers
of Ashmead and Lloyd families; levy, 1645.

Calvert (Ashleworth): estate accounts and game-books, from 1889;
R. Gos. Hussars photographs, 1900-05.

Codrington (Dodington) (addnl.): maps and estate surveys of Dodington,
Marshfield and Bethell family (E. Yorks.), 1790-1855; correspondence
including letters about smallpox vaccination, 1802, family wills and
settlements, 1730-1864; building accounts for Dodington Park,
1796-1811, household accounts, 1750-1881; political correspondence,
election expenses, etc., 1797-1864, chiefly of Sir C.W. Codrington, M.P.
for Tewkesbury; correspondence and accounts of Baron Neumann, 1835-54;
correspondence about victualling troops in Florida, 1766-96; accounts,
correspondence, etc., 1700-1880, maps, 1710, 1755, diary, 1843, of
sugar plantations in Antigua and Barbuda.

Freeman-Mitford (Batsford): political correspondence of John Mitford, 1st. Lord Redesdale, as Lord Chancellor of Ireland, 1802-06, and on public affairs, 1773-1827 (about 450 letters from leading politicians); political correspondence of John Freeman-Mitford, 1st Earl of Redesdale, chiefly from Duke of Wellington on Tory organisation in House of Lords, 1837-51 (48 letters) and other leading politicians, 1837-82 (69 letters); much family correspondence, including letters of Hen. Mitford in Crimea, 1825-70; household accounts, Winkfield (Berks.), 1758-70; estate accounts (Northumberland), 1834-85; travel journals of John Mitford, 1776-91; maps of Swinbrook estate (Oxon.), 1800-40.

Holford (Westonbirt) (addnl.): estate papers, 1633-1757, family settlements, 1637-1840; deeds (Wilts.), 1615-1841.

Hulls (Corse): deeds, 1691-1864.

Solicitors' deposits: MacLaren, Jeens & Seacome: deeds and estate papers of Skillicorne family of Cheltenham, from 1715; deeds, etc. of Cheltenham and Sandhurst, 1730-1914; log-book of E. Indianaman "William Fairlie", 1829-31.

Manorial: Great Barrington court roll, 1571.

Deeds: c.600 for many parishes, from c.1200.

Maps: Buckland, 1779; Withington, 1819; Tuffley (2), 1830; R. Severn Commissioners of Sewers (4), 1835; Almondsbury, 1840; Littleton-on-Severn, 1842; Cam, 1864.

Business: Cinderford Iron Works leases, 1838; Stonehouse Brick & Tile Co. accounts, 1890-6

Petty Sessions: Lawfords Gate minutes, 1829-1930, registers, 1816-1944; Chipping Sodbury minutes and registers, 1905-1926.

Borough: Thornbury mayor's accounts, 1609-1719 (addnl.)

Parish: Awre, 1538-1952, Cranham, 1666-1957, Old Sodbury, 1678-1915, Wickwar, 1692-1907, and 8 other parishes, from 1567.

Parish Council: 13 parishes.

Charity: Tewkesbury deeds, minutes and accounts from 1614.

Schools: log-books of 7 schools.

Miscellaneous: Quartermaster's book of Royal N. Gloucester militia, 1808-28; hunting diaries of Ledbury Hunt (Glos. and Herefs.), 1909-14; antiquarian notebooks of Vincent Perkins of Wotton-under-Edge, late 19 c.; survey of milestones in Stroud area, 1963.

ALTERATIONS in:

"OFFICERS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE".

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

President: Prof. J.M. Cooke, F.S.A. The University, Bristol.

The Cheltenham Society.

Secretary: P.G. Newcombe, Esq., 49, Painswick Road, Cheltenham.

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club.

Secretary: Mrs. Sprague, 7, Hatherley Road, Cheltenham.

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology.

Chairman: W.G.H. Robins, Esq., 4, Glensanda Court, Montpellier
Spa Road, Cheltenham.
Secretary: Warren Marsh, Esq., C/o Gleeds, 19, College Green,
Gloucester.

Pucklechurch Local History Society.

Chairman: Hilton Dawson, Esq., The Cottage, Feltham Road, Pucklechurch.
Secretary: Victor Imrie Esq., Meadowside, Castle Road, Pucklechurch.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

Chairman: H. Mann, Esq., High Street, Wotton-under-Edge.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

May 9 Cirencester District
July 15-17 Exeter

Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch Historical Association.

May 23 Bisley
June 13 Goodrich Castle, Tintern Abbey, Newnham
July 11 Cornwell and Chipping Campden

Cirencester Historical Society.

May 2 Dorchester-on-Thames, Iffley and Ewelme.
May 23 Longleat
May 25 A.G.M. Mrs. Clifford, F.S.A. on Witcombe Villa
June 1 Burford
June 13 Stanway House
July 8 Witcombe R. Villa

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club (Archaeological Section)

May 12 Caerleon
June 3 Long Barrow. Withington and Fairford.
July 7 Chepstow, Tintern and Monmouth
Aug. 14 Elkstone, Duntisbourne Rouse, Cirencester
Sept. 3 Frocester R. Villa, Uley and Nympsfield Long Barrows.

Forest of Dean Local History Society.

May 2 Bristol and District
June 6 Some Cotswold Churches
July 4 Lower Brockhampton and Bromyard
Sept. 5 Temple of Nodens.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

Apr. 29 Wotton Evening incl. Bradley Court
May 27 Cheltenham
June 24 Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick
July 29 Steeple Ashton and Edington Church
Aug. 24 Great Charfield Manor
Sept. 30 Bristol.