



## CONTENTS

Editorial .. .. .	Page 1
News from the Societies .. .. .	Page 1
Norman Conquest 1066 .. .. .	Page 2
A Stroud Centenary .. .. .	Page 3
Plaque at Brimscombe Fort .. .. .	Page 5
Applied Geology in the Cotswold Region .. .. .	Page 6
Roman Discoveries in Gloucester City 1966 .. .. .	Page 7
The Severn Bridge .. .. .	Page 7
Ice Freeze and Redundancy 1750 - 1850 .. .. .	Page 8
Procester Court Roman Villa .. .. .	Page 12
The Girl I Left Behind Me: A glimpse of military family-life in the 18th Century. .. .. .	Page 13
Some Notes on the Newent Coalfield .. .. .	Page 16
News from Gloucester Museums .. .. .	Page 17
Additions to Stroud Museum .. .. .	Page 17
News from Cirencester .. .. .	Page 18
New Books in the Gloucester Libraries .. .. .	Page 19
List of Documents Received relating to Cirencester Area	Page 20
Book Reviews .. .. .	Page 20
Lecture Courses, Meetings etc. .. .. .	Page 23

---

## EDITORIAL

It is with some diffidence that I present this Bulletin as the new honorary editor. I am not only new to history, but also to Gloucestershire, having only fully resided for eighteen months. I also had no editor to take over from, and this must explain any departures from former Bulletins.

I am most grateful to the many busy people who have rallied round to send in contributions and to help in many other ways, and to Mr. Tilstone and Miss Walker for their encouragement and guidance. I have reverted to the pattern of the No. 2 Bulletin in quarto and not foolscap, which is easier to handle.

The opening of the Severn Bridge made Gloucestershire into front page news, so I am most pleased to include from Mr. I.E. Gray, the archivist at the Records Office, some notes on the history behind the Bridge and the former ferries. I have also included a review of the excellent Guide to the Bridge written by Mr. L.T.C. Rolt. Here I would draw particular attention to Mr. W. Solley's lecture in Cheltenham on November 18th. (See Lecture Courses Page 24.)

With the gloom and despondency at present prevailing with wage freezes and redundancy, it is both apt and refreshing to have two articles included in this issue which might tend to make us count our blessings! Christopher Cox gives us some delightful quotes from books and pamphlets he found in the Gloucester Records Office and the Gloucester Library during his researches into the history of Stroud. Thelma Smith, the Gloucester Library Archivist, has unearthed some interesting if pathetic facts about soldiers' families in the 18th century. These articles make one wonder if a hundred years from now things will have improved quite so dramatically.

I think all periodicals are made more interesting with correspondence, and I am anxious to revive this column. Any comments, criticisms and above all, historical finds, whether by historians, archaeologists or laymen, will be most gratefully received, and will be included, either wholly or in part in a correspondence section. I should be grateful if readers would send their letters or contributions to me at :-Gardiners Parahouse, Sandhurst, Glos.

---

## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETIES.

The Council for British Archaeology in their report No. 16 for the year ending June 30th 1966 say that the year was one of considerable activity, with plenty of Government support. Bath is among the cities to have a pilot survey, and the Prime Minister announced on May 17th that the powers to pay grants and make acquisitions for preserving buildings of historic interest were to be transferred from the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Mr. F. A. Rahtz is one of fifteen applicants to receive a grant under the 23rd and 24th Awards, 1965-66, for his paper of special archaeological interest on Upton, Gloucestershire. Mr. Rahtz is a member of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Dr. G. S. Annis, the honorary secretary, has taken a post in the U.S.A. which will keep him out of the county for two or three years and Mr. H. Eastwood is acting in his place. He has sent us in the following summary of news :-

"Our Society continues to grow and we now number some 150 members. We complete our summer excursions on 10th September with a trip to central Staffordshire to see items of industrial archaeological interest there. Our excursions have all been very well supported. The highlight was a steamer trip down the River Severn from Tewkesbury and along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal for which we had a full house of 150 passengers. Even so we had to turn away about forty applications. An appropriate sequel to this excursion was our visit to Gloucester Docks in July."

#### The Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology.

Members visited the Coombe Hill Canal on May 20th. The party started at the wharf at Coombe Hill and followed the towpath until the canal reached the River Severn at Mainlodes. Mr. Bick gave a brief history of the venture which was abandoned in 1864 because the tolls for the previous half-year had amounted to only £8. There is an interesting map in the Bulletin of the Berkeley and Dursley Turnpikes dated 1825, and an article on the subject by R. A. Lewis.

#### Bristol Archaeological Research Group.

During Easter 1966 Mr. Charles Browne arranged a tour to Carnac in Brittany to study megalithic monuments. Eighteen people went in four cars and had an exceedingly interesting tour. The Group also, in association with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of Bristol University, began the excavation of a small Romano-British settlement near the Vale of Wrington. The party of about forty had great co-operation from the owners of the site, and the excavation will continue over Whitsun 1967. Excavation at Sea Mills continued throughout the year, with one very important find of a small altar, probably of Dundry stone. This, with a delightful bronze figurine of Jupiter, are among the archaeological accessions in the Bristol City Museum, which also include two Ancient British silver coins of the Dobunni which were found in the 1930s at Summerhill, Naunton, Glos.

---

#### NORMAN CONQUEST 1066.

Historians all over England, as well as the general public, have been organising and joining in various commemorations of the Norman Conquest. It is strange how time softens the blow of conquest with its inevitable loss of "freedom". Perhaps one can look forward to a time when the many newly freed former Colonies will commemorate their conquests instead of their day of independence as they do now. The Norman Conquest was remembered on the 19th October in the Bristol Museum Lecture Theatre when Professor David Douglas gave a lecture on the subject. The lecture was arranged jointly by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and the Bristol City Museum. It was open to the general public and well attended.

## A STROUD CENTENARY.

As the B. B. C., Heinz and the Postmaster General were busy paying homage to the Battle of Hastings, another centenary was celebrated at Stroud in more humble manner. On July 8th, 1866 the last service was held in the old church of St. Lawrence, Stroud. Demolition of ... all but the tower followed, and on November 6th of the same year the foundation stone of the present church was laid by Mr. W. H. Stanton and Mr. F. H. Fisher, the local historian.

This then is a fitting moment to look back upon the history of the old church, to ask ourselves if all is known that should be known.

The 'Deed of Composition', compiled in 1304, is the earliest known reference. Stroud at this time lay in the ancient and important parish of Bisley, and although the mother church was attended by two rectors, the services in the 'chapel of Strode' were taken by a non-resident vicar. By the terms of this deed a priest's house was to be erected for the vicar, there being 'between the chapel itself of Strode and its mother church of Bysselye so great and so dangerous a distance --- that --- it is not unlikely that grievous peril of souls may happen'. But even more important to us, this deed makes it clear that the chapel comprised at least a nave and a chancel, and that the latter was in a ruinous condition, possibly necessitating its rebuilding from the foundations. How old then was this chancel to be ruinous by 1304, - Norman? Saxon?

More information about this chapel can be gleaned from a drawing of c.1784 by George Nayler, a Stroud boy, later to become Sir George Nayler, Garter Principal King of Arms. By this time the original nave had been obscured by a large south aisle, of which more later. Beyond the aisle roof there was till its demolition between 1787 and 1793 a stone spire campanile. This is recorded as having stood on the wall over the west doorway. But a structure of such size would have demanded basal walls to support it. Did the resultant porticus stand beyond or within the original nave? About the year 1400, a new nave was added, the original being converted for use as chancel. The old west door reputedly became the new chancel arch, but there is no mention of the porticus. Perhaps it was modified to become the basis of a stone rood screen. It is strange that no mention occurs of this substantial structure, yet its former existence is almost beyond doubt. It is equally probable that massive corner buttresses stood at the west end of the chapel. This is implied by a careful examination of the recorded dimensions of the various parts of the church as it stood in the 18th century.

Just who erected the camponile, the new nave and the tower with its elegant spire is not known. But we do know that about this time Philip Mansell was Lord of the Manor, living in what we now call Lypiatt Park. Upon his death in 1394 the manor was claimed in settlement of a debt by his kinsman Richard Whittington, better known to us as Dick Whittington, 'Lord' Mayor of London. And it was Thomas, the grandson of Dick's brother - for Dick had no children - who built the south aisle and south porch in the mid-15th century. Not only did he bring about the church's enlargement, but he willed that his body be buried here rather than in the greater church of Bisley. The family coat of arms may be seen on the south porch as depicted in old photographs and engravings. When the church was demolished in 1866 this stone was saved. Now relegated and lost from view, it is hoped the slab may shortly be located again, and be given a place worthy of the honourable name of Whittington.

1683 saw the start of a century of constant change. First galleries appeared, then a short north aisle, new pews, a longer north aisle, the demolition of the camponile and major alterations to the old chapel nave, the replacement of the Gothic south arcade and finally the building of a new chancel, possibly incorporating some of the earlier work. Apart from an enlargement of the south porch, the church of 1793 remained almost untouched for seventy years, a period piece of some internal beauty, its structural faults concealed by a liberal coating of moulded plasterwork.

The rebuilding of a century ago was almost too thorough. The tower and spire remain a landmark in every local view. The finest monument, that of Thomas Stephens who died in 1613, was fortunately re-erected in the new south transept, all others being relegated to the tower's gloom. Perhaps now a century later, we may be in a better position to recognise beauty in these mournful monuments. On the outside, two fine cast iron gas-lamp brackets of 1839 have survived, though many of the 18th and 19th century tomb brasses are fast perishing beneath the feet of passers-by.

This brief history must close on a very familiar note. Plans for the new church having been submitted, estimates for the work to be done totalled no more than £5,000. As work proceeded it was very soon realised that more than double this figure had to be found. After a hundred years of progress we still seem to make the same mistakes.

Lionel Walrond.

## PLAQUE AT BRIMSCOMBE PORT.

I was pleased to be invited to the unveiling of a plaque at Brimscombe Port on Saturday, October 29th. The Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology hopes to draw public attention to several local sites of industrial history, and this is the first of them. Bensons Tool works which now occupies the site has agreed to the fixing of the plaque in a prominent place, to which it will be removed when the building is completed, and they also generously contributed to the expenses.

Quite a large crowd arrived at the site on a brilliant frosty morning, and chairs and a rostrum table were placed outside the first part of the factory yet built, which was in fact right on the top of the once busy canal. Just inside the building were some interesting relics lent by the Stroud Museum, which included a boat stove from one of the Thames and Severn Canal barges, and a 19th century "Wells Paraffin gas lamp" used, it is thought, for repairs in the Sapperton Canal Tunnel, which finally fell in in 1911. There was a map showing the canal system between London and Bristol, which made Brimscombe Port into one of the busiest and most important inland ports in the country. The history was summarised for us in a handout which included the following :-

"The Thames and Severn Canal was the first canal to provide a through waterway route across Southern England, joining the Bristol Channel with the Thames. It was opened in 1789 from the junction with the Stroudwater Navigation at Wallbridge, Stroud to the Thames at Inglesham, near Lechlade. Brimscombe Port was the headquarters of the Company and there were extensive wharves and warehouses to serve the transport needs of the valley.

West of Brimscombe the canal was constructed to take Severn traws, east of Brimscombe it could only be navigated by Thames barges. One of the main objects of Brimscombe was to provide a transshipment between one type of vessel and the other. In 1793 nearly 20,000 tons of goods passed through the Port. The canal declined in importance in mid 19th century with the coming of the railways and was finally abandoned in 1933."

Mr. C. H. A. Townley of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology filled out a little of this history, telling us that the wool was conveyed to the canal by packhorse before the turnpikes came through.

Mr. N. R. Collins, the County Planning Officer then got up to speak. He told us that there was one building left, the old salt warehouse, for the preservation of which he pleaded. He also hoped that the trees just in front of the factory site might remain as they marked the island in the centre of the canal which was used for the storage of coal. The canal had, he told us, during World War I, been dredged to get up the coal when there was a great shortage. He spoke of the "modul split" which is now the battle between the interests of public and private transport. A similar division of interests finally killed the canal and Brimscombe Port because of the over-riding claims of the Great Western Railway. He also said that while the tunnel was being built some of the construction men were paid as high as £5 a yard which often brought their pay packet up to £12.5.0. a week, an enormous wage for those days. He deplored the fact that we had now lost the sense of urgency and the spirit of endeavour without which the canal project could never have come into being.

Mr. Collins then unveiled the plaque, with the date 1801 in cement below it.

Mr. Peter Bennett, the Works Director for the Benson Tool Works Ltd., then got up to express the pleasure of his firm that the plaque had been installed. He assured us that history would repeat itself when the products of the factory went from the valley by train and road.

---

### APPLIED GEOLOGY IN THE COTSWOLD REGION.

Members of the Cotswold Naturalists' Field Club went from history into pre-history and beyond that into millions of years of geological time when they enjoyed a meeting at the Cheltenham Museum to hear Mr. William Dreghorn. As the Lecturer in Geology at St. Paul's College, Mr. Dreghorn made this talk on what is usually a dry and difficult subject, extremely interesting and amusing. He illustrated with splendid simplicity the structure of the Cotswold hills, explaining in passing the sort of mud flow which was the cause of the Wales disaster. He gave us the general uses of the various stones which are found in this region, from the white lias, used by the Romans for tessellated pavements, to the ragstones on the top of the Cotswolds which were the gift to farmers for dry stone walling.

The best stone for building he said was oolitic limestone, and he told us how this was quarried, drilled and cut by inserting a metal "feather" in the holes and then splitting the rock into slabs with a sledge hammer. Since the Town Planners insist, rightly, that new buildings must match the old, it is now found better to crush the rock and blend it with cement to make artificial matching stone.

The old tilestones are not true slate in the geological sense but a fissile sandy limestone. These are dug up and kept wet until the hard frosts split them along the bedding plane. Once split in this way, they will not split again and are ideal for roofing. The local names for the tiles are Tants, Becks, Datchelors, long Sixteens, and Cussems, according to size, and the old picks and cutters are still to be found on farms. Tiles now cost £28 a thousand and there are only about two of these craftsmen left in the district.

Mr. Dreghorn explained that before the days of tap water, and for 900 years every village and Roman villa was sited by a spring. The greater Oolite limestone is called an aquifer, which is a porous rock holding water, which is sealed off by the impervious clay below. The water therefore collects and is released as a spring at the juncture of the clay and the limestone. Wherever there are such springs, villages are found at various levels like Turkdean, Hazleton, Birdlip and Bihury.

Mr. Dreghorn illustrated his talk with excellent diagrammatic slides and chalk drawings on a blackboard, ending with a most lively drawing and the life story of the ammonite. He was introduced and thanked by Captain Gracie who took the chair.



## ROMAN DISCOVERIES IN GLOUCESTER CITY 1966.

### Kiln and Cemetery in Brunswick Road.

Work on stanchion-holes for the new College of Art showed how the Romans had made use of an area immediately outside the ditch near the East Gate. In a potter's waste-heap were found abundant shreds of first-century flagons, jars, bowls and beakers; nearby was the clay-built pottery-kiln, wisely placed on the lee side of the contemporary legionary fortress. The later history of the site was indicated by twenty-five skeletons, of which several were accompanied by Roman bracelets and coins.

### Gravelled street in Bell Lane.

An excavation directed by Mr. M.W.C.Hassall on the site of the future Market Hall basement revealed a Roman street served by a wooden water-pipe and flanked by continuous ranges of buildings. The earliest buildings, with mud walls and clay floors, may have been legionary barracks; the later buildings, walled with stone, were mostly houses, of which at least three had mosaic floors. The site had been almost entirely destroyed in mediaeval times by the robbing of stone and by the burial of rubbish, including interesting deposits of pottery and animal-bones. The finds included a hoard of approximately 100 coins dating from about the end of the 4th century; a jet plaque carved with the figure of a Phrygian god, an inscribed stone and a roofing-tile bearing the name of an unrecorded magistrate of the colonia.

### Mosaic pavement in Longsmith Street.

In conjunction with the above excavation a trench was dug under the supervision of Mrs. H.E.O'Neil to test the site of a proposed multi-storey car park. The presence of a mosaic pavement showed that although the site was close to the centre of the colonia it was occupied in Roman times by private and not by public buildings.

T. N. Taylor.

### THE SEVERN BRIDGE.

In the ceremonies and publicity over the opening of the new Severn Bridge, history has not been neglected. The attractive and well-illustrated booklet about the Bridge (published by the Gloucestershire County Council and obtainable from the County Surveyor, Shire Hall, Gloucester) was written by Mr. L.T.C. Rolt, well-known in industrial archaeology circles. (See separate review Page 20) The Old Passage and New Passage Ferries at Aust were of great antiquity, the former dating at least from Roman times. The name of Aust is apparently a contraction of Augusta, the title of the Roman Legion stationed at Caerleon and very likely given also to the ferry which the legionaries must have constantly used.

Earlier abortive projects for a bridge to replace the notoriously hazardous crossing began with Telford's proposed suspension bridge of 1824,

and continued with a proposal for a railway bridge by Brunel, a suspension bridge scheme by Thomas Fulljames, the County Surveyor in 1845, and a 'Victorian fantasy' providing for a huge harrage of neo-Gothic design with a railway running on top. The only bridge actually built was the railway bridge much further up the river (wrecked by a harge in 1960), and the pre-war plan for a road-bridge at the English Stones (near the New Passage Ferry) was rejected by Parliament in 1936.

With the opening of the new Bridge, the Ferry - latterly, of course, a car-ferry - has ceased to operate after so many centuries. Particulars printed when the Ferry was offered for sale in 1833 show that it was then operated by two steam-vessels, and crossed by seven stage-coaches daily.

Displays of historical material concerning the Severn Crossing have been shown at the Bristol Museum, and in the show-cases at the Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Irvine Gray.

---

#### WAGE FREEZE AND REDUNDANCY 1750 - 1950.

"Alas, my country! to what a situation art thou reduced by the improvident expenditure of thy Government!"

The date is not 1956, but 1816; the government is Tory. But these indignant words by a Stroud business man illustrate some of the pleasures of looking into old records. Sometimes these provide apposite and relevant comment on the present day; or by their startling attitudes point a contrast. Below are a few quotations illuminating both the changes, and the lack of change, in attitudes towards unemployment, working class and employers.

The quotation given above comes from "The Gloucestershire Repository", published by Vigurs of Stroud, and originating from P.H.Fisher, the later author of "Notes and Recollections of Stroud." The writer of the article "Wool and Labour" was John Partridge, who is complaining that the Continent with lower costs and better machinery, (just after Waterloo) has more sober workers, while in England the Poor Laws and the "high price" of labour are combining to demoralise the working classes.

The proper place of the labouring poor is shown a few pages later when we read of a meeting in Stroud Town Hall to subscribe money to provide work, coal and food for the distressed poor. "It is hoped," the writer says, "that the gratitude of the poor who are thus relieved will be shewn by their future industry and good conduct." Mr. Partridge continues, "Various other benevolent distributions have been made in the neighbourhood, as well by individuals as by public bodies, which will no doubt prevent the labouring classes from feeling those extraordinary privations which, but for the beneficence of their superiors, they must at this period have experienced." Relief of poverty, of course, should be of charity, and not a right. As he says, the Poor Law "by administering gratuitous relief, operates as a premium to idleness; and the high price of labour by passing large sums of money through the hands of the labourer, teaches him to value it less." Blessed are the poor!

One successful but somewhat risky method of alleviating poverty is seen in the same publication when it is reported that a Mr. Rayer of Cutsdean and Mr. Smith of Ford were robbed on returning from Stow market. They were overtaken by a genteel man, well mounted, who presented a pistol at Mr. Rayer's head and demanded his money, observing that he had been an officer in the Army and fought at Waterloo, but was driven to this desperate measure by distress, and, having seen death in many shapes, was careless of the consequences. Mr. Smith got away, and the highwayman, failing to catch him, returned to Mr. Rayer and asked for his address, saying that should fortune smile on him he should probably return him his money!

But what hope remained for those who were unable to proceed to such dangerous lengths? In the Repository weavers who objected in 1817 to manufacturers cutting the payments for making Spanish Stripe were told that "if they quietly and legally resist oppression, those who have the administration of the laws will doubtless protect them from injury and injustice." Doubtless, indeed!

Sixty years earlier, in a similar crisis of "redundancy" and "wage freeze" the local weavers had shown more spirit. Troops under Major James Wolfe were in fact drafted to the Dursley and Stroud districts to contain rioting. The point of view of an economist is given in the pamphlet "State of the Case", assumed to be by Josiah Tucker, Dean of Gloucester. He writes in 1757 that some clothiers got their weavers to sign - "Voluntarily" of course - that they were satisfied with their wages. At the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions of 5 October 1756 however, a weavers' petition alleged that they got only 4d. for 16 hours labour. As against this, over 70 clothiers submitted a counter-petition saying that French labour cost less, and that the fixing of a minimum wage by the J.P.s greatly harmed the clothiers' ability to compete. This wage - (but not price) control, they said, "tends to invert the laws of society, and to destroy that due subordination which ought to be religiously preserved in all communities." Tucker says, "Why should the weavers be excepted from feeling the effects of bad times any more than their masters?", and quoting what it was possible for a weaver to earn, says "if the weavers in general do not earn such wages it must be imputed either to their negligence, drunkenness, unskilfulness, want of full employment or to all these causes combined."

As an example of what the employers had to put up with, he cites a special sessions held on 18 December 1756 at Minchinhampton, where Nathaniel Peach and Joseph Wathen, "clothiers of distinction", were ordered to pay higher wages. They protested that in fact they already were paying more than others, whereat a weaver, Joseph Teacle, not personally involved, called out in a loud voice, "As for Mr. Peach, he will swear anything." Coming rather too heavily down on the clothiers' side, Tucker exclaims, "Here was a specimen of that rancorous and incorrigible kind of spirit, which rages in the hearts of our laye rioters! Should such dispositions in the common people be encouraged by laws that render them independent? And have not the clothiers cause to complain of such insults, to which they are daily exposed?"

And yet Tucker had analysed in quite a Marxian way the situation when he writes, "The Master, however well-disposed in himself, is naturally tempted by his situation to be proud and over-bearing, to consider his people as the

Scum of the Earth, whom he has a right to squeeze whenever he can; because they ought to be kept low, and not to rise up in Competition with their Superiors ... Hence, the Self-Love (of the workers) takes a wrong Turn, destructive to themselves, and others. They think it no crime to get as much wages, and to do as little for it as they possibly can, to lie and cheat, and do any other bad Thing; provided it is only against their Master, whom they look upon as their common Enemy, with whom no Faith is to be kept."

One of Tucker's complaints was against the Magistrates, who in the mid-18th century tried to hold a balance, and in the crisis of the 1750s actually supported the weavers' claim to higher pay. Tucker held that these laws had been intended originally to prevent unlawful combinations, and to keep wages down.

Eighty years later, J.P.s no longer had the powers, or the wish, to support low wages. The prevailing doctrine was that of the "iron law of economics" of naked supply and demand. When factories became common, manufacturers naturally sought labour in the cheapest market and were well-nigh outraged when the Government sought to interfere with the Laws of Economics by regulating the ages of entry into, and the hours of work in, mills of the cheapest and least protected labour - children and young persons. In a pamphlet on Facts and Reasonings regarding the employment of children in the woollen trade, Mr. Sheppard says that the Children's Factory Act (of 1833) fixing these limits of age and work absolutely prohibited to the workman "the free use of the only commodity he is master of, his labour .. It is to be feared that if adult labour only is to be free, and if the labour of the hale and active youth from 16 to 21 is to be limited, that the preference which will be given to adults from the greater suitableness of their labour to the exigencies of their Master, being free from the shackles of limitation by Law, will throw the youth of both sexes upon the open world, a prey to vice and idleness, at an age when the passions are most awake, and require most the corrective of active employment and the control of superintendance." He doesn't of course say what happens to adults made redundant by the cheaper labour of their children.

The present high cost of education on the rates, and the terrible habits of the young today (but through having too much easy employment, rather than too little) are forecast by Mr. Sheppard as he continues, "The beautiful institutions of the Infant School were meant to open the capacity, and even to prepare the Child for future mechanical pursuits; but what will become of him between that period, and the period of legal labour? Is he to be kept in all that interval of School, and if so who is to pay for it? The Parents have had their common fund too much reduced by the subtraction of their Children's labour, which Providence had before kindly given to them, almost as an equivalent for the cares and hurthens of a large family; they can do nothing for their children now, who must heat the streets, while their parents are at the Factories, and, freed from their superintendance and control, either pass their days in doing nothing, or, what is worse, in habits of Vice and Thieving." He regards laws like the Children's Factory Act as "enactments, worthy of the darkest ages, when Governments took on themselves to control, direct and punish all Handicrafts, Trades and Callings."

In the 1750s the unemployed, with the law on their side, could riot; and the authorities, though against violence, were not necessarily for the employers. In the 1820s, law, authority and employment were all leagued, together with theory, against poverty. As W. Lawrence writes in 1824 in "Stroudwater: a Poem",

Sometimes an aged workman, cloth'd in rags,  
Goes to his master's door, and suppliant begs  
From his rich fund of wealth, some small relief -  
"Go to the parish, then," he answers brief,  
And shuts his door ...

The unemployed workman is forced to try again.

"Where came you from? what is it that you want?"  
"Why," says the man, "I have no work to do,  
And I was recommended here to you;"  
"Have you a wife and children?"  
"Yes, kind sir;"  
"How many children?"  
"Heaven bless you, four."  
"I think you might have work if you were willing  
To look about; however, here's a shilling."

(Here one longs for a "rancorous and incorrigible kind of spirit" rather than this broken and degrading humility, and the humiliating acceptance of a hopeless situation that follows ...)

Th' unhappy man goes home in deep distress,  
And tells his partner of his ill success;  
"Well, be it so," replies his grateful wife,  
"Misfortunes still attend on human life;  
But let us trust in him, whose power sublime  
Will send us succour, in his own due time."

When this is the attitude to human misfortune, one is not surprised to read (in the Gloucestershire Repository) that when James Mason of Eastonrubs fell down dead whilst in the act of taking his breakfast, his death was attributed to the "visitation of God." The attitude of the early 19th century towards the labouring poor is well put by the Rev. Thomas Ruge in his General View of the Agriculture of Gloucestershire (1805) when he writes, "The greatest of evils to agriculture would be to place the labourer in a state of independence, and thus destroy the indispensable gradations of society." Lawrence can, without conscious irony, end his poem with a paean of praise to the idea of British Liberty.

Hail! liberty of conscience! precious boon!  
That shines resplendent as the noonday sun;  
The gift of heaven, which Britons ought to prize,  
And raise their acclamations to the skies;  
Let no proud zealots rob us of the same,  
Nor quench, with impious hands, the rising flame.  
Know this, ye fools, the mind of man is free,

and scorns to wear the chains of slavery!  
Each rolling year may peace and plenty smile,  
In every corner of this fruitful Isle;  
May trade and commerce unrestricted reign,  
Across the bounds of Europe's rich domain.  
Then man with man, in social concord join'd,  
Shall help each other with a feeling mind;  
Angelic raptures shall to heav'n resound,  
And learning spread its blessings wide around.

There seems something to be said, after all, for living in the present time!

Christopher Cox.

The books, pamphlets etc. quoted above are in either the Gloucestershire Records Office or the Gloucestershire Library.

---

#### PROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA.

At the end of 1965 we had completed the excavation of the big house and most of its drains, and were expecting to find a detached building this season. We were disappointed in this, but we did discover the places where the stone masons and tilers worked. The heaps of chippings and rejects were quite separate but only two yards apart, so the two crafts must have worked harmoniously. Had they been at enmity with each other they could easily have chosen places out of earshot. The heaps of chippings were later spread out to form an even surface. Such a well-drained area would have been admirable for a rick yard and, if it were so used, the rat-holes under the chippings would not have been out of place. It was conveniently sited outside the corn-drying room.

The next find was a long garden wall. It was not mortared but at least one side had been pointed with mortar. The width and depth of the footings suggest that it was from eight to ten feet high, just like the 19th century walled kitchen gardens with high walls for fruit trees and grape vines.

Also last year we had found a section of the boundary ditch along the back of the villa, into which all the drains discharged. Now, we had always suspected the existence of an earlier group of buildings some way away in the front. In fact, when following the plough, we had picked up a first century brooch and some second century pottery and had observed a cobbled stone surface at a depth of six or seven inches. We were therefore quite excited to find a deep ditch running across the front of the villa and only six yards from it. This had been filled in with the soil from the foundation trenches and must have been the boundary ditch of the earlier farmstead. So it was clear that the new villa had been built outside the old farmyard and the whole compound extended to include it. The addition was about one and a quarter acres.

The next excitement was to find that the ditch was double, i.e., there were two parallel ditches only nine feet apart from rim to rim. The inner one

was six feet deep and the outer one four feet. There must have been a bank somewhere because it would be difficult to dispose of such a lot of soil and gravel in any other way. Unfortunately the plough has removed all traces of it. We then had another look at the new boundary ditch that we had found last year. Sure enough it, too, turned out to be double, but here the outer one was the deeper of the two. They were much closer together, leaving hardly any space between them. The reasons for such an elaborate system are obscure in such a well-protected and prosperous area.

The finds this year were of no great interest except for masses of small change. What appeared to be a scattered hoard of about 90 'radiate minims' turned up in one of the earliest Roman layers. These are miniature copies of genuine coins, many of them less than a quarter of an inch across. They are called radiates because the emperor on the obverse is shown wearing a crown with spikes on it like the rays of the sun. Some are struck from beautifully made dies but the majority are very bad imitations. The radiate crown, being the dominant feature, is always there, but the rest of the design can be terribly botched. They are copies of coins issued in the 70s of the third century A.D., and were probably in use from about 280 to 290, or later. Perhaps they were given to the children to play with after they went out of use, like modern farthings.

Next year we plan to investigate the area in front of the house and sort out the drive-way from the garden. We will also be following the boundary ditch to its end, which should not be difficult unless it turns in an unexpected direction. The work on the villa will then be complete and ready for full publication.

H. S. Gracie.

---

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME:  
A glimpse of military family-life in the 18th Century.

Everyone over a certain age today is only too familiar with the crisis atmosphere that precedes the official start of a war. The Seven Years War which 'began' in 1756, was already being fought verbally in the 'Gloucester Journal' of 1754 and 1755. Flash-point was in the Americas, where French attempts to link Canada and Louisiana threatened to box in the British Colonies along the eastern coastal strip. On 26 November 1754, the 'Journal' began a series of articles headed 'A scheme to drive the French out of all the Continent of America'. The series ended on 24 December, over the signature 'T.C.' and a note that copies of the pamphlet stitched in blue wrappers could be obtained from the Journal Offices. The most interesting number is that of 10 December, which assesses the cost of sending a sizeable expedition.

The author calculates that it costs £6 to recruit, fit out and train every foot-soldier, and a mere £3 to get him across the Atlantic - even though the sailors taking him would have to be paid £4 a month. Once enlisted, the soldier would be paid at the rate of 3d a day. His officers would be paid considerably more, Captains 10/- a day, lieutenants 5/-, Ensigns 3/6, Sergeants 1/4; corporals, however, would have a mere 10d., less even than the 1/- due to a drummer.

The column that eventually set out to attack Fort Duquesne consisted of no more than two regiments, and 600 irregulars, and by proper respect for the hook of rules promptly got itself ambushed by a small force of Indians under French officers. Neither pamphleteer nor brass-hat seems to have thought very much about the plight of the families of men suddenly ordered to embark for Virginia, in 1755.

The Quarter Sessions records for the City of Gloucester at Easter, Trinity and Michaelmas of that year contain numerous Removal Papers relating to destitute wives and children of three regiments. A list of the names arranged in order of length of marriage no doubt reflects some of the regiments' travels, and reveals rather unexpectedly the length of the terms of service.

Lord George Bentinck's Regiment.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Husband</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Years married</u>
Burgess	Francis	Margaret	Dublin (St. Ann)	16
Sparrow	Samuel	Mary	Belfast	12
Maddis	John	Elizabeth	Loggall, Armagh	12
Deane	James	Catherine	Dublin (St. Catherine)	10
Phillips	Samuel	Catherine	Dublin (St. Paul)	10
John	Meredith	Margaret	Wexford (St. Oland)	9
Dohhs	Andrew	Alice	Dublin (St. Catherine)	8
Lamb	Luke	Alice	Dublin (St. Patrick)	8
Mills	Aaron	Elizabeth	Wexford (St. Paul)	8
Jordan	Robert	Elizabeth	Dublin (St. Catherine)	7
Mason	Joseph	Mary	Galway (St. Nicholas)	7

John and Jane Atkins, married at Castle, Stafford Green, and Samuel and Mary Weyer, at Denaurry, Belfast (at a Meeting House) belong to the same regiment but the time of their marriages is not indicated. Another couple, David and Mary Jones, name neither place nor time.

Colonel John Jordan's Regiment.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Husband</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Years married</u>
Wrangle	Robert	Lilly	Inverness	12
Russell	Thomas	Elizabeth	Plymouth (Old Church)	8
Benton	John	Martha	Waterford (Christ Church)	6
Spurway	Henry	Margaret	Newcastle on Tyne (St. John)	5/6
Bayley	Robert	Agnes	Mucklegiven, Nr. Glasgow	3

Three other husbands and wives appear in these records without any note of the period of their marriage, i.e. Joseph and Grace Allen, married at Gluvias, Penryn; William and Mary Vickery, married at Dublin (St. Catherine): William and Mary Young married at Waterford (St. Olive).



Colonel Dunharr's Regiment.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Husband</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Years married</u>
Cartwright	Thomas	Elizabeth	Bradford, Yorks	10
White	William	Margaret	Glasgow (High Church)	3
Cockayne	John	Ann	Derby (St. Hultaen)	2

It is a fair assumption that most of these places of marriage refer to the home of the brides: the background history of the grooms (and those unmarried) can be extracted from these records too, and the following list suggests an interesting diversity of trades in men under arms :-

A = Legal Settlement gained by serving apprenticeship  
H = Legal Settlement gained by serving as hired servant for a year  
h = Husbandman

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Legal Settlement</u>	<u>How gained</u>
1. Allen, Joseph	Ceron Abbiss	Ceron Abbiss	A. Gardener
2. Atkins, John		Castle, Stafford Green	H. John Cotton, h
3. Bayley, Robert	Marns, Renthrew	Mucklegiven, near Glasgow	A. John Stanley linen weaver
4. Denton, John	Marum Le Fen Lincs	Sondbray, near Kirdney, Lincs.	H. William Quinsy h.
5. Burgess, Francis	-	Snelson, Cheshire	-
6. Cartwright, Thomas	-	Groston, Lincs.	A. John Withington blacksmith
7. Cockayne, John	-	Derby (St. Hultaen)	A. William Cook hatmaker
8. Davis, Francis	Lansamlep, Glam.	Lansamlap, Glam.	A. Thomas Brown of Bristol (Christ- Church), staymaker
9. Deane, James	Manchester	Manchester	A. Father
10. Dobbs, Andrew	-	Buddelley, near Stafford	H. Benjamin Cotton h.
11. Dohby, Samuel	Glasgow	Glasgow	A. Sanders Taylor linen weaver
12. John, Meredith	Marthertidwell	Marthertidwell	H. Lewis Thomas h.
13. Jones, David	-	Cluddy, Pembroke	H. John Matthews
14. Jordan, Robert	-	Coleford, near Froom, Som.	A. Edward Churn Card maker
15. Lamb, Luke	-	Dishfroom, near Bromyard	H. Richard Hemings h.
16. Maddis, John	Chelaley, Devon	-	-
17. Marshall, Charles	Cumloch, Ayr.	-	-
18. Mason, Joseph	Mucklestone, Staffs	-	-
19. Mills, Aaron	-	Tabloy, Cheshire	
20. Phillips, Samuel	Chestock, Nr. Axaminster	Chestock	H. Mrs. Joan Crabh h.
21. Russell, Thomas	Shattery, Stratford Harborough, War. -on-Avon		H. Anthony Neale h.
22. Sparrow, Samuel	Sudbury, Suffolk	Sudbury	A. Richard Wright weaver

- |                       |                                      |                  |                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 23. Spurway, Henry    | Colmstock, Devon                     | Colmstock        | A. John Southey,<br>Weaver |
| 24. Vickery, William  | Lopen Magnel, near<br>Crookham, Som. | Lopen Magnel     |                            |
| 25. White, William    |                                      | Wossell, Staffs. | A. Buckle-maker            |
| 26. Williams, Erasmus | Monmouth                             | Monmouth         | A. Baker                   |
| 27. Wrangle, Robert   | Huntingford in<br>Herts              | Much Munden      | H. Joseph Tent h.          |
| 28. Myer, Samuel      |                                      | Belfast          | H. William Legg h.         |

Settlement papers are of particular value to social historians - often very poignant and sometimes surprising.

Thelma Smith

SCALE NOTES ON THE NEWENT COALFIELD.

The pleasantly undulating countryside to the west of Newent conceals a tiny coalfield, unworked for many years and now almost forgotten. Its existence was certainly known in 1790 when borings were put down 23 yards, probably near Oxenhall, by a Mr. Dykes for the Hon. Andrew Foley. A total thickness of nearly 8 feet was found, made up of six seams, the thickest of which was 2 feet 9 inches.

The coal-bearing area extends several miles in a north-south direction, from Great Bouldon to Gamage Hall near Dymock. Never more than a mile wide, it has been chiefly exploited near Great Bouldon and in the area between Lower House and White House, to the west of Oxenhall. Because the coal had a high sulphur content it was unsuited for most domestic purposes, and this is the likely reason why mining was only on a small and sporadic scale.

In the last decade of the 18th century, however, the outlook was very promising. The Gloucester-Hereford Canal had been opened as far as Oxenhall and the ready transport thus provided was a considerable stimulus. The canal owners themselves sank a pit at Hill House in 1794 and leased it to a Mr. Richard Perkins. A short branch from the Canal was built towards it but does not seem to have extended much beyond the Oxenhall-Newent road. The coal was probably conveyed by horse and cart, and transferred into barges at the Canal branch.

The workings were apparently a failure, as a few years later it was reported that "little appears to be doing at the collieries." Nevertheless they were again at work in the 1840s, at a depth of 100 yards, with three seams of coal (1 ft., 1ft.8 ins. and 6ft. in thickness). Water was of so little consequence that it was drawn up by a barrel. After twelve years the mine was again abandoned but the industry revived about 1880 when the Newent Colliery Co. opened a new mine in the south side of the lane from Oxenhall to Gorsley, near the White House. According to conversation with an old inhabitant in 1957, whose father helped to sink the shafts, the first load of coal went to the George Inn at Newent. There was a 70 ft. high chimney at the mine, and when it closed about 1891 the boiler was taken to Gloucester by two traction engines. Various tools and a donkey-engine used underground were never brought to the surface. The old shafts and grass-grown dump were until recently still to be seen, before the site received the attentions of a bulldozer.

The Great Bouldon workings were active in the 1790-1800 period, and grassy mounds still show the site of these operations. Murchison, writing in the 1830s, considered that open-cast mining had been carried on in the vicinity many years previously. Coal has also been mined at Pella and Holders Farm, and thin seams were encountered during construction of the Canal tunnel in 1797.

After the Newent Colliery Co. stopped work no further mining seems to have been undertaken, although there is strong geological evidence that the coal-field extends easterly, on the other side of a north-south down throw fault.

The locations of several of these old collieries are shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" maps, but visits to the sites usually reveal little of interest since nearly all traces of the workings have long since disappeared. No information about the output of the Newent coalfield has yet come to light, and further research is needed on this and other aspects of a bygone local industry.

D. E. Bick

---

#### NEWS FROM GLOUCESTER MUSEUMS.

The Museums have recently purchased a very fine working model of an auxiliary steam generating plant which was in use at Gloucester Corporation Power Station in the early years of this century. The original plant was designed and made by the local firm of Wm. Sisson and Co. Ltd. and consisted of a vertical open Sissons engine driving a Manchester-type open field generator. The model, which was in all probability made in Sissons' own workshops, is 14 inches overall and has an electrical out-put of 15 volts at 4 amps. It will be put on view at the Folk Museum in Westgate Street.

Mr. Gilbert Swainston, until lately of Glebe Farm, Condicote, has lent his extensive collection of flint implements to the City Museum while he is on an extended visit to Australia.

The collection ranges in date from the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age, and all the pieces were found within a two-mile radius west of Condicote. In 1962 Mr. Swainston lent a selection from his collection for exhibit in the Museum, but now, for a period at least, the entire collection, numbering over 2,000 pieces, is available for consultation.

T. N. Taylor

---

#### ADDITIONS TO STROUD MUSEUM.

It would be difficult to select the most important event at Stroud Museum in the past six months. As a cultural centre the work done by the Museum grows steadily every year. Yet the size of its premises has had to remain constant. The effects of overcrowding are becoming daily more obvious; a tightening up of standards for items accepted has led not to any decline, but to the receipt of far more important objects than hitherto. This shows beyond all doubt the gratitude felt by the people of Central Gloucestershire for what is being done on their behalf.

Several dolls have been given lately. These range from a small foreign collection made c.1892 to a 'Princess Elizabeth' doll of c.1923 modelled upon an early likeness to our present Queen. A superb wax-faced doll of 1900 may well have been the work of the famous maker Pierotti. A wooden doll of c.1800 is reputed to have been played with by Queen Victoria though the quality of some of the doll's later wardrobe suggests that it may more likely have been some of her daughters who played with it, possibly on the occasion of a visit to our county. On a less pleasant note, two other dolls made c.1900 have been the victims of witchcraft practices.

Archaeological finds have ranged from a bronze dagger found in a field at Whiteshill to a barbed and tanged arrow head from a denuded round barrow site near Haresfield Beacon; from a small but superb collection of decorated Samian ware found near Edge to a carved Saxon slab from a garden at Bisley. This latter, in two fragments once formed a part of a shrine or tomb, presumably in Bisley Church. Such things are rare. It would be good to learn who was buried there of such stature as to merit a monument of this quality.

The contractors engaged to break up the 1866 shop front in King Street, mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin, on hearing of its importance kindly donated some of the decorative wood-carvings. Some of the work had already been badly mutilated though partial restoration in plaster of the missing pieces is not impossible.

Among objects of industrial interest, the most important without any doubt, has been a silver plated casket presented to the Countess Bathurst on 7th November 1910 by Sir Alfred Apperly on the occasion of the opening of a new range of weaving sheds at Dudbridge Mills, Stroud. Decorated on the outside with a series of coats of arms and symbols of the woollen cloth industry, it is lined with a small piece of cloth that won the gold medal in the world wide exhibition of 1851.

Stroud Museum still being independently run (though thankfully in receipt of grants from certain Local Authorities), has little or no money to spend on the purchase of specimens. An exception has however been made in the purchase of two of the literary works of Bishop Hoper who was executed for his beliefs at Gloucester in 1555.

Lionel Walrod.

---

#### NEWS FROM CIRENCESTER.

Corinium Museum (per Mr. John Real).

Copy of gold coin of Epaticus, found on the Belgic site at Bagendon is exhibited in the Museum. The original is in the British Museum.

The main task on hand is the drawing and classifying of the material from the recent Abbey Church and Saxon Church excavation. This has been well started by David Brown, D.M.S., who directed the digs with Alan McWhirr, B.Sc.

Outstanding from the villa at Barnsley, excavated each summer by Dr. Graham Webster, F.S.A., has been an iron chisel in perfect condition, and a leather sandal now being treated at Bristol, under the S. W. museums scheme for conservation.

Professor S. S. Frere, F.S.A., has indicated his willingness to become Director of the Corinium Museum, in succession to the late Sir Ian Richmond. Professor Frere also succeeds him as Chairman of Cirencester Excavation Committee.

Mr. David Brown, B.A., of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, has undertaken to direct the 1967 season of excavations.

At a meeting in Cirencester recently, after an address by Lord Holford, a Civic Society was formed and a Steering Committee appointed under the chairmanship of W. I. Croome, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., F.S.A., to form a constitution.

Rebuilding by Cirencester Urban District Council in Gloucester Street has received much commendation. Old alleys and courts of no architectural value and beyond repair have been replaced by residences for old folks, the facades of which blend in perfectly with the older buildings in this unspoilt street. This is the third group of pensioners' homes, each with its club room and nearby resident warden-nurse, but the first to be integrated to an old site. There is more work to be done and the example already before us can only make us anticipate further restoration with pleasure.

Exhibition in the Lait Gallery, Cirencester, of Historic Treasures, in June, as part of the Festival of Flowers created much interest. A wealth of local history was illustrated by loans from many townsfolk. A record has been kept and the exhibits were photographed in situ, on behalf of the local archaeological and Historical Society, who organised it.

Joyce Barker.

#### NEW BOOKS IN THE GLOUCESTER LIBRARIES.

1. Severn Bridge Superstructure by Associated Bridge Builders Ltd.
2. Parish Church of St. Mary, Lydney by R.M.J. Bell. British Publishing Co., Gloucester.
3. Leckhampton Hill by William Dreghorn. Enterprise Local Books, Cheltenham.
4. Geology and the Severn Bridge: Why the Engineers choose the Site by William Dreghorn. Enterprise Local Books, Cheltenham.
5. Portrait of Gloucestershire by T. A. Ryder.
6. Census 1961 : Occupation, industry, socio-economic groups 1966: Gloucestershire.

7. Survey into true attitudes of young people. By Gloucestershire Standing Conference on Family Life, 1966.
8. Antiques in the Cotswolds and Midlands by Tony Keniston 1966.
9. The Cotswolds by Charles and Alice Hadfield 1966.
10. The Severn Bridge by J.C.V. Fryce 1966.

-----

LIST OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED 1961-65  
RELATING TO THE CIRENCESTER AREA.

Will of Richard Kitson of Cirencester, 1568  
 Miscellaneous papers relating to Cirencester, including election posters, 1820-37  
 Court rolls of the manor and seven hundreds of Cirencester, 1550-74  
 Tithe terrier of Cirencester, 1666  
 Deeds of Cirencester (1), Bagendon (24), and Daglingworth (7)  
 Plan and description of the manor of Daglingworth, 1895  
 Parish register of Coln St. Dennis, 1561-1755  
 Poor Law settlement papers of Duntishourne Abbots, 1750-1837  
 Warrants (3) to the Dridewell Keepers, Northleach  
 Deeds (14) of a house adjoining the King's Head, Northleach, 1755-1839  
 Land and Assessed Tax Returns for the Bibury district, 19th century  
 Additional manorial, estate and family records of the Coxwell family of Ablington, Bibury, including documents relating to Cirencester, Coln St. Dennis and Siddington  
 Ground plans and elevations of National schools, including Bagendon, North Cerney, Cirencester, Coates, Coln St. Dennis, Looke Keynes, Somerford Keynes, and Northleach, 19th century.  
 North Cerney parish council minutes, 1894-1910  
 Map of North Cerney, 1801  
 Copy deed of the "Bull" and "Yorkshire Grey" Inns, etc., Cirencester, 1733  
 Diary of Clement Tudway of Cirencester, 1829

Irvine Gray, Records Office

-----

BOOK REVIEWS

The Severn Bridge The story of its history and construction.  
 by L. F. C. Rolt. 5/-

This is a lavishly illustrated, excellently produced little book which is much more than the usual guide. The illustrated cover in colour shows one of the car ferries in action beside the vast span of the new bridge. Apart from full details of the plans and construction of the new bridge, there are quite a lot of interesting historical details about former bridge plans, and the New Passage and Old Passage ferries.

In 1810 it seems there was an attempt to tunnel under the river between Arlingham and Newnham which was a failure. The tidal variations were such that

passengers had often to complete the crossing in row boats and then walk through the mud. In 1839 the ferry boat "Dispatch" was lost with all hands which included ten passengers, five horses and two carriages. There was a similar disaster in 1843, and in 1845 James Walker F. R. S. described the Old Passage thus: "There is as far as I know, no greater communication in the country so had, or therefore where an improvement is so much wanted." It was not for want of trying. In 1823 the great engineer Thomas Telford was appointed by the Postmaster General to investigate the possibilities of a bridge. He eventually, in 1824, boldly proposed a suspension bridge at the present site, a scheme now realised 140 years later. With the coming of the railway in 1845 more efforts were made to build a railway crossing. I. K. Brunel proposed a railway bridge at Hock Cliff between Frethern and Avre which was turned down by the Admiralty who said it would prevent the passage of ships. Passengers to South Wales therefore had either to go all round by Gloucester, or risk the New Passage ferry, which often saw them stranded in the hotel built for the purpose. The next attempt to solve the problem came from Thomas Fulljames, the County Surveyor of Gloucester, but his scheme never advanced beyond a drawing without engineering possibility.

In 1862 S. B. Rogers produced a most delightful and highly imaginative fantasy: "A magnificent railway bridge of 25 spans, two miles long, at the English Stones, near the New Passage Ferry. On the piers and platforms of the bridge there will be several hundred houses, shops, exhibition rooms, sites for statues and monuments in commemoration of the patrons of the undertaking, and others who may distinguish themselves by merit or talent in this affair; together with refreshment rooms and suitable conveniences for a sort of permanent International Exhibition; with twelve or more gala nights, when the entire bridge - houses, shops, piers, arches and platforms - will be brilliantly illuminated".

That quotation alone should make readers of this guide grateful to Mr. Rolt, and to Mr. Rogers, for what must have been one of the very first suggestions for floodlighting which now so pleasantly draws attention to some of our most famous ancient monuments.

M.M.

---

The Story of Duntishourne Abbots.  
by Anne Carver, 1965

Too many parish historians, often after years of devoted labour, are deterred by the high cost of printing from getting beyond the manuscript stage. One may therefore gratefully welcome a new parish history in print, especially one as informative, entertaining and straightforwardly written as this story of the Cotswold parish of Duntishourne Abbots. Its author has wisely economised on binding, but the stiff-paper cover contains 55 pages of text, two maps and an exceptionally fine assortment of old photographs. For the last century of the story the local Womens Institute history - an entry for the competition sponsored some years ago by the Community Council Local History Committee - has provided a good deal of material.

The book, priced at 12/6d., is not being sold through booksellers, but can be obtained from the author, Mrs. Carver, Duntishourne Leaf Farm, Cirencester.

Gloucester in the 13th century. Studies in Local Historical Records by the  
University Extra-Mural Class at Gloucester 1965-66.

Edited by Brian S. Smith.

This is a very interesting collection of five studies of historical manuscripts in the Gloucestershire Records Office by members of the "Records Class". Student researches are so often of value only to the students concerned, and the hard work which has been put into the typing and editing of these papers, brings them to the notice of all who are interested in local history. The editor expresses his gratitude to the Gloucestershire County Council and to the County Records Officer, Mr. I. E. Gray, for allowing the class to make use of their facilities.

Three of the papers are studies of letters which give most interesting local information, and one of them, the letters of G. G. Ducarel, describes in detail life in India in the late 13th century, and the tribulations of a sea voyage at that time. The letters were written from India to relatives in Bath, by two brothers who had joined the East India Company in the days of Clive.

There is another short paper on farming at Oxenhall taken from Estate and Tithe apportionment maps of 1775 and 1842.

Perhaps most interesting of all, and relating to Miss Thelma Smith's article in this issue "The Girl I left Behind me", are the studies of the Vagrancy Bills which were presented to the County Treasurer in relation to expenses incurred in removing a vagrant to his or her place of settlement. These included on occasion the fee of one shilling for the task of whipping the vagrant as a punishment for being "a Rogue, a vagabond or a sturdy beggar".

The payments rose according to the price of corn, unemployment, and dismissals from the armed forces at the termination of a war. Until the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834, these vagrants were dealt with by Justices at Quarter Sessions, after which they came under the Jurisdiction of Boards of Guardians. Gloucestershire it seemed suffered a lot from Irish vagrants who were trying to escape the famine in Ireland, and there was a great deal of vagrant-passing to other counties to avoid the cost of shipping them back to Ireland. The paper is well illustrated with tables and maps.

It is to be hoped that other extra-mural classes will collect and publish their findings, for this booklet makes fascinating reading.

M.M.

---

Local History for Students.

D. V. Humphreys, M.A. and P. G. Emison, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

National Council for Social Service  
Standing Conference for Local History 2/6  
22 pp.

It would perhaps be unfair to the mediaeval Chronicle to call Local History a "new" study, but, while one can point to the 17th century as the age



of antiquarian learning, the late 18th as one of topographical concern, and the leisurely vicarage of the late 19th as the nursery of our own kind of local studies, there is no doubt that the great decades of the motor car have coincided with a positive explosion of local history work. Through its Standing Conference for Local History, the National Council for Social Service has for many years helped to guide the force of the explosion into the proper channels of historical method. By 1951 they had already produced seven useful pamphlets, (the 7th bearing an acknowledgement to Dr. Olive Griffiths and the Gloucestershire Local History Committee) and in 1953 a general guide to Local History Students was produced.

In thirteen years, the scope of the study has increased enormously and so has the number of people entering into this discipline "for fun". Taking the line that the hub of the matter is to know where to look, the National Council for Social Service has now brought this 1953 guide up to date under the authoritative names of Humphreys and Emission. It is methodical in showing the novice where to start with learning what he is really looking for, and then leading him gently through the labyrinth; the timid, for whom a bird's eye view of his chosen field could mean vertigo, can travel blind, a section at a time and know that his progress will be orderly, from simple library books through to the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

There are (a) a carefully winnowed list of text books; (b) a tool box, to wit the titles of the essential hand lists and guides, each in their own section; (c) six sections explaining the main groups of records in order of complexity and what one may look to find in them; (d) an encouraging section especially for the teacher in schools, comprising a short list of books and suggestions upon aims and class method, and the authors' own conviction that the important part of this study is done "on location."

For conciseness, method, clarity and coolness in a sphere of learning which seems particularly liable to confusion, this appears an admirable aid to the beginner, and aide-memoire for the more confident student, and, true to its parent-house, excellent value for its half-crown.

E. Vowles.

---

#### LECTURE COURSES, MEETINGS ETC.

#### THE COTTESFOLD NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The THIRD WINTER MEETING will be held on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th, when a Lecture will be given by Mr. E. R. MAYNE, on "STAINED GLASS, its history and manufacture".

It is hoped that further meetings will be held as follows :-

THURSDAY, January 26th 1967 - A. G. M. address by the President  
"Come round the Garden".

- TUESDAY, February 14th 1967 - Dr. W. H. Steavenson, F.R.A.S.  
"Some side-lights on Astronomy".
- TUESDAY, March 7th 1967 - The Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths,  
Lecture on "The Rev. Francis Kilvert".
- TUESDAY, April 18th 1967 - Dr. (Mrs.) Whitehead  
"Studies in Natural History, using colour  
stereoscopic photography".

#### ARCHAEOLOGY.

The NEXT MEETING will be held on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th in the Porcelain Room of the Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, at 2.30 p.m. when W. Solley, Esq., will give a lecture illustrated by colour slides, entitled "THE STORY OF THE SEVERN CROSSINGS".

Mr. Solley will deal mainly with the history of the now superseded Beachley to Aust Ferry, but will also cover several of the other Fords and Bridges over the Severn River of which he has many excellent slides.

There will be no Meeting in December, but please note JANUARY 10th (1967) for the Annual Meeting when Dr. Hills will talk on SAMCO - a Neolithic Society.

#### THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION: CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER BRANCH.

##### Programme 1966 - 67

- FRIDAY, November 18th - Dr. J.F.A.Mason, Fellow of Christchurch, Oxford  
"The Norman Conquest: Recent Contributions".
- TUESDAY, November 22nd - Professor R.H.Hilton, Birmingham University  
"Robin Hood and Social Discontent in Mediaeval England".

All meetings are at 6 p.m. in the Art Gallery, Cheltenham.

During the Spring of 1967, Professor K.G.Davies, Bristol University, Miss C.B.A.Behrens, Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, and Dr. G.H.S.Bushnell of Cambridge University will give Lectures. Details will be announced later.

#### Student Section.

- THURSDAY, November 17th - Mrs. I.H.Hembry, B.A., PhD.  
"The problems of a Tudor Bishop".
- THURSDAY, December 1st - I.A.Adams and A.J.Baker (King's School Sixth-formers)  
"Gloucester Abbey".

All meetings are at 5 p.m. at the King's School, Pitt Street, Gloucester.

CIRENCESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Winter Lectures 1966-67

N.B. Change of Place: KING'S HEAD HOTEL, MARKET PLACE, CIRENCESTER.

Change of Time : 7. 30 p.m.

A course of lectures on Cirencester from circa 1700 by Mr. R. S. Jennings, B.A. Senior History Master, Cirencester School, in conjunction with the W.E.A. is revealing many avenues for independent research into the town's history. There is much material easily accessible, and, because of the period, with little palaeographic difficulty. Students please note!

- 
- MONDAY, November 21st - Mrs. S. M. Campbell M.A.  
"Memorial Brasses".
- MONDAY, January 30th - John Soulsby Esq., M.A. Heraldic Consultant  
"How to obtain a Coat of Arms".
- MONDAY, February 27th - Major C.W. Pride, Member of the Society  
"Austria - an Autumn Tour by Car".
- MONDAY, March 20th - Alan D. McWhirr Esq., B.Sc. David Brown Esq. B.A.  
"Cirencester Excavations 1966" Open Lecture

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY.

- November 18th Canals - Mr. E.C.R. Hadfield
- November 25th The Gloucester and Cheltenham Tramroad 1809-1861  
- Mr. D. E. Bick
- December 2nd Records of Gloucestershire Industries  
- Mr. I. E. Gray

Held in conjunction with the W.E.A. at Mansbridge Centre, Wellington Street, Gloucester - 7. 30 p.m.

- 
- November 18th Local Inventors - Mr. H.A. Randall
- November 25th Steam Engine - Mr. G. Watkins
- December 2nd Decorative Cast Iron - Mr. R. Lister
- December 9th Lighthouses - Mr. D. B. Hague
- January 13th Society Evening - To be announced
- January 20th Society Evening - To be announced

