

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

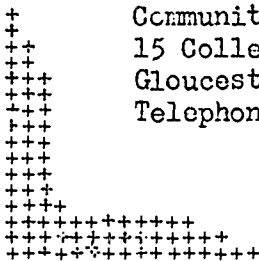
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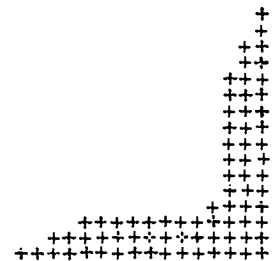
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EDITORIAL

After the sad news last month, it is good to record in this Bulletin the news that Miss F.I.H. Walker has been given the post of General Secretary. The courageous and efficient way she carried on following the tragic death of Mr. Thistone is only one of the reasons why she is so welcome. Mr. H. G. Beard has been appointed as Assistant Secretary.

A special meeting was held in October devoted entirely to the cause of the Bulletin, in the hopes of making it a more useful publication. It is generally felt that it should concentrate less on special prestige articles than on generally co-ordinating the work and interest of all the Local History Societies. To this end I have introduced a new section "Local History and the Press" which includes the more interesting excerpts from local newspapers. I am grateful to the Editors concerned for granting their permission for this.

The Gloucester County Library is prominent in this issue for they are about to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. With her permission I have included parts of a talk by Miss A. S. Cooke, the first Librarian in 1918. The present Librarian, Miss E.M.T. Markwick, also wishes to draw the attention of the Women's Institutes to the note on the placing of the Village Scrapbooks.

One of the most interesting documents to come into my hands is the splendid Village History compiled by members of the South Cerney Local History Society. Mrs. Alice Hadfield has produced some very revealing facts about the village school in 1863/4/5 taken from master's log books and inspector's reports. It is horrifying to read one day on September 28th, 1864 of "sight sickness in village" and on the 30th "C died from the sickness, only ill two days". On October 5th "Attendance thin owing to sickness and to elder boys working at clearing gardens of potatoes". At least four other children had died before Christmas. After Christmas in 1865 there was snow and several boys were punished for staying away sliding, and others for "idleness in church"; "Seems impossible to beat anything into their thick heads" lamented one note! I wish there was space to include a lot of this Village History, and that the hopes for its eventual publication are fulfilled, but I have included a note on the flooding of meadows which should interest Sandhurst and Longford dwellers, and two other brief extracts. It is to be hoped that the grants for Parish Histories from the Gloucestershire Community Council (see Page 1 last issue) will stimulate other groups to delve into their fascinating pasts.

I have had a good response to the correspondence section including a recipe for potted charr which leaves me with another query which perhaps someone can answer. In order to enjoy this delicious delicacy, how and where can I catch me a charr?

It is interesting that so many local schools are conducting their own historical surveys. My own 12th Century cruck's house was visited during the summer by two school boys, P.A. Adams and A.J. Baker of King's School, who were doing a general survey of historic buildings and illustrating their notes with photographs.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES

The Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club

Members are informed that the Council of the Club proposes to recommend to the Annual General Meeting, January 23rd, 1968, that the contents of the Club Library be disposed of by sale, with the exception of such works as "The Proceedings", "The Flora of Gloucestershire", and other Club assets.

The bulk of the Library will be available for sale, in the first instance, to Club members, who are requested to send in their offers for any of the contents to the Hon. Secretary before December 31st, 1967.

The Library is housed in the City Library, Gloucester (on the first floor of St. Michael's Rectory), Brunswick Road, Gloucester.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society

The Society suffered a very grievous loss by the death of its President, Mr. W.I. Croome, C.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. on April 29th. His amazing knowledge of church art and architecture, his compelling power of presentation, and above all his extraordinary vitality will long be remembered. Pages could be written of his national and diocesan work, his chairmanship of the Bench, and so on, but it is of him as a friend and adviser that we in the Society have our chief memories.

Mr. David Verey, F.S.A. kindly stepped in to speak at our Annual General Meeting and his subject was "Victorian Architecture in Gloucestershire". The visit to Northleach Church was cancelled, otherwise the summer programme was carried out as planned with visits to Littlecote House and Ramsbury, the American Museum and Lacock, plus an evening trip to Dr. Graham Webster's 'Dig' at Barnsley. In addition a coach party went to see "Julius Caesar" at Chedworth Villa produced by Rosemary Bourne, a member of our Committee.

The annual 'dig' in the town was for a shorter time than usual and in small areas only but some useful information was obtained.

A Civic Society has been formed in Cirencester and works in close co-operation with our Society.

M. S. Holland

Forest of Dean Local History Society

The Society, which has about one hundred and seventy members, has seen most of them during a successful summer season. Activities have been the Summer Tours which have been well patronised and much enjoyed.

In May about eighty members visited Castel Coch and admired the ingenuity of a 19th Century architect and a romantically minded patron in rebuilding upon the ruins of a small castle an ornate and fanciful fortress complete with portcullis and slots for boiling lead, but which was used for no other purpose but an occasional hunting lodge.

The party then proceeded to Cardiff Castle. Unfortunately the original "motte and bailey" was under heavy repair but members duly marvelled at the wealth of decoration which covers that part of the building which is on view.

The following month a smaller party went to Claverdon Manor to the American Museum which has been made more available by the advent of the Severn Bridge. Incidentally in their first two excursions this summer members covered the whole of the new M.4 motorway, appreciating both the Severn Crossing and the Newport by-pass.

The July tour took us into the Black Mountain country for a visit to Tretower Castle - a ruinous border tower - and the adjacent Tretower Court - the old home of Henry Vaughan which is one of the very few surviving fortified manor houses, which is in process of being restored by the Ministry of Works.

The only other joint activity has been a visit to Hidcote Manor Gardens in September. Members appreciated the quiet beauty of the gardens on a wonderfully fine day, and also made a short halt on the return journey to inspect the church at Stow-on-the-Wold. Since the tour took the party over ground unfamiliar to many members especially to newcomers, a running commentary on points of interest on the journey kept them well informed about the country they were passing through.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held early in October, when members will be asked to approve the attractive programme suggested by the Executive for the ensuing year.

This meeting will be the last which the Society will be able to hold in the Town Hall at Coleford, since the building will be vacated in favour of the new Community Centre which is shortly to be opened by the Duchess of Gloucester. The old building has had a long history and something has stood on its site since the time that King Charles II gave Coleford its Charter. The present building, restored and enlarged during the last Century, had been a centre for social activities in Coleford and the surrounding district for a very long time.

Little in the way of historical research has been reported during the last few months, although there has been some activity at Ruardean where some local enthusiasts have been engaged in exploring the "castle" earthworks adjacent to the church.

The winter programme of the Society will consist of lectures and papers given at different places in the Forest of Dean where "Waymarked Paths" "Nature Trails" and "Picnic Places" all installed by The Crown, have attracted a growing number of visitors.

Canon R. J. Mansfield

Kingswood and District Local History Society

Work is continuing on the history of the Kingswood boot industry, and a good beginning has been made to a photographic study of the neighbourhood. During the summer recess, a visit was paid to a small private museum of Roman material found locally.

(See article on Page 13)

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society

On Wednesday, September 13th, the Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society visited Little Sodbury Manor, the residence of Mark Harford, Esq. The house, of Cotswold stone, is admirably situated on the hill-side overlooking Chipping Sodbury. It is notable as the place where William Tyndale lived for a time as tutor to the Walshe children. The oldest part of the house is the Great Hall, built by the Walshes about 1480. This square, lofty room with pointed roof and carved oak screen was erected at the time of the Wars of the Roses, when Margaret of Anjou's troops were quartered at Sodbury camp before the Battle of Tewkesbury. In the hall stands a halberd, which was dug up recently on the estate, and which is a relic of this period. Behind the main entrance door an enormous billet of oak pulls out from the stone wall to serve as a bolt, and in the door above it, is a tiny grille for the inspection of callers.

It is thought that the apartments behind the hall were originally a stone granary, and several quatrefoil openings remain in the walls. On the first floor a bedroom with an attractive oriel window has a lightly carved oak four-poster bed, and one wall curves gracefully to follow the line of the staircase. The room said to have been occupied by William Tyndale is reached by a staircase of the Restoration period. It overlooks the ruins of a tiny church, the only one in England known to have been dedicated to St. Adelina, where he conducted services as chaplain to the Walshe family. Behind the church stand two gnarled yew trees, that are referred to in a contemporary document as being old even at that time, so visitors can enjoy the view that Tyndale gazed on as he meditated his translation of the New Testament.

It is said that in 1535 King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn were diverted from an intended visit to Bristol by an outbreak of plague, and spent three nights at the Manor.

In 1556 the Walshe family died out and the property was taken over by the Stephens family who put in very finely carved mantelpieces bearing their initials. In several of the fireplaces a later owner has inserted iron firebacks bearing the royal arms of the Carolean period. In the panelled dining room with its Elizabethan table, stand two wooden armchairs, made out of an 18th Century oak beam which was removed from Wotton-under-Edge Vicarage during the recent renovations.

In 1702 the North-west wing was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. The main door and entrance hall are therefore in simple Queen Anne style with pine panelling, and the North-east wing falling into complete disrepair was rebuilt

in 1912 by the Duke of Beaufort, who sold the house to a member of the Duke of Westminster's family. This owner never lived in it as he was killed in the First World War, and in 1919 the estate was acquired by the Baron de Tuyll, a connection of the present owner's. The entrance hall and drawing room now contain relics of the Harford family, who were Bristol bankers. The directors of the Bank carried on their deliberations around an oval table covered in baize, and it now stands in the hall with the baize removed to show the top covered in one large piece of cowhide, and beautifully shaped drawers let in all round the oval sides. On this table stands a statuette of Edmund Burke, who was proposed as Member for Bristol by David Harford. Burke married the daughter of Dr. Nugent, another Harford ancestor, and framed on the wall is a letter received by him from Lord Chesterfield. Another ancestor was Dr. Harvey, tutor to Charles I and Charles II, and discoverer of the circulation of the blood. His nephew's descendant was in command of the Temeraire at the Battle of Trafalgar, and in a frame on the wall is his long account of the death of Nelson. A portrait of another naval ancestor, Sir William Hoste, who served under Nelson, is in the drawing room and a bowl in the china cabinet is shown as part of a set made for an earlier Harford by the founder of the Bristol China Works, to whom he had lent the money to set up his business.

From the garden, the West side of the house with the Queen Anne wing, and the earlier gables and oriel window show to their best advantage in the light of the setting sun. The ground falls steeply away in terraces bounded by hedges of fuchsia and clipped yew, with a most attractive variety of flowers and shrubs. It is very satisfying to end the season with a visit that brings us back to a reminder, if that were necessary, of the attractiveness of our immediate neighbourhood.

Kathleen Tranter

By kind permission of Gloucestershire County Gazette

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

With the kind co-operation of West Country Breweries Limited, a plaque was unveiled in Cheltenham by Noel P. Newman, Esq., C.B.E., J.P. at 11 a.m. on Saturday, 15th July, 1967. The inscription reads as follows :-

SITE OF
THE TERMINUS OF THE
GLOUCESTER AND CHELTENHAM
RAILWAY
1809 - 1861
AN EARLY HORSE TRAMROAD FOR THE
CARRIAGE OF FREIGHT.
HERE WERE $1\frac{3}{4}$ ACRES OF WHARVES,
OFFICES AND WAREHOUSES.

The location is on the wall of the "Hop Pole Inn" in Gloucester Road, Cheltenham (nearly opposite the gas holders of the S.W.G.B.). This plaque is the first to be sponsored by the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology in the town of Cheltenham, but is representative of that part of the Society's activities in Gloucestershire aimed at commemorating sites of early industrial importance.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The first meeting of a Sub-Committee set up by the Education Committee took place on 1st December, 1917. Although some of the fiercest battles of the Great War had yet to be fought and the future of the country still hung in the balance, although County Councils had no power at that time to spend any public money on a library service, such importance was attached to the encouragement of reading, that financed at first by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, Gloucestershire became one of four pioneering counties.

The Sub-Committee elected as its chairman, Mr. F. H. Hyett, the Gloucestershire historian, later to become Sir Francis Hyett and Chairman of the County Council. It appointed Miss A. S. Cooke as its first librarian. Miss Cooke, the daughter of the Gloucester City Education Officer, was already working in the County Education Office and she served as County Librarian until 1921 when she went to Kent to inaugurate a County Library Service there with Salter Davies as Director of Education.

Sir Francis Hyett was succeeded in the Library Sub-Committee chair in 1937 by Lt. Col. A. B. Lloyd-Baker, D.S.O., who retired in 1966, after 29 years' service for public libraries in the county. The library now issues nearly 6½ million books every year. There are 35 branch libraries, 3 mobile libraries (two of which are devoted to serving primary schools), a growing Technical Information Service for Science and Industry and a book stock of over 700,000 volumes. The cost last year based on a 4d. rate worked out at 9s.4d. per head.

The staff, about 175 in number plan to celebrate the birthday with book displays in the Branch Libraries during the month ending 2nd December. There will also be an illustrated Birthday Booklet outlining the present services, a special Gloucestershire Reading List, and a Staff Dinner and Dance, at which it is hoped that Miss Cooke will cut the Birthday Cake and Lt. Col. Lloyd-Baker will meet once again friends and librarians whose debt to him will never be repaid.

E. N. T. Markwick

COUNTY LIBRARIES OF THE PAST

Let me try and cast my mind back to 1918 when I was appointed.

You must remember that that date was prior to the passing of the Public Libraries Act of 1919, and that therefore the County Councils had no legal powers to spend money on Libraries, except and unless such expenditure could be regarded as a part of Adult Education.

It was to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust that these pioneer schemes owed their foundations. It is amusing to read that the original Endowment Fund consisted of Ten Million Dollar Fifty Year 5% Gold Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation assigned by Mr. Andrew Carnegie to the Trustees.

But up to that time nothing had been done for people living in rural areas. And life in English villages at the end of the First World War was very different from what it is to-day. There was real isolation - motor cars were few and far between, there were practically no buses - just the carrier's cart going into town on Market days. No television of course, and wireless only at the Cat's Whisker stage. There were no glossy magazines, no Readers Digest, no Paper Backs.

It was the Report prepared by Professor Adams at the request of the Trustees which brought to notice the fact that, whereas people living in towns usually had a Library service, those living in the country were almost entirely without means of obtaining books - unless they were lucky enough to have sufficient means to subscribe to Mudies or the Times Book Club.

So the Carnegie Trust set in motion a library scheme to provide books to the North of Scotland and the Orkney and Shetland Islands. It was felt, I suppose, that if a scheme could be organised, and prove successful in such a difficult and isolated area, it should be possible to make a success elsewhere.

The first County to start in England was Staffordshire in 1917 and it was quickly followed by Gloucestershire, Dorset and Wiltshire.

It was all so exciting, because these were pioneer schemes and on their success, or failure, hung the future of the County movement. The Trustees promised to finance these pioneer schemes for a period of five years, on the understanding that the County Council, at the end of that period, would continue to maintain them. So you see we had to make them a success!

I started by myself in April 1918. (I cannot remember when I was allowed to have an Assistant.) I was allotted two rooms at the top of the Shire Hall - the third floor up - which as you will readily appreciate added greatly to my difficulties. It also meant that I must, at all costs keep on good terms with the custodian, if I was to get books and boxes up and down in a miniature lift. My biceps muscles became like a prize wrestler's, as a result of heaving boxes of fifty books about!

Miss Markwick tells me that according to the Minute of my appointment my salary was of the princely sum of £150 p.a., but I don't think it was really quite as bad as that - I think a further amount must have come from somewhere.

I must acknowledge my very great debt of gratitude to Mr. Household, then Secretary of Education, to Mr. Orchard, in charge of Higher Education, and to Mr. Roland Austin, the City Librarian, who very generously gave me much professional advice, and to our first Chairman, Sir Francis Hyett of Painswick.

The original plan was to send boxes of fifty books to certain selected schools, the Head Teacher acting as local Librarian. There were also to be what were termed Stationary Libraries, which consisted of small collections of children's classics, and a few reference books, which would remain permanently in the school, while the rest of the books would be changed every quarter. The choice of the school as the centre was inevitable at the time, as there were no Village Halls or other suitable places.

Every book had to have a card written for it with title and author's name, and the unfortunate Local Librarian had to enter the name of every reader on the appropriate card, and what's more his or her trade or profession.

From these cards we were able to give quite remarkable details in the Annual Report and it was with great pride that I was able to say for example, that in one village, Connor's "Man from Glengarry" had been read by a farmer, a blacksmith, the Station-master, the Postmistress, a waggon repairer and three housewives! Hardly computer material, but how close and personal it made it all seem.

The idea of collecting these details was, I think, to find out whether the books were really reaching the village people.

The issues recorded for the first eight months in Gloucestershire were just on 13,000 of which we were quite inordinately proud. Somewhat of a difference compared with last year's Hertfordshire figure of 11 million. You would certainly need several adding machines to arrive at that figure, but I can remember the hours we had to spend counting the issues from the cards and then getting the grand total.

In 1920 came the first Rural Library Conference, summoned by the Carnegie Trustees and held at the College of Preceptors in Bloomsbury Square. Note that we were still styled RURAL Libraries, not County Libraries. I think this was because some of the Authorities had definitely excluded the Urban districts within the County, even though they were without any library service.

The subjects discussed were somewhat elementary, but the principal idea of the Conference was, I think, to interest those County Councils which had not as yet shown any interest in the movement, and inspire them to take action.

The subject of printed Catalogues came under discussion. Gloucestershire had issued a subject classified one, at, what seems now the ridiculously low figure of £90. It very nearly led to disaster, because the demand from readers and local librarians was so overwhelming, that we were inundated with requests which we could not meet. We had at that time only 18,000 books for 275,000 people and when they started asking for specific books we were sunk. But it did show how great the potential demand was.

The question of the best means of transport was worrying us a lot. So I had, what I thought was a good idea, of sending the boxes out in a Ford van, instead of slowly by rail, which to save expense, could be used by Mr. Household when he was visiting schools. Surprisingly enough, he thought little of the idea, and pulled my leg unmercifully in his Paper on Transport delivered to the Conference. He said:

"Miss Cooke suggested that perhaps the Education Committee could be persuaded to buy an open Ford car which could be used partly by myself for visiting schools and partly for the transport of boxes. It behoved me," he went on, "to keep all my wits about me, for I have travelled in comfort for years in a hired landaulette and I did not want that open Ford van at all. What I asked would be left of the car - of its paint, leather, springs, cushions - after a few journeys over the high, wild hills and rough, uneven ways of Gloucestershire in their post-war condition, with loads of twelve full boxes bumping about inside?"

That dates it all a bit, doesn't it? And so my first idea of motor transport was firmly squashed, and I had to wait until 1924 before I was able to achieve the first library van in Kent.

I may say that I did not go about in a "hired landaulette" but on my old push bicycle, and many happy - if strenuous - days I had bicycling over the Cotswold Hills. Sometimes I used to catch the London breakfast train - and jolly good breakfasts the G.W.R. gave us in those days - porridge and real cream - I went perhaps as far as Kemble and from there set out for the more distant parts of the County. And coming home I would choose to come down Crickley rather than Birdlip!

All this time we were working without any recognition by the Library Association. We were looked upon rather as a few childish amateurs playing about with our new toy.

Various other new things were happening at that time, as England got back into her stride after the War. Not least was the extension of the wireless service. Great was my excitement when I was asked to give a short broadcast talk outlining the work of the County Libraries, and explaining the nature of the service which they could offer. The B.B.C. was then 2 L.O. and broadcasting was done from Savoy Hill. Mr. Stewart Hibberd was my introducer but I was too nervous to take in much of what was going on round me! But that was certainly recognition of the County Libraries and helped us on a lot.

The first Women's Institutes were being formed and Village Halls began to appear in various places, so that gradually we were able to transfer the collection of books to centres other than the schools and so break down the all too prevalent idea that the Library was intended only for school children and their parents.

The Central Library for Students was just beginning its wonderful work under the inspiration of Dr. Albert Mansbridge. He fostered it mainly to help forward the supply of special books for his W.E.A. students. The Carnegie Trust gave substantial grants for this library service too. It was of great service to us, enabling us to borrow books which would be in little demand, and which we could not afford to buy.

The School of Librarianship came into being in 1919. It was, of course, the only school of its kind. Except for the students who were there, every one else had to take their L.A. exams by means of Correspondence Courses. Mercifully the exams were not so difficult in those days.

Dr. E. A. Baker, Principal of the School, together with Mr. Berwick Sayers, Librarian of Croydon, had the wonderful idea of arranging Whitsun week-ends on the Continent. With these organised parties I went to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. They were immense fun, and did us a lot of good in improving relationships between town and county staffs. We found we were all of the same breed, and had many of the same problems. The people of the countries we visited gave us a great welcome and showed us their libraries and many famous places. We county folk found the visit to Holland particularly interesting because they were just beginning to experiment with a book service to their country districts, and we were taken all round Broeck-in-Waterland.

And so in 1921 my days in Gloucestershire came to an end.

Good luck to all of you in Gloucestershire as you set out to make your century. Hearty congratulations on having brought my first-born child to such a healthy maturity.

Extracts from a Paper given by Miss A.S.Cooke, F.L.A.
(formerly Librarian of Kent and Gloucestershire)
at the County Libraries Week-end School,
Cheltenham, 1967, with her permission.

W. I. SCRAP BOOKS

Members of Hillesley W. I. met at Wotton-under-Edge Branch Library on 13th April when the Scrap Book which gained the Second Prize in the County Competition was handed over on permanent loan by Mrs. A. Anthony, W.I. President, to Alderman G. T. St. J. Sanders, T.D., Chairman of the County Library Committee. The book, though not available for loan, will be in the charge of the Branch Librarian and available for inspection.

The keeping of this piece of local history in the public library normally used by Hillesley, Alderton and Tresham appeals greatly to the members of this Women's Institute. Wotton-under-Edge is their own Branch Library and this presentation marks the growth of this new building as a cultural centre.

In the same way, nine months previously, members of Bilson W.I. presented their Scrap Book to Cinderford Branch Library. Lt. Col. A. B. Lloyd-Baker, D.S.O., T.D., M.A., accepted this gift as Chairman of the County Library Committee. It was one of his last public engagements before retirement from the County Council. Miss Sheila Smith, the Bilson W.I. President, said how appropriate she felt it was that the Scrap Book should be kept in their own public library. It was of great interest locally today and would also interest future generations. Both ceremonies were followed by pleasurable tea parties in the libraries.

E.M.

SOME NOTES ON THE GLOUCESTER & CHELTENHAM RAILWAY AND THE LECKHAMPTON QUARRY TRAMROADS

The Gloucester and Cheltenham Railway Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1809. It was a horse operated tramroad about 8 miles in length from Gloucester to Cheltenham following alongside the turnpike road for much of its route. Also included was a two mile branch from Cheltenham to the top of Leckhampton Hill where it met quarry tramroads which had been built about 1795. These latter lines are believed to have been the earliest in Gloucestershire.

The gauge of the tramroads was 3'6" and the whole system was opened in June 1811.

The chief purpose of the line was carriage of coal to Cheltenham, also supplemented by hard roadstone from Bristol via the River Severn. Return traffic was agricultural products and Leckhampton hill stone.

In spite of main line competition after 1840, the G. & C.R. continued in operation, though at a negligible profit, until March 1861 when the plates were lifted.

The quarry lines, however, were active until 1924, having worked virtually continuously for well over a century. There was a complex network of inclined planes on the hill. The Devils Chimney incline is believed to date from about 1795 but was abandoned by about 1820.

Free rides, even for the drivers of the horses, were frowned on. Rule 7 of the Bye-Laws states that "if any driver of a wagon seen riding thereon or shall put his horse or horses beyond a walking pace shall for either offence forfeit or pay the sum of 10s". This rule was probably designed to prevent horses trotting on downgrades with the consequent risks of collision or derailment. It is reported that one horse never pulled more than one wagon at a time, but this seems unlikely as the gradients were not severe, and it was a common practice on other tramroads for several wagons to be coupled together. The maximum permitted laden weight of the wagons was 2 tons 16 cwt.

The G. and C.R. had at least two independent experiments with the use of steam locomotives, first in 1825 and later, about 1832. In the latter trials an 0-6-0 tender engine 'The Royal William' was put through its paces. Unfortunately due to the tight curves and primitive permanent way, the trials were a failure. The engine was withdrawn and almost certainly converted to standard gauge. Its subsequent history is unknown.

The midpoint between Gloucester and Cheltenham is Staverton, where the G. & C.R. had stables and a wharf. Nearby is the 'Plough Inn' and the tramroad ran immediately behind it. The foundations of the stables are still visible on the side of the main road, a few yards from the Inn.

In its heyday, the G. & C.R. carried over 20,000 tons of coal per year and was almost unique at such an early period in the sense that it was not constructed in a mining area but purely as a means of providing a small country town with supplies.

An unexpected connection with the old line is found in Westbury-on-Severn churchyard, where one can read this epitaph :

"In Affectionate Remembrance of
William Wilkins who departed this
life 21st July, 1867 aged 81 years.
He was for forty three years a
faithful servant of the Gloucester
and Cheltenham Tram Road Company".

David Bick

A shortened version of the account in the Journal of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology.

By permission of Dr. T. E. Edwards,
The Acting Honorary Secretary.

EARLY DAYS OF BOOT MANUFACTURING

In the early days of the Boot Trade in this district an idea was born to start making boots for the working man. Boots were hand-made and outdoor workers were employed who had their materials, i.e. uppers, bottom leathers and grindery, supplied to them. This was taken home in barrows for making up. Abraham Fussell began repairing colliers boots, using a bradawl and waxing strong thread - which was called "waxened". This was the beginning of the factory in their family.

Later the riveted boot came - there were no shoes in those days. There were five grades of shoes - 7-10 (children) also 11-1 (childrens) 2-5 (called boy's) 6-11 (called men's). Ladies sizes were 2-8.

Wages were somewhere about 26/- to 30/- per week according to the workers' speed and ability.

Grade 7-10 were 1/7 per pair, 11-1 were 2/1 per pair, men's 4/6 per pair. These were wholesale prices.

Making the boots was called "Rounding". Inking and Ironing the edges was called "Finishing".

The outdoor workers worked generally in a back kitchen or shed - very often with their wives and children helping in order to make a living. Many houses in the district still have sheds at the back of their houses today.

The busy season was from June to December, some very hard times following in the next few months. Sometimes in the busy season families worked all night in an effort to return their work in good time.

If the work was not promptly returned they would be sacked, and other workers taken on. There was a lot of unemployed men and no out-of-work pay, no National Health or Trade Unions. There was great hardship.

Gradually machinery was introduced, this meant that the workers had to work in factory premises, gradually making the outdoor worker redundant.

The boots then made in this district were known as "Heavy" boots, mostly "hob-nailed", and worn by the working man and miners in the pits. Gradually a lighter boot with a rubber sole took its place, and is worn today by men in all kinds of occupations.

The hours of work were from 6.30 to 8.30 a.m., then 9 o'clock to 1 p.m. Lunch, or dinner as it was called then, then 2 p.m. to 5.30 in the evening. Regardless of whether men lived near or farther away from the factory they worked in, they were paid on Saturday at 1 o'clock.

In early days it was boots only that were made.

I believe that Daniel Flook owned the first factory - down John Guards Alley, by the side of the Maypole shop.

Isaac Paw & Co., now Lucas, was the first boot manufacturer to have machinery installed.

L. G. Harris

SOME OLD GLOUCESTERSHIRE FAMILIES

Standing in the Parish Church of All Saints, Newland in the Forest of Dean is the tombstone of John Wyrall. It has been placed to the left of the south door but recently after many centuries of exposure to the weather in the churchyard.

On the top of a stone chest lies the worn figure of a man clothed in hunting costume and equipped with his long knife and his horn. The inscription reads "Here lythe Jun Wyrall Forster of Fee the which dysesyd on the VIII day of Synt Lauroc the years of oure Lorde MCCCCLVII on hys soule God have Mercie Amen!" It is indeed rather rare to find an inscription of so early a date which is written in English.

As a "Forester of Fee" John Wyrall was a person of some distinction. When the King was pleased to hunt in his Royal Forest the Forester of Fee, armed with his bow and arrows and accompanied by his six retainers clothed in green, were in attendance on His Majesty. Royal visits were not particularly frequent by Wyrall's time especially since Gloucester as the city where the monarch "wore his crown at Christmas" had declined in favour, so John Wyrall was able freely to enjoy the privileges of his office which included the left shoulder of all bucks and does killed within the Forest and also ten bucks and ten does a year to be taken of his own free will and pleasure, together with the right to range the Forest to hawk and to hunt and to take fish and fowl.

The Wyralls were an old family in West Gloucestershire. The earliest of whom we have a record died in about 1360 and in John's time the family lived between Coleford and Newland at Whitecliff whence the tower of the great church can be seen further down the valley.

Some half century or more after John was buried at Newland, William Wyrall married Ann, the daughter and heiress of John Asshehurst who had been Constable of St. Briavels Castle. This marriage brought into the Wyrall family the estate of Bicknor Court, well on the other side of Coleford at the head of another valley which leads down to the Wye. Here they settled for three centuries or more and members of the family spread away from their old home. Worrall Hill over Lydbrook probably commemorates their name and this variant has been found more than once in the records of the City of Gloucester.

The direct line of Wyralls occupied Bicknor Court until 1726, and on his death the property went to George Davies, the son of a younger sister who assumed the name of Wyrall, but he did not leave a son to carry on the name and his daughter who followed him died in 1826, and by her will demised the property to Edward Machen, who at that time was Deputy Surveyor of the Forest of Dean.

How far this inheritance revived an old alliance is hard to say, but certainly the Machens had met the Wyralls before, since John, the Forester of Fee, had married a Margaret Machen who came from St. Briavels.

It is a curious thing that this particular period seems to have been unfortunate for the preservation of the name in some of the old families of West Gloucestershire. The Probyns who possessed property both in the Longhope district and at Newland were another case. The celebrated Sir Edmund Probyn who had been Chief Baron of the Exchequer under George II died without a direct heir, and he willed his estate at Longhope, fairly recently purchased when the lands of the Duke of Kent were being broken up, to his younger nephew, John Hopkins, the son of his sister, he too changed his name and became John Probyn and the ancestor of a distinguished line.

A similar story is that of the Bathurst family which settled on the estates of Sir John Wintour at Lydney when the country settled down after the Restoration of the Monarchy. After a century or so the Lydney property was left in the very capable hands of Mrs. Anne Poole Bathurst, the widow of the last owner in the direct line. On her demise the estates passed to a nephew Charles Bragge at one time Member of Parliament for Bristol, who similarly altered his name to Bathurst, from whom the present family is descended.

The Boeveys too who came into possession of the Flaxley Abbey property were another family in which the direct line ended in a childless widow. She however has her own place in history since Katharine, the relict of William Boevey and widowed at the age of nineteen, lived for many years at the Abbey and is thought to have been the original of "The Perverse Widow" in the Coverley Papers. Her virtues are extolled in a long epitaph on the walls of Flaxley Church, although this was not the building in which she worshipped. On her death the property went by her husband's will to the next of kin, Thomas Crawley of Gloucester. He, however, did not completely change his name, but added Boevey to his own, giving the name of "Crawley-Boevey" which was so well known in the Dean for so many years.

A fifth local family in which a name has been maintained was that of Colchester, which held The Court at Westbury on Severn and for a time occupied The Wilderness over Mitcheldean as well.

The name of a distinguished ancestor, Serjeant Maynard, was preserved in several instances as a Christian Name, and indeed the name of Maynard Colchester was widely known in connection with educational projects and as one of the joint founders of the Society for the Promotion of Christian

Knowledge in 1698. The third Maynard Colchester who died in 1860 at the age of seventyfour left no children to follow him. He was therefore succeeded by the family of his sister who had married Major Francis Wemyss and Maynard Willoughby Wemyss became the owner of the estates adopting the name of Colchester in addition to his own.

After a long tenure by Colchester and Colchester-Wemyss, Westbury Court, long famed for its formal garden in the Dutch style which proved a never failing attraction to passers by on the South Wales road, was vacated and the house demolished except for a small pavilion. The gardens fell into a state of neglect and a unique Gloucestershire beauty spot seemed in danger of disappearing. Fortunately this tragedy has been averted. A part of the site is to be devoted to the provision of flats for the elderly. The formal garden is being restored, and the National Trust has agreed to hold this historic garden in perpetuity, while a convenient "lay by" will allow travellers an even longer glimpse of the gardens through the old iron railings.

Canon R. J. Mansfield.

KINGSWOOD ABBEY

The visitor who approaches Wotton-under-Edge by way of neighbouring Kingswood will probably be intrigued by an "Ancient Monument" sign as he is about to leave the village. If he is tempted to investigate he will find, near the church, one of the oldest Council Chambers in England - part of a 15th century gateway of an ancient monastery.

It is of interest to note that Collinson, the Somerset historian, speaks of a Roman road - an offshoot of Fosseway - which passed through Kingswood to the Passage at Aust, the Ferry now superseded by the new Severn Bridge.

In Saxon times the southern part of the present Kingswood was called "Acholt" (Oak Wood) and the northern part "Mireford" (from mere = water). Acholt, a forested district, was naturally a King's Wood.

Came the Normans. In 1131 the manor of Acholt, a gift to the Berkeley family for their support of the Norman cause, was granted to the Abbey of Tintern for the foundation of a "daughter" abbey of the Order of Cistercians. (The saying "As sure as God's in Gloshire" is thought to have arisen from the number of religious houses built in the County!) The first building was erected in 1131 between the present Haroldsfield and Highwood farms. The writer remembers a small archway, still standing prior to the Great War, on land belonging to the former farm - these farms are located in what was "Acholt."

The Brothers were known as White Monks; their white habits were looked upon with disapproval by the Black Monks as representing a penitential state. Yet the Cistercians always built in secluded valleys well away from temptation. They were great agriculturalists, and, in Gloucestershire founded the wool trade for which the County was famous in mediaeval times.

During the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda the monks of Acholt received lands at Haseldon, confiscated from Reginald de Waleric, who had supported Matilda. Although, later, he recovered his estate, he agreed, as a penance, to build the Acholt Monks an abbey. But shortage of water forced them to move to Tetbury. One wonders where the water at Tetbury came from, until it is remembered that the Cistercians were great well-diggers. Then, at Tetbury, there was a shortage of wood and the monks had to carry all the wood they needed from Acholt. (Surely there were woods in the neighbourhood of Tetbury!) So, in 1148, the lord of Haseldon obtained a grant of land from Roger de Berkeley to erect a new Abbey at Mireford (the northern part of the King's Wood) through which ran a stream now called the Little Avon.

The second Abbey flourished and grew rich, its property eventually covering an area ranging from Iron Acton in the south to Tetbury in the north and from Severnside in the west to Badminton in the east. Many of the farms were granges of the Abbey and some still exist as farms. This new settlement at Mireford was about 1170. In 1227 Henry III confirmed to the Abbot of Kingswood (as it was now called) his monastery. The charter cost the Abbot 10 marks.

Early in the next century (1325) the body of the murdered King Edward II was brought to Kingswood Abbey for burial. But the Abbot, fearing civil repercussions, refused its admission. Abbot Thokey of Gloucester, no prey to such misgivings, arranged the royal funeral. If Kingswood had admitted the body, there would, probably, have been no Gloucester Cathedral as we know it today.

In the middle of the 14th Century the Abbey was hard hit by the Black Death and fell into disrepair. But with help from Rome, pilgrimages and local charity, it regained something of its former wealth. Among those who "subscribed" was Katherine Lady Berkeley, the foundress of the Grammar School at Wotton-under-Edge. She gave a yearly pension of 6 marks during her lifetime, and on her death, the Abbey received "rich gifts and fair possessions".

A century or so later, the Abbey fell victim to the Dissolution of the monasteries, when its properties were surrendered to the Crown. Sir Nicholas Pointz obtained a lease of the property at Kingswood and built himself a large house at Newark (by Ozleworth) with stone from the buildings he demolished - the Abbot's lodging is recorded as remaining standing as late as 1792.

The "Ancient Monument" the visitor will see is the inner of the two Abbey Gatehouses - not thought to be the original one built at the 1148 foundation, but a reconstruction carried out two or three centuries later. Besides the house at Newark there are several traces of the old monastery in the vicinity. At Mireford Farm, close to the Little Avon, is a small window - obviously ecclesiastical. Mr. E. S. Lindley, in his book on Wotton-under-Edge, records at least one carved stone to be found at the Tower Cafe in Old Town. An old well at Haroldsfield Farm probably served the monastery. A subterranean passage probably led from the Acholt Abbey to the Mireford one - Kingswood High Street runs above it. The Mireford Abbey walls form the front of the cottages adjoining the Gateway. The Lady Chapel used by the Lay Brothers and villagers remained after the Dissolution. In 1723 it was demolished and the materials used in the building of the present Kingswood Church, which was, naturally, dedicated to St. Mary.

The gateway with its mullioned window and sculptured stones and the Council Chamber above, is now preserved by the Ministry of Works. Access to the Chamber is afforded to the public; the key is available from the cottage beyond and facing the gateway.

Arthur Pritchard

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH HISTORY OF SOUTH CERNEY
COMPILED BY THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Flooding of Meadows

The meadows behind the Upper Mill then known as the Grettons (now a new housing estate) were flooded during the winter and spring. Hatches were placed in the mill stream to flood the land, the ditches were cleaned and the water was regulated by "steps". Flooding produced two crops a year and necessitated a great deal of hard work. The men involved in this skilful job were Mr. S. Price, followed by Mr. J. Stephens and lastly by Mr. W. Dennis Stephens. On the death of Mr. D. Stephens, Mrs. Stephens gave the tools of this work to the local history group for a future village museum.

Information was as follows :

Water meadows were flooded or "drowned" as it was called from the main mill streams. The word "drowned" is misleading as they were not drowned in the proper sense of the word, but covered with moving (never stagnant) water only deep enough to show the tops of the grass above the water.

The preparing of the meadows began in the autumn when the "water carriers" and "let dries" were dug out and cleared. The "carriers" were the small ditches

taking the water from the mill stream and the "let drys" the ditches taking the water back into the mill stream. The carriers took the water out, dividing again into smaller ditches, covering the meadow, and so into the "let drys" and back into the main stream. The water had, by law, to be returned to the mill stream.

The meadows, having been prepared, they were ready as soon as the rains started in say January or February. The meadows were then flooded or "drowned" anything up to two months. As soon as the sluices were opened to let the water into the meadows, men with chains dragged the main stream, thus stirring up the mud which would be carried with the swift flowing water over the meadows, thus manuring and fertilising the ground. My informant can remember a farmer who flooded his meadow which was away from a main stream from a small ditch running down the road, and his method of stirring up the mud was by dragging, by horse, a large tree trunk up and down the ditch.

If the meadow was say, two fields in from the mill stream, the carrier would be obliged to cross other property. This was allowed, but if the meadow was in a difficult position to get the water back into the mill stream, the owner would be allowed to take the water back by the "let drys" into the main stream below the next mill.

F.E. Fenton, from information supplied by
Dennis Stephens

Auctions

The lands belonging to Cutts Charity were let by auction on seven-year leases. The auctioneer's hammer had not been thought of, and until the property was sold, the ancient custom of letting it was done by the light of a candle, one inch long, the last bidder before the candle burnt out becoming the tenant. This was no easy job for the Chairman of the Trustees who conducted the proceedings. The School in which the auction was held was pitch dark, except for the light of one small inch-long piece of Christmas Tree candle. As the candle began to flicker before it burnt out, the bidding became fast and furious. The bidders were seated some distance away, as the slightest puff of breath at the right moment would extinguish the expiring flame and ensure the bidder being accepted. This ancient custom ceased just before the 1914-18 war, as the land and properties were sold and the Charity Commission scheme had taken its place.

From the section "Old Ways and Customs"

Elections

This was always a tricky time. Joseph Cripps, M.P. for the Cirencester Division from 1806-1841 and William Cripps, M.P. 1841-1848 had their pony-traps upset by the Parishioners putting field gates down across the road as they entered the village, and it was nothing for them to be "chucked into the brook".

EXCAVATION AT ST. OSWALD'S PRIORY, GLOUCESTER

An excavation from Wednesday, October 4th to Wednesday, November 1st, 1967, is being directed by Mr. Dennis Mynard on behalf of the City Museum and the Ministry of Public Building and Works. The north nave arcade and part of the north transept of the priory church still stand, mostly in the form in which they were rebuilt in AD 1114-1144. In 1969 these remains will be isolated within a roundabout by the building of the Inner Ring Road, and the aim of the excavation is to discover the foundations of any associated buildings which will be affected by the road-works. Beneath the cloister of the priory (in its later years a house of Augustinian canons) there should lie the scattered buildings of a monastery which is recorded to have been founded in AD 909 or, more doubtfully, about the year AD 660. At the time of going to press, however, buried masonry was only beginning to come to light.

J. F. Rhodes

LOCAL HISTORY AND THE PRESS

Unfortunately these excerpts cannot include any reference to the discovery of the tomb of Lady Berkeley, who is reputed to have died a prisoner in the Greyfriars monastery. Three skeletons presumed to be of monks were found, one quick-frozen with another immediately above it, but the tomb of Lady Berkeley which was thought to be near the altar was never unearthed, because of the frantic race between the Archaeologists and the bulldozers. The latter won as they had a contract to fulfill, but great excitement was created at the time with the Press and TV cameras at the ready.

M.M.

From 'The Times Educational Supplement' - Friday, June 30th, 1967

Handling documents at Gloucester

Gloucestershire County Records Office is making educational capital of the city archives in a way which may be of interest to history teachers on the everlasting look-out for new project material.

Bearing in mind the C.S.E. history syllabus, Mr. R.A. Lewis, Headmaster of Lydney Boys' Secondary School, and Mr. Brian Smith, the city's senior assistant archivist, have produced two booklets of photocopied local historical documents for loan to secondary schools in the county.

Starting with an 18th century map, The Gloucestershire Cloth Industry 1700-1840 contains contemporary records of mill distribution, stages of production from buying the wool to selling the finished article, the introduction of machinery and the decline of the weavers, all told in legal documents, letters and contemporary sketches.

Mr. Smith produces the relevant documents, filling in Record Office gaps from the county library files, which include copies of the local newspaper going back to the 1720s.

From "Stroud News & Journal" - Thursday, June 1st, 1967

Museum Opened to Berkeley's Greatest Son

Jenner built a house for his first successfully inoculated patient, James Phipps, and it is a room in this house which has been chosen for the somewhat modest museum of Jennerian relics.

In glass cases around the room are laid out some of Jenner's personal effects together with medical and surgical instruments.

Locks of hair from both Jenner and the cow 'Blossom's' tail, the chair in which Jenner died and a graph showing the impact of Jenner's discovery on reducing the annual death rate from smallpox are also on show.

The museum will be open at the same time as the Castle, and visitors there will be able to include the museum on their itinerary.

From "Stroud News & Journal" - Thursday, August 3rd, 1967

Second Roman Villa Found at Frocester

Another Roman villa has been found near the site of one being excavated in Frocester.

Capt. H. S. Gracie, the well-known archaeologist, who has for the past five years been unearthing the remains of a dwelling house some 1,700 years old, was nearing the end of the 'dig' when he discovered walls running away from the main structure of the house.

He followed these and came upon another villa which, he believes, is even older than the one he is working on.

So the 'dig' on farmer Mr. Edward Price's land, which was thought to be drawing to a close will now go on for some time - perhaps even for years.

Going back to the first villa Captain Gracie has discovered the remains of some old flower beds, an area of land which could have been used as a mediæval crematorium, and a small number of coins.

Captain Gracie will continue his work until the end of September, when he will have to re-cover the excavations for the winter.

From "Gloucestershire Echo" - Saturday, September 9th, 1967

Roman building ruins found near Bourton

Remains of three Roman buildings going back to 100 A.D. have been found at the edge of the Fosse Way near Bourton-on-the-Water.

The buildings have been uncovered by a Bourton archaeologist, Mrs. H.E. O'Neil, of Camp House, with the help of two trained diggers and other helpers.

Mrs. O'Neil started the 'dig' after hearing that the road near the junction with the A 4068 was going to be widened. She knew this was only yards from the site of a Roman Posting House and a Roman ford.

They began the 'dig' on August 29th and since then the floor of a stable, two apse walls and a wall that might be part of a toll or custom inn have been unearthed.

The stable floor consists of two walls several feet apart and a cobbled floor in between.

Mrs. O'Neil told the "Echo" that the rough flooring indicated it was used for horses.

Due to the discovery of 33 coins - which are not valuable, but useful for dating purposes - she has been able to establish that the stable dates back to 100 A.D. and was in existence for four centuries.

The stable with the posting inn - which was discovered when the railway nearby was built - made it a very suitable site for such a place, she said. For Cirencester (Corinium) was 15 miles away and there was a ford only yards away, making it a useful place for a rest.

The stable site will become a grass verge when the road improvement scheme is completed.

From "The Citizen" - Monday, July 17th, 1967

Roman Villa at Witcombe

Witcombe, that pleasant little village nestling under the Cotswolds, is perhaps best known to Gloucester people because of its waterworks, which contribute to the city supplies.

But it also has another claim on our attention - its Roman villa, and, I hear that the second phase of the archaeological excavations there has just begun.

A team of excavators under Mr. E. Greenfield will, I understand, continue there until August.

Witcombe's mosaic pavements and baths were discovered in 1818. Workmen digging in a field not far from where the big reservoirs forming part of Gloucester's water supply now are, discovered a large stone about 6ft. in length.

It was found to be resting on two other upright stones.

Excavations immediately ordered by the owner, Sir William Hicks, revealed a doorway leading into a room.

Samuel Lysons, the noted archaeologist, uncovered some 32 rooms and passages constituting a villa of considerable importance, by its size and position indicating that it was the residence of an official of considerable importance in the Roman government.

Some of the walls were still standing six feet - in fact still are - and the stucco finish was adhering to them.

Only a portion of the extensive villas, of course, has been kept open.

In 1919 the villa was accepted by H.M. Office of Works as a gift from the Hicks-Beach family.

From "The Citizen" - Monday, October 2nd, 1967

Archaeologists discuss Roman Finds in City

Slides of a hastily-buried hoard of more than 15,000 silver-covered bronze coins were shown with other slides of Gloucestershire earthworks, Roman pottery, statues of gods, mosaic pavements, weapons and jewellery at a meeting of the Council for British Archaeology (South West Midlands) in the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester, on Saturday.

The owner of these coins buried between 293-296 A.D. had failed to return to collect his hoard or to pass on information about it to his family or friends.

The reason, suggested by Mr. J. F. Rhodes, Deputy Curator of Gloucester City Museum was that the owner might have been executed.

The Irish labourer, who found this treasure-trove, received as a reward for giving it up £750 - the equivalent of the coins' value, said Mr. Rhodes.

Since their discovery some two years ago, some of the coins had been sent to the British Museum. Others were in the City Museum and Art gallery.

Gloucester, not Kingsholm, was the legionary fortress and Gloucester's Roman occupation seems to have been less wealthy than towns where Roman occupation followed a similar pattern.

Captain H. S. Gracie, who presided, introduced the speakers.

This was the first time in five years that the South-Western Group of the Council for British Archaeology had held an open meeting in Gloucester.

From "The Citizen" - Tuesday, October 17th, 1967

Pelican Inn, near St. Oswald's Priory

Archaeologists John Rhodes and Dennis Mynard looked up from the St. Oswald's Priory dig yesterday and noticed that workmen stripping the 18th century facade of the Pelican Inn nearby had uncovered the timber frame of a 16th century building.

Inside, they discovered a moulded plaster wall of the same period and this has now been accepted for Gloucester Museum by curator, Mr. J.N. Taylor.

The timbers will only be exposed for a day or so while renovations to the Pelican are carried out. The closeness of the beams suggests an early building of the style, and the wood is rotting badly.

Mr. Rhodes, deputy museum curator, and Mr. Mynard, director of the dig that hopes to plot the layout of both Saxon and mediaeval buildings on the site, have so far reached the walls of 17th century Priory House and discovered eight burials which were disturbed when the house was built and the ground levelled.

They have also unearthened a bricked well but this stopped after a few feet without reaching water level.

From "The Citizen" - Monday, October 30th, 1967

Interesting Discovery on Priory Site

Excavation work on the site of St. Oswald's Priory, Gloucester, has revealed some of the walls and foundations of the 17th century "Priory House."

It was thought, until a short time ago, that the walls that had been uncovered by the dig were of the priory cloisters, but reference to a history of the site shows them to be of the prior's lodging.

The complete shape of the house still has to be uncovered, although a wall running across the site, which would have been a garden wall, shows the size of the building.

The dig, which is due to end in about two weeks, after 11 days have been lost in three and a half weeks of digging through bad weather, has also revealed 28 skeletons.

The director of operations on the site, Mr. Dennis Mynard, of the Ministry of Works said that there is no indication of identification on any of the skeletons.

Before "Priory House" was built, and after it was no longer standing on the site, behind the remaining north wall of the priory, the site was used as a burial ground.

At the moment the dig consists of trial trenching.

From this system of digging, maps and plans have been made of the site - one of them by Nigel Spry, a member of the Gloucester Archaeological Research Group, who has been helping in the work.

So far finds on the site date from mediaeval times straight through to Roman, without a trace of Saxon remains dispersed between them.

Mr. Mynard hopes that at a later date excavations can be made of the south side of the site where he now expects to find remains of the cloisters.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND CANADA

During this Centenary year of Canada's self-government, the show-cases in the Shire Hall foyer have been devoted for some time to a display of records of Canadian interest. These included a note concerning two beaver mantles presented by Red Indian Chiefs to King George III in 1785; a printed map and prospectus of vacant lands in Upper Canada, to attract emigrants from England in 1830; letters from Frederick Rooke to his parents at Bigsweir, Glos., describing a settler's life in 1836; and a list of emigrants from Dursley in 1840. George Blathwayt of Dyrham, stationed in French Canada with his regiment in 1841-43, did not like Canadians, describing them as 'the most uncouth set of beings'.

It was a Gloucestershire man, Colonel J. B. Bucknall Estcourt, who led the British side of the joint British/U.S. Survey Commission by which the boundary between the United States and Canada was defined in 1843-45. Among the muniments of his ancient family (Southern-Estcourt of Estcourt, near Tetbury), now deposited in the Gloucestershire Records Office, are his diary and correspondence during the survey, giving an interesting unofficial view of the proceedings, including comments on his American 'opposite numbers'. These records have recently been microfilmed in London for the Canadian Government Archives.

Colonel, afterwards Major-General, Estcourt had a distinguished career (see the Dictionary of National Biography). In 1834-37 he had served as

~~second-in-command~~ of an expedition to the Euphrates Valley, which conveyed two steamers in sections across Turkey and navigated them (with a loss of one vessel and some of the crew) down the River Euphrates. In 1848 he was elected M.P. for Devizes. He was Adjutant-General of the British forces in the Crimean War, and died of cholera in the Crimea in 1855.

Irvine Gray

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS TO GLOUCESTER CITY MUSEUMS

The Massinger Flagon

The Massinger flagon, which has been on loan to the City Museum from the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Nicholas Church since 1959, has now become the property of Gloucester Corporation. The Chancellor of the Diocese of Gloucester recently granted a Faculty to sell the flagon to the Museum for an agreed sum of £1,500.

Earlier this year the Museums and Art Committee approved the purchase, subject to the granting of a Faculty and to the purchase being eligible for a grant from the Department of Education and Science. This is now assured.

The sale had the unanimous approval of the Parochial Church Council of St. Nicholas and of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and the proceeds will go towards the preservation of the ancient and historic church of St. Nicholas, whose leaning tower has been a feature of the Gloucester scene for many centuries. An appeal has recently been launched for £8,000 towards the cost of urgent repairs.

The Massinger flagon can be seen in the City Museum, where it is the principal exhibit in a display of the work of the Gloucester gold and silversmith, William Corsley (1640-2691). The flagon was commissioned posthumously by Richard Massinger (1586-1668) a former Alderman of the City and one-time Sheriff, who left instructions in his will that :-

".... my execeutrix hereafter named shall within six months of my decease buy and procure a handsome silver flagon of the weight that Mrs. Robbins her flaggon is of which I hereby give and bequeath unto the Parrishioners of St. Nicholas parrish in Glouce^r"

The flagon is 11½ inches in height and weighs 46 ozs. It bears only the maker's mark C over W, four times in the body and four times on the lid. This mark is believed to have been that used on Corsley's later work.

William Corsley was born in Bristol in 1640 and settled in Gloucester in 1660 on his marriage to Anne Fletcher, daughter of a Gloucester mercer and an alderman of the City. Corsley himself was elected an Alderman in 1672 and became Sheriff in 1675.

The City Chamberlain's accounts record that Corsley undertook several repairs and alterations to the City regalia between 1661 and 1684.

The Cathedral Treasurer's accounts for 1672-3 show that Corsley was paid £5. 10. Od. for making a new mace and 2/6d for mending it in 1677.

The Cirencester Spoons

In September 1963, during alterations to premises in West Market Place, Cirencester, twelve silver slip-top spoons of 1637 were found beneath the floor boards of what was originally the first floor of the building. The find was reported to the police in October 1966, and at a Coroner's inquest held at Cirencester on 14th January, 1967, the find was declared Treasure Trove.

The British Museum decided not to exercise their right to acquire the spoons for the National collection and they were bought for £2,500 with the aid of a grant from the Department of Education and Science.

The twelve spoons bear the London marks for 1637 - the leopard's head crowned in the bowl, the lion passant and the date letter V on the underside of the stem. The maker's mark - small c within a D - has not been identified but it is well-known on spoons and other small wares of the first half of the 17th century.

On the slipped end of each stem are engraved the initials R^C L, almost certainly those of the original owner and his wife.

The spoons show hardly any signs of wear. The bevelled edges of the bowls, the first part of a spoon to show the effects of use, are sharp and clear, and on at least two examples the marks of the file used to clean up the castings are plainly visible. The spoons, undoubtedly greatly treasured possessions, must therefore have been hidden not long after they were made. A most reasonable guess would be January - February 1643, when Prince Rupert captured Cirencester and garrisoned it for the King.

No trace of any receptacle was found and the areas of corrosion on the spoons suggest that they may not even have been wrapped.

J. N. Taylor

VICTORIA HISTORY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Another volume of parish histories is to be printed in the first half of next year. It will be Volume VIII of the series (though only the third to be published) and will contain the histories of Tewkesbury and twentytwo neighbouring parishes. Tewkesbury used to rank in importance in the county next after Gloucester. Its abbey, its many ancient houses, its position at the confluence of two rivers, its function as an industrial and commercial centre, all combine to attract the local historian's attention, and Tewkesbury naturally forms the centrepiece of the volume. That is not to detract, however, from the interest of the lesser places described in the volume, which covers the area stretching from Beckford to Forthampton and from Prestbury to Corse. In addition to those parishes, Deerhurst, with its Saxon monastic church, and Bishop's Cleeve deserve special mention. The volume will run to about 300 pages; it will contain 24 maps, plans, and other line-drawings, and 17 pages of hal-tone plates; among them are views of Tewkesbury Quay in 1804, of the interior of the stocking factory at Tewkesbury, of the old Haw Bridge in 1843, of Southam House in the late 18th century, and of the Chartist Settlement at Snig's End.

Work is in progress on the compilation of the next volume, Volume X. That is to cover the parishes in the hundreds of Whitstone, which stretches from Quedgeley to Frocester, and of Bledisloe and Westbury, which include the parishes on the right-hand bank of the Severn from Churcham to the Wye. First drafts have been written for Hardwicke, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Randwick, Standish, Leonard Stanley, and Stonehouse, and work is going forward on Fretherne, Quedgeley, Saul, and King's Stanley, all in Whitstone hundred. If all goes according to plan, Volume X will be published in 1970 or 1971.

C. R. Elrington

NEW BOOKS IN GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES

A Fortunate Man: The Story of a Country Doctor: By John Berger

The Cotswold Countryside and Its Characters : By Eric Delderfield
(New Ed. 1967)

Geology explained in the Severn Vale and the Cotswolds : By William Dreghorn

Cotswold Countryman : By J. Arthur Gibbs

The Midland and South Western Junction Railway : By Colin G. Maggs

Gloucestershire Woollen Mills : By Jennifer Tann (See Book Reviews)

Victoria & Albert Museum : The Gloucester Candlestick : By Charles Oman

Gloucestershire County Handbook and Industrial Review 1966 - 67.

Family Records and Early History of Iowa Phelps families and their Descendants, 1630 - 1967 : By Phelps (See Book Reviews)

The Cotswolds by Car, 1967 : Compiled by P. T. Titchmarsh

Stroud Valley : Industrial Handbook : Ed. J. Burrows & Co. Ltd. 1967

The Severn Bridge - The Story of its History and Construction :
By L. T. C. Rolt

The Severn and its Bore : By F. W. Rowbotham

CORRESPONDENCE

Field Names

Dear Editor,

October, 1967

Although no serious attempt has been made, as far as I know, to collect the field-names of this parish, there is a quite large collection in the Parish Chest on a parchment copy of the Apportionment of the Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes. The plan of the parish seems to have disappeared, so only a few of the fields themselves can be identified - in the armchair anyway.

Many of the recorded names are commonly found in most parishes - names such as Homefield, Westfield, Mill Ground, the Parch, New Tynning, and so on, but some would surely repay study. Among such are Angel's Hill, Great Hayes, Little Hayes, Marygold Ground, Bell Ground, Dog Kennel, Clover Kennel, Princes Tynning, Earls Ground, Sydenham, Lye Ash, Fly Mead and Dyer's Mead. Pickpocket belies its name: its owner considers it a quite productive enclosure.

Plans and Particulars of Sale of Land often use field names - particularly those of Victorian times, and the collection in the Shire Hall should be of help.

E. Lovell

148 High Street,
Hanham,
Bristol.

Dear Editor,

27th July, 1967

Mrs. Vowles, in your last issue, very rightly draws attention to the opportunities for Schools or local societies to complete the survey of Gloucestershire field names which is only patchily covered in the Place-Name Society's volumes. Field-name maps have been made for a few parishes, notably one by a schoolgirl some years ago, but much remains to be done, and the work ought to be tackled before all the names have been forgotten by our modern mechanized farmers and farm workers. Hedges are also being destroyed and several fields thrown into one in many places.

It would be desirable to mark on O.S. sheets the names of fields as ascertained by oral enquiry, and also (in different colour or script) the names as given in the Tithe Apportionments of c.1840 which exist for most though not all parishes. The accompanying Tithe Maps give only field numbers, but the field names are given in the Apportionment. In this the properties are arranged, with names and numbers, under the names of owners at the time, so a fair amount of work is entailed in identifying the fields on the Tithe Map and plotting the names on the O.S. map.

If the volunteers could be found to undertake this work, the Local History Committee could help by providing the O.S. sheets, which would otherwise mean some expense for individual workers. I would suggest 6" sheets, the 25" sheets being unnecessarily large and costly. Writing would have to be small and neat. The task does seem to be very suitable for a school project. One difficulty for a distant parish is that many of the parish copies of Tithe Apportionments are now deposited with the County Records Office (others have been lost) while the Diocesan copies are also in Gloucester, at the City Library.

Even the 6" O.S. sheets of the current edition are now rather expensive, but photocopies of many sheets of the 1st edition (issued about 1880) could be provided at comparatively small cost by the County Records Office, and are not copyright.

Irvine Gray

Gloucestershire Records Office,
Shire Hall,
Gloucester.

Dear Editor,

14th July, 1967

Potted Charr

You ask for the ingredients of 'potted charr'. ('A Good Food Guide in 1770'). The char is a small fish of the trout family (*Salmo Salvelinus*) and is to be found in the mountain lakes of Wales and the North, especially Windermere. Mrs. Raffald in her 'English Housekeeper' 1778 (page 47) describes how to pot them thus:-

"Cut off the fins and cheek part of each side of the head of your char; rip them open; take out the guts and the blood from the back-bone; dry them well with a cloth; lay them on a board, and throw on them a good deal of falt; let them stand all night, then scrape it gently off them, and wipe them exceedingly well with a cloth; pound mace, cloves, and nutmeg very fine, throw a little in the inside of them, and a good deal of falt and pepper on the outside; put them close down in a deep pot, and with their bellies up, with plenty of clarified butter over them, set them in the oven, and let them stand for three hours; when they come out pour what butter you can clear off; lay a board over them, and turn them upside down to let the gravy run from them; scrape the falt and pepper very carefully off, and season them exceedingly well, both inside and out, with the above seasoning; lay them close in broad tin pots for that purpose, with the backs up, then cover them well with clarified butter; keep them in a cold dry place."

D. Phillips
Tutor Librarian
Gloucestershire College of Education

Oxstalls Lane,
Gloucester.

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Dear Editor,

21st September, 1967

Dye-works at Bridgend, Stonehouse

Does any reader remember, or remember hearing of, the dye-works at Bridgend? They were working up to 1904, in which year they were offered for sale. Inquiry has so far failed to reveal whether they continued in use as dye-works, and for how long, whether they were used for any other purpose, or when the buildings were demolished. Any information would be welcome.

C. R. Elrington
Editor, Victoria History
of Gloucestershire

Shire Hall,
Gloucester.

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Dear Editor,

12th October, 1967

I would be grateful if you could give any publicity to some back numbers of Gloucestershire Countryside which we are needing to complete binding copies, which I understand are now out of print.

October/November 1965 issue
June/July 1963 issue
October/November 1961 issue

E. M. T. Markwick
County Librarian

Gloucestershire County Library.

BOOK REVIEWS

Family Records and Early History of Iowa Phelps Families and their Descendants. 1630 - 1967. (Phelps)

A production interesting to students of family history has recently been brought to our notice.

This is a 28-page brochure produced in "Offset Printing" which concerns the story of the family of William and Anne Phelps of Gloucester, seven of whose fourteen children went to Iowa about 1832, and whose descendants have spread far and wide in the United States to-day.

The family claims kinship with Phelps of Dursley whose coat of arms is still revered by the American branch.

The opening pages give a graphic description of the trials of early settlers of "The Middle West" and their journeyings to seek new homes by raft and flat boat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and the ordeals of those who travelled by the Celebrated "Covered Wagon" and includes a certain amount of practical advice.

The greater part of the brochure is devoted to a detailed catalogue of the family records of three of the original immigrants since two of the others died without issue and the remainder lost touch.

The records contain the names of a number of members of the Phelps family who have achieved some kind of celebrity including eleven Congressmen, a Governor of the State of Missouri, and a U.S. Minister to Austria and Germany.

Reproductions of family photographs close each section.

Reunions are undertaken at frequent intervals when anything up to two hundred of the descendants of the original three meet for social purposes and to listen to talks on subjects varying from the family coat of arms to mechanical refrigeration.

The Phelps family is but one of the host of Gloucestershire people who live in other parts of the world. Recently we came across accounts of similar contacts maintained by the Bailey family which emigrated to New Zealand about the same time as the Phelps went to the U.S.A.

Canon R. J. Mansfield

Gloucestershire Woollen Mills: By Dr. Jennifer Tann. David & Charles 45/-

Dr. Jennifer Tann has written a thesis on the Gloucestershire woollen industry and it has been published under the title of "Gloucestershire Woollen Mills". The Stroud district figures vary prominently and the book succeeds in filling a gap in local industrial history. Local historians will undoubtedly consider it to be a volume of supreme importance. It is admirably written and illustrated.

The clothiers of Stroud were numerous, but no family stands out more than that of the Marlings. William Marling (1776-1859) of Dudbridge House founded the business of Marling and Co. Ltd. of Stanley and Ebley Mills towards the end of the 18th century and he was followed by his sons, Nathaniel Samuel (1797-1861) of Stonehouse Court, John Figgins (1799-1869) of Ebley Court, who, having got himself into financial difficulties, emigrated to Toronto, Canada, Thomas (1803-1879) of Rodborough Manor and Samuel Stephens (1810-1883), the first baronet, of Stanley Park, who was Member of Parliament for West Gloucestershire 1868-74 and for Stroud 1875-80.

By the early 19th century William Marling also owned Ham Mill and in 1824 took his son Nathaniel into partnership. In June of that year there were riots among the weavers and some 600 of them went to Ham Mill and threw one of William Marling's men into the brook.

The extent of the Marling ramifications is shown by their connections with Griffin's Mill, Thrupp, Pitt's Mill and Freame's Mill, Woodchester, and Hawker's Mill, Dudbridge.

There was a cluster of woollen mills and dye works at Bowbridge. One of them was Newcombe's Mill, which about 1840 came into the hands of Dr. James Sandys, who for a short time was physician of the Stroud

Dispensary, and his brother, John, grandfather of the Conservative politician, Duncan Sandys. The mill became known as Sands Mill and later still as Stincheombe Mill.

As Dr. Tann's book shows, this was far from being the last fluctuation in the industry's history. "There were years of depression ahead" she says, "and the Gloucestershire woollen industry was to contract still further during the 20th century until at the present day only six mills continue to manufacture cloth."

By kind permission of the Editor,
Stroud News and Journal.

Williver's Return : By Alice Mary Hadfield. Chatto & Windus 15/-

Readers of The Williver Chronicles, by local author Alice Mary Hadfield, will be delighted to hear that the third book in the series "Williver's Return" has just been published.

Written against a background of rural Gloucestershire, and the Cotswolds in particular, where the Willivers have their home, the books at the same time give readers a wonderful insight into industrial and agricultural life in England at the end of the 18th century and into the troubled times of the early and mid- 19th century.

The author's remarkable portrait of 19th century Gloucester in her latest book is based largely on contemporary newspaper reports and other original material. Packed with authentic - and often surprising - details of Victorian daily life, it will also delight readers interested in railways.

It is 1848 and the luck of the Willivers has broken. Financially ruined, Horatio and his two children live in meagre rooms at Gloucester. Andrew Pearson, a ruthless merchant, has possession of their old home - at South Cerney - but there is still time to get it back, if only they can prove that he is mixed up in some very unsavoury affairs.

The new railways have brought workers crowding into Gloucester, where there is little space to live and none to be buried in. Whispers of revolution run through the slums, and while excitement mounts over Chartist reform and an attempt to wreck the Queen's train, the Willivers work to expose Pearson who resorts to desperate measures.

The author, of course, is a native of South Cerney, and to those who know the village there is the added interest of her references to it. But the charm of the book lies in the fascinating and interesting manner in which she weaves the historical facts of the day into a human story that holds one's attention until the end.

By courtesy Wilts & Glos Standard Times & Echo
-34-

Pamphlets

Excavations - Annual Report 1966. H.M. Stationary Office 3/6

The Ministry of Public Buildings and Works is often at the receiving end of abuse. It is good therefore to read in this pamphlet the story of their excellent fight to save archaeological sites which are threatened by industrial development. The Ministry acknowledges its gratitude to the site owners and the many archaeologists and volunteers who have helped so many explorations. Grants in Gloucester went to the Bristol, Gloucester and Cheltenham Museums, to the Cirencester Excavation Committee, the Deserted Mediaeval Village Research Group, and the Deserted Village Research Group. In Gloucester the Ministry helped in the lost battle between the bulldozers and Lady Berkeley's tomb, and the same site in Bell Street located a Roman street, wooden water pipes and stone built houses with mosaic floors. In Cirencester three Roman sites were discovered. An excavation grant for King's School gardens in Gloucester resulted in a publication on the subject by Mrs. H. E. O'Neil. The pamphlet has two photographic illustrations and is rewarding reading.

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Early Bristol Quakerism: Russell Mortimer. Historical Association, University of Bristol 3/-.

This is the seventeenth of these excellent pamphlets, and records the fascinating and sometimes gruesome account of the struggle of the Quakers to establish themselves in Bristol. They suffered particular persecution in the Reign of Charles II. For a whole century from 1652 the fight for the freedom to worship outside the church went on, and it is a great story of bigotry on one side and courage on the other. There are four full page illustrations.

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The Industrial Archaeology of Bristol: R.A. Buchanan. Historical Association, University of Bristol 3/-

This is the eighteenth pamphlet of the series, and contains some valuable information about some of the industrial remains in Bristol. I have often passed, rather awestruck, the vast building which I now learn is the Great Western Cotton Factory which employed over a thousand workers during the second half of the 19th century. It is interesting too to see that Bristol, like London, has a shot tower which is among the industrial relics which are illustrated in the pamphlet. The author, Dr. R.A. Buchanan, is a senior lecturer in social history in Bath University of Technology, and we can look forward to his full length survey in conjunction with Mr. Neil Cossons on the industrial archaeology of the Bristol Region which is being published later.

M.M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, LECTURE COURSES, MEETINGS ETC.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER BRANCH

Spring Programme, 1968

- Friday, January 26th M. D. Lambert, Lecturer in History,
Bristol University:
"St. Francis of Assisi and his Order".
- Friday, March 8th J. B. Wright, The National Trust:
"Historic Houses in the West Country".
Illustrated.
- Friday, March 29th Dr. J. R.L. Highfield, Merton College,
Oxford University:
"Was there an English Gothic Culture?"

The student section programme for 1968 and the summer tours programme will be announced.

CIRENCESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter Lectures 1968

- Monday, January 15th Professor S.S.Frere, M.A., F.S.A.,
All Souls College, Oxford:
"The Roman Army".
- Monday, February 12th Professor Joselyn Toynbee, M.A., D.Phil., F.B.A.
Oxford:
"The Hinton St. Mary Mosaic".
- Monday, March 11th Dr. Graham Webster, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., A.M.A.
Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Dept. of Extra
Mural Studies Birmingham University:
"Barnsley Villa".
- Monday, April 1st David Brown, Esq., B.A., Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford:
"Cirencester Excavations 1967".

Place : - King's Head Hotel, Market Place, Cirencester.

Friends of members are welcome to attend any of the lectures at 2/- each, and others by application to the Hon. Secretary.

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Lansdown, Stroud.
- - - - -

Remaining Lectures in 1968

January 12th	Society Meeting - To be announced
January 19th	Society Meeting - To be announced
January 26th	C. H. A. Townley : "The History of Railway Inclines."
February 2nd	K. Barton : "Pottery Kilns"
February 9th	R. K. Bluhm : "History of Coal Mines in Somerset"
February 16th	D. W. Crossley : "Sussex Ironworks"
February 23rd	R. F. Forbes-Taylor : "Cranes"
March 1st	Prof. W. E. Minchinton : "Tinplate Industry"
March 8th	Society Evening - To be announced
March 15th	Society Evening - To be announced

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