

GLoucestershire COMMUNITY COUNCIL

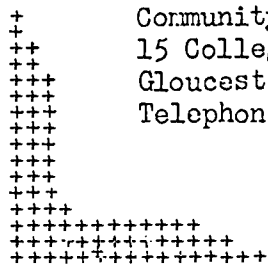
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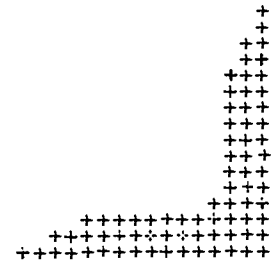
B U L L E T I N

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E D I T O R I A L

The last Bulletin was of record length and I am glad to say has been received with appreciation, but it did put a great strain on the hard-working staff who produce it, to say nothing of the stapler! So this one I hope will make up in quality for its slimmer size. Further alterations are in store when the new Post Office regulations come into force which penalise size.

Records and archives fill some of our pages this Spring to mark our sad farewell to Mr. Irvine Gray of the County Records Office, and to welcome Mr. Brian Smith who takes his place. Our former chairman, Colonel Lloyd-Baker has written an appreciation of Mr. Gray on page 5. I am hoping not to be entirely cut off from his invaluable contributions to this Bulletin.

This edition also includes the Judge's report on the Schools Local History Competition 1967, and review of the first prizewinning study. It was a little disappointing to receive only fourteen entries and hope for more in the next competition.

These competitions are a useful initiation in the art of research which is the main function of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group, an organisation which has only just come to my attention. I include a short note about its activities on page 9. The new Editor of its Bulletin seeks closer links with other societies for the good reasons she mentions in the Editorial of her Bulletin No. 9 Vol. 2.

It is nice to report the discovery of Roman remains in my own village of SANDHURST (see Press Section page 16). The first discovery was made while ploughing to plant corn, which project has had to be carried out, but the owner, Mr. Bryan, tells me that in August when harvesting is completed, more excavations will be made. I hope Mr. Pat Garrod will contribute an article about this for the next edition.

ONE-DAY LOCAL HISTORY SCHOOL

The Committee will again be holding the One-day Local History School for Sixth-formers, commencing on 8th July, 1968, and details will shortly be circulated. This will be an opportunity for history teaching staff and their pupils to view items of special interest and field research available. Special displays are being arranged by the County Records Office, Gloucester City Museum and the City Library, and there will be opportunities for discussion. The theme this year will be "The Severn Crossing at Gloucester".

RECORDING OF FAMILY PORTRAITS

For some years. the Standing Conference for Local History has encouraged the preservation of portraits and related pictures which owe their interest to association with local families. Whilst some of the pictures may be of well-known people painted by well-known artists, the majority have more modest connections. Being mostly of little monetary value, therefore, and considered to be of no other value, many pictures of this type are dispersed or destroyed on the sale of houses, or the removal of families. Their loss as a source of information about social and local history is considerable.

A repository in each county for pictures no longer wanted by their owners is the best answer, but space and economic considerations make this a long term objective. In certain counties, Record Offices have offered limited accommodation, while in others space has been made available for storage purposes by museums and art galleries. In some instances, where the subjects of the pictures are connected with schools or local institutions, the pictures have been hung on the walls of those buildings. But the majority remain in private homes. Wherever they may be, it is important that their whereabouts are known for only then can the information they have to reveal be available to those who seek it. An awareness of the need to record details about the pictures, their location and subject matter, developed from the Conference's initial consideration of their preservation. As well as taking steps to ensure picture preservation, County Local History Committees have been asked, therefore, to initiate recording schemes, and a certain amount of this work has been accomplished. For its part, the National Portrait Gallery has agreed to, and does, maintain a central index of all the information compiled.

Several county bodies have taken action to record and secure the preservation of portraits, and it is believed that few now doubt the value of the historical information contained in portraits and related pictures and that there are those who wish to undertake their recording. Readers of the Bulletin may be interested in the methods employed elsewhere in this task. A circular letter was sent to all people in the county regarded as possible owners of portraits; the list of names was compiled from general knowledge, books of reference, particularly those showing family connections with the county; biographies, family histories, and various local books. This list was supplemented by one naming the libraries, museums, art galleries, hospitals, old established schools, town halls, council chambers, and other public buildings within the county thought to have a 'portrait potential'. Publicity was also given to the scheme in the local Press.

Response to requests for details was extremely satisfactory, many of the recipients of the circular letter actually undertaking the recording of the portraits in their possession, but in some cases it was necessary to visit the collections to complete the necessary record forms. The information gathered was finally transferred to index cards and will be deposited ultimately in the Archives Office of the county, copies having been provided for the National index at the National Portrait Gallery. It is very necessary that pictures should have, with the consent of the owner, a small label affixed

asking that any change in situ of the picture should be reported to the Local History Society. A close watch will be kept on local sales advertisements and those of the large London sale rooms to discern movements of appropriate pictures. London firms of auctioneers have proved most helpful already in providing details of portraits which have passed through their sale room.

If therefore you are interested in this scheme and are prepared to help to record the pictures yourself, or if you have a special knowledge of portraits and related pictures which should be recorded, will you please communicate with the Secretary, Local History Committee, Gloucestershire Community Council, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester?

H.G.B.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society

It has been a great disappointment that Professor Jocelyn Toynbee has had to cancel her lecture on the "Hinton St. Mary Mosaic" owing to an accident. It is hoped to arrange a further visit for Professor Toynbee in the autumn. Mr. Charles Hadfield stepped in at short notice and provided a most interesting lecture on "British Canal History". Regarding the group project of indexing past issues of the local paper "The Wilts and Glos. Standard", the last history was prepared in 1924 and it is only this century's indexing which is now being attempted.

Paintings - M. Jackson. The Historical Museum will be open every afternoon of the week 1st to 8th April.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society

At the November meeting the Rev. J. Gethyn-Jones provided members with a fascinating account of biblical history as seen by mediaeval artists and craftsmen - the painters, sculptors and stained glass tradesmen. The lecture was illustrated with colour slides, examples being drawn from the famous continental churches and from Gloucestershire churches.

At the January meeting Mr. G. J. Carter of the House of Commons gave a lucid detailed account of the Irish Question involving the great Home Rule politicians of the day - Gladstone, Parnell and Chamberlain. The Annual General Meeting takes place in February when copies of "I Remember - Travel and Transport" will be available for sale.

Kingswood and District Local History Society

At the November meeting a member told of the large collection of letters and other documents in Lincoln Castle concerning the King's Wood, the site of modern Kingswood, near Bristol, during the 17th century.

In December a paper about Cockrode, one of the small manors within the Forest, was read, and at the January meeting two members of the Local History Society of Keynsham gave a most interesting talk about the local Brass Mills which they illustrated with coloured slides and the recorded voice of an old man who once worked in one of the Mills.

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Olveston Parish Historical Society have now been established for two years and have 35 members at present, the majority being active in producing papers on various topics, in some cases extracts from existing work, detailed papers still in course of preparation, short essays, interviews and memories of earlier times. Even at this early stage in the Society's existence, these papers are beginning to form a framework of historical background and represent very satisfactory progress in such a short time. Future items for consideration are :

Parish Council Study	Mrs. K. Vowles
Record of Women's Institute	Mrs. D. Jennison
History of Hill House	Mr. C. McKenzie
Premises previously known as The White Horse	Mr. Davis
White Hart Inn	Mr. E. Garrett
Study of Tockington Court Books	Mr. F. Pitts
Census Study of Parish	Mr. J. Wong
Notable Parish Incumbents	Mr. K. Chivers
Early Transport	Mr. F. Burnham
History of Tockington Chapel	Miss C. Frost
History of Olveston Chapel	Mrs. A. Hicks
Quakerism	Mrs. F. Burnham
Olveston Church	Mr. G. Daldry
Olveston Court	Mrs. M. MacTaggart and Mrs. Turner
Olveston National School	Mr. K. Jenkins
Quarrying in the Parish	Mr. Boulton
British Legion	Mr. A. Hicks
Biography (Basil Harwood)	Mrs. Singleton

Suggested future studies are :

Work House (Poor Laws)
Enclosure Awards
Police and Crime
1840 Invasion Committee
Extracts from 19th century Vestry Minutes
Extracts from 19th century Parish Magazines

Parish Wells
Agricultural Survey (Study Group preferable)
House Distribution - 1939 and Today
Tockington Regiment and Tockington Band
Terrier (1637)
Extracts from Bristol Times and Mirror (1902)

RETIREMENT OF MR. IRVINE GRAY

After twenty years work as County Records Officer Mr. Irvine Gray leaves us in April. No one who has not been in close touch can realise the enormous increase in the work that has taken place during that time. (In 1949 there were 238 student-visits, in 1967 1,212; in 1949 74 postal enquiries, in 1967 466.) There is, of course, a growing interest in local history throughout the country; but the spectacular upsurge in the work of the Office is due very largely to Mr. Gray himself. His friendly, welcoming attitude towards visitors (sometimes ignorant and unsure of themselves) has resulted in a feeling of firm confidence in the County Records Office and its staff. He has given numerous lectures, inspired countless teachers and their pupils, and aroused the interest of many people to whom the subject was quite new. The Office has become a very lively centre of research and discovery.

Everyone will regret Mr. Gray's departure and will wish him a very happy retirement.

A. B. Lloyd-Baker

SCHOOLS LOCAL HISTORY STUDY COMPETITION, 1967

Judge's Report

Although the number of entries is small (14) the general standard is good and it has not been easy to place the essays in order of merit. I have shown a preference for those which indicate that the writer has not merely copied from the easily available books on Gloucestershire history, but has made use of pamphlets, newspapers and documentary records, and/or has himself collected information. One must not expect highly original work from boys and girls of this age, but it is clear that several of the competitors have done some personal investigation of their subjects. The most successful pieces of work, as always, are those which concentrate on a single, manageable topic, studied in depth.

Only one "team" entry was received, and although it was from a team of two only, I think a prize might well be given.

North Nibley by David Brown and Geoffrey Hale, Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, Wotton-under-Edge.

A thorough examination of the village and its history, clearly well known to the writers.

Single Entries, in order of merit.

1. The Stratford to Moreton Tramway - R. Bullock, Chipping Campden School.
A very interesting account of a little known railway. Well written, interesting. Illustrated by good original photographs.
2. The Roman Road - Chavenage to Cirencester - I. C. Critchley, Marling School, Stroud.
A very good piece of work on a limited subject. Detailed and thorough. He has studied maps and gone over the ground himself, as well as reading the available books and articles.
3. A Study of Tortworth - Jennifer Rea, Thornbury Grammar School.
A careful recording of information, gathered from books and from local people. Good on recent history and village life today.
4. How the Railway came to Tewkesbury - B. Canavan, Tewkesbury Grammar School.
A good account. Has read newspapers and documents in the Gloucestershire Records Office.
5. The History of the Parish of Minchinhampton - Alun Thomas, Marling School, Stroud.
A very full account, illustrated by lots of photographs. I think mostly compiled from books.
6. The Foundation of Marling School and The Lives of the First Governors of the School - P. Dickinson, Marling School, Stroud.
A wealth of genealogical information - a quite extraordinary amount of detail which must have meant a great deal of work. Some judges would place this higher, but I think it suffers from lack of selection and condensation.
7. The Norman Spirit - J. C. Bullock, Marling School, Stroud.
Well illustrated account of St. Briavels Castle. Relies on the books rather heavily.
8. Primary Education in Tewkesbury in the Early 19th Century - P. Remmer, Tewkesbury Grammar School.
Has collected some interesting statistics and used the Record Office material.
9. The Brook-House Pin-Mill, Painswick - Adrian Lewis, Marling School, Stroud.
Useful account of a small local industry.

10. The Enclosure of Bishops Cleeve 1836-1847 - K. G. Mason, Tewkesbury Grammar School.
A short account which gives useful information but needs to be illustrated by a map or plan.
11. I drove the Cheltenham Flyer on the Great Western & Midland Railway - I. Mills, Stonchouse County Secondary School.
Mixture of local and general history. Too diffuse.
12. The Development of Skyfame - S. R. Burford, Marling School, Stroud.
Unusual subject - but national, rather than local history.
13. The History of the County of Gloucester - T. M. Eaton, Marling School, Stroud.
Quite the wrong choice of subject! Cannot be dealt with in a short essay.

THE STRATFORD TO MORETON TRAMWAY

This study is the winner of the first prize in the Schools Local History Competition of 1967. The judge's report is of necessity very brief, and I thought it might be encouraging to give a short description of this essay in the hope that more entries may be received in the next competition.

Robert Bullock of Chipping Campden School has made his study very readable, and in the course of his researches, has thrown great light on the character of William James whose "baby" the railway really was. Born in 1771 William James was a colliery owner who was fired with the idea of a railway system even before George Stevenson had completed his "invention" the steam engine. He had been one of the promoters of the Liverpool to Manchester Railway, and intended that the Moreton to Stratford should similarly be manned by steam engines. But after a long struggle the railway when it finally evolved could only really deserve the name of "tramway" with the waggons drawn by horses. Like all enthusiasts, and in fact all those who live ahead of their time, William James managed to arouse great antagonism among the other shareholders at the many committee meetings, and the author sadly records that he was dismissed (albeit with a "golden handshake" of about £400) only five months before the railway opened. It had taken three years to build at a cost of £55,000, and in 1826 Moreton was the scene of great celebrations at which one presumes, poor James was not even present. The author quotes from the Oxford Journal of September 9th, 1826 when the thousands who came overwhelmed the local inns. "Thousands more attended than any reasonable person could have looked for. In saying that a fat ox was roasted entire.... it need hardly be added that its bones were picked clean".

The Railway ran until 1869 when it was absorbed by the G.W.R. after horses had given way to steam. There are some fascinating records of charges,

and various byclaws and directives about passenger carrying. Even with such charges as 2d. per ton per mile, the tramway seems to have run at a profit although very few wharves were built for intermediary stops.

The author took great pains going over the route and photographing parts of the grass covered trackways to illustrate his study. He also includes a well marked map.

It is most enjoyable reading and one gets the impression that this young student thoroughly enjoyed his researches which were both detailed and thorough.

M.M.

MEDIAEVAL RECORDS OF ST. PETER'S ABBEY

Last year some of the most valuable records of the former Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter in Gloucester were found among the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich and returned to Gloucester. How the documents strayed as far as Norwich is not certain. The obvious explanation seemed at first to be that they had been taken from Gloucester by a canon changing posts some two or three hundred years ago; there were at least three canons who could have been blamed. However, a further letter from the Dean and Chapter's archivist revealed that she had returned similar strays, none later than 1640, to Worcester, Hereford, Wells, Exeter, Winchester, Peterborough, Ely and Canterbury Cathedrals, and to Lambeth Palace and St. George's Chapel, Windsor. It seems likely therefore that the confusion arose during the Commonwealth period; many documents were taken to London at that time, and by accident or design a quantity were returned to Norwich instead of to their rightful homes.

There are eighteen documents in all, of which the most important are the mediaeval manorial court rolls. The earliest, of nine membranes sewn at the head, is dated 1292-3, the next, of seventeen membranes, is 1351, and three smaller ones are 1412-3. They are all in fairly good condition, with most parts still legible; the 1351 roll has been badly damaged by fire. The manors they relate to were held by the Abbey until its dissolution in January 1539/40. On the foundation of the diocese of Gloucester (out of Worcester and Hereford) in 1541, the newly-constituted Dean and Chapter received as their endowment most of the estates formerly owned by the Abbey, and others were given to the Bishopric. (The later history of these estates can therefore be continued from the episcopal and capitular records, where these survive.)

The manors are in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Hampshire. The two Hampshire manors, Linkinholt and Littleton, passed to the Dean and Chapter in 1541 but were returned to the Crown four years later in exchange for the manor of Tulwell, or Tulwell Court, which had belonged to St. Oswald's Priory in Gloucester. Of the Herefordshire manors, Ullingswick passed to the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester in 1541, and Hope (Mansel) to the Bishop.

The rolls relating to Gloucestershire manors are naturally of most interest to us, and they are of great importance in increasing our knowledge of the manors' history. The County Records Office maintains an index of all Gloucestershire manorial records known to exist. From this it appears that these rolls are in every case the earliest known records, in many cases the only mediaeval ones, and for some manors the only records known to survive at all. The manors to which they relate are Abbots' Barton, Abload, Aldsworth, Ampney, Boxwell, Brookthorpe, Churcham, Coln Rogers, Coln St. Aldwyns, Eastleach, Frocester, Hartpury, Highnam, Maisemore, Northleach, Preston (near Ledbury), Rudge (in Hardwicke) and Upleadon. Further work on the rolls may reveal other manors, so far illegible.

Isabel Kirby.

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Bristol Archaeological Research Group is primarily for the promotion of research by its individual members, most of whom are fairly experienced local archaeologists; though it has an increasing proportion of members with general interests. Activities include general lectures, meetings and a Symposium of short papers by members, in winter; weekend schools with field meetings on special subjects once or twice during the summer: for which we now have quite a reputation for securing first-class lecturers (recent ones include Ancient Fields, Wanadyke and Mendip Lead-Mining). We participate in an excavation run in co-operation with the University Extra-Mural Department, at Butcombe, which arose out of the Ancient Fields project, and members take part in other excavations in the area. Emphasis is on research aids: practical and theoretical articles in the Bulletin, and lectures; special publications, which have made us quite well known in archaeological circles generally, include a two-part Survey and Policy for archaeological research in the area, 'The Preparation of Archaeological Reports' which has since appeared in hardback, and a series of Field Guides to sites in the area, by periods. The Bristol Archaeological Research Group area extends over South Gloucestershire and North Somerset and the Group has always encouraged membership of, and interchange of information with, the local societies within this area - this is where my Bulletin 'Calendar' and, I hope, the Gloucestershire Community Council Local History Bulletin, play their part.

Frances Neale.
Hon. Editor.

THE BUSINESS ARCHIVES OF ESTATE AGENTS

Very few firms of estate agents were founded more than a hundred and fifty years ago, but although their records are rarely more than a century old several local record offices have received deposits of such business archives. Respectable auctioneers and estate agents produced well defined classes of records. These include sale and valuation books, registers of property for sale in which the price and name of the purchaser should be entered, and copies of sale catalogues, often bound. Account books, correspondence files and sets of large-scale Ordnance Survey maps complete the main groups. Depending on the nature of the business there may also be records relating to estate management, drainage boards, inclosure or tithes. Recently two large collections of widely differing character have been deposited in the Gloucestershire Records Office, one consisting chiefly of a remarkable continuous series of sale and valuation books from 1800 to 1926 (Gloucestershire Records Office, D 2030) and the other of about 7,000 correspondence files from c. 1870 to 1936. (Gloucestershire Records Office, D 2299) More modern and other types of records have been retained by both depositors.

In the first deposit there are 3,500 small leather-bound books containing the record of every inventory, valuation and sale conducted by the firm since 1800. The business is said to be one of the oldest in the country, being established in the mid-eighteenth century, and this long series of volumes relates to every type of country property, small town businesses, trades and fatstock markets, household goods, timber, farming live and deadstock. The firm and its archives are perhaps also unusual in being described in a thinly disguised autobiographical work by a modern novelist. (J. Moore, *Portrait of Elmbury* (1945), pp. 64-129.) A catalogue of the books is in progress and has so far been completed up to 1837.

The business was founded in 1840 (its earliest records unfortunately have not survived) and was largely concerned with country property, including many big estates and extending well beyond the county boundary. The correspondence files provide much historical material about the extent and conditions of landed estates and farms, the relationship between landlord and tenant farmer, and agricultural practices including the management of timber. Not only the historian of agriculture and the countryside will be interested in these archives, however, for there is also much evidence about building development and the growth of towns, and a wide variety of commercial enterprises. There are files, for instance, relating to the valuation or sale of railway property, coal mines, iron works, cloth mills, breweries and licensed premises, brickworks, timber yards, theatres, shops and offices, and the papers include inventories, specifications and photographs; in 1913 the firm sold a small bankrupt aeroplane works and in 1918 a collection of Government surplus tractors. (Glos. Records Office, D 2299/1003, 1529.) Business routine and practices, mortgage arrangement and the effect of legislation may be seen, while the architectural historian or house owner tracing the recent history of individual houses has a rich new source. One file shows that at the Blackfriars, Gloucester, which became a private house and is now being restored by the Ministry of Works, the presence of certain 'ancient' features is to be

attributed to an owner early in this century, who salvaged them from other old houses. (Glos. Records Office, D 2299/458.)

The greatest proportion of the files relate to property sales. The documents consist of the auctioneer's rough notebook of the particulars of the house and land, draft and proof copies of the printed advertisements and sale particulars, maps and correspondence.

The files relating to leases are much more interesting, and in most cases only draft papers and formal letters are being destroyed. The correspondence refers to the conditions of the lease, applications and testimonials of tenants and, on the expiry of the term, a valuation of improvements, fixtures and (in the case of farms) of acts of husbandry. Such valuations might lead to a dispute between landlord and tenant, which could be settled by an arbitrator; he would make a separate survey, calling for receipts and other evidence. There is, therefore, much information about the state of property, and sources for the agricultural historian about farming practice, mobility and qualifications of tenant farmers and the requirements of landlords. Before the Great War, for instance, one landowner was especially anxious to preserve the dying Gloucestershire trade of cheese-making while another insisted on letting only to practising members of the Church of England. (Glos. Records Office, D 2299/985, 487.) The bad condition of farms and the reduced amount of investment and yield from agriculture during the depression before the Great War are apparent from the files already examined.

Valuations were needed for many purposes apart from those already mentioned. They were made for estate duty and probate, before a mortgage or after a bankruptcy, for the enfranchisement of copyholds, under the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, before glebe was sold, and under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act, 1908, before a local authority made an order for compulsory purchase or leasing. In the later 1920s and 1930s there appear valuations for fire insurance purposes, containing detailed lists of the contents of houses. Apart from the draft or copy valuation itself, which usually explains its purpose, and the earliest letters on the file, which give the reason for the valuation in greater detail, there is normally little of interest. Auctioneers and valuers commonly use a simple private code based upon a ten-letter word or phrase, but given sufficient data it is not difficult to break such codes.

In conclusion our experience in Gloucestershire leads me to make a few final points. These files are the firm's own archives of comparatively recent date. They are not public records. It is not wrong to restrict access, and a 50-year rule is being applied to all non-printed material at the request of the firm. There appears to be nothing of a really confidential nature, but some papers quoted out of context might be embarrassing either to the firm or their clients. There is, of course, no reason why accredited students should not ask permission from the firm to search the more modern records. Secondly, specialist historians intervened at a late stage in the negotiations, which had started with friendly contacts with both the firms in question over fifteen years ago. The negotiations were concluded in an unfortunate atmosphere of distrust between historians and archivists and bewilderment among

the businessmen making the deposits, although in the end all was settled amicably. In expressing their personal interest in the records the historians, economic, agricultural and industrial, were clearly under the impression that a county record office would not be interested in such types of archives - a misconception in academic circles that must vigorously be corrected if we are not to add to our difficulties and to the fallacies about an archivist's profession already noted in this Journal. (E. Welch, 'Records management', Journal of the Society of Archivists, vol. III, no. 4 (Oct. 1966), pp. 198-199.)

Brian S. Smith.

LISTED BUILDINGS

People have often told me that their house is "scheduled as an ancient monument". This cannot be so, because no inhabited house can be included in the schedules compiled by the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Public Building and Works, though shops and business premises (such as an old mill) can be included. The schedules of ancient monuments are, however, more concerned with public buildings and with ruins and archaeological sites. In theory, inclusion in these schedules should give absolute protection, though in practice archaeological monuments such as prehistoric barrows have often been ploughed or bulldozed away either inadvertently or deliberately. Nor has there hitherto been any obligation on the owner to keep an ancient monument in repair (often a costly matter); the attitude in fact has been

"Thou shalt not kill, but needst not strive
Officiously to keep alive".

A local example is Ilanthony Abbey, Gloucester, where a large area is scheduled as an ancient monument, including the surviving remains of the monastic buildings. This site, surrounded by an industrial area, belongs to British Rail, who have been deaf to any suggestions that they should do anything to tidy up the site or preserve the buildings, and have been trying to lease parts of the site as a lorry-park and scrap-metal dump. A nationalized industry should be under better control.

Quite a different authority, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, is concerned with private houses and other buildings not classified as "ancient monuments" but as of "architectural or historic interest". These were listed for the whole country about twenty years ago; the lists, incidentally, are in need of wholesale revision. In the 'Provisional Lists', which give fairly full descriptions of the exterior features of buildings, they are classified in three grades. The Grade III buildings, which are the great majority, have no statutory protection, though the fact of their being listed buildings no doubt gives them some moral protection, at any rate where the

owner is interested in such things. Many, however, have already been destroyed or altered. Only Grade I and II buildings appear in the 'Approved Lists'; these cannot legally be pulled down or externally altered without notice being given by the owner to the local planning authority. Until last year, only two months' notice has been required, quite insufficient time for people or societies interested in the preservation of such buildings to take action to preserve them. Now, however, under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the period of warning required has been extended to six months. The previously small penalties for contravening these requirements, or a building preservation order made by a local authority, have been increased to a maximum fine of £250 or three months' imprisonment on summary conviction, or twelve months' imprisonment on indictment, or both. No doubt innocent offenders will rightly be treated leniently as hitherto, but these penalties may at least prevent a repetition of notorious recent cases in which ancient buildings have been deliberately destroyed for the site value. Local authorities are now also empowered to step in and carry out urgently necessary works to preserve a protected building which the owner is allowing to fall down. Unfortunately there are some local authorities quite capable of allowing buildings in their own ownership to decay or even pulling them down in contravention of the statutory protection they have been given by the State.

Local authorities can and sometimes do give grants or loans towards the expense of restoring important old buildings. In Gloucestershire, the County Planning Department works in close co-operation with the two Ministries concerned in the preservation of ancient monuments and historic houses. Recently building preservation orders have been made by the County Council on a house in Cheltenham, a 17th century farm at . . . Old Sodbury, and industrial remains in the Forest of Dean. The Gloucester City Planning Officer has arranged for the Ministry to add to its list at least two old houses which had escaped notice originally. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society uses its influence to prevent the desecration of ancient monuments and the destruction of early buildings. Both planning authorities and preservation societies are, however, much dependent on interested private persons for warning of threats to the relics of the past.

Irvine Gray.

BEARS IN THE FOREST

A Press report recently describes a proposal to introduce some bears into the Forest of Dean. But golden haired maidens will be quite safe as they wander in the woods and no steps will be taken to determine the respective sizes of armchairs and beds or the temperature of porridge.

The importation is in order to add a little local colour to a screenplay which is to be produced against the background of the Dean.

Local history is a fascinating subject and there can be no end to its fascination if it can be manipulated to suit his purpose by a writer or a film director. We understand that the locations are to include a well known story in support of a psychological drama involving the traditional "bear slaying", a fictional murder, a chapel in a Forest village dominated by a Norman castle, and, as we write before performance we shall expect a high degree of entertainment, particularly in seeing how these ingredients are assembled.

The jibe "Who killed the Bear?" has long been directed by outsiders against the Foresters in general, while within the district the usual butts have been the people of Ruardean where such an enquiry would have brought down instant and dire calamity upon the head of an incautious visitor. But the event actually occurred, and reports exist in the files of the local press as well as the official record which is contained in the Offences Book of Drybrook Police Station.

Mr. Leonard Clark has told the truth of the whole story in a recent booklet of how a mob of infuriated colliers, incensed by a malicious rumour that a pair of Dancing Bears, exhibited by four Frenchmen, had killed a child in Cinderford and severely mauled a woman, set upon the keepers and killed the bears on a Spring day in 1889. Mr. Clark rightly exonerates the village of Ruardean whose inhabitants in fact gave shelter and sympathy to the victims, and he lists the names of the actual miscreants together with the record of punishments imposed which included fines amounting to £85, a substantial amount for colliers of that day to find.

It appears that the promoters of the film hesitated to make use of an actual chapel building in which to take certain sequences, in view of any offence which might be given, and so a most unusual compromise was effected in the use of the Verderer's Court Room at The Speech House. A much more inappropriate compromise might have been made since, viewed from certain angles, it could easily be made to represent an ecclesiastical building of the "meeting house" type. The Court Room is in the oldest part of the building which was erected during the reign of King Charles II and which bears two dates of that period. Apparently different parts were dated upon completion.

The original house seems to have consisted only of the present facade overlooking the Cannop Valley, and was erected as "The King's Lodge" replacing an older administrative building a little distance away which was known as "Kensley House", and which had long been used for meetings of the "Court of Speech". The present court room, which is usually in use as the Dining Room

of the hotel, has a slightly raised platform or tribune at one end, railed off for the use of the Verderers in session, and which might well be taken to represent a pulpit for the minister and seats on either side for "the Elders of the Kirk". The present Speech House was enlarged during the earlier part of the Nineteenth century, and has been in use as an hotel at least since 1858 when John Coleman kept it.

Among the legends of the Speech House is that of a persistent bloodstain which seeped through the ceiling of the Court Room from the body of a poacher kept in custody after having been wounded in a deer poaching affray. It has also been noted for its "Great Bed", and a story is told of a woman awaking during the night and missing her husband, rousing the house and organizing a search party only to find him, when morning light dawned, asleep on the other side of the bed.

The village selected for exterior shots in the screenplay is that of Lydbrook. Though not especially picturesque in itself, the village has a lovely setting since it stretches for a mile or more down a deepening valley whose sides are dotted with cottages and houses in an irregular fashion.

Lydbrook seems to have been two villages which have gradually come together. The older one is the riverside settlement, an ancient landing stage for two re-entrants into the Forest of Dean from a passage into Archenfield. Perhaps it was that "part of the property of King Cystennin beyond the River Wye" which is mentioned in "The Book of Llandaff". At any rate it probably enjoyed its greatest period of prosperity when furnaces were established along the river and the Wye was a stream of commercial navigation.

The other village, towards the head of the valley, grew with industry developing with the increasing use of coal and iron, and among others the names of Foley and Allaway are associated with its growth. Between Upper and Lower Lydbrook ancient buildings remind us that the road passes through what was once a part of the Manor of Bicknor, which had been cleared of forest to provide a living for a small farmer or two in the days gone by. At least one of the houses had a famous occupant for in it there lived for a while Sarah Siddons, daughter of Roger Kemble, who was to make her name at the end of the Eighteenth century at Drury Lane and Covent Garden.

The provision of a Norman Castle to frown over the village in the film story would not have been simple. Since the Dean was "the king's hunting ground" and there was little or no population within its borders, castles for the usual purpose were not needed. St. Briavels is the only one such building in Dean. This was built and used chiefly for administrative purposes and an official residence for the Constable for the time being, and so far from dominating the village, the castle seems to have done its best to efface itself, especially since it was converted into a private residence many years ago. The film crew therefore had to make do with Goodrich, across the Wye, which the camera is able to make "frown" where it pleases. Goodrich Castle presents at least two different faces to the viewer. From the river side it is seen as a tall embattled building, rising from the crest

of a perpendicular cliff and standing over the plain like a typical stronghold. Approached from the land it looks like a half sunken fort in the middle of a great pit in which the sandstone has been left jagged and untrimmed. Indeed, the stone from which the castle was built was quarried on the spot.

A simple Norman keep to begin with, Goodrich Castle was enlarged through the years by the erection of other buildings, kitchens, chapel, solar and great hall with all the attendant structures, until it became a Great House of the Middle Ages, fortified by towers, walls and a barbican.

The castle was built on this particular spot for a special purpose since there was an age old passage across the Wye a little upstream from where Kerne Bridge now spans it. It is possible that this passage was used in Roman days on the route from Blestium to Ariconium, in any case it is now commemorated in the place name Walford, or the Welshman's Crossing. It was here that Godric Mapplestone, the Lord of Hulle - a name now echoed in Howle Hill across the river - built his first castle to guard that ford, and his name became attached to the village which grew up around. The keep became known as "Macbeth's Tower" not from the protagonist of Shakespeare's tragedy, but from the fact that an Irish chieftain of that name was kept imprisoned there.

So here we have the four scenes: the bear slaying, the Court Room the village in the valley and the sandstone castle, all individual, all miles apart from each other, but which, by the magic of the camera will be brought into one that we who see it may enjoy the story of The Things that Never Happened in the Village that Never Was.

R. J. Mansfield.

LOCAL HISTORY AND THE PRESS

By kind permission of the Editors

From "The Citizen" - Tuesday, March 19th, 1968

Important Roman Discovery made on Sandhurst Hill

Part of an unknown Roman villa was unearthed on the gale-swept slopes of Sandhurst Hill, near Gloucester, at the weekend.

The important discovery was made by Mr. Pat Garrod, the Gloucester archaeologist, who uncovered part of the remains of a corridor-type Roman villa while conducting the excavation of a trial trench at Willington Court, Sandhurst.

Mr. Garrod said it was not possible to reconstruct a complete description

of the building from a sample trench but the impression conveyed by the remains indicated a long corridor with a composition floor of warm pink colour, having plaster walls painted maroon and cream.

On one side it would probably have been well lighted and had easy access to formal gardens overlooking the Severn Vale and the Cotswolds.

On the other side of the corridor were suites of rooms with floors similar to the one in the corridor. One of the rooms excavated was decorated in green and cream plaster. It was clear that the inside was later completely ripped out and knocked down and in its place was one of the large tessellated, heated floors on pillars.

"Mr. Alan Bryan of Willington Court, first put me on to the site," said Mr. Garrod. "He told me about a local tradition which refers to a deserted medieval village called Hanley, which was supposed to lie on the lowest slopes of Sandhurst Hill, which is in the estate of the manor of Willington."

While ploughing recently Mr. Bryan unearthed a number of bricks and building stone and showed them to his daughter, Mrs. Garrod. "He invited me to cut a sample trench to try and establish the truth of the local tradition," said Mr. Garrod.

The archaeologist said that because he did not find any tumbled walls and roofing tiles he had the impression that the site, which extended over something like 200 square feet, was probably stripped in the third or fourth century while the building was still standing.

The small group of volunteer diggers, including Mr. Garrod's assistant, Mr. Philip Moss, and Mr. Gerald Waite, a naval officer on leave, braved the weekend gales for the dig.

At the height of the gale the party was often compelled to lie flat in their shallow trenches to escape from the hail and bitter cold which swept the exposed hillside.

There may be further excavations on the site by the Gloucester Archaeological Research Group, of which Mr. Garrod is chairman.

From "Stroud News & Journal" - Thursday, January 11th, 1968

Volunteers in the Napoleonic Wars

Among the recently published essays on Local Historical Records by the Bristol University Extra-Mural Class at Gloucester, edited by Mr. Brian S. Smith, chief assistant archivist of the County Records Office, is a study of the Frampton-on-Severn Volunteers by J. R. S. Whiting. At a time when the threat of invasion by Napoleon was arousing the patriotism of the nation, on April 30th, 1798, a resolution was passed by the residents of Frampton-on-Severn

headed by their squire, Nathaniel Winchcombe (who later changed his name to Clifford), to form a Corps of Loyal Volunteers to fight in defence of their country up to a radius of 8 miles "but no more." Attached to the resolution was a list of the 110 names of the Volunteers, mainly Winchcombe's tenants, not all of whom came from Frampton itself, Eastington, Stonehouse, Whitminster and Arlingham providing the remainder.

The Stroud Volunteers seem to have been regarded as rivals. "In a letter to the Earl of Berkeley on May 20th, Winchcombe anxiously pressed him to speed up the commissions, so that they would get them gazetted at the same time as those of the Stroud Volunteers." The ceremony of the presentation of the Frampton colour was arranged for August 22nd, 1799, and Winchcombe "wrote to the Stroud Volunteers to 'keep the ground' during the ceremony. The Stroud Commanding Officer feared that drunkenness might 'tend to confusion, but Winchcombe replied that they should come in uniform but without arms and left them to judge the danger of drunkenness.

"Winchcombe described the great day of August 22nd at much length in the Order Book, noting that the marquee and booths were fully stocked for the ladies' and Corps' refreshment. The Frampton Corps was on parade at 10 a.m. promptly and were followed by the Longtree, Bisley and Whitstone Gentlemen and Yeomen Cavalry and the Loyal Stroud Volunteers...

"Unfortunately the rain prevented the planned 'manoeuvres,' so that the order to dismiss was followed by a rush to the refreshments and the officers sat down to an excellent dinner (Ordinary) with 'plenty of good liquors.' Winchcombe ends his account in the Order Book by saying 'the expenses of the day (except the Ordinary) were borne solely by me.

"Great though the day was, it was soon to be overshadowed by the Stroud ceremony of the Colours, at which 800 Volunteers were present and a crowd of 20,000 with them to hear the truly magnificent speech from the Countess of Berkeley."

The Stroud Colour was presented at a grand review on Minchinhampton Common on September 19th, 1799. From the address by the captain, John Hollings, we can sense a feeling of industrial unrest and over-indulgence of alcohol among the cloth workers of the county.

A roll call of the Bisley and Longtree sections of the cavalry in 1807 showed that 21 of its members came from Stroud, 11 from Minchinhampton, 5 from Painswick and 2 from Woodchester. There had been a lull in the war with France in 1802, when the services of the Volunteers had been dispensed with, and this left the Sovern Rifle Corps, under the command of Major Samuel Wathen, with a total of 180 all ranks, as the foremost military unit in the district. From their names the district as a whole seemed to be well represented. Fisher also reminds us of the Lodgemore Volunteers, called the "Awkward Squad" after their "kind-hearted" captain, George Hawker, whose name was mispronounced "Hawker'd" and the King's Stanley Riflemen, commanded by Captain Nathaniel Peach Wathen of Stanley House.

Then there were Royal South Gloucestershire Militia, under the command of Colonel Lord Berkeley, who in August, 1803 recruited four from Stroud and four from Painswick, and the North Glos. Militia, commanded by Col. Robert Kingscote, to which 24 were sworn in at Stroud a month later.

The Stroud district, it will be seen, nobly did its share in the defence of England against the threatened menace of Napoleon's armies.

From "The Daily Telegraph" - Friday, December 8th, 1967

Pensioners Parade for Cheeses

Field Marshal Lord Harding, 71, accompanied by Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Simpson, Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and Maj.-Gen. Sir Nigel Tapp, the Lieutenant Governor, when he presented the traditional Christmas cheeses to Chelsea pensioners at the Ceremony of the Christmas Cheeses in the Hospital's Great Hall yesterday.

The ceremony, revived nine years ago, dates back to 1691, when the hospital instructed a London cheesemonger to supply pensioners with "cheese from Gloucestershire at 3d. per lb."

There was a toast to "The English Country Cheese Council," which presented the cheeses, and cheese, beer and wine were served to pensioners and guests.

"A fine ceremony," said Sgt. Albert Dimmock, 93, the oldest in-pensioner, who fought on the Khyber Pass in the 1890s. "It makes a change from ordinary life."

From "Standard Times & Echo" - Friday, November 24th, 1967

Has met uninterrupted since Saxon Invasion

When the Northleach Court Leet met last week to elect a High Bailiff, Constables and other Officials, it was the only court of its kind on the Cotswolds with an uninterrupted record of meeting since the Saxon Invasion.

But how many people and especially those in Northleach actually know how the Court Leet came about or in fact what it is?

The dictionary definition of the word Leet states it is a yearly or half-yearly court of record (also court) holdable by Lords of certain manors: its jurisdiction and its district.

But the court Leet was more than an ordinary court, it was in fact a form of government in the days of the Feudal System and has been described as the most ancient court known to our constitution..

As the dictionary states, the word leet can also mean "its district" so from this we find the court was governed by The Lord of the Leet which in the case of Northleach is the Earl Bathurst.

In short, the Court Leet was a form of court presided over by the Lord of the Leet during the Feudal System to hear vassals' complaints or as the case may be to offend law breakers.

In earlier days similar courts existed at Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Burford and there are some indications that links existed between Northleach Court and Wychwood, in Oxfordshire.

At Stow there was a court house which had two steps up to the entrance and to this day in the town, the threat of a summons is to have a person "up the steps."

The court house was demolished about 100 years ago and the site was subsequently occupied by Gorton's and later French's Stores.

Stow court appointed its own Constables and it held an annual dinner at which the constables were guests. The jurisdiction of the court apparently extended to the town boundaries.

In May 1810 a body under the title of "The Society of Sir Charles Pole, Barts Tenantry for the protection of Persons and Property and Punishing Felony" met at Lower Swell and drew up a list of rewards to be paid to persons giving information to the court leading to a conviction.

The following are extracts from the list :

For every highway footpad robbery	£4/ 4/-
For stealing any horse	£3/ 3/-
For stealing wood	£1/ 1/-
For stealing turnips	£-/10/6

The rewards offered seem to have secured at least one conviction for in an inn at Northleach there is a framed page torn from the prison book showing that a woman served one month in Northleach Prison for the offence of stealing sticks from a hedge.

The laws of the Court Leet which governed Northleach came into being over a number of years and in 1576 they were written into The Record Book of the Court which is still preserved today.

The record says "The Book of Ordinances made and agreed upon from tyme to tyme by the Bailiff, Burgesses and Inhabitants of the towne or Boroughe of Northleach for ever to be observed."

Today of course the Court Leet has no real power, but the officials are all still elected annually and the ceremony is followed by a dinner which is attended by over a hundred guests.

During the dinner the guests are serenaded by children beating sticks on old tins and metal drums.

Traditionally, the High Bailiff, after his election invited some eight or ten guests to dinner to mark the occasion and it was the custom then for men to go to the house and make as much noise as possible until they were given money to go away.

The credit for the Northleach Court Leet being the only survivor on the Cotswolds must go to the Earls of Bathurst and their families who have always taken the keenest interest in the court and at considerable trouble and expense have kept the court in being even during the years of the two great wars.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS TO STROUD MUSEUM DURING 1967

Objects donated during the year have tended to be larger and even more numerous than in previous years. One has to be selective in retaining that which is of importance, and declining such as may have neither historic nor local interest. In spite of this, the material given reflects most favourably the ever growing influence of Stroud Museum not only upon the immediate neighbourhood, but upon parishes and towns in the southern part of the county, where the Museum has been active to a limited degree for a number of years.

One of the most gratifying gifts was a bequest from the late D.H.N. Butt of a large collection of 19th century glassware. Whilst this may not yet have the popularity of earlier work, many of the items received are nevertheless already difficult to obtain in perfect condition.

With the closure of the Stroud Brewery, the opportunity was taken to acquire a number of portable items ranging from malt shovels and measures to inscribed plates from the mash tuns. With the modernisation of the plant several years ago, much of interest had already been destroyed, and several of the more historic items have been retained by the Brewery. Tools and items of equipment have also been saved from two carpenters' shops at Nailsworth and Avening. Equipment can often reflect the character and personality of the user, and this was certainly true at the latter place. The man must have been both understanding and versatile. He was at once a farmer, smith and farrier, coachbuilder and wheelwright, signwriter and chair maker, carpenter and, almost certainly, undertaker and general builder. In this day and age the like would now be hard to find.

Local demolitions have again produced interesting material. A date stone of 1766 has been saved together with part of an early church monument with wax-filled inscription, found among the general debris of the same building

A gas bracket, salvaged from another house, has been added to what may yet develop into a series of items of street furniture.

The most important item related to local industry came to light during alterations in the bed of the river at Nailsworth. Two wooden scoop-like objects were dug out from below water level. These have been identified as being two blades of a horizontal water-wheel, the first yet found in all England, and probably early medieval in date. A collection of lamps from a local stone mine has been loaned by the Gloucester Speleological Society. Other industrial objects given have included part of a crucible found in the Stroudwater Canal, and a mould probably for making walking stick ferrules, found in a field near Tetbury.

Fossils have been given from several sites around Stroud as well as some particularly interesting ones from Westbury, Fretherne, and the Oxfordshire border. Archaeological finds have been fewer, but include Roman coins found near Uley and an almost complete pot from near Tormarton. Plaster casts have been made of a number of Roman coins found locally, the originals being retained by their owners. Excavations on the site of the moated manor at Kings Stanley have progressed most favourably, and the finds from the site will ultimately be placed at Stroud Museum.

Stroud Museum has been instrumental in locating a number of medieval chimneys, these being rather more numerous than had hitherto been supposed. Medieval buildings, or the remains of them, are at the moment being investigated near Chipping Sodbury, Berkeley and Dursley, and it is hoped that a note on these may be included in a subsequent number of the Bulletin.

Lionel F. J. Walrond

NEW BOOKS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Cotswold Countryside and its Characters : By Eric R. Delderfield

A Medieval Society : By R. H. Hilton

Cheltenham in Pictures : By Bryan Little (See Book Reviews)

Social Geography of British Elections 1885-1910 : By H. Pelling

Bristol As It Was : By R. Winstone

NEW BOOKS IN GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARY

- The Williver Chronicles : Williver's Return:By Alice Mary Hadfield.
Chatto and Windus 1967
- Portrait of the Cotswolds - 2nd Edition 1968 : By Edith Brill.
Robert Hale Ltd.
- The Distant Scene : By Fred Archer. Hodder and Stoughton 1967
- Cotswold Countryman (The Fitzroy edition) : By J. Arthur Gibbs.
MacGibbon and Kee 1967
- The Cotswold Countryside and its characters : By Eric R. Delderfield.
The Ralcoigh Press 10/6
- The Midland and South Western Junction Railway : By Colin G. Maggs.
David & Charles 1967
- Doctors and patients: a relationship examined : By Mark Hodson
Hodder and Stoughton 1967
- The Civil War - Military Memoirs Series.
Richard Atkyns - Edited by Peter Young
John Gwyn - Edited by Norman Tucker
Longmans 1967
- Report of the Rural Youth Research Worker on research in depth carried out
by personal interviews in the village of Frampton-on-Severn :
Published by Gloucestershire County Council, Youth Sub-Committee
(Severn Eastside Group) 1967
- The Silent Multitude : By D. G. Compton. Hodder and Stoughton 1967
- The Solo Vocal Works of Ivor Gurney (1890-1937): By Charles Willard Moore
(Thesis) 10/6
- Notes on the History and Architecture of Sudeley Castle : By Mary Dent
Brocklehurst.
- Cheltenham in Pictures : By Bryan Little. David & Charles 1967
(See Book Reviews)
- Sample Census 1966. England and Wales
County Report - Gloucestershire - General Register Office.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS IN 1967

GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE

Family and estate:

Fulljames and Baker of Hasfield (addnl.): 900 deeds, Hasfield Court and Ashleworth Court estates, 1289, 1529-1915; family settlements, 1805-1917; partnership agreements, Baker of Fenton (Staffs.), china manufacturers, 1833-36.

Croome of Bagendon: deeds and papers, 1775-1962.

Guise of Elmore (addnl.) : survey, 1808.

Kerr of Newnham (addnl.) : deeds, 1670-1864.

Hanbury-Tracy of Toddington (addnl.) : manor court rolls, Didbrook, Ford, Hyde, Pinnock and Toddington, 1659-1825; 600 deeds, Toddington, Hailes and Temple Guiting estates, 1586-1872, Bridgnorth (Salop), 1669-1763, Montgomerys, 1624-1733; Toddington glebe terrier, 1807, parish valuation, 1846.

Solicitors' deposits:

Marcy, Hemingway & Sons: deeds, Twynning, Ashchurch, 1522-1863.

Thurstons & Setchell: deeds, Cromhall, Thornbury, 1668-1917; Thurston family correspondence, 19c.; Thornbury Gas Co. and Primrose League papers, late 19c.; War Tribunal, 1914-18.

Borough:

Wotton-under-Edge market feoffees, deeds, 1628-1828; rent roll, 1731.

Manorial:

Ampney St. Mary, 1658-59, Bisley, 1739-48, Staunton (Coleford), 1769-80, court rolls.

Deeds:

850 for many parishes, from 1562.

Maps:

Estate, Leonard Stanley, c.1775, Westbury-on-Severn, c.1880, Ozleworth, c.1905; inclosure, Longney, 1815, Minsterworth, 1867; parish, Minsterworth, 1871, Tibberton, 1839, Westbury-on-Severn, c.1840; tithe, Longney, Minsterworth, Quedgeley, Sandhurst.

Business:

Stroud Brewery: deeds, 1662-1872; correspondence, 1904-30; press cuttings, 1895-1945.

Bruton, Knowles & Co., estate agents: 8,000 correspondence file, valuations, sale particulars, tenancy agreements of estates, farms, business and commercial property, house agency, Glos. and adj. counties, mid 19c.-1944.
(See Article Page 10)

Official:

Land Tax assessments, N. Glos., 1946-9; correspondence of Chairmen of County Council, 1890-1906, 1930.

Parish Council:

Churchdown, Stonehouse, Twigworth.

Dean and Chapter:

Gloucester Abbey estates, court rolls, 1291, 1351, 1413, deeds, c.1280-1604.

Parish:

Bisley, Coaley, Coleford, Duntisbourne Rous, Dymock, Elmore, Hasfield, Iron Acton, Longney, Lydney with Aylburton, Minchinhampton, Oxenhall, Shorncote, Somerford Keynes, Staunton (Coleford), Stow-on-the-Wold.

Charity:

Bisley, Coaley, Coln St. Denys, Nympsfield.

Nonconformist:

Forest of Dean notes, c.1830.

Schools:

Log books, etc. of 4 schools.

Miscellaneous:

Antiquarian notes on Bibury, early 18c. (Xerox copies); Duntisbourne Rous, 1863-71, Glos. watermills, 1930-60; architectural elevations of Tewkesbury streets, 1958; Anglo-Indian monumental inscriptions in Glos.; thesis on Romanesque sculpture in N.W.Glos.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

12th December, 1967

Archive Teaching Units

The press cuttings about archaeological and historical discoveries are an interesting new feature in the Bulletin. May I, however, make two corrections to the brief excerpt taken from the article in the Times Educational Supplement, about the County Records Office and its archive teaching units ('Signals').

Unfortunately the newspapers's reporter was confused about the role of Gloucestershire's local authorities, and since this Bulletin may be more read by local people some bewilderment may occur among local historians. First, the County Records Office is making "educational capital" not from the city archives, but from county archives - although some Gloucester city

records are illustrated. Second, the Gloucester Journal files dating from 1722 are to be found in Gloucester City Library, not the county library as stated in this article.

The 'Signals' were described more fully in the Bulletin of Spring 1967, and they have now been used with success in a variety of schools since last September. A future set on 'The Poor Law' is being prepared, and an extra set on the 'Turnpike Roads' has been made in order to reduce the waiting list.

Brian S. Smith

Records Office,
Shire Hall,
Gloucester.

EDITOR'S NOTE Apart from the work it might even be a trifle invidious to check all Press accounts included. While regretting the errors and being grateful for their correction, I feel that the experts must get these mistakes put right with the newspapers concerned, preferably before they get quoted.

BOOK REVIEWS

Captain Thomas James and the North-West Passage : Prof. C. M. MacInnes.
Bristol Branch of the Historical Association
Local History Pamphlet No. 19 3/-

"There are a thousand things to be done ...And we had three months and no Aladdin's lamp at our disposal." Heyerdahl's 'Kon-Tiki' 1948. "Now our months of thought, persuasion, listing, and letter-writing took concrete form in the thousands of packing-cases that began to fill her holds." Fuchs and Hillary's 'Crossing of Antarctica' 1958. "Your said subjects, the merchants of Bristoll, have determined to sett out one goode shipp, well furnished ...which shalbe ready in the beginnige of May next." MacInnes 'Captain Thomas James.' There is seemingly a common denominator of all expeditions, namely the pressure of time upon the preliminaries before ever the ship sails. Here is common ground between Captain James of Bristol who sailed in 1631 for Hudson's Bay when engraved charts were new, and the adventurers of the twentieth century. His account of the journey may belong to the national literature of exploration, but Professor MacInnes, by pursuing its origin and preliminaries through the Bristol Merchant Venturers' 'Book of Trade' has been able to put this enterprise into its context in the commercial life of Bristol as a local venture with a local object and a Bristol leader.

Much to our advantage Professor MacInnes does not resist the appeal of a story with strong dramatic elements; there is not only the Merchant Venturers'

frustration by the East India Company's monopoly of Far-Eastern trade; there is also the race between the excluded London merchants and the company of Bristol to capture, and monopolise, an alternative Western route, and the contrast of temperament between their chosen agents; the Londoners' man was Capt. Foxe, the fortunate commander of a 'king's ship' and an old style rule-of-thumb sailor, too young before the mast ever to have learned any social graces; Thomas James, the interesting Bristol choice, was educated, abreast with the newest developments in mathematics and navigational aids, and not a life-time sailor; one who applied his learning and maybe lost a little judgment in the process.

Capt. James had only three months in which to fit out where Capt. Foxe spent a year preparing for an eighteen month voyage; but it seems rather to have been impaired judgment which all but undid James in Hudson's Bay; there, Foxe bolted for home at the onset of winter, and was most unpopular with his backers. Capt. James accomplished no more by conscientiously and miserably wintering on the unsuitable shores of Charlton Island and, returning, was forgiven his lack of success. Had doubts about the value of the passage, and faith in finding it already assailed both men in the autumn of 1631? To judge from the lively extracts given by Prof. MacInnes, the "Voyage" would have been a much duller document had James returned in 1631, but one wonders whether Foxe had not the more hard sense and courage ... in renouncing at once the great faith of merchants, that a workable North-West passage must exist.

In drawing this picture of a Bristol attempt to break a way into the far-eastern trade by new routes with new knowledge, one more interesting and attractive character has been placed in the Bristol scene, and the Historical Association series adds to the knowledge of that side of Bristol life which provokes the curiosity of the visitor when the sea breezes strike his face and a view of Bristol's great buildings seldom excludes the nodding cranes in the Docks below.

Elizabeth Vowles

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Cheltenham in Pictures : By Bryan Little. David & Charles 30/-

This pleasant picture book will be bought eagerly by residents and visitors wanting some general and historical information about this famous and beautiful town. But the "fresh straight look" which describes the book in the publisher's blurb hardly applies to what is clearly intended as a popular work rather than a scholarly historical description. The "curry and colonels" image of Cheltenham was successfully dispelled by Gwen Hart's authoritative "History of Cheltenham" (reviewed in the Autumn 1965 Bulletin) which book is rather meagrely acknowledged by the author. Apart from a section dealing with the contemporary industrial scene and the use of the mid-nineteenth century census figures, there is little that is new in this book.

The pictures are well selected, but some of the delightful old prints suffer from being undated, while those of the iron works are not always located. But Cheltenham should welcome so pictorially useful a guide which is an excellent supplement to more profound historical and archaeological studies.

M.M.

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Gloucestershire Books

The Gloucestershire County Library has compiled, to coincide with its fiftieth anniversary, a most excellent reading list of books about the county. It should be, I would think, an essential reference book not only at the libraries themselves, but in the home of every serious reader or student. It has been compiled by R. A. Carroll, F.L.A., a senior member of the County Library staff, and he is to be congratulated on such a comprehensive list in spite of the fact that there are no pretensions to completeness. Such rarities as the works of Atkyns, Rudder, Fosbrooke and Bigland, which are contained only at Library Headquarters, are not included, nor are highly specialised books, and the list is at present only in draft form. It is to be hoped that it will soon be widely available in its final form.

The contents are as follows :-

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|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Agriculture | General Books |
| Archaeology | Geology |
| Arts | History |
| Bibliography | Individual towns |
| Biography | Industry |
| Church history and
architecture | Maps |
| Cotswolds | Military history |
| Dialect | Natural history |
| Domestic architecture | Place-names |
| Education | Poetry |
| Fiction and children's
books | River Severn |
| Forest of Dean | Sport |
| | Transport |

M.M.

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Gloucestershire Historical Studies - Essays on Local History Records by the University Extra Mural Class at Gloucestershire 1966/67.
Edited by Brian S. Smith University of Bristol Extra Mural Studies

These essays were prepared and compiled in the Gloucestershire Records Office during the winter of 1966/67 at evening classes. The studies are of great interest and full of fascinating detail. There are seven of them, and the first "The Building of Old Frampton Court, Frampton-on-Severn," by

I. Wyatt reveals the costing of building in 1651 taken from an account book of the time. V. C. Neilson deals with the history of cheesemaking, and very moving is K. M. Munn's research into the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor of Coln St. Denys between 1776-1812. J. R. S. Whiting made a study of the Frampton Volunteers for a resume of which see the Press Section of this Bulletin. It seems a pity that so fascinating a booklet cannot have a much wider reading, and it certainly deserves printing.

M.H.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE : A LOCAL HISTORY HANDBOOK

The Community Council propose to publish this booklet in the late summer. Separate chapters describe Gloucestershire libraries and local history books, record offices and archives, museums, fieldwork and places to visit, and local history societies and organisations. The Handbook is intended to explain where Gloucestershire historians should look for their evidence and, briefly the nature of the material available. The joint authors, Alan Jamieson, Senior History Lecturer of St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, and Brian Smith, the County Archivist, have borne in mind particularly the needs of students and teachers as well as general readers. It will be an indispensable tool for Gloucestershire historians of every kind. The price will probably be 3/-.

RECORDS COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL 1952 - 1968

The recently published Report gives an interesting account of the progress made in the Records Office during the second half of its existence. Among events and activities of recent years which are covered in the Report are the accessions of estate and family muniments, gifts of individual records, which range from a deed of 1200 A.D. to the minute books of a defunct golf club.

The Archives of the County continue to accumulate and storage problems will eventually arise. The move to the new block of the Shire Hall has made available a large search room, and there is improved access to the strongrooms.

Service to the public is demonstrated by the increased number of students and enquirers and the many postal enquiries received. The additional service of photocopying of documents made available has been greatly in demand, and a number of organisations have acknowledged the help received from the Records Office in the production of books, articles etc.

The Report concludes with a short handlist of the contents of the Records Office and this alone is well worth the modest price asked of 2/- per copy plus 6d postage.

H.G.B.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

Kingswood and District Historical Society -

Mr. E. Lovell,
148 High Street,
Hanham,
Bristol.

Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club -

Dr. R. M. Humphreys, B.A.,
The Red House,
Painswick,
Glos.

South Cerney Trust, Local History Group -

Mrs. G. A. Perrott,
The Manor House,
South Cerney,
Cirencester.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society -

Miss M. S. Holland, M.A. (Hon. Secretary)
49 Victoria Road,
Cirencester.

Forest of Dean Historical Society -

Canon R. J. Mansfield,
The Vicarage,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Glos.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society -

Mr. A. Pritchard,
10 Orchard Street,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Glos.

Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society -

Miss E. Ralph,
The Council House,
Bristol 1.

Society of Thornbury Folk -

Mrs. A. M. Russell,
Pine Croft,
Alveston,
Bristol.

Olveston Parish Historical Society -

Mr. J. H. Hitchen
5 Orchard Rise,
Olveston,
Nr. Bristol.

(Hon. Secretary)

Bristol Archaeological Research Group -

M. G. Hebditch, M.A.
The City Museum,
Bristol 8.

(Hon. Ass. Secretary)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, LECTURE COURSES, MEETINGS ETC.

THE COTTESWOLD NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Field Meetings 1968

The following dates and places are at this date (i.e. 19th February, 1968) provisional only, because confirmation has not yet been received from all of the persons concerned.

May 3rd.	Leominster Church Eye Manor
May 31st.	Long Ashton and/or Wraxall Church Clevedon Court
June 12th	Brecon Cathedral Llanvihangel Court
June 26th	Bradford-on-Avon The Courts, Holt Westwood Manor
July 4th	Staverton Church Boddington Manor Hartlebury Castle
July 24th	Stonehenge Corsham Court

August 8th	Compton Wynyates
August 29th	Cirencester Excavations Claverton Manor, Bath
September 4th	Kenilworth Castle Charlecote Park
September 26th	Abingdon - Abbey Buildings etc. Milton Manor House

FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme of Meetings for 1968

May 4th	All Day Tour - Salisbury and District
June 8th (2nd Saturday)	A Half Day in the Black Mountains - Tour conducted by Mr. R. L. Court
July 6th	Dodington and District - A Stately Home in South Gloucestershire
September 7th	Chedworth and Witcombe - Two Roman Villas
October 5th	The Annual General Meeting - "The Chairman's Choice" and Elections.
November 2nd	"The History of Church Organs" - Mr. F. W. Rowbotham, at Newnham.
December 7th	To be arranged.

Meetings are at 3 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month unless otherwise stated. The Place of meeting will be indicated in the monthly circular. Occasional meetings will be announced from time to time.