

Transactions  
OF THE  
Shropshire Archaeological  
Society

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1877

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VOLUME LV.

PART II  
(1955-56)

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# SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME LV, 1954 - 56

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# SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## ANNUAL MEETING, 1953

This was held in Shrewsbury Castle, the chair being taken by the President, Sir Offley Wakeman. The Report was presented by Mr. H. Beaumont, who said that the year had been one of increasing interest and growing membership. More enthusiasm for the facilities and activities which the Society provides had been made apparent in many directions. He referred, among other things, to the requests from many parts for help in research, in respect of which Mr. J. L. Hobbs and his staff gave much assistance in the answering of queries. As Chairman of the Council, Mr. Woollam had been present at every meeting, and the Society owed him a debt of gratitude for his devoted leadership. During the year Miss Chitty had completed the index to the first five series of *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, an achievement of notable importance. The passing of several distinguished members of the Society was deeply regretted: Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, a great scholar and a lovable personality; Mr. A. E. Cooper, for more than 40 years Secretary of the Society; Mr. Richard Jebb, a member of the Council; and Mr. D. O. Dyke, Hon. Auditor.

After the business of the meeting, an address was given by Professor E. G. Bowen, M.A., F.S.A., of Aberystwyth University, on "Archaeology and our Early History in Highland Britain." Illustrating his lecture with several maps, he dealt with the inter-relation of tradition and archaeological discovery (such as the supposed re-infusion of Christianity into the west by the family of Maxen Gwledig, as compared with the dedications to saints of that family, and the distribution of early inscribed stones, recently studied by Dr. Nash-Williams). The outstanding theme of his address was the permanence of cultural provinces in Britain, especially the highland areas. A vote of thanks to Professor Bowen was proposed by Miss Chitty, followed by a vote of thanks to the President, proposed by Mr. Woollam, and those attending had the opportunity of discussing their views with informal fervour over their cups of tea, at the kind invitation of the Chairman of the Council.

## ANNUAL MEETING, 1954

The meeting took place in Shrewsbury Castle in May, Sir Offley Wakeman in the Chair. In presenting the Report for the year, Mr. Beaumont said that the Society was in a healthy state and there

had been considerable activity during the period. The problem of Old St. Chad's Church was one that had been in the forefront. With the helpful co-operation of the Parochial Church Council, the Estates Committee of the Town Council and the Borough Officials, a scheme had now been drawn up for the weather-proofing and making safe of the building at an estimated cost of £1,100. The Society had undertaken to try to raise the money by public subscription. He emphasised that the Town Council was not contemplating the assumption of ownership of the building, or major repairs, but, once it had been placed in a satisfactory state, would be prepared to carry out minor work at about £25 a year.

Honours in recent months in which the Society took particular pride and pleasure were the presentation of his portrait to Sir Offley Wakeman by the County Council, the election of Mr. Oldham as F.S.A., and the presentation made by Shrewsbury Corporation to the Rev. R. C. Purton.

In the course of the election of officers and Council, Miss Chitty, proposing the re-election of Mr. John Dyke as Hon. Auditor, remarked on his being the grandson of Mr. J. G. Dyke, who had carried out such excellent work in surveying sections of Watling Street during the time that he was Road Surveyor in the Stretton district.

A lecture was kindly given again this year by Professor E. G. Bowen, who chose as his subject "From Antiquarianism to Archaeology." He outlined the changes of views and methods, from the enthusiasm for the past of our country displayed in the time of the renaissance, through the days of Camden and others, seeking their knowledge by travels and enquiries, and the initial field-work of John Aubrey, to the dawn of modern archaeology in the 19th century, which had then to pass through its phase of casual and haphazard digging. Professor Bowen dealt in particular with a figure prominent in one of the earlier stages of this development, in the person of Edward Lhwyd, who was born at Llanforda, near Oswestry, in 1660. For the purpose of providing matter for Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, he made many journeys into Wales. Lhwyd regarded this as a prelude to a projected work of his own, for the purposes of which he printed a series of the most diverse queries, for distribution in every parish in Wales and the border counties. The work never reached fruition; but many of the queries were answered, and have survived, including those for one Shropshire district, around Oswestry.

Thanks to Professor Bowen for his lecture, and to the President for his services to the Society, were proposed and carried with acclamation.

## ANNUAL MEETING, 1955

Held at Shrewsbury Castle, under the chairmanship of Sir Offley Wakeman. The statement of accounts presented by Mr. Beaumont showed that the credit balance had dropped by a somewhat alarming figure. In his Report he had unfortunately to dwell somewhat on this aspect. On happier subjects, he referred to two exhibitions during the year, in connection with the centenary of Eyton's *Antiquities*, and of Victoriana. The Society had been glad to welcome the visits of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in August and of the Historical Association in January. Two matters gave cause for concern—the rise in the cost of printing, and the lack of young people to succeed their forerunners in membership. The President, in proposing the adoption of the Report, emphasised the need for these young people. The present members of the Council were re-elected, and it was resolved that Mr. John Dyke, the Hon. Auditor, be elected an Hon. Member of the Society.

After the meeting, a most interesting lecture was given by Mr. Graham Webster, M.A., F.S.A., on "The Roman Occupation of the West Midlands." He made a general survey of the period of about 45–75 A.D., and showed how it appeared that Roman intentions at first were aimed only at conquest of the south-east of Britain. The vigorous personality of Caradoc and activities of the irrepressible tribes of the west had much to do with the later developments, resulting in extended conquest instead of mere consolidation. He dwelt on the interesting problem of the site of Caradoc's last battle, but did not venture an opinion beyond feeling unsatisfied with the theory of Lt.-Col. Burne as to a site in the neighbourhood of Purslow.

## FIELD MEETING AT CAUS CASTLE, 1953

An excursion of a type infrequent in the annals of this Society was organised in July, 1953. A visit in the nature of a preliminary survey was made to Caus Castle, under the leadership of Mr. Whitfield, an explanation of the history and importance of the site being given also by Miss Chitty. Caus Castle doubtless deserves far fuller study than it has hitherto received. The commanding situation on which extensive ramparts and ditches, and the remains of its fallen masonry, are placed, makes it greatly impressive, but there is uncertainty as to much of its early character. It has been suggested that in its earliest form it represents an Iron Age camp, the earthworks of which became partly incorporated in the feudal fortifications. The first of these was presumably the motte and bailey stronghold erected by the Corbets of Caux, who gave it the name of their Norman patrimony; this consisted of a raised mound, having a towering but rather narrow-topped motte at the west



end. Then followed the stone castle, some of the work being perhaps of the early 13th century. The mound became an inner bailey, and the motte was crowned by a tower or shell-keep. A community of considerable size was settled in the vicinity, but exactly where is one of the many features of this ancient lordship which remain to be determined.

Despite abominable weather, the visit was well attended, the survey was as thorough as time allowed, and the co-operative leadership contributed much to the interest of the occasion.

### ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1953

Held in September, the excursion this year was into a neighbouring quarter of Wales, once a part of the domain of the Princes of Powys, under the very instructive leadership of Mr. Donald Moore. A glimpse of Offa's Dyke was the appropriate start; and a halt was made at Meifod, the Church at which was consecrated to the Virgin Mary in 1155 in substitution for a Celtic saint. Work of the 12th century is seen in the arcading and such of the squat Norman pillars as remain. The greatest interest was evoked by the sculptural stone, unearthed during one of the restorations and now standing in the Church; in the upper part is carved the figure of Christ, undraped, on a Maltese cross within a circle; this stands on a longer Latin cross, and this and the remainder of the stone contain an intricate medley of ornament. At Mathraval the site of the well defined motte and bailey castle was inspected. Traditionally a seat of the Princes of Powys after the loss of Shrewsbury in the dark ages, it is lacking in known documentary record until the early 13th century. It became a regional capital of presumably restricted importance. At Dolobran Hall, Mr. Moore gave many interesting details of the highly gifted family of Lloyd, to whom it had belonged. The house itself is now mainly rebuilt. At Llanerfyl Church, next visited, the chief interest was again centred on an ancient stone, this one believed to be a tombstone of the 5th or 6th century; it is inscribed in Latin, and refers to a daughter of Paterninus; the place of its finding is understood to have been just outside the Church, at the foot of an ancient yew of extraordinary growth. Other items of interest are the remains of a reredos, and a wooden reliquary.

Tea was taken at Bodfach Hall, the former home of the Kyffin family, now an hotel. After tea, the party had the delightful experience of a recital of Welsh music, with Telynores Powys (Miss Gwladys Mair Hughes) at the harp, and some explanations of Welsh harp music were given by Mr. Moore, who rose further to the occasion by singing several songs. The thanks of those attending were expressed by Sir Offley Wakeman.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1954

The leader for this year's excursion was Mrs. Hayward, and the area visited that of Corvedale and Wenlock Edge. Travelling by Ticklerton and Westhope, the party arrived at Elsyeh, a 16th century house built by Richard Baldwyn of Diddlebury for one of his sons, in the period shortly prior to a scion of the Baldwyn family settling at Stokesay Castle. By kind permission of Mrs. John Owen the house was seen throughout, attractive details being a narrow flight of round stairs of solid oak treads, and a spice-cupboard in the panelling of one of the main rooms. Broncroft Castle was next reached, the castle and grounds being kindly thrown open for inspection by Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Methven-Campbell. Broncroft combines the appearance of the genuinely ancient with the trimness resulting from careful treatment in recent times. Crenellated originally in the 14th century, it was long fortunate in having an uneventful history. Nor did it have to undergo the usual scenes of onslaught in the Civil War; but it suffered to an almost equal extent by being twice "slighted" to avoid its use by the opposing forces—once at the hands of each of them! Internally it is now modernised.

The itinerary brought the party next to More House, visited by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Stokes. The house was thoroughly explored, and questions arose as to whether a chamber or space, to which access is obtained through a trap-door in an upstairs floor, was or was not a secret hiding-place. In a panelled bedroom is a finely carved heraldic over-mantel, with the arms of the Ludlow family (which moved here from Stokesay).

Shipton Hall was viewed from the outside, and a visit paid to Shipton Church. One of its interesting features is the old chest, which has carvings of human figures. The party then reached Millichope Park, where it was greeted by the Headmaster of the school which it now houses. Here the President of the Society was found to have arrived before the party, in his capacity as Chairman of the County Council Education Committee; for the school on this date had an "open day," and by the kindness of the Headmaster, Mr. E. G. Shults, all could wander at will through the building and the extensive grounds. Until the early part of last century old Millichope Hall must have been one of the most picturesque half-timbered mansions in Shropshire. So completely has it vanished that even its exact site is now uncertain. The building which took its place is in Italianate style.

Tea was taken at the Glebe Farm, Munslow, and then the party went on its return journey by way of Stretton.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1955

The Society's Annual Excursion took place on 3rd September, when the Tanat Valley was visited. Mr. T. W. Rogers acted as leader.

The party first visited Sycharth, the home of Owain Glyndwr. The well preserved motte and the bailey were examined and it was possible to distinguish the sites of the former fishponds. It was noticed that, although the small platform on which a church once stood was still visible, it was in danger of obliteration by soil and stones falling from the hillside above it.

The Church at Pennant Melangell was next visited but as the coach proved too wide for the narrow lane the party walked the last two miles to the Church. They were met by the Vicar, Rev. D. P. Wynne Williams, who related the legend of St. Melangell and what was known of the history of the site which was believed to have been occupied by a sacred edifice from early in the sixth century. Members were interested to learn that in a forthcoming repair to the building it was proposed to reassemble the stones of the shrine of St. Melangell, which are now dispersed in various places in the walls of the Church and the gate to the churchyard. (A conjectural restoration of the shrine can be found in *Arch. Camb.* for 1894). The Vicar had also much of interest to say about survivals of old customs in connection with the forms of some of the services at the Church. The walk to and from the Church had seriously disrupted the programme of the day, but it was found possible to pay a visit to Tomen Cefn Lloer (also known as Moel Frochas). This is a motte and bailey on a high spur overlooking Cwm Nantfyllin and giving a sight of Tomen yr Allte, another motte and bailey which had to be omitted from the tour. Members were much impressed by the beauty of the expanse of broken country visible from this site.

Tea was taken at Bodfach Hall, Llanfyllin, where the party was joined by Mr. Donald Moore, Secretary of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, who had kindly arranged for a programme of Welsh music, in which he was joined by two well-known harpists from the locality. This concluded an enjoyable day and, after the President, Sir Offley Wakeman, had thanked those responsible, the party returned to Shrewsbury.

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS

*With a view to conserving space, the following excerpts contain a summary, which is purposely very brief, of such of the items in the actual Minutes as (generally) may seem likeliest to be needed for future reference.*

13th January, 1953.—Two volumes of camera-lucida drawings of Welsh and Border Counties antiquities by Worthington Smith were exhibited. It was decided to retain the volumes in the possession of the Society.—Matters with regard to Old St. Chad's, the "Old Mint," and a black and white house in High Street, Shrewsbury, were reported.

10th February, 1953.—Anxiety was expressed as to a figure of St. Chad, originally over the organ of the old Church, and later in the vestry of the present one, now lying in the open.

10th March, 1953.—The figure last mentioned was reported by Mrs. Paget to be now in a place of safety, and intended to be returned to the old Church.—Mr. Ward reported the present state of the "Old Mint" as probably too extensively ruinous for any improvement.

11th April, 1953.—Miss Sladdin read a report on the "Old Mint" by Mr. J. T. Smith, indicating that it was a unique 13th century town house. It was agreed that the report be sent to the Ministry of Works.—A letter from Mr. Bird was read, asking that action be taken to preserve the tower of the bailey wall of Clun Castle. It was resolved that the matter be referred to the Duke of Norfolk, as owner.

12th May, 1953.—Specimens of flint implements and tools discovered in east Shropshire were shown, including an unusually fine axe from Astol Farm, Stockton, near Shifnal.

9th June, 1953.—Flints and pottery found at Skyborry by Mr. W. A. Cummings were exhibited, and a flint fabricator from Hordley, sent by Mr. Rutter.—Miss Chitty drew attention to danger to an old cottage known as The Ark at Pontesbury. It was agreed that arrangements be made for a photographic record.

14th July, 1953.—Miss Sladdin exhibited a socketed bronze axe from a farm at Silvington.

8th September, 1953.—Mr. Woollam reported that he and Mr. Ward had visited The Ark, Pontesbury, and suggested it was not in a suitable condition to warrant any request for its being scheduled.—Mr. Wingfield's report on Caus Castle was read, stressing the importance of the successive defences on the site, and this was received with interest.

26th September, 1953.—Mr. Wingfield's memorandum on Old St. Chad's Church was directed to be forwarded to the Bishop of Lichfield and the Ministry of Works.

13th October, 1953.—It was agreed that a survey of the site of Caus Castle be commenced.

10th November, 1953.—It was agreed that the Society entertain the Cambrian Archaeological Association to tea at Shrewsbury Castle during the Association's visit in 1954.

8th December, 1953.—Arrangements for an exhibition were made, to be held in 1954, as the centenary of the publication of Eyton's *Antiquities*.

12th January, 1954.—A meeting was arranged with regard to the proposed preservation of Old St. Chad's Church.—Attention was drawn to press reports that Old Parr's Cottage was in need of re-thatching, but it was decided that the Council could not take any steps.

16th February, 1854.—Full reports with regard to Old St. Chad's having been made and discussed, it was resolved that the Council proceed with the launching of a public appeal for funds for its preservation.—An offer from Mr. Elliott, of Bridlington, to index transcripts of Parish Registers, having been received, it was agreed that he be allowed to borrow transcripts for the purpose, their loan to be at the discretion of Mr. Hobbs.—Miss Chitty exhibited a double-ended core implement found at Cross Green Farm, Berwick, near Shrewsbury, a conical butted axe found at Attingham Park, a grey flint axe found at Harpfield, Stow, and a small, flat, circular stone found at Bishop's Castle.

9th March, 1954.—Mrs. Thickpenny reported that Shrewsbury Town Council had now accepted a recommendation of its Estates Committee to undertake to maintain the building of Old St. Chad's after the initial work of restoration had been carried out by public subscription. The Council extended sincere thanks to Mrs. Thickpenny for her work in connection with this matter. A sub-committee was formed to raise funds for restoration.

13th April, 1954.—Mr. Purton was congratulated on the honour conferred on him by the Town Council, by the presentation of a sealed engrossment of the resolution of thanks to him for his work as Hon. Palaeographer for 23 years.—Various developments with regard to Old St. Chad's were reported.

11th May, 1954.—A letter was read with regard to Madeley Court. It was agreed that our Society could not contribute to the very large sum which would be needed in case of restoration, but that enquiry be made of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings for suggestions, and that a photographic survey be

requested of the National Buildings Record.—A report as to Old Parr's Cottage was considered, and arrangements for a visit of inspection made.

*8th June, 1954.*—The Secretary read a letter from Mr. C. S. Woollam in which he indicated that, because of his inability to continue to attend regularly, he wished to resign from the office of Chairman. Mr. J. B. Oldham was unanimously elected Chairman in his place. Mr. Oldham then on behalf of the Council expressed his great regret at Mr. Woollam's resignation. He said that Mr. Woollam had been a member of the Council for more than a quarter of a century, and Chairman for twelve years; all members would be grateful to Mr. Woollam for his tactful and cheerful control of its discussions. A letter from the President was read, in which Sir Offley expressed similar regret at the resignation, and appreciation of Mr. Woollam's services. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Mr. Woollam expressing the appreciation of the President, Chairman and Council.

*13th July, 1954.*—The Chairman referred to the great loss suffered by the Society on the death of Mr. W. J. Slack. He had always been regarded with affection by his colleagues in the Society, and in his particular field of scholarship had brought distinction to the Society by his contributions, and his book, *The Lordship of Oswestry*, had been recognised as a most valuable work.—A sub-committee report was made as to a proposed exhibition illustrating aspects of life in the 19th century. By courtesy of Mr. Geo. Trevelyan, permission had been given for this to be held at Attingham Hall.—The Secretary reported the result of his visit to Old Parr's Cottage, and it was agreed that his report be communicated to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

*7th September, 1954.*—Mrs. Thickpenny reported that the Old St. Chad's Appeal Fund had brought in £586 to date.—Mrs. Paget was heartily congratulated on the exhibition (as to the Eyton Centenary) staged at the Shirehall.—Mr. T. W. Rogers, of Oswestry, was unanimously elected a member of the Council.—The Secretary pointed out the heavy cost of the printing of Transactions in relation to income. The matter was referred to the Editorial Committee for consideration.

*12th October, 1954.*—The Editorial Committee reported on the financial necessity of reducing Transactions by about half.—Matters with regard to the exhibition at Attingham, the state of Madeley Court, and the present disfigurement of some Shrewsbury buildings, were discussed.

*9th November, 1954.*—Mrs. Paget reported that £23 had been collected during the second week of the Attingham Exhibition.—Mr. Hobbs exhibited a small bronze figure, identified as Roman, found at Lydbury North.

*14th December, 1954.*—Mr. Oldham reported on a visit to Madeley Court. It was agreed to write to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings as regards suggestions of a possible industrial museum there.—Miss Chitty mentioned that she was referring to the Ministry of Works the question of scheduling parts of the Celtic fields area on the Longmynd, and also the need of observation on possible excavations on the site of the camp at Kynnersley.

*8th February, 1955.*—The Chairman referred to the Society's great loss on the death of Miss H. M. Auden, who had been for more than half a century one of its most distinguished members, and had been both a Vice-President and past Chairman of the Council. He said that she had been concerned in every one of the Society's activities, and it would be difficult to say where her influence had been most strongly felt. She had brought to her work on the Council great gifts of intellect and personality.

The Council unanimously invited the Rev. R. C. Purton and Mr. C. S. Woollam to become Vice-Presidents of the Society in appreciation of their services.

It was agreed that Mr. Wilmott be asked to submit a summary of the excavation work undertaken at Nesscliffe by boys of the Priory School.

*8th March, 1955.*—Suggestions with regard to the possible printing of a History of Whitchurch Grammar School by Mr. J. Clarke, and as to matters relating to the Old Rectory, Hopton Wafers, were discussed.

*12th April, 1955.*—The proposed scale of charges for printed copies of Parish Registers, as submitted by Mrs. Hayward, was agreed upon.—It was agreed that the Secretary be allowed for his own use one complete set of Transactions free; also that a bound set of Transactions given by Miss Auden's Executors be kept at the Borough Library for the use of members of the Society. Thanks were to be expressed to the Rev. E. G. Auden for the gift of many of Miss Auden's books.

*10th May, 1955.*—It was reported that the Ministry of Works asked for assurances that in the event of the Ministry paying the first £250 on the cost of work on the external walls of Old St. Chad's this Society would undertake the cost over and above that figure, and further make a first payment of £50 before commencement of the work. The Secretary was authorised to give these assurances.

*14th June, 1955.*—The Secretary was authorised to send reminders to some members under Rule 4 of the Society.

*12th July, 1955.*—A typescript copy of the Ashford Bowdler Register prepared by Mrs. Beesly was laid before the Council. The Secretary was asked to convey thanks to Mrs. Beesly.—Matters

with regard to 17th century relics of Thomas Lyster in Atcham Church, and the possible publication of the autobiography written by him, were considered.

*13th September, 1955.*—It was reported that the original manuscript of this autobiography was now in the possession of Mrs. Hawkesley, of Oswestry, and that she and Canon Inge, who had prepared a copy and other details, would consent to its publication. —A report as to the History of Whitchurch Grammar School was considered, and it was agreed that Mr. Peele's observations on this be sent to Mr. Clarke.

*11th October, 1955.*—It was agreed that associate members have the right to purchase Transactions at the price charged to members. —Agreed that the Society should offer Dr. Wainwright all possible help in proposed excavations at Chirbury, and that Mr. Rogers and Mr. J. D. K. Lloyd should represent the Society in this ; and that Mr. Thomas be invited to submit a report on excavations undertaken by him at Greystones, in the Clun district.—It was unanimously decide to invite Mr. Graham Webster to become a member of the Society with a view to providing information about archaeological work in the Midlands.

*7th November, 1955.*—Mr. Oldham reported that he had consulted Archdeacons, who had agreed to encourage incumbents to deposit Parish Registers at the County Record Office.—Miss Chitty was joined as a further representative of the Society with those in consultation with Dr. Wainwright as to excavations at Chirbury.

*5th December, 1955.*—The Secretary reported that Mr. Graham Webster had willingly agreed to be elected Hon. Adviser and *ex-officio* member of the Council. The Council unanimously decided to confirm these appointments ; and that the Bishop of Shrewsbury be invited to become a member of the Council.



## RULES

1. The Society shall be called the "Shropshire Archaeological Society (with which is incorporated the Shropshire Parish Register Society)."

2. The Council shall consist of the following persons in whom the management of the Society shall be vested, that is to say:—The President, Vice-Presidents, the Editorial Committee, Hon. Treasurer, Secretary and other officers, and not less than twelve other members. Any vacancy which may occur in the Council, or in the office of Secretary or Treasurer, shall be provisionally filled by the Council.

3. A General Meeting of the Members shall be held annually at such place as the Council shall appoint. The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall have power to call an extraordinary General Meeting on giving through the Secretary a fortnight's notice to the Members.

4. The Subscription of each Member shall be paid in advance to the Secretary or Treasurer, and shall be the annual sum of One Guinea. If any Member's subscription shall be in arrears for two years, and he shall neglect to pay his subscription after being reminded by the Secretary, he shall be regarded as having ceased to be a Member of the Society.

5. The objects of the Society shall be carried out with the honorary assistance of the Members, and the funds of the Society shall be disbursed in printing and illustrating such information as shall be contributed by the Members searching for and transcribing public records, and other objects approved of by the Council, and for the necessary expenses of the Society, including the care of the excavations at Uriconium.

6. Contributors of papers shall be entitled to twelve copies of such articles as they may contribute.

7. Every Member not in arrear of his annual subscription will be entitled to one copy of every publication of the Society.

8. The Council shall determine what number of each publication shall be printed.

9. No alteration shall be made in the Rules of the Society except at the Annual Meeting, or a General Meeting called for the purpose.

# SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1956

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## SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY)

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1952-53-54

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1952 Balance brought forward ... ..	236	12	2			
Receipts (including transfer mentioned below)	790	1	6			
Payments ... ..				381	3	8
Balance carried forward ... ..				645	10	0
	<u>£1,026</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>£1,026</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>
1953 Balance brought forward ... ..	645	10	0			
Receipts ... ..	174	6	10			
Payments ... ..				278	8	6
Balance carried forward ... ..				541	8	4
	<u>£819</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>£819</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>
1954 Balance brought forward ... ..	541	8	4			
Receipts ... ..	208	12	6			
Payments ... ..				475	16	6
Balance carried forward ... ..				274	4	4
	<u>£750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>£750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>

The Shropshire Parish Register Society (Special Fund) balance £448 2s. 0d., was transferred to the General Fund (Deposit Account) on the 9th July, 1952.

The Shropshire Historical Society and Antiquities Fund was closed, and the balance of £130 16s. 6d. given to the Old St. Chad's Church Restoration Appeal Fund, on the 27th September, 1954.

# SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY)

## ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1955

### RECEIPTS

To Balance in hand, 1st January, 1955	£	s.	d.
" Subscriptions	274	4	4
" Sale of Parish Registers	184	0	6
" Sale of other publications	13	7	3
" Receipts from Annual Excursion	17	14	10
" Visitors to Rowley's House	11	16	6
" Dividends, £50, 3½% War Stock	8	7	1
" Deposit Account Interest	1	15	0
" Postages refunded	2	12	4
	1	6	3

£515 4 1

### PAYMENTS

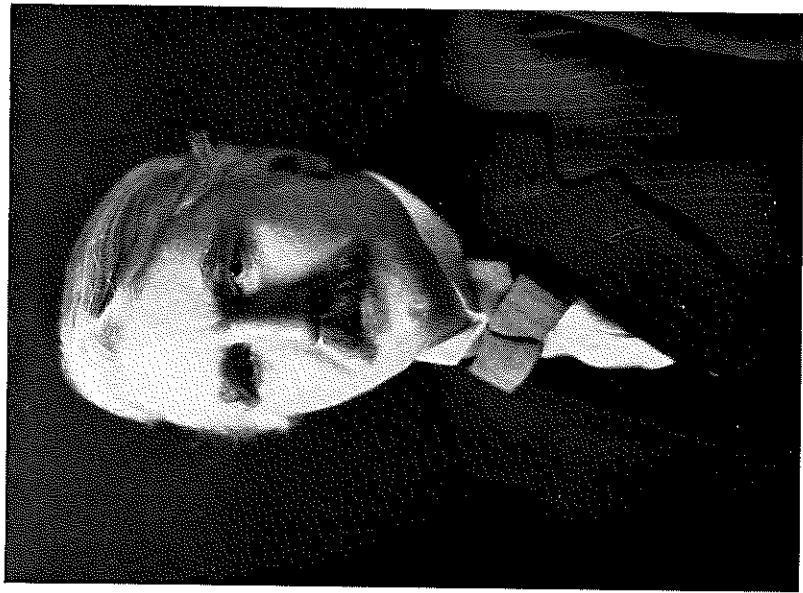
By Printing Transactions, Vol. 55, Part I	£	s.	d.
" Printing, Stationery, Postages, etc.	190	5	0
" Salary of Secretary	23	17	7
" Expenses, Annual General Meeting	25	0	0
" Expenses, Annual Excursion	1	0	0
" Purchase of Bound Parish Registers	13	14	6
" Balance in hand, 31st December, 1955	5	11	6
	255	15	6

£515 4 1





THE LATE MISS H. M. AUDEN, F.R.HIST.S.



THE LATE MR. C. S. WOOLLAM

# SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## OBITUARY

MISS H. M. AUDEN, F.R.HIST.S.

For some sixty years the name of Auden has been one of those which ranked as of sterling quality among Shropshire archaeologists. Daughter of the late Prebendary Thomas Auden, and sister of the late Rev. J. E. Auden, Miss Auden was always their companion in the research work that they carried out, and the last to continue the tradition of scholarship of her family.

Henrietta Mary Auden was born at Dedham, Essex, and was aged seven on first coming to Shropshire when her father had accepted the incumbency of Ford. Her childhood days there were looked back on as of great happiness, and her lively interest in everything around her was a characteristic feature throughout her days. In 1879 her father moved to St. Julian's Vicarage, Shrewsbury, and in 1892 to Condover, where they lived until going to reside at Church Stretton in 1908. Of constant assistance to her father in parochial as well as archaeological work, she served on the Records Committee of the County Council and on various local committees, and her helpfulness and sound judgment were appreciated by the many people with whom she came in contact in these and other ways.

One of her earliest of antiquarian activities arose when the Rev. Allport Leighton, who had made notes and extracts for a history of St. Julian's Parish, handed these over to her to put into shape under her father's editorship. She was subsequently one of the committee for arranging and cataloguing the documents of Shrewsbury Corporation, and contributed steadily to the labours of that committee throughout its period of five years, the results of which were printed in 1896. Two chapters of *Memorials of Old Shropshire* (1906) were by her. As a member of the Shropshire Archaeological Society, her active work was spread over many years, and she fulfilled the duties of Chairmanship of the Council from 1931 to 1945. The work of the Parish Register Society was one of her chief interests; she had copied the Ford Register, and helped with the copying and collating of many others, including that of Wellington, on which she was engaged during the last years of her life. Her knowledge of Shropshire family history came to be regarded as something that could be called encyclopædic; perhaps it is appropriate to say that her own kindliness of character expressed itself largely in the human interest of this study. The

long residence in Condover endeared that district to her, possibly more than any other; her work often related to it, and her only publication as a separate work was *Notes on Condover* (1932).

Miss Auden died early in 1955, aged 92. The following is a list of her contributions to the Transactions of this Society (apart from a considerable number included in *Miscellanea*):—

(Annotations to) The Shropshire Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327 (1889, etc.); Shrewsbury Corporation Insignia (1892); Shropshire Five Hundred Years Ago (1903); Notes on Alberbury (1908); Shropshire Hermits and Anchorites (1909); Borough-English and the Manor of Ford (1916-17); The Penderel Annuities in 1665 (1918-19); Medieval Enclosures in Shropshire (1927-28); The Blakeway Family (1947-48); Frodesley (1947-48).

M.P.

#### C. S. WOOLLAM

Charles Samuel Woollam, who died on 12th June 1956 in his 87th year, was born at Maesbury. Although of a farming family, he chose journalism as his career, starting as a junior reporter with the *Border Counties Advertiser* at Oswestry. He soon moved to Shrewsbury, prospered in his career, and eventually became a director of the firm owning that newspaper. His newspaper work gave him an interest in politics, particularly local politics, and in that field he found ever widening scope for his qualities of mind and personality. He was co-opted to the Shrewsbury Borough Council in 1917, and with the end of the first world war was returned unopposed as member for the Welsh Ward, holding the Ward until he was elected as Alderman in 1935. In 1936 he was elected County Councillor for the Welsh Division of Shrewsbury.

Of his many public offices, the following are but a small selection. He was a Justice of the Peace, a member of at least seven Shrewsbury Council Committees, a Governor of Salop Royal Infirmary, a Trustee of the West Midland Savings Bank, Chairman of Allatt's Trust, Chairman of Shrewsbury Hospitals Carnival Committee, and a Commissioner of Taxes for Shrewsbury Division. As Chairman of the Boundaries Special Committee, he gave notable assistance in the revision of the boundaries of the Borough in 1934, and as a member of the West Midland Joint Electricity Authority he helped to negotiate the transfer of the town's electricity undertaking to the W.M.J.E.A. He was a Manager of several schools in the Borough and in the Montford and Maesbury districts. In 1929 he received the highest honour Shrewsbury can offer when he was elected Mayor. In the business life of the town he was equally active, for in addition to being a director of Woodall, Minshall, Thomas & Co., he was a director of Shrewsbury Empires Ltd., and Chairman of Directors of Livesey & Co.

Mr. Woollam joined the Shropshire Archaeological Society on 22nd February 1927. He was elected to the Council on 17th March 1936 and became Chairman in July, 1945. Until failing health compelled him to relinquish the office in May 1954, he missed only one meeting of the Council during his nine years as Chairman. He was wholeheartedly devoted to the work of the Society, especially those aspects of it dealing with the preservation of historic monuments and records. During the difficult years of the war, he constantly visited Uriconium to supervise its preservation, and he represented the Society in the negotiations which resulted in the acquisition of the site by the Ministry of Works. The Society's excursions and general meetings were a joy to him, providing an opportunity for him to meet and talk with members from all parts of the county. Nothing gave him keener pleasure than this contact with other members.

As Chairman of the Council he was outstandingly successful. His business experience, agile mind, genial and forceful personality, above all his tremendous zeal for all branches of the Society's work, gave intensity, purpose, and a spirit of cordial friendliness to every meeting.

Charles Woollam was the last of a generation in the Society—a generation which could recall the days of Queen Victoria and could remember men long since passed away and places vastly changed. Those who enjoyed his hospitality at Brooklands are not likely to forget the gusto and accuracy of his reminiscences of Shrewsbury and the county at the turn of the century; living history interpreted by a most acute eyewitness. Men, politics, buildings, farms, factories—all that formed the life of Salopians of his day was recollected with delight, and narrated with enthusiasm. In his knowledge of his day and age Charles Woollam was unique and superb.

To hear him re-live the past was a joy and a privilege we shall not experience again. The overwhelming regret is that his knowledge died with him, and was never given permanency in writing.

In a generation of individualists, Charles Woollam stood out. He loved his county and his fellow men: above all he cared for the things for which this Society cares. He will be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

H.B.

## EDRIC OF BAYSTON

BY J. F. A. MASON, M.A., D.PHIL.

There are few persons more obscure than the great majority of the Englishmen who held land in England in 1066 and were inevitably dispossessed during the course of the next twenty years; this note deals tentatively with the identity of one of them. According to Domesday Book, the small manor of Bayston (just south of Shrewsbury) had been held in 1066 by one Edric; the latter had held the manor of the Bishop of Hereford, but he could not alienate the manor from the Bishop because it was assigned to the maintenance of the Bishop's table and had on that account been leased to Edric for Edric's life only. Now, in 1086, Bayston appears in Domesday Book as held by William Pantulf of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury; but at the side of the entry is inscribed the letter "k" for "kalumpnia," to denote that there was a dispute about the tenure of the manor.<sup>1</sup>

Eyton's account of this manor is short and in need of slight revision<sup>2</sup>; in 1929, however, there was published by Professor V. H. Galbraith an important article entitled "An Episcopal Land-Grant of 1085,"<sup>3</sup> to which these present comments are a footnote. Professor Galbraith there edited a document which recorded two separate arrangements made in 1085 (after 27th March) between Robert, Bishop of Hereford, and the Marcher tenant-in-chief Roger de Lacy. By the first of these arrangements the Bishop granted Holme Lacy in Herefordshire to Roger for life in return for military service; by the second the Bishop granted Onibury in Shropshire to Roger in return for an annual rent. The second arrangement was witnessed by three persons who did not witness the first; of these three additional witnesses the second was "Edricus de uuendloc" (*i.e.* Wenlock) and the third "alter Edricus dapifer." Professor Galbraith proceeded to write as follows of Edric of Bayston: "Edric, who must surely be either Edric de Wenlock or Edric Pincerna [*sic*] mentioned in the charter [of 1085], seems to have died on the eve of the [Domesday] Survey, for the entry is noted with a K(alumpnia) in the margin of Domesday, showing that the case was still in dispute"; the same authority writes further that "it seems most unlikely that the reference is to Edric the Wild, as Eyton says".<sup>4</sup>



These two suggestions are eminently reasonable: as to the first, some connexion between these two obscure Edrics and the see of Hereford seems necessary to explain why those two Englishmen should attest the Onibury grant at all; such a connexion would to some extent be provided if one of the two then held Bayston of the see, particularly as the undisputed possessions of the see of Hereford in Shropshire (of which, of course, that see covered only the southern half) were in 1086 limited to Onibury itself and the much larger manor of Lydbury North. It is perhaps also worth mentioning that "Edric," though not a rare Old English name in the eleventh century, was also not one of the commonest ones;<sup>5</sup> the likelihood that the Edric of the charter is the same man as the Edric of Domesday is greater than it would have been had the name involved been, for instance, Ælfric. More relevant may be the fact that the see of Hereford succeeded in making good its claim to Bayston against the Earl and his tenant, or their successors;<sup>6</sup> the see is the more likely to have done this the longer its connexion with the manor through Edric subsisted; if, as suggested, Edric of Bayston was still alive in 1085, though apparently dead by 1086, the see had the argument of very recent possession in its favour. As to Professor Galbraith's disinclination to identify Edric of Bayston with Edric the Wild, it is unlikely on chronological grounds that this latter Edric can have survived as late as 1085; he was brother's son to Edric Streon,<sup>7</sup> who had died as long ago as 1017. Edric the Wild himself was one of the chief landholders in Shropshire and Herefordshire in 1066, but he rebelled against the Conqueror, and though later reconciled to him is not further heard of after 1072; all the estates held by him in 1066 had by 1086 (and probably long before that date) passed into the hands of Normans.<sup>8</sup>

Here it is proposed to show that, if Professor Galbraith's assumption that one of the two Edrics of the land-grant held Bayston is correct, then the possibility that Edric of Bayston was Edric of Wenlock can be discounted, and that Edric of Bayston was in fact the other Edric of the grant. Professor Galbraith refers to the latter as Edric Pincerna (*i.e.* the butler), but in fact the attestation is by Edric Dapifer (*i.e.* the steward).

There are two grounds for this belief: Edric of Wenlock occurs, by that name, as a witness to another transaction which is later than the grant of Onibury in 1085; and an Edric who must surely

be identical with Edric of Wenlock occurs in Domesday Book. To take the attestation first: "Adric de Wenlock" occurs among the witnesses to a transaction which is recorded in a document printed and discussed by Eyton,<sup>9</sup> a document which recites the gifts made to the Collegiate Church at Quatford near Bridgnorth, on the occasion of its endowment by and consecration in the presence of Earl Roger of Shrewsbury. It is doubtful whether the original or originals on which this Quatford document is based still survive, but a facsimile of the latter was first published shortly after Eyton had discussed its text,<sup>10</sup> and published again, as part of a substantial article on the Collegiate Church itself, in 1927, when the document as we know it was investigated by the late Dr. A. Hamilton Thompson<sup>11</sup> and was by him held to have been no more than a comparatively modern version<sup>12</sup> of a much earlier abstract which itself gave the content of original charters now apparently lost; that it gives a correct account of actual events was accepted by Eyton and Thompson, and (implicitly) by J. H. Round,<sup>13</sup> who by no means always saw eye to eye with Eyton.

Eyton had no difficulty in assigning the events recorded in this Quatford text to the period between Christmas 1085 (when bishop Robert of Chester, one of the witnesses, was named to his see) and September 1087 (when William I, to whose time the document expressly refers the events which it records, died). There has, indeed, been general agreement that the consecration of Quatford Church took place on 22nd July (the day of St. Mary Magdalene, to whom the Church is dedicated) in the year 1086; Eyton himself saw a MS. in which this date was given by the Bridgnorth antiquary William Hardwicke (1772-1843) (Registrar of the Royal Peculiar of Bridgnorth and discoverer there of this Quatford text itself) and thought, though perhaps mistakenly, that Hardwicke had some special reason for the attribution of this date. (Hardwicke may surely have based his date on the evidence of the document alone). It would seem, however, despite the unanimity of those who have considered the point, that there is no firm evidence to show whether the year is 1086 or 1087. According to Hamilton Thompson, three or perhaps even four charters have gone to the making of this late summary of the events attending the endowment and consecration of Quatford Church. As "Adric"<sup>14</sup> of Wenlock was a witness to one of these presumed documents which effected a gift made on the day of consecration itself, it therefore follows, if the date 22nd July

be accepted, that Edric of Wenlock was alive on 22nd July in either 1086 or 1087—*i.e.*, at a date later than the date of the Onibury land-grant.

There remains the evidence of Domesday Book. In that record a certain Edric son of Aluric (*i.e.* Ælfric) appears as the tenant of the Shropshire Manor of Bourton (in Upper Corvedale) under the Priory of St. Milburga at Much Wenlock; and a son of Aluric whose name is not given held of St. Milburga an unnamed manor identified by Eyton with Hughley (beneath Wenlock Edge).<sup>15</sup> Eyton regarded this Edric son of Aluric and the unnamed son of Aluric as being one and the same person and also as identical with the Edric of Wenlock of the Quatford text,<sup>16</sup> and his conclusion cannot reasonably be doubted.<sup>17</sup> No other tenants of St. Milburga are named in Domesday, and it is natural therefore that Edric should outside Domesday occur as Edric "of Wenlock", the more so since both his manors were very near Much Wenlock, Bourton being three miles away and Hughley four. Edric's position as tenant, in all probability sole tenant, of the Priory would account for his attestation (together, incidentally, with Richard, monk of Wenlock) of one of the charters issued in connexion with the endowment and consecration of Quatford Church, events which were accompanied by an exchange of manors between Earl Roger and Wenlock Priory itself. (This exchange<sup>18</sup> is evidenced by another of the charters which are presumed to lie behind our Quatford document). More important, Edric's position as tenant of the Priory would do something to account for his attestation of the bishop of Hereford's grant of Onibury in 1085; that grant concerned Shropshire, and the Shropshire house of St. Milburga had from the time of its foundation lain within the diocese of Hereford. In his way, Edric of Wenlock was, as an English tenant of St. Milburga, a desirable witness of an unusual kind. All in all, it can scarcely be doubted that Edric of Wenlock in the charter of 1085 issued by the Bishop of Hereford, "Adric" of Wenlock in the charter concerning Quatford church which passed in 1086 or 1087, and Edric, Domesday tenant of Bourton, a manor held under and lying three miles from the Priory of Wenlock, were one and the same man.

Edric of Wenlock's appearance as a witness to our Quatford text is probably later than his appearance in Domesday Book. This is certainly the case if the Quatford text is dated to 22nd July 1087; it is almost certainly the case if that text is to be dated to

22nd July 1086: formal proof is lacking, but there seems every likelihood that the information given in Domesday Book reflects a state of affairs which is at least earlier in date than late July 1086.<sup>19</sup>

A consideration of these details leads at last to the following deduction: if Edric of Wenlock was alive at the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, being indeed a witness to a charter which is very probably later in date than that Survey, then the Edric of Bayston who was apparently dead before the making of the Domesday Survey, if he is identical with one of the two Edrics who witnessed the Onibury grant of 1085, cannot be identified with Edric of Wenlock, but is to be identified with Edric the Steward. Edric of Wenlock did not die on the eve of the Survey, for he was alive when it was taken, and was very probably alive at a slightly subsequent date, or even in the year 1087.

In his article of 1929 Professor Galbraith was concerned to underline the post-Conquest results of the custom whereby before 1066 the "demesne" lands of English churches were held on leases for life, and in a footnote he instanced, beside the case of Edric of Bayston, that of "Ailbertus" the steward ("dapifer") who in 1066 held a manor on a life lease from the abbey of Ely.<sup>20</sup> Professor Galbraith treated Edric as butler ("pincerna") and not as steward, and left open the question of his identity. If, as suggested here, Edric of Bayston was Edric the Steward, he and "Ailbertus" obviously stood on exactly the same footing: each was at once a life-tenant and the most important official of a pre-Conquest ecclesiastical magnate.

The establishment, however tentatively, of the identity of a minor pre-Conquest landholder mentioned in Domesday is an exercise the opportunity for which occurs but rarely—in this instance only by reason of the lucky accident that an obscure Domesday tenant, Edric of Wenlock, is mentioned twice outside Domesday Book itself. In conclusion, we may say that it seems likely that Edric who held Bayston of the see of Hereford in 1066 as a life-tenant was in fact the bishop's steward; that he survived until 1085, when, as the bishop's most important official, he witnessed a land-grant concerning Onibury in Shropshire and involving the payment of a rent to the Bishop's officers; that he died<sup>21</sup> within about a year of the issue of that charter and was replaced by William Pantulf, who was doubtless moved by consideration of

the proximity in which Bayston lay to his own manor of Great Norton; that the ownership of the manor was in consequence in dispute at the time of the Domesday Survey; and that the see of Hereford then or later recovered its rights in Bayston.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday Book*, i. 257 b (the four columns found on the normal folio of volume i of *DB* are here denoted a, b, c and d): "Edric tenuit de episcopo de Hereford, et non poterat ab eo div rtere, quia de victu suo erat et ei presterat tantum in vita sua" (Cf. *V. C. H. Shropshire*, i (London, 1908) 332).

<sup>2</sup> R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vi (1858) 298-300. Eyton's gloss on the last six words just quoted seems at fault; for his improbable identification of Edric see below.

<sup>3</sup> *English Historical Review*, xlv (1929) 353-72; the text of the document is on pp. 371-2.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 364 and n. 2.

<sup>5</sup> The name fills three whole pages in O. von Feilitzen, *The Pre-Conquest Personal Names of Domesday Book* (Uppsala, 1937), pp. 233-6, but a large number of the references are to the East Anglian magnate Edric of Laxfield. Other Edrics in 1066 were Edric of Alham (Kent), Edric the Wild, a Herefordshire Edric (possibly identical with Edric the Wild) who was succeeded by Roger de Lacy, and a Wessex Edric succeeded by Arnulf de Hesdin.

<sup>6</sup> Eyton, vi. 299.

<sup>7</sup> B. Thorpe, Florence of Worcester, *Chronicon ex Chronicis* (London, 1849), ii. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Edric is noticed in the D.N.B.; the references to him were discussed by Eyton (iii (1856) 48-50) and Freeman (*Norman Conquest*, iv (2nd ed., rev., Oxford, 1876) Note E, where (p. 737) the identity of Edric of Bayston is left an open matter. "Edric" occurs 33 times in the Shropshire Domesday; but only six manors are expressly attributed to "Edric the Wild."

<sup>9</sup> Eyton, i (1854) 109-112.

<sup>10</sup> G. L. Wasey, *Our Ancient Parishes . . .* (Bridgnorth, 1859), opp. p. 26.

<sup>11</sup> W. G. Clark-Maxwell, "The College of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth . . .", in *Archaeological Journal*, lxxxiv (1927) 1-4, where Hamilton Thompson contributed the commentary on the charter. (The College itself was removed by Earl Roger's son to Bridgnorth from Quatford).

<sup>12</sup> Of early 18th century date, according to Thompson; up to a century older according to the late Dr. W. Watkins-Pitchford, who some years ago kindly gave me his views on the Quatford text.

<sup>13</sup> J. H. Round, *Calendar of Documents preserved in France* (London, 1899), p. xlii.

<sup>14</sup> In 1927 "Adric" was read as "Aldric," but study of the facsimile as a whole shows that "Adric" is correct. For Domesday examples of "Ædricus" see von Feilitzen, pp. 233-4.

<sup>15</sup> *DB* i, 252 d, *V.C.H. Shropshire*, i, 313; Eyton, vi. 302.

<sup>16</sup> Eyton, i. 112, iii. 300, vi. 302.

<sup>17</sup> Edric is a natural name for a son of Ælfric, for (as was the Old English habit) the son's name utilises one of the two elements in the father's. Probably Edric's name was omitted at Hughley because that entry occurs after the Bourton one; the Hughley entry, indeed, has the look of having been squeezed in as an afterthought.

<sup>18</sup> Eyton, i. 109, iv. (1857) 1.

<sup>19</sup> The Shropshire Domesday (*DB* i. 258 c; Eyton, iv. 1; *V.C.H. Shropshire*, i. 337) describes the manor of Millichop in such a way as to show that the exchange of it with St. Milburga made by Earl Roger, as part of his foundation of Quatford Collegiate Church, had not taken effect when the manor was surveyed. That exchange, however, was not necessarily made on the day of consecration itself, being effected by another in the series of charters by which (it has been deduced) Roger established his new foundation. We can only assume, not that Domesday is earlier than the day of consecration, but that Domesday is earlier than the presumed charter in question, which may itself be either earlier or later than that day.

<sup>20</sup> *E.H.R.* xliv. 364 and n. 3.

<sup>21</sup> The possibility that he was ejected, after peaceable possession apparently for so long, seems a small one.

# AN INVESTIGATION OF AN EARTHWORK AT LINLEY HILL, MORE

BY GRAHAM WEBSTER

This excavation was carried out in July and September 1954 by members of the Shrewsbury Research Group of the Shropshire Archaeological Society.<sup>1</sup> Thanks are due to the owner-occupier, Mr. Parker, who, after an unfortunate misunderstanding, allowed the work to be completed.

The small square earthwork which lies near the summit of Linley Hill, More, in South Shropshire (Nat. Grid. Ref. 50/362955) has been described and illustrated<sup>2</sup>. On inspection it appears to be square in plan, measuring 96 ft. from the crests of the ramparts and the corners are rounded. No entrances are visible but a slight dip in the rampart on the centre of the N.E. side was thought might have indicated one but investigation proved otherwise.

The first trench was cut across the S.E. side. A V-shaped ditch was revealed, 4 ft. 6 ins. deep and 10 ft. across, with a slightly steeper slope on the inner face. The bottom 12 ins. was filled with soft sandy silt, no doubt the primary silting. Above this was a layer 1 ft. 3 ins. thick of brownish silt and stones from the denuded rampart, and above that 2 ft. of dirty brown filling which may have been the result of a deliberate attempt to fill in the ditch at some time, for there is no surface indication of its presence. Beyond the ditch and rising from its edge stood the rampart, about 18 ft. wide and still standing to a height of 3 ft. from the outside ground level. The rampart had been carefully built up in layers with loose sand in the middle; the main constituent, a brown stony layer, appeared to have a turfy character. The rampart seemed to have been built into a shelf cut into the natural subsoil which has a gentle slope towards the S.E. The trench was continued to the centre of the earthwork but no further trace of structure or any occupation material was found. A small area was stripped in the east corner, again without revealing anything, and a trench cut through the N.E. side to examine the possibility of a gate being there, again without result.

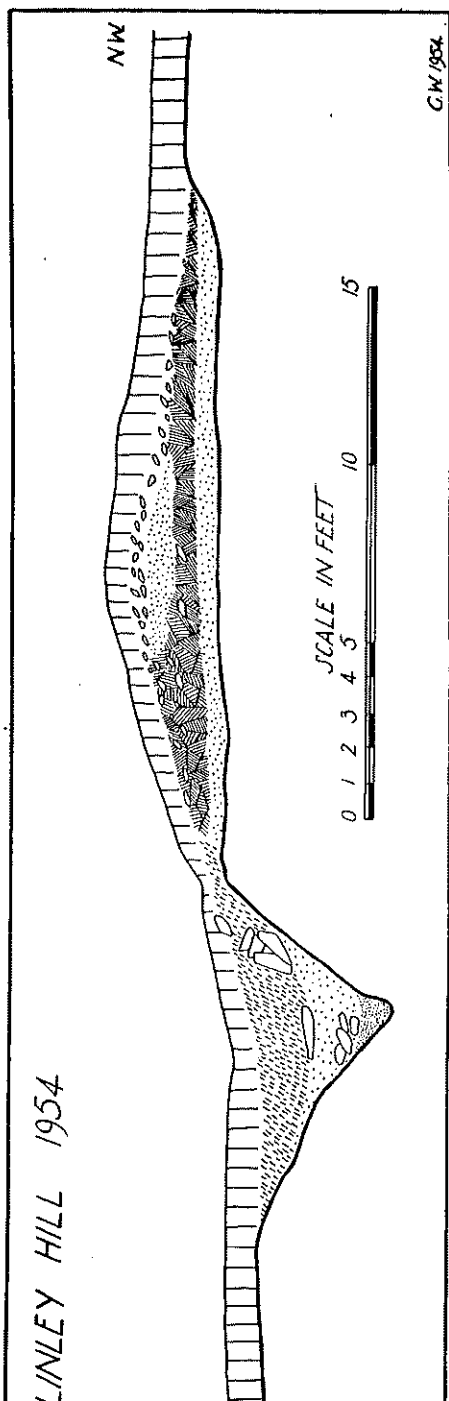
In the absence of any datable material, it is impossible to claim this earthwork as a Roman signal station. But the careful

construction of the ditch and rampart demonstrate the military characteristics of that period. The situation is one favourable to a signalling system, with clear sightings on magnetic bearings of  $175^{\circ}$ ,  $265^{\circ}$ ,  $280^{\circ}$ , and  $306^{\circ}$ . The first of these bearings cuts Watling Street three miles north of Leintwardine and is aligned on Shelderton Hill (1004 ft.) and two of the others on the high ground by two known Roman forts at Forden and Caersws. If similar remains could be found in these areas, it would support the suggestion that this small earthwork was part of a signalling system but in the absence of further evidence the matter must remain in doubt.

<sup>1</sup>The work was organised and in part directed by Miss E. Sladdin. Those taking part were Misses D. Pitman, V. Lloyd, D. Ireland, J. Thomson and Messrs. H. Symons, D. Hollingworth, C. Graham, F. L. Jarvis and C. Eyre.

*"V.C.H., Shrops.* i, pp. 379 and 380.





## A STONE COFFIN FROM CHETTON, SHROPSHIRE

This coffin was discovered about September 1954 in the back-garden of two houses recently erected near the village, and it lies just south of the lane leading to Upper House Farm (reference O.S. 1" (130) 658905), on the 700' contour<sup>1</sup>. At this point the ground is falling to the east, from the high point of Light Wood (767') one mile to the north-west, down to 400' at Wallsbatch Manor. The land on which the houses stand has been levelled, and at present the coffin lies not more than 9" to 1' below the ground surface. Surface indications in the area do not readily suggest the former presence of buildings, nor have any other coffins or burials been reported. The village church lies half a mile to the east.<sup>2</sup>

The coffin (Fig. 1) lies diagonally across the dividing line between the two house gardens in a north-east south-west direction, its south-west corner being 11' 6" from the rear wall of the building. The section remaining in situ is between 4' 3" and 4' 10" long, 2' 6" wide at the south-west end, 3" less at the north-east end, and it has a maximum depth of 16". The base, head-recess (which is not raised and is rather carelessly shaped) and all that remains of the north-west side appear to have been made from one piece; the stone is a soft arenaceous sandstone grit. The coffin is of normal mediæval type, with the usual circular drainage hole in the centre of the base, but many dateable features (decoration on the lid, shape of the head-recess) are absent or found only in part<sup>3</sup>. There was no noticeable cavity in the flooring. The south-east side, apart from the head-recess, is comprised of a slab of old red sandstone (Ditton series)<sup>4</sup> which is not mortared to the base or head but rests against it (Fig. 2). At the north-east end, the foot of the coffin has been destroyed, when a drainage trench was dug for the houses. Scattered around the surface nearby were numerous fragments of both types of sandstone, which may have come from the destroyed portions or from a lid.

Other finds comprised the mandible of a sheep and pottery and bottle glass of the late 17th and early 18th century. Apart from the report of the discovery of a phalange, there was no indica-



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



tion of human bones, while all the pottery came from either the filling of the coffin or on the surface nearby, and is thus useless for dating purposes.

Thirty feet to the south-east, the excavation of a drainage trench had cut across what appeared to be some dry stone walling. One sherd, perhaps a base, of indeterminate date was found beneath it.

Even before the recent levelling, the coffin could not have been far below the present ground surface. This, and its isolated character argue against the idea that here was the site of a graveyard. The use of two different types of stone in the construction of the coffin, especially the "patching" of the south-east side,<sup>5</sup> might well mean that it had been moved from an original position and used for some secular purpose, perhaps compost storage.

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#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> The site was visited at the request of Mrs. J. Clark, Secretary of the Bridgnorth Historical Society, who has all the finds. The assistance of members of the Society in work on the site is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>2</sup> C.f. "Some account of the Manor of Chetton," R. C. Purton. *Trans. Shrop. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, Second Series, VI (1894), p. 177 *et seq.*, and IX (1897), p. 73 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> Stone coffins, unless possessing some distinctive features, are not often published in detail. There is, however, a very useful paper on examples from Gloucestershire ("Stone Coffins of Gloucestershire") *Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc.*, LXI (1939), p. 135 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> Both sandstone grit and sandstone are found locally (*Geological Memoir—Dudley and Bridgnorth*). H.M.S.O. (1947), pp. 11-24.

<sup>5</sup> It is interesting to note here that a repaired and re-used coffin of sandstone was discovered by Miss P. J. Telford, B.A., of Coventry Museum, on the site of the new Cathedral in July 1955.

## ARMORIAL BEARINGS IN SHROPSHIRE CHURCHES

BY LILIAN H. HAYWARD

*(Continued from page 93)*

### ASTON BOTTERELL

The chief family here was that of Boterel or Bottrel (or other varieties of spelling). The family was here from the 13th century or earlier, and eventually became Lords of the Manor. In the 16th century the Boterel heiress brought the manor, by marriage, to the Scriven family. But about the same time a younger branch settled at the Heath, near Stoke St. Milborough, and were there until the last male heir died without issue, 1834.

There are two monuments in the Parish Church to members of the Boterel family, as well as an interesting old deed.

I. On the north wall of the Sanctuary is an incised slab (formerly on the floor) bearing the figure of a man in armour and a lady, with children at their feet. A worn inscription in Latin runs round the slab. A modern plate on the wall reads "John Boterel, 1479, Lord of Aston and Mary his wife. The stone from the grave below was repaired and erected above, 1930, by Thomas Edward Price Stretche (of All Stretton) their descendant."

There is a shield above each figure. That of John Boterel—Arg. a chief gu. Over all a lion rmpt. sa. The shield above his wife is now bare. Morris (S.A.S. Trans.) states that she died 1500. In Vis. she is described as Maria, fil . . . Corbett of Longnor.

II. In south aisle there is an elaborate canopied monument with effigies of a man and woman. Below them are the carved figures of their children, one son and two daughters. There is no inscription, but a notice reads that the figures are "John Boterel, died 1588, and Elizabeth his wife, died 1596." The Boterel arms are carved and coloured five times on the cornice of the tomb.

John Boterel was a younger son of Thomas Boterel; he or his son was the founder of the branch of Boterel of the Heath. His wife, Elizabeth, d. of John Trowe, died 1595-6. His elder brother, William, Lord of Aston Boterel, m. Anna, d. of Thomas Bentley,

M.D. Their initials W.B. and M.B. are on a plaster ceiling in Acton Botterell Hall, formerly the Manor House. It was their daughter Agnes who married Edward Scriven of Frodesley.

It may be of interest that Elizabeth, a sister of the above William and John, m. Jo. Perton of Walton. From this marriage is descended the Rev. R. C. Purton, who has done so much work for the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

III. The old deed, in a frame on the south wall, is worthy of mention. It is a Grant of the Manor of Aston and of the Advowson of the living to John Botrelle of Aston and Isolde, Feb. 1409. The Latin mediaeval script has conveniently been "translated" into more readable characters, and also into English. This John, according to Visitations, was gt. gt. gd. father of William, John and Elizabeth. (*See pedigree*).

#### PEDIGREE OF BOTEREL OF ASTON BOTTERELL

(The earliest names can be seen in the Visitations of Shropshire, Vol. I.)

I begin with :—

- I. JOHN BOTEREL, m. Isolda. . . . (Deed of 1409 in Aston Botterell Church). His son,
- II. JOHN BOTEREL, ob. 1479, m. Mary, ob. 1500, probably d. of . . . Corbett of Longnor. (Incised slab). His son,
- III. ROBERT BOTEREL, m. (2ndly) Elizabeth, d. of . . . Cotton. His son,
- IV. THOMAS BOTEREL, m. Jocosa, d. of Thomas Cressett of Upton Cressett. Issue :
  1. Robertt, s.p.
  2. Daughter.
  3. Daughter.
  4. William (*see below*).
  5. John (*see below*).
  6. Elizabeth, m. John Perton of Walton and had issue.
  7. Leonard, m. Margaret Deene, and had two daughters.

- V. WILLIAM BOTEREL, ob. 1585, m. Anna (ob. 1585), d. of Thomas Bentley, M.D. (Their initials on ceiling in Aston Botterell Hall). Their d. and h. Agnes, m. Edward Scriven of Frodesley. His brother,
- VI. JOHN BOTEREL, ob. 1588, m. Elizabeth, ob. 1595, d. of John Trowe (Canopied tomb). He had issue one son, William, and two daughters. His son,
- VII. WILLIAM BOTEREL of the Heath, m. Margery. . . . He or his father founded the branch of Boterel of the Heath, which his descendants held by copyhold under the Earls of Craven. He had three sons,
1. Edward (*see below*).
  2. William, "Governor" of Ludlow Castle, 1651, and M.P. 1653.
  3. Richard.
- VIII. EDWARD BOTEREL, m. Anne, d. of Edward Scriven. He had, with other issue, two sons,
1. Thomas. ob. 1669.
  2. Edward (*see below*).
- The second son,
- IX. EDWARD BOTEREL (of the Heath) ob. 1684, m. Elizabeth. . . ., ob. 1680. His son,
- X. EDWARD BOTEREL, 1652-1728, m. Joan, ob. 1729, d. of Francis King of Sapey. He had three sons,
1. Edward, bap. 1679.
  2. John (*see below*).
  3. Thomas.
- The second son,
- XI. JOHN BOTEREL, of the Heath, m. at Wistanstow, 1714, Martha Bright, of Cheney Longville. He ob. 1752. Martha ob. 1747. He had, with other issue, a son,
- XII. EDWARD BOTEREL, 1714-1782, m. Elizabeth Rickus. Sheriff, 1768. His son,
- XIII. THOMAS BOTEREL, 1756-1786, m. 1783, Drusilla Wall of Neen Solers. He had issue,
1. Edward (*see below*). Bapt. 1784.
  2. Thomas, bap. 1786.
  3. Drusilla (*see below*).



- XIV. EDWARD BOTEREL, 1784-1834, s.p. His sister and heir,  
XV. DRUSILLA BOTEREL, m. Edward Price of Tugford.

## BROOME

On the east wall of the Sanctuary there is a monument to Thomas Broome, M.A., Rector of Islip, Northamptonshire, and in the Commission of Peace for Salop. He died 1785, aged 65. He was formerly Fellow of University College, Oxford.

Crest, carved, and without tinctures. An arm erect vested (gu), turned up (arg), holding in the hand (ppr.) a slip of broom (vert) flowered (or). A shield below the crest is bare. The crest is similar to that of Broome in a window in Hope Baggot church.

## CORRIGENDA TO VOL. LV, PART I (1954)

Pedigree facing p. 82, third line from bottom, read Rev. Richard (instead of William) Surtees.

P. 83, paragraph relating to the family of Urwick, last two lines, Afcott should read as in Wistanstow parish (not Acton Scott).

## SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY

### LIST OF PARISH REGISTERS, PRINTED AND UNPRINTED, IN THE SHREWSBURY BOROUGH LIBRARY, 1955

(The letters U.P. denote unprinted. Copies of most of those Printed can be bought on application to one of the Hon. Secretaries of the above Society. See note at end.)

- ABDON (H. vol. 19) 1560-1812 (Marriages to 1838).  
ACTON BURNELL. (L. vol. 19) 1568-1812 (Marriages to 1838).  
*ACTON ROUND*. U.P. 1713-1812.  
*ACTON SCOTT*. U.P. 1690-1812.  
ADDERLEY. (L. vol. 4) 1692-1812.  
ALBERBURY. (H. vols. 6 and 7) 1564-1812.  
ALBRIGHTON, nr. Shifnal. (L. vol. 3) 1555-1812.  
ALBRIGHTON, nr. Shrewsbury. (L. vol. 1) 1649-1812.  
*ALVELEY*. U.P. 1561-1812.  
*ASHFORD BOWDLER*. U.P. 1602-1837.  
ASTLEY. (L. vol. 5) 1692-1812.  
*ASTLEY ABBOTS*. U.P. 1561-1812 (Marriages to 1837). (1653-58 and 1671-1694 missing).  
*ASTON BOTTERELL*. U.P. 1559-1812.  
ATCHAM. (L. vol. 14) 1619-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
BADGER. (H. vol. 16) 1660-1812 (Marriages to 1836).  
*BARROW*. U.P. 1727-1812.  
*BASCHURCH*. U.P. 1600-1812.  
BATTLEFIELD. (L. vol. 1) 1663-1812.  
*BECKBURY*. U.P. 1738-1812 (Marriages to 1854).  
BEDSTONE. (H. vol. 5) 1719-1812.  
*BENTHALL*. U.P. 1640-1812.  
BERRINGTON. (L. vol. 14) 1559-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
*BETTWS-Y-CRWYN*. U.P. Baptisms and Burials 1785-1812.  
Marriages 1754-1798.  
BILLINGSLEY. (H. vol. 3) 1625-1812.  
*BISHOP'S CASTLE*. U.P. 1559-1812.  
BITTERLEY. (H. vol. 4) 1658-1812.  
BOLAS MAGNA. (L. vol. 13) 1582-1812.

- BONINGALE. (L. vol. 3) 1698-1812.  
BRIDGNORTH. St. Leonard's. U.P. 1556-1812.  
BRIDGNORTH. St. Mary Magdalene. U.P. 1610-1812.  
BROMFIELD. (H. vol. 5) 1559-1812.  
BROSELEY. 1570-1750, Printed in 1889 by Mitchell & Hughes.  
2 vols. U.P. 1751-1797.  
BROUGHTON. (L. vol. 1) 1705-1812.  
BUCKNELL. U.P. 1598-1812. (Missing 1618-1637; 1643-1652  
and 1675-1703).  
BUILDWAS. (L. vol. 14). 1665-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
BURFORD. (H. vol. 16) 1558-1812.  
BURWARTON. U.P. 1575-1812.  
CARDESTON. (H. vol. 5) 1663-1812.  
CARDINGTON. U.P. 1598-1812.  
CHELMARSH. (H. vol. 3) 1557-1812.  
CHESWARDINE. U.P. 1558-1662.  
CHETTON. U.P. 1538-1812.  
CHIRBURY. (H. vol. 8) 1629-1812.  
CHURCH PREEN. (H. vol. 16) 1680-1812.  
CHURCH STRETTON. (H. vol. 8) 1661-1812.  
CLAVERLEY. (H. vol. 10) 1568-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
CLEE ST. MARGARET. U.P. 1634-1812.  
CLEOBURY MORTIMER. (H. vol. 9) 1601-1812.  
CLEOBURY NORTH. U.P. 1680-1812.  
CLIVE. (L. vol. 7) 1671-1812).  
CLUN. U.P. 1653-1812.  
CLUNBURY. (H. vol. 2) 1574-1812.  
CLUNGUNFORD. U.P. 1559-1812.  
COLD WESTON. (H. vol. 20) 1689-1812.  
COCKSHUTT. U.P. Baptisms 1772-1801. Burials 1776-1812.  
No Marriages.  
CONDOVER. (L. vol. 6) 1570-1812.  
CORELEY. U.P. 1543-1812.  
COUND. (L. vol. 2) 1562-1812.  
CRESSAGE. (L. vol. 2) 1605-1812.  
CULMINGTON. U.P. 1575-1812.  
DAWLEY. (L. vol. 18) 1666-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
DEUXHILL. See GLAZELEY.  
DIDDLEBURY. (H. vol. 15) 1583-1812.  
DITTON PRIORS. U.P. 1673-1812.

- DONINGTON. (L. vol. 3) 1556-1812.  
EASTHOPE. (H. vol. 19) 1624-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
EATON CONSTANTINE. (L. vol. 13) 1684-1812.  
EATON-UNDER-HEYWOOD. (H. vol. 19) 1660-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
EDGMOND. (L. vol. 13) 1669-1812.  
EDGTON. (H. vol. 3) 1722-1812.  
EDSTASTON. (L. vol. 10) 1727-1812.  
ELLESMERE. (U.P.) 1624-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
EYTON-ON-THE-WEALD MOORS. U.P. 1698-1812.  
FARLOW AND STOTTESDON. U.P. See STOTTESDON.  
FITZ. (L. vol. 4) 1559-1812.  
FORD. (H. vol. 1) 1589-1812.  
FRODESLEY. (L. vol. 4) 1547-1812.  
GLAZELEY & DEUXHILL. (H. vol. 5) 1718-1812.  
GREAT BOLAS. See BOLAS MAGNA.  
GREAT NESS. See NESS MAGNA.  
GREETE. (H. vol. 5) 1663-1812.  
GRINSHILL. (L. vol. 2) 1592-1812.  
HABBERLEY. (H. vol. 5) 1598-1812.  
HALSTON. (St. A. vol. 2) 1686-1897).  
HANWOOD. (H. vol. 1) 1559-1763.  
HARLEY. (L. vol. 2) 1590-1812.  
HIGH ERCALL. (L. vol. 20) 1585-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
HIGHLEY. U.P. 1551-1812.  
HODNET. (L. vol. 11) 1656-1812.  
HOPE BAGOT. (H. vol. 20) 1714-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
HOPE BOWDLER. U.P. 1563-1837.  
HOPESAY. (H. vol. 18) 1660-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
HOPTON CANGEFORD. U.P. 1790-1812.  
HOPTON CASTLE. (H. vol. 2) 1538-1812.  
HOPTON WAFERS. (H. vol. 9) 1660-1812.  
HORDLEY. (L. vol. 7) 1686-1812.  
HUGHLEY. (H. vol. 1) 1576-1812.  
KEMBERTON. U.P. 1659-1812.  
KENLEY. (L. vol. 2) 1682-1812.  
KINLET. (H. vol. 17) 1657-1840.  
KINNERLEY. (St. A. vol. 3) 1677-1812.  
KINNERSLEY. U.P. 1691-1812.  
KNOCKIN. (St. A. vol. 3) 1661-1812.

- LEEBOTWOOD. (L. vol. 5) 1547-1812.  
LEE BROCKHURST. (L. vol. 19) 1566-1838.  
LEIGHTON. (L. vol. 14) 1661-1812.  
LILLESHELL. U.P. 1653-1812. (Marriages 1653-1660 and 1693-1788 only).  
LITTLE WENLOCK. U.P. 1689-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
LLANFAIR WATERDINE. U.P. 1593-1812.  
LLANYBLODWELL. (St. A. vol. 3) 1695-1812.  
LLANYMYNECH. (St. A. vol. 8) 1666-1812.  
LONGDON-ON-TERN. (L. vol. 2) 1692-1812.  
LONGNOR. (L. vol. 5) 1586-1812.  
LUDFORD. U.P. Marriages only 1751-1812.  
LUDLOW. (H. vols. 13 and 14) 1558-1812.  
LYDBURY NORTH. U.P. 1563-1812.  
LYDHAM. (H. vol. 3) 1596-1812.  
MADELEY. U.P. 1645-1812.  
MAINSTONE. U.P. 1590-1812.  
MELVERLEY. (St. A. vol. 1) 1723-1812.  
MEOLE BRACE. (H. vol. 18) 1660-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
MIDDLE. (L. vol. 19) 1541-1813. (Marriages to 1837).  
MIDDLETON SCRIVEN. (H. vol. 5) 1728-1812.  
MILSON. (H. vol. 16) 1678-1812.  
MONK HOPTON. (H. vol. 3) 1698-1812.  
MONTFORD. (L. vol. 7) 1662-1812.  
MORE. (H. vol. 2) 1570-1812.  
MORETON CORBET. (L. vol. 1) 1580-1812.  
MORETON SAY. (L. vol. 8) 1691-1812.  
MORVILLE. U.P. 1562-1812.  
MUNSLOW. (H. vol. 15) 1538-1812.  
MYDDLE. SEE MIDDLE.  
NEEN SAVAGE. (H. vol. 17) 1575-1812.  
NEEN SOLLARS. (H. vol. 16) 1678-1812.  
NEENTON. (H. vol. 3) 1558-1812.  
NESS MAGNA. (L. vol. 20) 1589-1812 (Marriages to 1837).  
NEWPORT. U.P. 1569-1812. (Marriages to 1893).  
NEWTOWN, WEM. (L. vol. 10) 1779-1812.  
NORBURY. (H. vol. 19) 1560-1812.  
NORTON-IN-HALES (L. vol. 18) 1572-1880.  
OLDBURY. (H. vol. 16) 1582-1812.  
ONIBURY. (H. vol. 18) 1577-1812. (Marriages to 1837).

- OSWESTRY. (St. A. vols. 4 to 7) 1558-1812.  
PETTON. U.P. 1677-1812.  
PITCHFORD. (L. vol. 1) 1558-1812.  
PONTESBURY. (H. vol. 12) 1538-1812.  
PONTESBURY. U.P. Marriages 1813-1882.  
PREEN, CHURCH. *See* CHURCH PREEN.  
PREES. U.P. Baptisms 1597-1654; Burials 1597-1648.  
PRESTON GOBALDS. (L. vol. 21) 1560-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
PULVERBATCH. U.P. 1541-1812  
QUATFORD. U.P. 1577-1812.  
QUATT. U.P. 1672-1812.  
RATLINGHOPE, (H. vol. 5) 1755-1812.  
RICHARD'S CASTLE. U.P. 1558-1812.  
RODINGTON. (L. vol. 21) 1678-1837.  
RUSHBURY. U.P. 1538-1812.  
RUYTON-XI-TOWNS. (L. vol. 5) 1719-1812.  
RYTON. U.P. Baptisms 1678-1839; Burials 1678-1872;  
Marriages 1678-1864.  
ST. MARTINS. (St. A. vol. 8) 1579-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
SELATTYN. (St. A. vol. 1) 1557-1812.  
SHEINTON. (L. vol. 2) 1658-1812.  
SHELVE. U.P. 1584-1812. (Marriages to 1837).  
SHERIFFHALES. (L. vol. 7) 1557-1812.  
SHIFNAL. U.P. 1678-1837.  
SHIPTON. (H. vol. 1) 1538-1812.  
SHRAWARDINE. U.P. 1645-1812.  
SHREWSBURY. St. Mary's. (L. vol 12) 1584-1812.  
SHREWSBURY. (St. Chad's). (L. vols. 15 to 17) 1616-1812.  
SHREWSBURY. St. Julian's. U.P. 1559-1812. Baptisms  
1813-1833; Burials 1813-1840; Marriages 1813-1837.  
SHREWSBURY. Holy Cross. U.P. 1541-1718. (Burials also  
1718-1737). Years 1592 to 1661 are missing.  
SHREWSBURY. St. Alkmund's. U.P. 1559-1812.  
SIBDON CARWOOD. (H. vol. 2) 1582-1812.  
SIDBURY. (H. vol. 1) 1560-1812.  
SMETHCOTE. (L. vol. 1) 1609-1812.  
STANTON LACY. (H. vol. 4) 1561-1812.  
STANTON LONG. U.P. 1568-1812.  
STAPLETON. (L. vol. 1) 1635-1812.  
STIRCHLEY. (L. vol. 5) 1658-1812.

- STOKE ST. MILBOROUGH. (H. vol. 19) 1654-1812. (Marriages to 1837).
- STOKESAY. (H. vol. 17) 1559-1812. (Marriages to 1837).
- STOTTESDON AND FARLOW. U.P. 1565-1813.
- STOWE. U.P. 1576-1807. (Marriages to 1811).
- SUTTON, near SHREWSBURY. U.P. 1709-1812. Baptisms 1812-1868; Burials 1812-1853; Marriages 1812-1870.
- SUTTON MADDOCK. U.P. 1559-1812.
- TASLEY. (H. vol. 1) 1563-1812.
- TIBBERTON. (L. vol. 13) 1719-1812.
- TONG. (L. vol. 4) 1629-1812.
- TUGFORD. U.P. 1755-1812.
- UFFINGTON. (L. vol. 5) 1578-1812.
- UPPINGTON. (L. vol. 4) 1650-1812.
- UPTON CRESSETT. U.P. 1765-1812.
- UPTON MAGNA. U.P. 1563-1812.
- WATERS UPTON. (L. vol. 13) 1547-1812.
- WELLINGTON. (L. vol. 21) (Baptisms to 1701).
- WELLINGTON. U.P. Baptisms 1706-1743.  
Burials 1626-1667; 1701-1742.  
Marriages 1626-1674; 1712-1742.
- WEM. (L. vols. 9-10) 1583-1812.
- WENLOCK, LITTLE. See LITTLE WENLOCK.
- WENTNOR. U.P. 1662-1812.
- WESTBURY. (H. vol. 12) 1637-1812.
- WEST FELTON. U.P. 1628-1812.
- WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE. (L. vol. 11) 1565-1812.
- WHEATHILL. U.P. 1573-1812.
- WHITCHURCH. U.P. Baptisms 1633-1732 and 1745-1797;  
Burials 1630-1700 and 1745-1797; Marriages 1627-1776.
- WHITELADIES. (L. vol. 3) 1816-1844.
- WHITTINGTON. (St. A. vol. 2) 1591-1812.
- WILEY. (H. vol. 16) 1644-1812.
- WISTANSTOW. (H. vol. 17) 1638, 1661-1812 (Marriages to 1837).
- WITHINGTON. (L. vol. 5) 1591-1812.
- WOLSTASTON. (H. vol. 1) 1601-1812.
- WOMBRIDGE. U.P. 1721-1812.
- WORFIELD. U.P. 1562-1812.
- WORTHEN. (H. vol. 11) 1558-1812.
- WROCKWARDINE. (L. vol. 8) 1591-1812.
- WROXETER. (L. vol. 11) 1613-1812.

*NONCONFORMIST REGISTERS*

SHREWSBURY, High Street.	1692-1812
Swan Hill.	1767-1812
WHITCHURCH, Dodington.	1708-1812
WEM, Presbyterian.	1755-1814
BRIDGNORTH, Stoneway.	1765-1812
OSWESTRY, Old Chapel.	1780-1812
OLDBURY, Old Dissenting Chapel.	1715-1823
ELLESMERE, Independent.	1787-1811
SHREWSBURY, Claremont Baptist.	1766-1808
SHREWSBURY, Society of Friends.	1657-1834
BRIDGNORTH, Castle Street Baptists.	1779-1836
BROSELEY, Birch Meadow Chapel.	1794-1835
CLEE HILL, Wesleyan.	1802-1829
HADNALL AND CLIVE, Independent.	1798-1837
LLANYBLODWELL, Smyrna Independent.	1825-1836
LUDLOW, Corve Street Independent.	1802-1836
MARKET DRAYTON, Independent.	1776-1836
WEM, Chapel Street Independent.	1785-1836
LYTH HILL & DORRINGTON, Independent.	1808-1837
DITTON PRIORS, Wesleyan.	1801-1834
MINSTERLEY, Independent.	1806-1837
WHIXHALL, Independent.	1805-1823

*ROMAN CATHOLIC REGISTERS*

SHREWSBURY, St. Mary.	1775-1837
NEWPORT, St. Peter & St. Paul.	1785-1837
ACTON BURNELL.	1769-1838
PLOWDEN, St. Francis.	1826-1837
MAWLEY HALL, St. Mary.	1763-1831



The following note has been furnished by one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Shropshire Parish Register Society (Mrs. L. H. Hayward, Meadowbrook, Ticklerton, Church Stretton, Shropshire) :

Shropshire stands high in comparison with neighbouring counties in respect of the number of Parish Registers printed. It will be seen from the above list, which was compiled by Mr. J. L. Hobbs, Librarian, Shrewsbury Borough Library, that some are in the transcript stage, waiting until funds are available for their printing. We have spare copies of most of the printed Registers, and would be glad to sell some of them at prices from 3/- to 7/6 a Part, according to size. If we could sell a good number we should have funds for further publication.

Besides the entries of baptisms, marriages and burials, these records, some dating back for more than four hundred years, contain other interesting information which throws light upon conditions of life in earlier centuries. For some incumbents seem to have regarded the Parish Register as a commonplace book, and to have noted therein all manner of happenings in their parishes.

We could possibly sell complete sets of the Parts, if it were not that in the case of a few of the earlier publications, and also of one or two published during the last war, we have no spares at all, or so few that we do not like to part with them.

It has occurred to this writer that there may be members of the Society who possess these Registers and do not particularly value them. If this should be the case, we would most gratefully receive such copies with a view to completing sets.

Those needed are :—

DIocese of Hereford :

Shipton, Sibdon Carwood, Hopton Castle and More.

DIocese of Lichfield :

Albrighton (Wolverhampton) and Boningale, Battlefield and Pitchford, Smethcote, Stapleton and Moreton Corbet, Albrighton (Shrewsbury) and Broughton, Harley, Kenley, Donington and White Ladies, Preston Gobalds, Rodington.

DIocese of St. Asaph :

Halston, Melverley.

## EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY WAGES ASSESSMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

BY MICHAEL REED, B.A.

The Statute of Artificers, 1563, enacted "That the justices of the peace of every shire . . . and every mayor, bailiff or other head officer within any city . . . wherein is any justice of the peace, within the limits of the said city . . . shall . . . yearly at every general sessions first to be holden after Easter . . . have authority within the limits of their several commissions to rate and appoint the wages as well of such of the said artificers<sup>1</sup> . . . or any other labourer, servant or workman whose wages in time past hath been by any law rated and appointed, as also the wages of all other labourers, artificers . . . which have not been rated, as they shall think meet to be rated . . . by the year, or by the day, week, month or otherwise, with meat and drink or without meat and drink, and what wages every workman or labourer shall take by the great for mowing, reaping or threshing . . ."<sup>2</sup>

The Assessments when made had to be certified into Chancery, and were then issued as Proclamations. Very few of these Proclamations have survived for Boroughs: only the Preamble to that of 1563 for Southampton<sup>3</sup>, one for Canterbury in 1594<sup>4</sup>, and one each for Higham Ferrers<sup>5</sup> and New Sarum (Salisbury)<sup>6</sup> in 1595. The certificate into Chancery ceased to be necessary after 1597<sup>7</sup>, and a Statute of 1604<sup>8</sup> permitted the drawing up of Assessments at any Sessions.

Over one hundred and twenty towns had at least one Justice of the Peace of their own by 1640. But the investigation of Borough Sessions Records has scarcely begun. Very few Borough Wages Assessments are known, and fewer still are in print. Those printed included Maidstone 1563<sup>9</sup>, Lincoln 1563<sup>10</sup>, Chester 1570, 1593, 1596 and 1597<sup>11</sup>, Faversham 1621<sup>12</sup> and Portsmouth 1642<sup>13</sup>. Details of these, and of some Borough Wages Assessments in Manuscript may be found in R. K. Kelsall: *Wage Regulations under the Statute of Artificers* (1938) as an Appendix.

The town of Shrewsbury received three Commissions of the Peace, two in 1356<sup>14</sup> and one in 1377<sup>15</sup>, prior to the Charter of 1445<sup>16</sup>, which created the Bailiffs Justices of the Peace, with exclusive jurisdiction, but forbade them to determine any felonies. The Charter of 1466<sup>17</sup> to the Abbot and Convent of SS. Peter and Paul in Shrewsbury granted them power to appoint their own Justices of the Peace to keep the peace and hear and determine all felonies to the exclusion of other Justices. But the Corporation of Shrewsbury was to be heir to the Abbey, for all the liberties granted by the 1466 Charter were, in 1542<sup>18</sup>, granted to the Bailiffs and Burgesses, although only within the parishes of St. Giles and Holy Cross, Meryvale in St. Chad's and in the Foregate.

It was under this 1542 Charter that the first Sessions were held for which records survive (1564)<sup>19</sup>. The 1586<sup>20</sup> Charter considerably extended the powers and numbers of the Shrewsbury Justices. There were to be six Justices chosen (*si ipsis expediens videbitur*) from those who had passed the chair, and the Bailiffs and Recorder were in addition to be Justices of Gaol Delivery. Thus the Shrewsbury Justices of the late Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries had, and exercised, very wide powers, powers equal to those of County Justices in every way.

The two Wages Assessments published here were drawn up in 1628 and in 1640<sup>21</sup>. Perhaps the most striking thing about them is the almost complete absence of regulations for urban industrial trades, such as weaving. This is in complete contrast to the Sixteenth Century Assessments for Chester<sup>22</sup>, where the wages of Hosiers, Shoemakers, Cutlers, Saddlers, Shearmen, Pewterers, Woollen and Linen Weavers, and so on, are regulated in addition to those agricultural occupations regulated at Shrewsbury: nor can these Shrewsbury Assessments compare with that for Maidstone of 1563<sup>23</sup> for complexity and detail. The Statute of 1604<sup>24</sup> confirmed the power of the magistrates to regulate the wages of all labourers, weavers and spinners, although the Shrewsbury Justices do not appear to have taken advantage of this, perhaps because of the stipulation<sup>25</sup> that no Clothier should act as a Justice when rating the wages of weavers and spinners. Another factor making for the emphasis upon agricultural occupations may probably have been the considerable purely rural districts which were then part

of the Corporation of Shrewsbury, although at some distance from the town, areas such as Acton Reynold and Preston Gobbells, added by the Charter of 1586<sup>26</sup>.

The 1640 Assessment increases all wages, except those of the Mowers of Grass and of Grain, and the Woman Reaper, which remain the same. The wages of the Artificers' Apprentices with diet were raised from 3d. to 4d. a day, but the rate without diet remained the same at 8d. a day. The other daily rates with diet were raised 1d. and without diet 2d., except for the Day Labourer, whose wages without diet were raised 1d. Of those paid yearly, the Bailiff of Husbandry received an increase of 7s. 8d., the largest, whilst the Ploughman received the smallest increase, 2s. 6d. Thus over a period of twelve years wages in and around Shrewsbury rose only slightly. This may be contrasted with prices, which seem to have gone down a little, if the price of ale can be taken as a guide. An Assize of Ale made by the Shrewsbury magistrates in 1627<sup>27</sup> set the price of a thirty-two gallon barrel of the best Ale at 10s., whereas the same barrel in 1657<sup>28</sup> was to be sold for 8s. 8d.

Two further Wages Assessments for the Borough of Shrewsbury, for 1632 and 1639<sup>29</sup>, are among the Corporation Muniments, but that of 1632 only reduces the wage of Artificers' Apprentices without diet from 8d. to 6d., whilst that of 1639 is identical to that of 1640, published here.

The Shrewsbury Borough Sessions Records have not as yet revealed any indication of either compliance with or infringement of, these Assessments.

"Throughout the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries prices remained fairly stable while wages, both on and off the land, crawled up. Wages did not move much until after 1650, though some rise can be traced from about 1630 " <sup>30</sup>.

These two Shrewsbury Wages Assessments appear to offer some slight additional evidence to substantiate this picture of the economic development of England in the early Seventeenth Century.

## 1. SHREWSBURY WAGES ASSESSMENT FOR 1628

Villa 1628 The Rates of Artificers and Laborers agreed upon by  
 Salope the Bayliffes of the Towne of Shrewsbury the Recorder  
 and Steward of the [torn away] Towne att a Generall  
 Sessions of the peace and gaole delivery helde for the  
 said Towne and Liberties upon Monday the xixth day  
 of May Anno quarti Caroli Regis for the yeare followinge  
 accordinge to the plenty and scarcety of the Yeare.

Wheelwrighte	Pavyer	The head Workeman	} by daye
Millwrighte	Thatcher		
Plowwrighte	Slator	with dyett vjd.	
Carpenter	Tornor	without dyett xijd.	
Rough Mason	Cowper	The Jorneyman	
Plasterer in	Joyner	with dyett vd.	
pleyne worke	Shingler and	without dyett xd.	
Sawyer	such like	There Apprentises	
Brickmaker	Artificers	with dyett iijd.	
Bricklayer		without dyett viijd.	

Mower of grasse with dyett	vjd.	without dyett xijd.	by daye
Mower of grayne with dyett	viijd.	without dyett xvjd.	
Man Reaper with dyett	vd.	without dyett xd.	
Woman Reaper with dyett	iiijd.	without dyett viijd.	
Man gatherer of Barly or other			
Grayne with dyett	iiijd.	without viijd.	
Woman gatherer of Barly or			
other grayne with dyett	iijd.	without dyett vjd.	
Man maker of hey with dyett	iijd.	without dyett vjd.	}
Woman maker of hey with dyett	ijjd.	without dyett vd.	

Day Laborer	ffrom the Anuntiation till Michaelmas	}	by daye
	with dyett iijd., without dyett vjd.		
	ffrom Michaelmas till thanuntiation		
	with dyett ijd., without dyett vjd.		

Womanservant of best sorte	xxs.	of meaner sorte	xvjs.	} by yeare
Bayliff of husbandrey	lijs. iiijd.	The Servant	xls.	
Apprentice in husbandrey	xxvjs. viijd.	Plow driver	xxs.	
Cheefe Milner	xlvs. viijd.	Ordinary Milner	xls.	

The giver of any more or greater wages forfeites v<sup>li</sup> and Tenn dayes  
Ymprisonmente.

The taker forfeites his Wages and shall suffer ymprisonmente xxi<sup>tie</sup>  
dayes.

## 2. SHREWSBURY WAGES ASSESSMENT FOR 1640

Villa Salope The Rates of Artificers and Laborers agreed upon by  
the Maior<sup>31</sup> and Justices of the Peace for the Towne  
and libertyes of Shrewsbury at the generall Sessions of  
the Peace and Gaole Deliverye helde for the said Towne  
and libertyes of Shrewsbury upon Mondaye the  
fowerthe daye of Maye Anno domini 1640 Annoque  
RR Caroli Anglie etc decimo sexto for the yeare to  
come accordinge to the plentye and scarcitye of the  
yeare.

Wheelwright	Thatcher	} The head Workeman	} by daye
Mylwright	Slater		
Plowright	Turner	without diett xiiijd.	
Carpenter	Cowper	The Journeyman	
Roughe Mason	Joyner	with diett vjd.	} by daye
Plasterer in	Bricklayer	without diett xijd.	
playne worke	Shingler and	There Apprentizes	
Sawyer	such like	with diett iiijd.	
Brickmaker	Artificers	without diett viijd.	} by daye
Mower of grasse with diett	vjd.	without diett	
Mower of grayne with diett	viijd.	without diett	
Man reaper with diett	vjd.	without diett	
Woman reaper with diett	iiijd.	without diett	
Man gatherer of Barley or other grayne	vd.	without diett	} by daye
Woman gatherer of Barley or other grayne with diett	iiijd.	without diett	
Man maker of heye with diett	iiijd.	without diett	
Woman maker of heye with diett	iiijd.	without diett	

Daye laborer	ffrom the Anuntiation till Michaelmas	} by daye
	with diett iiijd., without diett viijd.	
	ffrom Michaelmas till the Anuntiation	
	with diett iiijd., without diett vijd.	

Woman servante of		} by yeare
the beste sorte	xxiiij s. of meaner sorte xvij s.	
Bayliffe of husbandrey iij li.	the servante xlvj s. viij d.	
Apprentice in hus-		
bandry	xxxx s. Plowe driver xxij s. vjd.	
Cheife Mylnor	liij s. iiij d. ordinary Mylnor xlvs.	

The giver of more or greater Wages forfeites v<sup>li</sup> and Tenne dayes imprisonment.

The taker forfeites his wages and one and twentye dayes imprisonment.

#### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup>The Artificers named in Section 2 of the Act were Clothiers, Woollen Cloth Weavers, Tuckers, Fullers, Clothworkers, Shermen, Dyers, Hosiers, Tailors, Shoemakers, Tanners, Pewterers, Bakers, Brewers, Glovers, Cutlers, Smiths, Farriers, Curriers, Saddlers, Spurriers, Turners, Cappers, Hatmakers or Feltmakers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Arrowhead-makers, Butchers, Cooks or Millers.
- <sup>25</sup> Elizabeth I. c. 4, sec. 11.
- <sup>3</sup>R. Steele: *Bibliography of Royal Proclamations of the Tudor and Stuart Sovereigns*. Vol. I. (1910) No. 576.
- <sup>4</sup>*ibid.* No. 868.
- <sup>5</sup>*ibid.* No. 877.
- <sup>6</sup>*ibid.* No. 878.
- <sup>739</sup> Elizabeth I. c. 12, sec. 4.
- <sup>81</sup> James I. c. 6, sec. 2.
- <sup>9</sup>*Arch. Cant.* XXII. p. 316.
- <sup>10</sup>*V.C.H. Lincs.* ii. p. 330.
- <sup>11</sup>R. H. Morris: *Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Reigns*. (n.d.) pp. 367-368.
- <sup>12</sup>*Arch. Cant.* XVI. p. 270.
- <sup>13</sup>R. East: *Portsmouth Records*. (1891) pp. 161-2.
- <sup>14</sup>*Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1354-1358*. p. 388.
- <sup>15</sup>*Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1377-1381*. p. 97.

- <sup>16</sup>*Calendar of Charter Rolls*, vi. p. 45.
- <sup>17</sup>*ibid.* p. 211.
- <sup>18</sup>*Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*. Vol. 17, 1542, p. 166.
- <sup>19</sup>Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments, Bundle 2204.
- <sup>20</sup>Owen and Blakeway: *History of Shrewsbury* (1825), i. 381-2.
- <sup>21</sup>Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments, Bundles 2229 and 2238 respectively.
- <sup>22</sup>R. H. Morris, *op. cit.* pp. 367-368.
- <sup>23</sup>*Arch. Cant.* XXII. p. 316.
- <sup>24</sup>I James I. c. 6.
- <sup>25</sup>*ibid.* sec. 6.
- <sup>26</sup>Owen & Blakeway, *op. cit.* i. p. 381.
- <sup>27</sup>Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments, Bundle 2229.
- <sup>28</sup>*ibid.* Bundle 2248.
- <sup>29</sup>Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments. Bundles 2232 and 2236 respectively.
- <sup>30</sup>Sir John Clapham: *A Concise Economic History of Britain*. (1949) p. 214.
- <sup>31</sup>The Bailiffs were replaced by a Mayor in the 1638 Charter, which also made the Mayor, last preceding Mayor, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and his Commissary or Chancellor, the Recorder, Steward and three senior Aldermen Justices of the Peace. (Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.* i. p. 409). Placing the diocesan and his chancellor among the Shrewsbury Justices was one of the charges made against Laud at his trial. (Owen and Blakeway, *op. cit.* i. p. 411, and Laud: *Works* iv. (1864) pp. 163-164).



THE HON. AND REV. RICHARD HILL OF HAWKSTONE  
1655 — 1727

*An Account of his investment in North Shropshire  
estates between the years 1700 and 1726*

BY E. M. JANCEY, M.A.

Material for a study of the life and achievements of the Hon. and Rev. Richard Hill of Hawkstone has become available by the deposit in the Salop Record Office of two collections of documents. The first, deposited by Lady Berwick and the National Trust, yields considerable information about his public life and private concerns. The second, deposited by Mr. Bygott of Wem, contains the purchase deeds of many of the properties he bought with the large fortune he amassed while engaged in "lucrative arithmetick"<sup>1</sup> as Paymaster to King William's Forces during the wars in Flanders from 1692 until 1697.

The Hon. and Rev. Richard Hill was descended from the Hills of Hawkstone who had inherited a substantial but not large estate from Sir Rowland Hill, himself the descendant of an old South Shropshire family. Sir Rowland, an eminent merchant and first Protestant Lord Mayor of London, made during the reign of Henry VIII a large fortune which enabled him to invest considerable sums in the purchase of estates. Many of these had been the properties of dissolved religious houses, particularly of Haughmond, Combermere, Lilleshall, Shrewsbury, Wombridge and Vale Royal. Some of the estates he acquired lay in Cheshire, Flint, and Staffordshire, but many of them were situated in North Shropshire. In 1556 he acquired for a consideration of seven hundred pounds the manors of Soulton in the parish of Wem and of Hawkstone in the parish of Hodnet.<sup>2</sup> Shortly afterwards, in 1560, he made a settlement of all his lands, dividing them amongst his kin "for th'advoydinge of contencon and varyens as otherwyse hereafter might arise amonge them for the division and particon thereof."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Term used in a letter congratulating him on his freedom from his post, written by James Cressett. In a collection kindly lent by the S.R.O. for a short time by Mr. James Osborne.

<sup>2</sup>S. R. O. Conveyance 215/30.

<sup>3</sup>Settlement S.R.O. Mr. Bygott's Collection.

He was unmarried and as he had no direct heirs the greater part of his lands were under this settlement inherited by the children of his sisters and their heirs, but Soulton passed to the children of his cousin William Hill and Hawkstone to the children of William's brother Humphrey, whose descendants became known as of that place. Throughout the seventeenth century the Hills of Hawkstone seem to have remained in that state of life to which the endowment of their forbear had called them. They are said to have suffered for their loyalty in the King's cause, but there is not evidence that they were impoverished.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, they do not appear to have added to their ancient inheritance. When in 1653 Rowland Hill married Margaret, daughter of Richard Whitehall of Dodington, gentleman, the property involved in the marriage settlement consisted of the manor of Hawkstone and six messuages, six gardens, 150 acres pasture, 10 acres wood, and 40 acres "moore and furs." One of the six messuages was the mansion house of Hawkstone, a moiety of which was limited for the jointure of Elizabeth, Rowland's mother. The property was settled, after life usage, to the heirs male of the marriage, and a portion of £800 was to be levied for the younger children. This settlement implies a modest inheritance.<sup>2</sup>

Rowland and Margaret had a large family. Their eldest surviving son, Rowland, died young in 1663, but the next son, Richard, born in March 1654/5, heir to the ancient inheritance, lived to repeat what the famous Lord Mayor had done, by investing in land the fortune he made, and settling it on his kin, though with the purpose not of avoiding contention but of establishing those estates "in the name blood and family of the said Richard Hill so long as it may please God to continue the same."<sup>3</sup> As before, the bulk of his purchases were of lands in North Shropshire, many of

<sup>1</sup>Morris in his *Genealogies* gives an account of Rowland II of Hawkstone as a "zealous Royalist," whose mansion was pillaged by the Parliamentarians, he taking refuge among the woods and glens of his demesne and later imprisoned in Redcastle and liberated by the exertions of his son Rowland III. Morris is using an account in Kimber's *Baronetage* and family traditions.

<sup>2</sup>It is dangerous to argue from lack of evidence, but that among the muniments of the Hawkstone estates there are no records illustrating purchases until the end of the seventeenth century bears out the implication of this settlement, that few if any additions were made to the property until late in the century. The earlier deeds are records of title to lands purchased later, not purchase deeds themselves.

<sup>3</sup>S.R.O. Mr. Bygott's Collection. Settlement 1715.

them in areas where others of the Lord Mayor's heirs had interests. This purchase and endowment on his family of considerable estates is part of that "paternal care" for his relations which he recorded in an account of his career to be inscribed on his vault in Hodnet church. This, what Blakeway called his "founding of affluent families," and his services as a diplomat, are the aspects of his life on which his fame has rested. He built up a great inheritance for his family in North Shropshire by which it rose from the ranks of the gentry to those of the aristocracy. The deeds, rentals, letters and other papers which record this "paternal care," indicate in some measure the effect of his ready cash on landowners in that area at the beginning of the eighteenth century and shew Hill himself as a man eminently successful in his own times, whose use of his success illuminates as clearly as it reflects the age in which he lived.

Richard Hill was educated at Shrewsbury and at S. John's College, Cambridge, to which he was admitted in 1675. In 1679, he became a Fellow of his College, and must have taken Deacon's orders, but he did not remain in academic life. He travelled as tutor to the sons of the Earl of Burlington and was then tutor in the household of the Earl of Rochester. It is probable that he there came into contact with the Earl of Ranelagh, whose Deputy, as Paymaster to the Forces of William III during the wars in Flanders, he became. In 1691 he was appointed Latin Secretary at a salary of £80 a year, a post which he retained for some years, for he was still paying Land Tax on that office in 1706. During his Paymastership, which lasted from 1692 until 1697, he acted as a diplomat, succeeding Robert Wolseley as Envoy Extraordinary to the Elector of Bavaria in Brussels in 1695/6 and continuing as such until 18th October 1699. Marmande remained in charge during that year in which Hill was sent on a mission to congratulate the Duke of Savoy on the birth of the Prince of Piedmont.

At the turn of the century he was made a Lord of the Treasury, a post which he retained until the end of William's reign. He was later made a member of Prince George's Council for naval affairs, and so continued until the Council was dissolved on the death of the Prince in 1708. In 1703 he was sent as Queen Anne's Envoy to the Duke of Savoy, with whom he achieved what he called "a most happy peace" by which the Duke entered the Grand

Alliance.<sup>1</sup> In 1706 he returned to England to the life to which he had settled on returning from the Continent in 1699, and in which the Savoy mission proved to be but a three-years interval. He had acquired two establishments, one in Cleveland Court, St. James, and the other at Richmond, Surrey. He was almost always at one of these, though he sometimes visited Eton, where, as a Fellow of the College, a room was reserved for his use. Increasingly as he grew older he lived at Richmond. He had bought there, on a building lease from the Exchequer, that part of the Old Palace called the Garden Gate House, later known as Trumpeting House. It was from Richmond that he directed his policy of investment in Shropshire estates. The deeds implementing this policy describe him as the Hon. Richard Hill of Hawkstone, the title of honour being his in right of his envoyships, and that "of Hawkstone" due to him on the death of his father in 1700, when he entered into his "ancient inheritance," but he seems never to have visited Shropshire, conducting all his affairs by correspondence with local agents.

By the time of his father's death in 1700 Hill was already known as a wealthy man, and it is clear from the evidence of his father's marriage settlement that he did not stand to inherit anything like the fortune he was reputed to have, and which we know he had acquired by the time of his own death. Much of that fortune must have been made during his Paymastership.

Blakeway tells the story that the "good old man," Hill's father, exclaimed "My son Dick makes money very fast : God send that he gets it honestly."<sup>2</sup> He certainly got it discreetly, and it would be difficult to prove him dishonest. He bore a fair name in his own day, and indeed his personality is obscured rather than illuminated by the unanimity with which his contemporaries gathered to praise him. As a brilliant financier he was doubtless able to take advantage of the money vested in his hands as Paymaster for the conduct of the war without endangering the finances of that war. In terms of seventeenth century thought he rightfully turned his office,

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<sup>1</sup>The Diplomatic correspondence relating to this mission was edited by the Rev. W. Blackley, and published in 1845.

<sup>2</sup>Blakeway. *Sheriffs of Shropshire*.

that property of the holder, to as good an advantage as property of any other kind. Throughout his life he had the ability to consolidate his assets.

It would be impossible to discover exactly how much money he made during his term as Paymaster, but he must have achieved a considerable working capital, for if he made money then, it is equally clear that he did not cease to make money when he had ceased to be a Paymaster. He manipulated his capital to good advantage in loans, in investments and in mortgages. In 1726 towards the end of his life, he wrote out a statement of his fortune in stocks and funds at Lady Day in that year. His Bank stock stood at £30,698, East India Stock at £5,006, £8,000 and £7,000, South Sea Stock at £20,625, South Sea Annuities at £19,000. He had various sums amounting to some thousands out at loan, some on mortgages, some on loans. He owed over £23,000.

The impression left by this is that although Hill was obviously a brilliant financier, he was also a cautious one, and his largest investments were in safe stocks, rather than out at loan, even on a market which could give him a 6 per cent interest. This statement does not include his investments in the safest of all stocks, land, in which throughout the years from his return to England at the turn of the century until 1726 he continued to invest part of his ever-increasing capital. His return in yearly rents from such investment—which probably averaged  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on his capital outlay—could not equal the 6 per cent interest on loans to such people as Lord Burlington, Sir Henry Furnese, and others, but land was the foundation of a dynasty's influence and prestige in many spheres, and it was with the establishment of a dynasty's prestige that he was concerned.

A deed of settlement made on the 4th March, 1707, nearly a year after his return from Turin, illustrates how rapidly he was buying land. Of the property mentioned there, the manor of Hawkstone and the capital messuage with three other closes of land are described as "ancient inheritance," but 10 other messuages and 2 closes of land, the majority in Marchamley and Weston under Redcastle, are described as lately purchased with the money of Richard Hill. By that date he had also made other purchases. These included the manor of Atcham, which had been conveyed to his father by William Gower and Helen his wife for the term of their lives, but Hill obtained it in perpetuity under the Act of

Parliament procured by the Gowers for its absolute sale.<sup>1</sup> He had also bought properties in Prees to the value of £3,780 15s. 4d. A random list of later purchases in Shropshire includes: in 1709 an estate at Rowley in Worfield bought from Dr. Harwood, brother to Thomas Harwood his brother-in-law, for £2,300; the township of Burton in Condover from Mr. Betton for £2,750 5s. 6d.; in 1711 properties in Whixall and Cotton in Wem, for £3,108; in 1712 the lease from the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry of the manor of Prees for £1,200; in 1710, 1711 and 1714 various small properties in Ightfield for the sums of £600, £185, £362 10s., and £90; in 1713 a small property in Wem Brockhurst; in 1715 the manors of Longford and Moston from Sir Richard Vernon, paying £8,000 for the first; in the same year the manor of Sutton Maddock and a third part of the manor of Wrockwardine from the Earl of Stafford for £4,150; manor and lands in Weston Lullingfield, Baschurch, for £2,500; the manor of Willaston in Prees. In 1716 he bought some copyhold property in Horton, Wem, for £950; in 1717 a lease of the rectory and tithes of Prees for £1,100; in 1719 the manor of Painton from the co-heiresses of his brother Robert for £6,000.<sup>2</sup> In 1722 he bought another tenement in Longford for £270; in 1723 the manor of Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath for £6,900. In addition to these were numerous small properties in Marchamley which included the reversion of a tenement in 1708, for £350; in 1714 two pieces of land called Greenway Hedge and Lea Croft for £100. He also acquired small properties, including one at Wolverley in 1723 for £960, much of it copyhold in Wem and Prees. He bought the advowson of the rectory of Bolas from John Kynaston.

This list does not include purchases of properties outside Shropshire. Among these were: an estate at Brightwell, Bucks., bought in 1718 for £2,695; the estate of Shenstone Park in Staffordshire; the estates of Willenhall and Whitmore Park in Coventry, which he bought from the Duke of Montagu for £21,902 6s. 8d., though of this consideration money he borrowed £17,698 from his nephew Samuel Hill, a sum which was not repaid until after his death from his personal estate. He also bought advowsons—that of Thornton in

<sup>1</sup>Introduction, Atcham Parish Register. Shropshire Parish Register Society.

<sup>2</sup>Enquiry has not established where this manor lay. Hill describes it as Co. Salop.

Cheshire for £500 from the Earl of Warrington, and five others in the diocese of Norwich from the Duke of Norfolk for a total of £1,600.

This list—and it is not exhaustive—is impressive, but it shows clearly that, again, Hill was a cautious investor. He was not buying land with the indiscriminate hunger of the newly-rich. He was selectively adding to a substantial inheritance, and it is difficult to think other than that he planned his policy of buying land and then settling it on his family as deliberately as he could, though often circumscribed by what was available to him, and sometimes making considerable changes in his settlements. The pattern that emerges from the series of purchases shews that he was buying in those areas where his family had inherited or had recently acquired interests. The settlements, of which there is a series punctuating the continuity of the acquisitions, indicate that he was intent on building first a large estate centred on the family mansion of Hawkstone, and second on adding to the interests of his family in other areas. This is why, although there are one or two outstandingly large acquisitions, many are small, bought piece by piece to fit in a mosaic-like pattern to consolidate an already existing family interest. In areas where no such interest existed he occasionally created one by buying largely, but his smaller purchases are not on the whole isolated among “foreign” interests.

Hill never married. It was therefore on the sons of his brother John and his sisters Margaret and Elizabeth that the estates were finally settled. John was Hill's brother next in age. He had been an apothecary of Wem and must have lived at Lighteach, for he was known as of that place. In 1700 he married Sarah Stubbs, daughter of a gentleman of Staffordshire, and, presumably on his father's death in the same year, moved to Hawkstone. There were five daughters of the marriage, and one son, Rowland, born in 1705. John died in 1713. He left personality of over £13,000 to be divided amongst his daughters, and a certain amount of property in Wem and a sum to purchase an estate in Cheshire for which he had been negotiating. His son, under his father's marriage settlement stood to inherit a modest property called Fernyleas alias Long Rudgemore Farm in Prees. Rowland was also, in the event of his uncle's continuing unmarried, heir to the ancient inheritance, so that it was upon him that the lands inherited or purchased by 1707 were to devolve under the settlement of that year. In the young Rowland's

interest Richard Hill and his brother worked as partners, not as rivals, in increasing the family possessions in Hodnet, Wem and Prees. For example, in 1706 John Hill bought for £2,450 a property in Wem Brockhurst. In 1713 Richard Hill took the opportunity that offered of improving upon that by buying a much smaller property which had once been part of the same estate.

Hawkstone, the family mansion, was the focal point of this increasing estate that was consolidated round it as far as possible, and Hill was concerned that it should be a mansion befitting the estates and the family prestige. Morris in his *Genealogies* says that he ordered a handsome house to be built "which it is said he never had the curiosity to visit while it was building." The history of the building of Hawkstone is obscure. It has been variously attributed to Hill's father and to his nephew Rowland. The second is wrong. It is possible that his father may have begun the house, but Hill clearly completed the work. During the second decade of the century he carried out the additions of the "portiques," and laid out the grounds with forecourts and walks, and the long avenues of trees which at that time were such a feature of landscape gardening. He carried out his own design and employed no architect, but this is not a matter of surprise in an age when architecture was a general accomplishment, and Hill himself moved in circles where building was a common interest and occupation. In a long letter to his agent, Dicken, written in 1719, he gave orders to be passed to the mason as to the building of the "pediment" room, advising as to the width of the pilasters.<sup>1</sup> The work was done by local men in charge of William Price the mason and John Holford the carpenter, though a carver was imported to carve the capital stones. Dicken admitted that he seemed to be an ingenious man who did his work well, and called him an "absolute workman," by which he seems to imply that he had what is commonly called the artistic temperament, for he was a bad manager of his own finances. It is unfortunate that Dicken never gives his name. The work was apparently paid for locally, out of rents coming to Dickens' hand.

A pleasing water-colour, which has on the back a note that it was done for Queen Adelaide, shews the house as it was before



alterations were carried out, and as it must have been as planned by Hill—a charming well-proportioned and gracious building.<sup>1</sup>

In this house the family records were stored, and by his will Hill directed that his books and much of his furniture from Richmond and Cleveland Court should be sent there, as heirlooms for his nephew and his successors in the estate—yet another indication of this desire to build up a dynasty with its own appropriate palace.<sup>2</sup> Rodenhurst, in his description of Hawkstone, a place much visited in the later eighteenth century by those in search of the gothic marvels afterwards added to the grounds, said that the saloon was adorned with choice paintings, among them one of the siege of Namur, in which the five principal figures, King William, the Elector of Bavaria, Count Corhorn, the Duke of Marlborough, and Hill himself, were all taken from life.

While the building works were being carried out Mrs. Hill, John's widow, lived in the house with her family, by Hill's permission, and herself contributed to some of the garden improvements. Rowland's inheritance was assured to him by further settlements, notably those of 1712, 1718, 1723 and 1726. Some alterations occur in these because Hill was steadily acquiring further estates, and wished to endow not only the son of his brother, but the sons of his sisters as well. These were Samuel, the son of his sister Elizabeth, who had married Samuel Barbour, a gentleman of Staffordshire, and Thomas and another Rowland, the sons of his sister Margaret, Elizabeth's twin, whose second husband was Thomas Harwood, a notable draper of Shrewsbury.

Samuel was born in 1690 or 1691. Shaw in his *History of Staffordshire* gives a brief account of his life and says he was early taken under the peculiar protection of his uncle. He was educated at Cambridge, at his uncle's college, travelled on the Continent, was a member of one of the Inns of Court and later a Member of Parliament. His father and mother seem to have lived at Prees.

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<sup>1</sup>In the nineteenth century Lewis Wyatt was called in to improve it. In a note of 1826 he condemned the site, and said the kitchens were too much in evidence. He suggested the whole house should be rebuilt at a short distance, all that was worth while in the old building being copied or transferred. Real improvement was impossible "to a bad old house in a bad situation." Considerable alterations were made, and the house was not ready when Sir Rowland Hill and his bride were due to return from their wedding tour in 1832 (S.R.O. 81155).

<sup>2</sup>Cp. Professor Habbakuk's article in *Studies in Social History: a Tribute to G. M. Trevelyan* on Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham.

His father must have died between 1710 and 1715. The residence in Prees of the Barbour family probably prompted Hill to settle on his widowed sister certain properties there, including his lease of the Manor which he acquired from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, but on Samuel himself, who must early have taken the name of Hill, he settled as well other estates—the manor of Sutton Maddock and the third part of the Manor of Wrockwardine, the estate at Shenstone Park in Staffordshire. In 1722 Samuel made a splendid marriage with the Lady Elizabeth, second daughter of the Earl of Chesterfield. At the time of his wedding he wrote to his uncle explaining that the ceremony was to be delayed until the end of the week, for which delay he could discover no better reason than that his Lordship expected some green geese and other provisions from London, having taken it into his head to make a great entertainment. To match the portion brought to this marriage Hill settled on his nephew further estates in Shropshire, but later redeemed the properties in Prees so settled, and gave Samuel instead the Coventry estates of Willenhall and Whitmore Park, while the Prees lands originally intended for him were settled on Rowland—a further indication of the policy of settling on Rowland the North Shropshire properties.

Hill's ambitions for Samuel's enrichment were not ultimately successful, for Samuel did not found a dynasty. His wife died of smallpox caught on a visit to London for the Coronation of George II. They had no children, and Samuel did not marry again. His estates in Coventry reverted to his cousin of Hawkstone, while those of Sutton Maddock, Wrockwardine, and Shenstone came, under the terms of his uncle's settlements, to Thomas Hill of Tern, the son of Margaret Harwood.

On this nephew, too, Hill settled estates. The Harwoods had lived in Shrewsbury, but moved to Tern Hall in the parish of Atcham, and this manor Hill succeeded in acquiring in perpetuity. He settled it on his sister Margaret and on her eldest surviving son, this Thomas, who, like his cousin Samuel, early took the name of Hill. On Thomas, Hill settled the lands he bought at Weston Lullingfield—it appears that Thomas had some interest there from his mother's first husband Richard Acherley, and at Worfield—where the Harwood family had had the property—and in the parish of Condover, which lay on the Atcham side of the country. Thomas was given much of this and the property, including the manor of

Painton—though Atcham remained his mother's during her life—on his marriage in 1723 with Anne Powys, daughter of Richard Powys, descendant of a Shropshire family renowned in the law, an Official of the Treasury and the owner of a large estate in Suffolk. Rowland, Thomas' brother, entered the Church and gained preferment through his uncle's influence, settling finally to the living of Hodnet, the gift of which Hill secured for £600 on the understanding that the presentation should rest alternately with the Hills of Hawkstone and the Vernons of Hodnet.

The settlements thus shew the purpose Hill had in mind in buying estates to found "affluent families" through his nephews. The purchase deeds themselves yield not only information as to when particular properties were bought. Consulted together with the rentals and the agent's letters which complement them they shew how the policy was carried out.

Hill's Shropshire estates were parcelled out for handling by different agents. John Dicken, member of a fairly substantial family with property of its own in Wollerton, and also in Cheshire, handled properties in Weston Lullingfield, Burton in Conover, Wem Brockhurst, Tilley, Whixall, Cotton, Marchamley, Weston-under-Redcastle. Those at Wyrswall in Whitchurch, Ightfield, Whitchurch and Prees were in the charge of Thomas Ball. Thomas Harwood, Hill's brother-in-law, dealt with the estate in Worfield, and other relations were pressed into service. Richard Price, rector of Hodnet, husband of Hill's sister Sarah, and Francis Chambre of Petton, a lawyer, married to Hill's niece Elizabeth, joined in this service of managing, and reporting to Hill his local affairs. They compiled and sent him rent rolls, many of which, annotated in his own hand, survive in the Collection from Attingham. Their letters, particularly those of John Dicken, which form a series beginning in 1713, but increasing in number for the years from 1719, are very informative. Although Hill's side of this correspondence does not survive, apart from an odd note or occasional draft reply, the letters reveal his interests and concerns as a landlord because they obviously give him the information for which he had asked. Dicken was a good scout for a profitable mortgage or likely purchase and his letters often reveal much of the negotiations leading up to purchase.

He did not advocate buying land dear, even in the cause of consolidation, and his master agreed with him. It is from Dickens'

letters that we gather that Hill even declined buying the Hodnet estate of the Vernon family which was tentatively offered, even though this marched with that of Hawkstone, and would have given the Hills virtually the whole parish of Hodnet for their own. This estate was mortgaged to Hill as early as 1701 for £12,000 by Sir Richard Vernon, son of Sir Thomas Vernon, a country gentleman of £1,500 a year, whose second marriage was to Mary Kirke, maid of honour to Queen Catherine. Sir Thomas had lived beyond his means. His son followed his example. Morris says "his habits were too expensive for his estates." Sir Richard eventually redeemed his estate from this mortgage, though he sold to Hill the Longford and Moston part of it. The history of this acquisition is indeed an example of Hill's purpose in lending money on the security of land with the aim of eventually foreclosing and acquiring either the estate involved, or an equivalent property. In a note on one of his settlements he says that money due to him on mortgage in 1712 was to be laid out in the purchase of estates—implying, indeed, that he set aside a certain section of his capital for investment in this way with hope of return of this kind. He acquired the estates, including the capital messuages, at Whixall and Cotton, from Edward Minshull of Stoke, Chester, by paying £3,108 consideration money, discharging Minshull's Cheshire estate of that sum, which was part of £5108 owed to him.

Sometimes his schemes did not bear fruit in his own lifetime, but were completed by his nephew Rowland. An estate of Henry Tenison at Weston-under-Redcastle was in mortgage to Hill and his brother John for many years, but did not pass to the family till after they were dead, though Dicken eyed this property keenly for his master, and because of it argued for the purchase of "Staunton" (Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath), which was "commodious" to Hill's estate, . . . "and . . . in case you should purchase Mr. Tennison's lands at Red Castle (as I am in hopes you some time or other will) it will then be all your own lands from Hawkstone to Staunton about five or six miles in length."

This acceptance of mortgages lies at the root of much of this acquiring of land. Hill had ready cash, a commodity scarce among many landowners who lived only on their estates. He was applied to for loans and could make his choice, these applications coming frequently from the smaller landowners, the minor gentry of the district, while he was known to be a likely purchaser of estates

which their owners desired to sell. This need for landowners to sell or mortgage for ready cash cannot, however, always be construed as indicating an impoverished condition in these small gentry. The urge to consolidate estates was general, and much property was thrown on the market by owners wishing to sell in one area only to buy in another. Then, too, Hill was circumscribed by his own desire to buy only in particular areas, and his achievement is the greater, and the more interesting, in that for the most part he had to build up an estate, particularly in Hawkstone and Marchamley not from large properties of ruined families, but from small lots coming up for sale piece by piece, owned by a variety of landowners of many classes—yeoman-farmers, Shrewsbury tradesmen, small landowners who had some land in that district but who lived elsewhere, families who had had a small property there for generations, families who had only recently acquired land.

There is only one unmistakable example of his benefiting from the decline of a family that had once been great. This was the Mainwarings of Ightfield. They had a tradition of Court service and of loyalty to the Crown and had suffered loss as a result of the Civil War. In recompense for their loyalty Charles II relaxed for them the statute by which ecclesiastical lands were to be leased for terms of 21 years only, and allowed them to take up their old lease of the manor of Prees from the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry for a term of lives. They did not, however, recover their position. In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries they sold off a good deal of their properties. In 1697 they sold an estate in Edstaston, Wem. In 1707 the manor of Ightfield was sold for £7,500 to provide part of the handsome settlement made by her mother on the bride of Viscount Kilmorey. Hill acquired various small properties, and took over from the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry the lease both of the manor, and later from the Prebend of Prees, the rectory and tithes, which, like the manor, had formerly been leased to the Mainwarings. This period saw the complete decline of that family. Arthur Mainwaring, famed in his own day as a wit and political writer, died without legitimate heirs, from a fluxion, Blakeway says, taken while walking in the gardens at St. Albans with the Duchess of Marlborough, of whom and the Duke he was "an intimate friend and confidential agent."

Hill himself died in July 1727, and was buried, as he wished, in the church at Hodnet, where he had been at expense to have a

family vault built, and marble brought down from London—with some difficulty over the carriage of it over soft roads—for his stone. In this again he was doing what was the custom among men of his time, and indeed this whole venture of building up a great inheritance, fitting it with a mansion and setting a whole dynasty upon the road to prestige and influence is typical of his times and of the circle in which he lived. His work was seen in the next generation. For his nephew Rowland he obtained a baronetcy, and it was as Sir Rowland that in 1727 he entered into his inheritance. In 1732 he became Sheriff of Shropshire—an honour which his mother and sister wished him to defer, but his cousin Rowland wrote “but for what reason I know not; I doubt they can’t instance many Ancestors that have been Sheriffs”—a remark which indicates his awareness of how the family had risen in the world. This rise is even more clearly indicated in the kind of marriages that were contracted in this generation, of Hill’s nieces and nephews. Sir Rowland married Jane, only surviving daughter of Sir Brian Broughton by his marriage with Elizabeth Delves, who brought him a portion of £8,000 to her marriage.

Thomas Hill was bred as a merchant by his uncle, who arranged his training at the great banking house of Cliffords in Amsterdam. No son survived his first marriage with Anne Powys, but the eldest surviving son of his second marriage to Susanna Maria Noel became the first Lord Berwick. Thomas Hill continued as his uncle would have wished, adding to his own estates and improving his mansion of Tern Hall, though this was swept away by his son in the building of Attingham.

Rowland, Thomas’s younger brother, did not marry—his uncle tried to arrange a marriage for him with a daughter of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, but the plans went awry. Hill tried to console himself about this: “I must comfort myself that marriages are made in heaven, and that my nephew has few friends there.” Rowland died young in 1733—the member of the family who had least effect in this enterprise of dynasty making, but whose surviving letters ironically tell us more than any other source about the personalities involved.

Hill had many nieces as well as these four nephews with whom he was concerned. Those in whose interests he was particularly active were the daughters of his brother John, of whom he was the guardian under their father’s will, and the daughters

of his brother Robert. But the nature of that concern is revealed in his action over the manor of Painton. This was the inheritance of Robert's daughters as co-heiresses. Hill bought it from them and settled it on Thomas Hill. He clearly did not wish land to go to nieces so that it should merely advantage their husbands. Instead, he was desirous of seeing them settled in suitable marriages, endowed with a good portion. He seems to have acted generously when need arose, in order to make up a sum to meet the suitor's wishes, and to one niece at least he made a gift to buy wedding clothes. These girls, with portions of £1,200 to £1,500 each, all made good marriages into families of solid Shropshire gentry—to Adderton of Preston Montford, Harries of Cruckton, Chambre of Petton, Griffiths of Dinthill, alliances which strengthened and extended the influence of the Hill family in the county. It is when these marriages are compared with those of the earlier generation that the increasing prestige of the Hills is perhaps more fully realised. Margaret Harwood's first husband had been descended from tanners and timber merchants of Middle—substantial, it is true, but not a family that could claim to be gentry for generations.<sup>1</sup> In the next generation even younger daughters could expect to make a handsome alliance.

Hill was right in saying on the inscription of his vault that he was famed among his relations for his paternal care. That care achieved much, and left a great mark on the history of his native county. It is pleasant to read in one of Dicken's letters that, when he died, absentee landlord though he was, who had not visited his native village since at least 1700, the whole district was plunged in grief at having lost so kind a patron and benefactor.

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<sup>1</sup>Gough's *History of Middle*.

William of Hill & Untingsdale  
 Ralph  
 Thomas  
 William of Bletchley  
 Humphrey of Hawkstone & Adderley  
 William Rector of Stoke upon Tern  
 Rowland Lord Mayor of London 1549  
 4 daughters  
 Mary Dycher al. Ditchfield Elizabeth m Margaret Whitehall 1653  
 Mary Dycher al. Ditchfield Elizabeth m Margaret Whitehall 1653  
 Rowland I  
 Rowland II  
 Rowland III died 1700  
 Rowland  
 Richard 1654/5-1727 m Sarah Stubbs  
 John died 1712/3 m Sarah Stubbs  
 Elizabeth m Samuel Barbour  
 Margaret m Robert Lowndes  
 Thomas Rowland m (1) Ann Powys  
 Thomas Rowland m Walter Cough of Oldtailings  
 Ann m J. Kynaston of Hordley  
 Margaret m Robert Lowndes  
 2. Thomas Harwood  
 Margaret m Robert Lowndes  
 Ann m. Allen Catchpole  
 Ann m. J. Kynaston of Hordley  
 Sarah m Richard Price, rector of Hodnet  
 Elizabeth m Francis CHAMBERE  
 Margaret m Thomas Kynaston of Maesbury of Petton  
 Mary m Richard Wareing



## SOME XVIII<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SHROPSHIRE POTTERIES

BY SIR EDWARD BENTHALL

In the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Century the river Severn leading to the Bristol Channel ports was the export and internal distributive route for Staffordshire pottery and it was only natural that the clay and coal resources of the Broseley area where the Staffordshire pottery was loaded on Severn trows or barges should be turned to profit in due course.

There are records and/or remains of at least four potteries in the Broseley area, Jackfield, Caughley, Haybrook and Benthall now known as the Benthall Fireclay Company Limited, and Pitts-yard or Pitchyard known also as Benthall Bank. The object of this paper is to bring together such information about the operation and products of these potteries as is available from old and often conflicting sources before the records and evidence pass still further into oblivion.

In the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century three of the potteries, Jackfield, Caughley and Benthall, were situated on the properties of the Ralph Browne family, formerly of Caverswall in Staffordshire but subsequently established at Caughley Hall. Monuments to the family exist in the churches of Barrow and Benthall. Related by marriage to the family of Benthall they acquired Benthall Hall and its small estate by will from Richard Benthall in 1720 from which family it passed by inheritance through the female line to the families of Blythe and then Harries before being sold to Lord Forester in 1843. The Brownes were landowners and pottery owners, but it was the Thursfields who mainly developed the potteries.

William Thursfield, of Norton-on-the-Moors, was married at Caverswall on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1706, which probably explains the connection with the Brownes, Norton-on-the-Moors being about four miles from Caverswall, five from Stoke-upon-Trent, and two from Thursfield.

According to Chaffers,<sup>4</sup> Richard Thursfield took over Jackfield Pottery in 1713, but Jewett<sup>3</sup> states that this was John Thursfield. This could hardly be so, as John Thursfield the first of this study, a son of William, was baptised at Stoke-upon-Trent on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1707 and was married at Broseley on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1729 to

Miss Eleanor Morris of Fearney Bank, Broseley, being then described in the register as a "sojourner," showing that he was not an old inhabitant.<sup>2</sup> It is probable therefore that John came to the Jackfield area only about that time when he was about 22 years old, probably to work with his relation Richard, though what the relationship was is not known. Possibly he was William's brother, and he is said to have died in 1751.

About 1742 John Thursfield was establishing pottery works upon the estate of George Weld of Willey. A lease dated April 27th 1743 was granted by George Weld to William Colley, tenant of Posenhall Farm, of an acre of land taken out of a piece of land forming part of Posenhall Farm called the Coppy Head. This lease was granted in consideration of his building the several pothouses and buildings thereon, and held by his under-tenant John Thursfield.<sup>2</sup> This was called Haybrook Pottery and was in Posenhall parish, and there were excellent beds of clay and coal there. There was also a lease dated 1746 between Wm. Colley and John Thursfield of a pottery, reserving certain rights to George Weld as landowner; also an agreement dated June 20th 1758 as to pot-works between George Forester and John Thursfield. The latter died in June 1760<sup>2</sup> and was buried at Broseley.

He was succeeded in his pottery business by his sons, John the second, baptised at Broseley on December 16th 1733, and William called Morris, baptised at Broseley on March 2nd 1748.

John the second had a lease dated March 25th 1770 of four pothouses, etc., under William Colley, who still held Posenhall Farm under George (Weld) Forester. John the second therefore held Haybrook pottery on the Forester Estate and in 1772 built the Benthall pottery on the Browne (then Blythe) estate near to Haybrook but on the other side of the road and in Benthall parish (according to Chaffers and Woollincraft Rhead<sup>10</sup> "after leaving Jackfield"). He held both at his death in January 1789, which took place at Benthall Hall, where he had for some time resided. He was churchwarden of Broseley in 1764 and of Benthall in 1780. By his will he left his pottery works at "Haybrook and elsewhere" to his son John Thursfield the third.

William Thursfield, born 1748, was called "Morris" (which was his mother's family name) and signed himself Morris in the marriage register of his sister Hannah to John Guest in 1768. There is some obscurity about his career. By some authorities he is

credited with making black lustrous ware with flowers or figures upon it at Jackfield, known to collectors at Thursfield ware,<sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup> but in 1760 when his father died he was only 12 years old and his brother John remained at Jackfield till 1772. In 1772, when John set up the new works at Benthall, the Jackfield works were said to have been taken over by a Mr. Simpson.<sup>1</sup> Either young Morris seems to have got the credit for making the famous blackglazed ware when his brother was really in charge, or he acted as salesman for his brother and then for Simpson. The latter was said to have further improved the manufacture at Jackfield, for in addition to the "black decanters" as his mugs were called, he made various articles of superior quality, which prior to the breaking out of the war with America in 1773 found a ready sale there. Certain it is that Morris went to the U.S.A. in 1783 immediately after the War of Independence with a cargo of earthenware and died of yellow fever in Philadelphia. There must be some doubt therefore whether at this date Morris and not Simpson was really running Jackfield, whether he was selling for Simpson or whether he had moved with his brother to Benthall and was really selling the Benthall ware made in imitation of Jackfield.

John Thursfield the third was born in 1764, and was executor to his father's will in 1789. He carried on the potteries at Jackfield, Haybrook and Benthall and held them for some years. His sister, Margaret Elizabeth, married William Pierce in 1796, and some time afterwards the firm became Thursfield and Pierce. John is said to have joined the Peninsular Army and to have been wrecked and drowned off Guernsey on December 10th 1816, although he would then have been 52 years of age and apparently rather old for such adventures. This reference may have been to a son John Thursfield the fourth.

#### JACKFIELD POTTERY

This pottery is on the former Browne Estates, and is said to be one of the oldest in the kingdom, though a reference in 1560 clearly refers to another Jackfield near Stoke-upon-Trent.<sup>2</sup> A mug of brown earthenware dated 1634 was, however, discovered in an old pit at Jackfield, and an early oven which at some period had been covered by a landslip was unearthed during excavations in the 19th century.

In 1713 Richard Thursfield came to Jackfield, succeeding a Mr. Glover who used the old salt-glaze process discovered in 1690 for his ware.<sup>1</sup> Richard Thursfield presumably carried on until his death in 1751. John Thursfield the first carried on to 1760, when he was succeeded by his son John Thursfield the second who severed his connection in 1772 when he was succeeded by Simpson.<sup>2</sup>

After 1783 the works were operated by Edward Blakeway,<sup>1</sup> who lived and died at Broseley Hall, and was subsequently joined by Horton and by John Rose on his leaving Caughley. Rose afterwards carried them on by himself and began the manufacture of china, but he removed the works about 1796 to Coalport.

Subsequently, about 1840 probably, the works were used to make encaustic tiles, and came into the ownership of Messrs. Craven Dunnill & Company. The old buildings were all destroyed and a new range was constructed fronting the railway at Jackfield and close to the right bank of the Severn, which still exists.

Early writers on pottery, Chaffers, Solon,<sup>9</sup> Jewitt and Randall were all rather vague about dates, personalities and products and many minor contradictions in their writings will be found. But there seems little doubt that Jackfield went through various stages as did most other potteries in the XVIIIth century. Beginning with brown earthenware, the factory turned over to saltglaze in the early XVIIIth century in imitation of contemporary Staffordshire ware. Solon says that they were still making it under Simpson's management for the American market. Jewitt is more specific. "The kind of ware made at Jackfield was a white stoneware very similar to the Staffordshire make, and on some examples flowers and other ornaments were incised and coloured, that is, the outlines were cut in while the clay was soft, and the flowers and other ornaments touched afterwards with colour. Tiles of the kind usually known as 'Dutch Tiles' were also made." "Jackfield tiles were made by Mr. Peter Stephan (afterwards a modeller at Coalport) son of Stephan the potter who was one time at Derby and afterwards at Jackfield, where he had a small pottery. He produced some strikingly good arabesque patterns in blue printing, Mark and anchor and cable impressed, also crest of an anchor on a heraldic roll with his name above, printed in blue. He also made the first encaustic tiles in the district."

The product for which Jackfield was, and is, famous is however the blackglazed ware on a thin and well-potted red earthenware base, which is still the name given by uninformed members of the trade in ceramics to much ware which was made by Whieldon and by other potters in Staffordshire or elsewhere. Although Chaffers says that Jackfield work was covered with a very black glaze, sometimes with scrolls and flowers in relief, there is no evidence that any such sprigged ware was made there, such products being, however, typical of the Staffordshire potteries as evidenced by numerous sherds discovered in the last half century by Mr. Morley Hewitt<sup>11</sup> and by Mr. Tom Lythe of Wedgwoods at Whieldon's Fenton Low site. Jewitt repeats that raised ornament was used. But the same writer gives a most accurate description of what was undoubtedly made there when he describes it as "a very superior black ware, highly vitrified and glazed: indeed so highly glazed that it had all the outward appearance of glass. The forms and the potting of these articles, locally known as 'black decanters' were remarkably good, and on some specimens I have seen ornaments, heads and wreaths, etc., executed in gold and colour: and on other paintings in oils, portraits or views and raised ornaments are introduced. Some good examples are preserved in the Museum of Practical Geology" (which afterwards went to the Victoria and Albert Museum). This is a pretty good description except that the glaze is not usually as black as the Whieldon glaze and the ware with raised ornament was made elsewhere. Any black glazed piece which corresponds to a jug or black decanter, well potted, with onglaze gold leaf or colour can safely be ascribed to Jackfield and often they can be found with an inscription containing initials or full names and sometimes with dates. The initials in particular are often contained in a "decanter label" in gold leaf or white below the spout, and such pieces were undoubtedly made, or at least decorated to order, to celebrate a wedding or a birthday. In the writer's possession are three black decanters, one with the initials B.K. with gold leaf flowers and chains, one with roses and birds on one side, flowers on the other and with E.I. on a decanter label in white under the spout, and one with red and gold flowers and scrolls and with the inscription "Wilm and Catherine Onions near Wellington". A similar jug, 9" high is quoted by the Hodgkins<sup>5</sup> as having a similar inscription "Blyth and Elizabeth Simpson Derby 1769". Jacobite inscriptions are also not infrequent.

Shropshire being a stronghold of that movement. There is one in the Glaisher Collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge<sup>7</sup> with the inscription "May the Tennant be Ready when the Steward [Stuart] comes." At Sotheby's sale on November 14th 1950 the Welsh National Museum bought a punch bowl decorated in gilt with portraits of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and a rose with two buds below a trellis rim and a tankard bearing the number 27 which is believed to be the code number of one of the Lloyd family of Montgomery in use at the Fiat Jacobite Club in Wrexham where each member was known simply by a number.

Black decanters with inscriptions have probably survived more frequently than unornamented ware, having as family heirlooms been better taken care of. But unornamented jugs survive and a number of other articles of household use which cannot however be ascribed with any certainty to this factory. That some were made there is undoubted and it is interesting that a descendant of the Thursfields', Mr. Patrick Thursfield, has a tea caddy, a mug and a milk jug of apparently the same body and glaze which have been handed down as family heirlooms. These might, of course, have come from the Benthall and not the Jackfield pottery.

The leaf gold and the colour painting on Jackfield ware was on glaze, applied in the case of the gold with a size. If it was stove-d at all (and Burton,<sup>6</sup> a practical potter, says that it could never have been fired, though other authorities disagree), it was at a very gentle heat. That being so the gold and the colours are in the majority of specimens much worn and in many there are the merest traces. Pieces in first-class preservation are rare and in some cases on the market there has been restoration of the gold leaf, often skilfully done.

#### CAUGHLEY POTTERY

The history of the Caughley Porcelain Works has been fully covered in recent publications and it is not necessary to recapitulate. The interest of Caughley in connection with this paper lies in its very early days as a pottery.

It was established in 1751<sup>1</sup> by the Ralph Browne of the day, some distance from the Severn at Linley, as a small pottery works using the local clays for earthenware. In 1754 it was leased to Mr. Gallimore and the connection with Worcester began, although it is on record that the Caughley productions, although they had

obtained considerable excellence, were not far removed from earthenware until Thomas Turner took over in 1772 when new works were built and the factory rose to first rate importance for its china ware.

John Thursfield the second seems at some time to have managed the Caughley works for Mr. Browne in addition to the other potteries.

Researches were made locally to try to discover from wasters apart from the large dumps of later porcelain what pottery was made at the early works. One local resident said that her father had found large numbers of black glazed sherds to the north of Turner's works and had come to the conclusion that the famous Jackfield pottery had not been made at Jackfield at all but had been made at Caughley and shipped from Jackfield. This sounded interesting but there does not seem to be other evidence for this suggestion. Careful searches revealed only one black glazed pottery fragment, the bottom of a teapot of the true Jackfield type, which however may easily have been brought from outside. No other pottery fragments at all were found and there is therefore at present no indication of the nature of the first products of these works.

#### HAYBROOK POTTERY

This pottery was built by John Thursfield the first in 1743 as described in the paragraphs dealing with the Thursfields. It was known locally as the Mughouse and was managed first by John Thursfield, then by John Thursfield the second until his death, then by his son conjointly with the Benthall pottery across the road, the whole being known as the Benthall Potteries and thus shown on Ordnance Maps which show the section of the potteries East of the road, that is the old Haybrook works, as situated close to Coppice Cottage and the old shafts and near also to Colley's Dingle. (cf. the reference to Coppy Head and Colley above). There is no doubt that this was the original Haybrook or Mughouse.

"There was an old jar at Willey Hall with 'George Weld Esq.,' on it, it was made of red clay, glazed inside, and resembled the red ware made at Haybrook pottery, and the letters are raised upon it in white clay. It would have been made previous to the death of George Weld in 1748 by John Thursfield at Haybrook, which was then the only potworks upon the Weld property.<sup>2</sup> Some years after the old hall was taken down at Willey this jar was found in a ditch."<sup>1</sup> A reference to John Thursfield the first having moved

to the Benthall Works in 1729<sup>1</sup> is probably inaccurate, as there can be little doubt about the construction of the Haybrook or Mughouse property in 1743 and of the Benthall extension in 1772.

"The Haybrook pottery was called the Mughouse from the number of drinking mugs manufactured there, and inns on the riverside where these drinking cups were kept for the use of the bargemen who drew the vessels (on the Severn) were also called Mug-houses. Tots and mugs were made of the same kind of clay: the former were used by the men who drank in company, hence the word "totty" signifying slightly tipsy."<sup>1</sup>

From external evidence it appears therefore that Haybrook in its early days manufactured red ware of the commonest description though more elegant than that said to have been made at Pitchyard.<sup>1</sup> Search on the site revealed a number of small fragments of such early ware and also quite a considerable number of pieces of slipware. In the absence of evidence it is difficult to say how late slipware was made here, but the recent Manager of the works, Mr. Raleigh, reported that he had in his possession complete dishes of this ware found on the site and other pieces have been found at Benthall Hall. The old moulds for the baking dishes were also found. For the rest the ground is covered with fragments of the different ware made there in the last 150 years, including large numbers of black-glazed electrical fittings made in the last 50 years, with a red base and a very high pitch-black glaze from a formula still preserved. There is no evidence on the ground of any black glazed Jackfield type tableware having been made on this site. It has been suggested that a derelict kiln by the roadside was used for the manufacture of salt glaze, which might fit in with the discovery of old segars used for salt glaze work found in Benthall village. But if salt glaze were made here, the wasters have been obscured by the rubble of at least a century and a half of other work.

#### BENTHALL POTTERY

This pottery across the road from Haybrook was started by John Thursfield in 1772 on leaving Jackfield. On his death in 1789 it was carried on by his son and some time after by his son and son-in-law in a partnership known as Thursfield and Pierce. With Haybrook it passed successively into the hands of Poole and Lloyd, Easthope, Lloyd and Jones, Jones and Bathurst (c. 1818),



Bell Brothers, and in 1862 into the hands of the firm of Allen. In recent years as the Benthall Fireclay Company Limited it has made earthenware pipes.

Other accounts say that Messrs. Maw & Company having commenced experiments on encaustic tiles, mosaics and majolica at Worcester in 1850/51, moved to Benthall in 1852 and began manufacture in 1857. Full details are given by Jewitt with illustrations of the tiles, art vases, etc., made and some of the tiles may be seen at Benthall Hall where Mr. Maw lived. He was a man of parts having written a standard illustrated work on crocus species some of which survive in the garden of the Hall to this day. In 1871 Messrs. Maws built supplementary works at the Tuckies, Jackfield, and in 1882 the works were entirely rebuilt there on 5½ acres of ground between the Severn and the railway.

It may be therefore that Messrs. Maw occupied Benthall while Allen was first only across the road at Haybrook. It is possible also that Maw while living at Benthall Hall did not make his tiles at this site at all, since so far as the writer remembers there are no signs of wasters of encaustic tiles. In 1883, when Jewitt wrote, the Benthall potteries were already producing the ordinary yellow and other common wares, presumably under Allen.

The present site at Benthall is a mass of pipeware wasters but there are also dumps of all the other ware made in the last 150 years at the two works, it having been the practice in the last century to cast out mixed wasters to make roads to the pitheads. In the circumstances it was not to be expected that pieces of the earlier manufactures would be readily discoverable and such proved to be the case.

A number of sherds of black glazed domestic ware were found among the cast out wasters, on both a red and a white body, but they are apparently of a common type, not comparable in fineness of potting to the XVIIIth century ware. They compare with a small cream jug of a rough type on a red body with a black glaze, authenticated as having been made on the site within the last sixty years. No specimen of fine black glazed pottery with a white body has come to the writer's notice in the market. Evidence from the site does not therefore at present corroborate the tradition of the old writers that fine black glazed ware was made here upwards of two hundred years ago.

Chaffers records that the reason for starting a factory on this site in 1772 was the discovery of a fine bed of clay in the immediate vicinity suitable for making pottery. This is not surprising seeing that Haybrook had long been using beds in the same horizon. He goes on to record that the production of the Benthall factory was of the same character as that of Jackfield and that the secret of the black glaze was only known to the proprietor and died with him. But if John Thursfield came from Jackfield, as he did, he must have brought the secret from Jackfield or Jackfield must have ceased to make black ware after 1772. But Randall records that the Benthall productions were neither so finely glazed nor so highly decorated as the Jackfield ware, and of course the secret of the black glaze had been known long before to Whieldon and others. In fact the glaze on the modern Benthall sherds appears to be of much the same tone and quality as that of accepted Jackfield pieces. Further information about these early products can only be secured by happening on dumps of discarded products which of course might still happen at any time.

#### PITTSYARD OR PITCHYARD POTTERY AT BENTHALL

This ancient pottery is situated at Spout Lane, close to the New Inn in Benthall parish, on the west of the steep road from Ironbridge to Benthall. Pitchyard, as in the case of Pitchford, may have indicated a tarry seepage, as also in the case of Tarbatch Dingle.

There are no records of its beginnings and for much of its existence it was a pipeworks, making the famous Broseley clay pipes which, so long as clay pipes were in fashion, found a wide market in London and wherever pipes were smoked. Prior to 1829, when Noah Roden died, it was in the hands of those famous pipe makers, the Rodens, who lived in Benthall village and were from time to time churchwardens of the parish church. The Rodens were succeeded by the Southorn family, who held the pottery until 1879, when, on the death of Mr. Edwin Southorn, who was buried at Benthall, they were succeeded by Hopkins & Company, at least at the Raleigh pipe works in Broseley.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Southorn, of the King's Head, Broseley Wood, still continues the making of clay pipes on a small scale and finds a ready market for his small output.

For many years this pottery was derelict. Recently, however, an attempt was made to open it for decorated ware but the venture proved unsuccessful and the pottery is again silent.

A record in Randall's Broseley indicates that he had seen an ancient mug made at Pitchyard of a primitive kind, and it is also recorded that old segars in which the pottery was burnt, are often to be found forming the walls of cottage gardens in Benthall and Broseley Wood, the suggestion being made that these were used for salt glaze ware. The late Mr. Maiden of Hillside, Broseley Wood, informed the writer in 1952 that the Harries of Benthall had at one time operated Pitchyard, which, if correct, was presumably before they sold out to Lord Forester in 1843, but Mr. Owen says that his grandmother who was born in 1830 could not recall any tradition that pottery had been made there, only pipes. Mr. Maiden said, however, that the tradition was that Pitchyard, like Haybrook, had one time been known as a Mughouse, and taken with Randall's evidence does seem to indicate that prior to its use as a pipe works it was at one time engaged in the making of drinking vessels, though if this was so, it would probably be of the common sort used locally and especially by the trowmen of the Severn. There was no indication that any superior kind of ware had ever been made there.

Mr. Maiden, however, reported that he had lived in a house just across Spout Lane from the old kilns and when digging in his garden had come across a number of pieces of slipware, which so far as he remembered included not only plates and dishes but fragments of drinking vessels.

With these indications a search was made of the neighbourhood. No trenching was possible but where Mr. Maiden had indicated there were a very large number of slipware sherds, all of which appeared to be fragments of plates or Welsh dishes, and many of them with crimped edges, in fact the traditional form of slipware or Welsh dishes for which the Benthall Potteries even to-day get occasional inquiries. They were also a few broken clay pipes. The slipware had a fireclay body, covered with a red or brown slip which in turn was decorated with a white slip poured on with a slip kettle and quill or a comb of quills.

There were no signs of any earthenware mug sherds nor any indication of any other pottery, but with these indications on the surface it is probable that trenching across the road from the kiln doors would reveal wasters of all the products of the pottery since its commencement.

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- <sup>2</sup>*Connoisseur*, Vol. LVII, No. 227, July 1920, by C. Clifton Roberts, embodying notes by Mr. T. H. Thursfield.
- <sup>3</sup>Llewellyn Jewitt—*The Ceramic Art of Great Britain*, 1883.
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- <sup>9</sup>Solon—*The Art of the Old English Potter*.
- <sup>10</sup>Woollincraft Rhead—*British Pottery Marks*.
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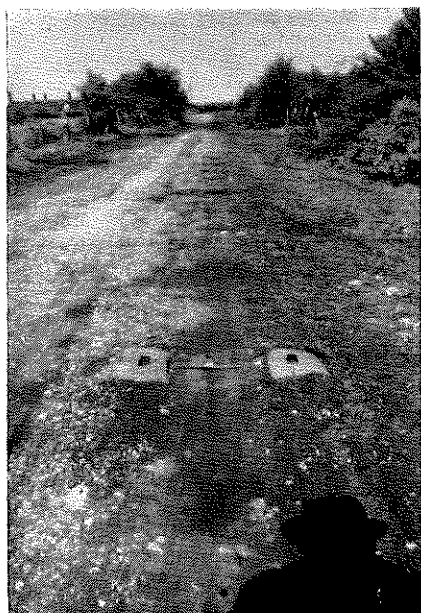


FIG. 1  
THE "YARD RAILS" AT DONNINGTON WOOD



FIG. 2  
A PAIR OF SANDSTONE BLOCKS AT THE "YARD RAILS"

## MISCELLANEA

### REPORT ON THE REMAINS OF AN OLD TRAMWAY AT DONNINGTON WOOD

BY W. HOWARD WILLIAMS

Along an almost disused road at Donnington Wood are 33 sandstone blocks, all that remains of a tramway which may have been laid down as far back as the 1790s. The road in which they can be seen is called (by some of the older local inhabitants) the "Yard Rails," and this, I presume, is because the tramway probably went to the depot on the canal at the Old Yard.

The sandstone blocks are of two shapes generally—rectangular (in the middle of the road) and squarish, at each end. The gauge is 25 ft., measured from the centre holes of a pair of stones, and the distances between pairs of blocks is 6 ft.—the latter being the distance recommended by John Curr of Sheffield, the engineer who did so much to popularise tramway construction. The rectangular blocks (shown in photograph) are 14 in. by 11 in. and the holes are  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in. long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep. At each end of these holes one can still excavate bits of very rotten wood—the remains of the wooden pegs. The squarish blocks are slightly smaller, and the holes are about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. square. Eighteen blocks are of the square type, six are rectangular, and the rest are so worn and broken as to be unidentifiable. Most of the blocks are single but there are six pairs. The furthest distance between first and last stones is about 350 yards.

Mr. Forward says they carried a tramway of the plate type rails. The two types of blocks reveal that two methods of securing the rails were used. The method of securing in the square holes was by a T-shaped cast-iron pedestal with a pointer end. The ends of two rails were rivetted to the cross section of the pedestal and the pointed end would be driven into a hole in the stone block and secured by wooden pegs. In the case of the rectangular blocks, to the end of each rail an angular-shaped pedestal would be used. Two rails would thus be secured, separately, to the same block.

I have studied all the available maps of the period, but cannot find any trace of this tramway. It is not on the map of Donnington Wood Colliery (the Earl Gower & Co.) dated 1788. This latter map does show that a railway went over the canal bridge, National Grid ref. 33/704125 (just to the east of the chapel there), and the tramway in question may have gone over this bridge along the road which turns northward from the "Yard Rails." The latter is the road parallel with and on the northern side of St. George's Road shortly before its junction with Lodge Road; its National Grid. ref. is from 33/704124 to 708126; on the 6 in. O.S. Shropshire Sheet xxxvi. N.E. it may be seen on the extreme southern edge of the Sheet at point 343 and continuing through point 341.

THE COACH ROAD FROM LONDON TO MONTGOMERY  
IN SOUTH-WEST SALOP

BY F. LAVENDER

John Ogilby's Map of this road (1700 ?) sets out the route from "The Standard", in Cornhill to Montgomery and gives the mileage as 158 miles and 5 furlongs. Some of the following milestones are still erected but the mileage does not agree with his map, being less on his map than on the milestone. The total discrepancy would seem to be about 7 miles.

The milestones are :—

North of Watling Street	...	151	in existence
By Long Lane Quarry	...	152	in existence
		153	
At fork North of Basford	...	154	in existence
		155	
South of Red House	...	156	in existence
Oakleymynd above fork	...	157	in existence
By Old Hall, Bishop's Castle	...	158	
Above Caeglas, Kerry Lane, by O.S. 538	...	159	
Opposite Red Gate, near Bishop's Moat	...	160	
Pullet Lane towards Court House		161	(about 5 miles from Montgomery)

The Milestones were buried for security reasons during the last war and at my request were disinterred afterwards. Errors may have been made but it is difficult to believe a milestone would have been carried far from its site on either occasion. As to the distance between them now, I have checked some of them by speedometer and they are dead accurate.

The Coach road, of course, is not on the recent Roman Map as such, nor as such on Professor Rees' 14th Century Map, but it very probably coincides with that part of the ancient track called Yr Hen Ffordd (the Ancient Road) which ran from Llangurig via Bishop's Moat and Bishop's Castle to Hemford (Yr Hen Ffordd), near Corndon, and towards Welshpool. The Coach road, however, left this track at Bishop's Castle (probably the bottom of the town) and went over Oakleymynd and past Red House, near Edgton and Basford to Halford or Craven Arms. The New Inn formerly stood at the crossing of the Shrewsbury-Hereford road.

In parts the Coach road has since been diverted, *e.g.* it formerly crossed the Shrewsbury-Hereford road at right angles, and followed a track round by Halford, thence West across the Corvedale Road



along a lane which rejoins the Shrewsbury-Hereford road beyond Stokesay Bridge. This can be traced on the 14th Century and other maps.

The Coach road is roughly shown on Greenwood's Map (of Salop) 1826, and Mordens & Bowens' Maps, but there are no roads in those of Saxton and Blower of the 17th Century; Ogilby's Map spells Oakleymynd as "Huggleman Hill."

Cary's "Roads" (1791) shows the Coach road and the gates, but does not show the Montgomery Road via The Heblands, the Lydbury North road or the Plowden road. It gives "Red Court" at four miles from Bishop's Castle, probably the Court House near Churchstoke (see later), where the Coach road joined the present Montgomery Road.

There is also a London milestone just beyond the "Blue Bell" on the road to Newtown, which is marked London 165, but it is the only one on that road, I think. The milestone marked on Ogilby's Map as just beyond the Blue Bell on the direct road to Montgomery is marked 156. On his map there is no sign of a left-hand turn to Newtown off the Coach road, but between the milestones marked 152 and 153 there are turnings to the left to Newtown and Clun, which would be at about Bishop's Moat. Another curious thing is that on his map there are two consecutive milestones marked 152 to London.

Paterson's "Roads" (1829) mentions other roads running from "Tyburn Turnpike" but they are not all necessarily coach roads. He mentions where horses could be changed, so they may have been roads for "post chaises," etc.

These roads were :—

- A. London to Montgomery via Bishop's Castle, mentioning the "Red Court House" (see ante) and a turning left to Newtown at  $171\frac{3}{4}$  miles (see ante), and the mileage to Montgomery as  $167\frac{1}{4}$ ! It went on to the Coast. Newton Green and the old milestone opposite the Craven Arms Hotel are given, with the mileage to London as  $149\frac{3}{4}$ ; also the New Inn, half a mile further along the Shrewsbury road and the new road to Bishop's Castle via Walcot, *i.e.* the Lydbury North road (see ante). It mentions the Red Court House as beyond Brompton, but in another place as at Wernddu (Churchstoke), as stated above.
- B. London to Aberystwyth—turning left to Kerry and Newtown, etc., at  $171\frac{3}{4}$  miles (see ante).  
Alternative routes : (a) as above to Montgomery, then via Llandyssil and Newtown, etc. (b) via Shrewsbury to Montgomery, and then as above.
- C. London to Shrewsbury, and thence via Cruckton, Nox, Chirbury, Montgomery, etc., or via Hanwood, Pontesbury, Minsterley, Brockton, Montgomery, etc.

D. Shrewsbury to Hay—via Pulverbatch, Norbury, Bishop's Castle, Colebatch, Acton, Clun, Knighton, etc.

The Coaching Inns on the road were at Red House corner, south of Oakleymynd; also one, I suggest, at The Six Bells, Bishop's Castle, which is on the road and is a very ancient inn (probably monastic). There would probably be inns at Halford, Edgton and the Court House.

From 1768 the road would pass Toll Gates at Pullet Lane (Bishop's Moat), Red Gate (still existing), Kerry Lane near Church, Crow Gate, Bishop's Castle (both still existing), High School cross roads at Bishop's Castle, Lynch Gate (still existing, south of Oakleymynd and Red House), and perhaps Edgton (Ridgway Gate), Basford Gate (mentioned in Paterson's "Roads," ante), and at two junctions with Shrewsbury-Hereford road.

The whole of the road from Stokesay to Court House is now very narrow, and would appear impossible for allowing two coaches to pass, though passing places can be observed. In latter days I suggest that owing to much disuse the actual metalled surface, including that at these passing places, has narrowed, owing to generations of roadmen having thrown mud and debris on to the roadside verges.

The road is not dead straight, as in Roman roads, but nor is the Holyhead road for that matter.

In 1834 a coach called "The Dart" began to run from Kidderminster to Aberystwyth, via Bishop's Castle (not its shortest route), but I do not know what exact course it took. There is a very high coach-house at the Castle Hotel at Bishop's Castle, but the landlord himself at one time ran a coach to Shrewsbury.

### A FRENCH REFUGEE AT LUDLOW IN 1800

BY D. E. RHODES

No satisfactory study has yet been written on those French Protestants who came over to England as refugees during the eighteenth century and who published books in this country: among them must be several whose lives as well as whose works entitle them to a systematic investigation, and perhaps a useful biographical dictionary should be compiled on the subject. The most colourful name which springs to my mind is that of the Rev. Louis Dutens (1730-1812), who came from Tours and accepted a living at Elsdon in Northumberland. But a much more obscure figure, whose very name must surely arouse the curiosity of Shropshire antiquarians, is John Francis Oliver (or rather, Jean François Olivier?) Doudouit, who was buried in Ludlow on 15 February

1808.<sup>1</sup> I know nothing about the life of this Frenchman beyond the fact that he had been curate of Lourmaïs in Brittany (a fact which he tells us himself in his *Latin Prosody*), came over as a refugee, settled in Ludlow before 1800 as a teacher of the French and Latin languages, and published the three books which are described below.

In 1797 the following description of Ludlow Grammar School was published : " Edward the IV founded here a Grammar School, the revenues of which have been at different times considerably improved ; and some valuable exhibitions in the University of Oxford are also annexed to it. Its present condition under the Rev. J. Thomas is flourishing, and from his talents and care is likely to be very much increased. Besides a regular classical education and preparation for the University, the French and Italian languages and other fashionable accomplishments are taught by proper masters. Ludlow indeed, from its healthy situation, seems to be as select a spot for the instruction of youth as can well be chosen. There is also a good private school held in the College under the direction of Mr. Edwards : and a very genteel Ladies' Boarding School, in Corve Street, kept by Miss Jordan."<sup>2</sup>

May we not venture to suppose that the French master (and quite probably the Italian master too) at Ludlow Grammar School in 1797 was none other than Monsieur Doudouit ? Certainly he tells us himself, in the preface to his *Elegant Biographical Extracts* of 1802 : " I think it right to add, that most of the characters which are introduced in my collection, have been of peculiar service to me in forwarding the advancement of the young gentlemen whom I instruct in the French Language."

It is unfortunate that nothing can be found out about Doudouit's background in France. The surname, in this form, is so rare as not to appear at all in the catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, or in any of the standard French biographical dictionaries, although several French authors who spell themselves Dudouit are listed.

The following three books by Doudouit represent the total number of his works which I have been able to trace :

(1). *Latin Prosody : or a Methodical compendium, on the quantity of Latin syllables ; and on Latin versification.* By John F. O. Doudouit. H. Procter : Ludlow ; T. N. Longman and O. Rees : London, 1800. 12mo. pp. viii. 4-141. Price 2s.<sup>3</sup>

Not in the British Museum. Copy in the possession of the Headmaster of Ludlow Grammar School, where it was shown to me in August 1952 by Mr. C. H. Beeby.

2. *Locorum communion Delectus poeticus*, designed as a sequel to the above work, by the same Author.

H. Procter : Ludlow. (Date unknown, but must have been either 1800 or 1801). Price 2s. 6d.

No copy located. Advertised in fourth edition of *The Ludlow Guide*. 1801.

(3). Elegant Biographical Extracts : consisting of interesting anecdotes, bon-mots, judicious repartees, etc. Arranged in Alphabetical Order ; compiled from the Best English and French Authors. . . . By J. F. O. Doudouit. . . . Ludlow : Printed by H. Procter ; sold by T. Hurst, Pater-Noster Row, London ; and all other Booksellers. 1802. 2 vol. 12mo. Price 7s.

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#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Shropshire Parish Registers. Diocese of Hereford. vol. xiv. (Ludlow, Parish of St. Lawrence, vol. 2). Privately printed for the Shropshire Parish Register Society, 1915. Cf. p. 1149.

<sup>2</sup> *The Ludlow Guide, comprising an account of the ancient and present state of that town, and it's [sic] neighbourhood ; with every necessary information for the stranger and traveller*. Second edition. pp. 77. Ludlow, Printed and sold by H. Procter, 1797. See p. 49. This book, of which the British Museum has the second, third, fourth and fifth editions but not the first, was compiled by John Price, whose name occurs at the end of the advertisement.

<sup>3</sup> An anonymous note on this book was published by Mr. Beeby (Headmaster of Ludlow Grammar School from 1950 to 1953) in his school magazine, *The Ludlovian*, vol. xxvi, no. 12, November 1952, pp. 274-5, in which he quotes the amusing acrostic Latin verses occurring at the end of Doudouit's preface. These tell of the Frenchman's gratitude to Britain for giving asylum to a foreign refugee, and the first letters of each line add up to spell the author's name. I am grateful to Mr. Beeby for much kind assistance.

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