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SHROPSHIRE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

BY HENRY T. WEYMAN, F.S.A.

(Continued from 4th Series, Vol. X., page 192).

1393 Jany. SIR WILLIAM HUGGEFORD (77) and JOHN DARRAS (82).

82. JOHN DARRAS (1393, 1404).

John Darras who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1402 was a member of a family long connected with Sidbury and Neenton. No arms are assigned to this member in Blakeway's Sheriffs (p.57) but in the Armorial Bearings of Shropshire Families by Mr. George Morris* it is stated that John Darras (described as of Willey) bore in 1395 "argent on a cross sable 5 mullets or." Mr. Darras doubtless owned Willey in right of his wife who was Johanna daughter of Sir Robert Corbet and widow of Robert de Harley of Willey. John Darras presented to the Rectory of Sidbury in 1385 and again in 1392, being described on the first occasion as "Lord of Sidbury" and on the second as "Nobilis vir John Darras**" He also presented to Neenton in 1399. This member was probably the son of Andrew Darras (or de Arraz) who was Patron in 1354. John Darras seems to have committed suicide by hanging himself in or before 1408 as in that year a Commission was issued to enquire whether "very many goods which belonged to John Darras who lately feloniously hung himself and which belonged to the crown by forfeiture" had not been concealed.†

* Sh. Ar. Tr. VI, 402.

** Sh. Ar. Tr. 4 Ser., III, 122.

† Rotulus Viagii Henry IV.

1394 Jany. ADAM PESHALE (83) and WILLIAM HUGGEFORD (77).

83. SIR ADAM PESHALE (1394, 1402).

Sir Adam Peshale of Weston under Lizard who was the son of Adam Peshale (No. 68 above) was knighted in or before 1379. He served in Normandy in 1383-4 with William de Windsor Captain of the Castle of Cherbourg, and was a distinguished man. Sir Adam was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1398 and of Staffordshire in 1418. Sir Adam was married in 1388 to Joyce

daughter and heiress of Sir John de Bottitort and widow of Sir Baldwyn Freville by whom he had 2 daughters. Sir Adam died on the 26 October 1419 and was buried in Weston Church where there was a monument to him and his wife Joyce. The Inq. post mortem found that he was seized (inter alia) of the Manor of Shiffnall and that his one daughter Joan was the wife of William Birmingham and was 28 years of age and that his other daughter Margaret was late the wife of Richard Mytton, aged 26 and that they were his heiresses.*

* Wm. Salt Collections (NS) II. 98, etc.

1395 Jany. THOMAS YONGE (75) and JOHN LONGFORD (84).

84. JOHN LONGFORD (1395).

This M.P. was probably the John Longford Constable of the Castle of Ruthin and Steward of Dyffryn Clwyd who held one of his Courts at Ruthin in I Henry IV (1399) and to whom Sir John de Hopton granted certain Manors in Warwickshire (Hardborough etc.) in 1387. He is in that grant described as John son of Henry Longford. His wife's name was Agnes (Lewis Dunn's pedigree calls her Catherine daughter of Thomas Gervys) and by her he had a son Richard who succeeded his father as Constable of Ruthin and died in 1466.*

* Mont. Collections Vol. XVIII, Appendix 144.

1397 Jany. FULKE SPRENCHOSE (85) and WILLIAM DE LEE (86).

85. FULKE SPRENCHOSE or SPRENCHEAUX (1397) was of the same family as Roger Sprenghos (No. 3 above), and was seated at Plash. His wife's name was Margaret, and probably she was a daughter of John Horde, as by a settlement dated at Plash on 30 June 1377, the Manor of Plash was settled by Roger Horde and William de Merton, (who seem to have been John Horde's Trustees) on Fulke Spenchose and his wife Margaret, and in default of issue on the heirs of Fulke.* Upon the death of John Horde in 1398 the usual Inq. p.m. was held when it was found that his heirs were Fulke Sprenclose and John Gotmond, the latter having apparently married another daughter of John Horde. The Sir Fulke Sprencheaux who married Margaret daughter and heiress of John Wynnesbury was one or two generations later than this Member.**

* Eyton XI. 354.

** Sh. Ar. Tr. 2 Series, IX. 118.

86. WILLIAM DE LEE (1397).

William de Lee does not appear in the Lee pedigree in the Shropshire Visitation and as there was more than one William de Lee living at the close of the 14th century, it is difficult to establish the Member's identity with any degree of certainty. He was almost assuredly the William de Lee who was Escheator of Shropshire, who prior to 1402 took the goods and horse of John Stanton of Stanton Long in Corvedale in consequence of the latter being outlawed at the Suit of Master Roger Hore, Canon of Hereford, and who in 1404 was described as "late Escheator." A Sir William de Lee fought with the Percys at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 and is said to have been killed there but as in 1406 a pardon was granted to Wm. de Lee, Chevalier for all treasons and insurrections he seems to have survived the battle. In 1408 a protection was issued for William de Lee "going for the King's service to Ireland in the company of the King's son Thomas de Lancaster, Steward of England." In 1409 a Commission was issued to William de Lee and others to enquire into the petition of John Devereux and Joan his wife about the Manor of La Lowe, Shropshire, committed to William Banastre; and in 1410 another commission was issued to him to try the bondmen of Wm. de Roose and Hugh Hulse for refusing their due service in their Shropshire Manor. In 1401 William de Lee was one of the Patrons of the Rectory of Sheinton.*

* Eyton VI. 220.

1398. SIR FULKE DE PEMBRIDGE (87) and RICHARD CHELMSWICK (88).

87. SIR FULKE DE PEMBRIDGE (1398) of Tong was the only son of Sir Robert de Pembridge (No. 56 above) and his wife Juliana Trussell. In 1382 this Member obtained a license to crenellate his Mansion "of his Manor of Tong," i.e. Tong Castle.* In 1408 he presented to the living of Greet. Sir Fulke de Pembridge was twice married first to Margaret d and heiress of Sir William Trussell of Sheriff Hales and widow of Nicholas de Whyston who died in 1399 and secondly to Isabel daughter of Sir Ralph Lingen but he had no issue by either wife. Sir Fulke died on the 24 May 1409 leaving his second wife Isabel surviving him. She is the Lady who not only founded Tong College but also was chiefly instrumental in the building of

Tong Church, that magnificent specimen of 15th Century work, which (except the Golden Chapel) stands in practically the same state now as when built by Fulke de Pembridge's widow. There is in Tong Church a fine monument to Sir Fulke and his widow, (who died in 1447) both being buried in the Lady Chapel there.** Tong passed to Sir Fulke's great nephew Richard Vernon. The Inq. p.m. was held at Reading on 22 June, 1409, when the Jury found that Sir Fulke died possessed of properties in Berkshire, and that his sister, Juliana, wife of Sir Richard Vernon, then aged 60, was his heiress.

* Turner's Domestic Architecture III. 419.

** Sh. Ar. Tr. 3 Ser., VIII. 172.

88. RICHARD CHELMSWICK or CHELMICK (1398) seems to have been the son of Alan Chelmick of Chelmick and Ragdon in Hope Bowdler parish. In 1384 he gave to Agnes his daughter two acres of land in the fields of Hope in a place called The Moor and in default of issue such land was to pass to her Sister Joan.* The writer here been unable to find any further particulars of this M.P. except that in 19 Richard II (1396) he was Forester of the Forest of Morffe for his life.† He was dead in 1398.

* Shropshire Vis. 110.

† Dukes's Shropshire 52.

j

1399 October. THOMAS YONGE (75) and JOHN BURLEY (89).

89. JOHN BURLEY (1399, 1403, 1404, 1410-11.)

John Burley was a Member of a distinguished family who took their name either from Burley in the parish of Culmington in this County or from Birley in Herefordshire. The present M.P. was the son of Sir Roger Burley and had 3 Knights of the Garter as respectively his grandfather, his uncle and his brother, the uncle being the celebrated Sir Simon Burley who rose to the highest offices in the State, but who was beheaded on Tower Hill on the 15 May 1388 through the instrumentality of the Duke of Gloucester the King's uncle. Our Member John Burley was a barrister of eminence and was one of the Standing Counsel of the Earl of Arundell, and no doubt it was in that capacity that he was Steward of Oswestry in 1392 and 93 and witnessed the Charter to that Town in 1406. John Burley was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1409, and was a Commissioner of Array for the County in 1404-5. In 1401-2 he petitioned Parliament

for the restitution of the lands of his uncle Sir Simon Burley, K.G. which had been forfeited and he succeeded in obtaining the greater part of them. John Burley was seated at Broncroft Castle in Corvedale and it is said that he obtained a royal license to crenellate that house* but the statement is open to doubt as Broncroft does not appear in the list of licences to crenellate given in *Turner's Domestic Architecture* or in that set out in *Godwin's English Archaeologist's Handbook*. The member was Lord of the Manor of Munslow which he obtained from Lord Abergavenny. John Burley died in 1415 and his nuncupative will was proved in the Prerogative Court in the same year. He is called a Knight in the Shropshire Visitation and other places but this again is open to doubt as in his will he is called John Burley Esquire. It is not certain either to whom he was married. In Owen and Blakeway's Shrewsbury† his wife is said to have been a daughter of Reginald Lord Grey de Ruthin, while the Shropshire Visitation makes him as husband of Alice daughter of Sir Richard Pembridge K.G. He may have been married more than once but it is certain that the christian name of his last wife was Julian, as in December 1414 Henry IV in consideration of £20† paid by the Parson of Upton Magna and the Vicar of Wrockwardine licensed them to grant certain properties to find a Chaplain to celebrate Mass daily within the Chapel of St. Katherine the Virgin in the Abbey Church of Shrewsbury for the healthful estate of John Burley of Broncroft and Julian his wife during their lives and for their souls after their deaths and for William Burley his son. This son, as will be seen later also represented Shropshire and was Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Burley is said to have "left behind him a noble name for honour, industry and a "particular knowledge of the law."**

* Sh. Ar. Tr. 3 Ser., IV. 202.

† Owen and Blakeway, II. 139.

**Border Counties Worthies, II. 44.

1400 October. SIR HUGH CHEYNE (70) and JOHN BURLEY (89).

1402 September. SIR JOHN DE CORNEWALL (90) and SIR ADAM DE PESHALE (83).

90. SIR JOHN CORNEWALL (1402, 1407).

This Member may have been either of two Sir John Cornwalls. He may have been Sir John the eldest son and heir of Sir Brian Cornwall (No. 66 above) and if so he was born about 1366

and succeeded his father in the Kinlet estates. It is this Sir John who was, according to Mr. Blakeway, the Sheriff of Shropshire in 1400. He married Alice daughter and heiress of Sir Wm. Wasteneys and left 2 daughters. Sir John died on the 2 July 1415 and by the Inq. p. mortem held at Wenlock it was found that Elizabeth wife of William Lychefeld was his daughter and heir, then being 24 years of age.* If however this Member was Sir John Cornewall of Burford he would be a picturesque and interesting addition to the Shropshire M.P.'s as this Sir John Cornewall was one of the most gallant and renowned men of his day. Very briefly this was his history. He was the son of Sir John Cornewall of Burford who married a niece of the Duke of Britany. He is said to have been born on a vessel in St Michael's Bay, Cornwall, and from the colour of the sea, in this way to have acquired the sobriquet of "Green Cornewall."** He was christened in the parish church of Markenshewe, near St. Michael's Mount†, and in his younger days he acquired the reputation of a professional tilter and duellist. He is said to have been retained to serve Richard II during his life, receiving a grant of 100 marks a year. In the year 1400 a Tournament was held at York in the presence of K. Henry IV, when Sir John Cornewall and James of Artois so distinguished themselves by defeating French and Italian Knights that the former won the hand of the King's own sister, the Princess Elizabeth (the widowed Duchess of Exeter) and with her obtained a rent charge of 400 Marks per annum for life and also considerable grants from the Crown.* When the Commons insisted in 1404 on a resumption of all grants special exception was made in favour of that given to "Green Cornewall." Sir John also jested successfully in the great tournament held in honour of the Seneschal of Hainault in 1409. He was however destined for greater things than tilting matches. At the battle of Agincourt in 1415 the Van of the British Army was led by Sir John Cornewall and Sir Gilbert Umphraville, the King himself commanding the centre, when Sir John greatly distinguished himself taking prisoner the Duke of Orleans. It was probably in consequence of his conduct at Agincourt that Sir John was made a Knight of the Garter. In 1417 Sir John was appointed a Commissioner to treat with the Captain of the Castle of Caen

for the surrender of that fortress, and later was King's Viceroy in that part of France. In 1432 Sir John Cornewall "the hero of 2 reigns"** was created Lord Fanhope, while in 1442 he also received the additional dignity of the Barony of Milbroke† but it is a remarkable fact that these peerages never seem to have been recognised as he was always summoned to Parliament as "Sir John Cornewall Chevalier." His wife the Princess Elizabeth died in 1426 and was buried at Burford where her monument may still be seen. Sir John himself died in 1443 at Ampthill without legitimate issue and was buried at the Black Friars Church, London. The figures of Sir John and the Princess were both depicted in glass in Ampthill Church.

The Parliamentary returns of these 2 parliaments 1402 and 1407 style the Member merely "Sir John Cornewall Chevalier" and this would apply equally to both Sir John of Kinlet and to the more celebrated "Green Cornewall."

* Sh. Ar. Tr. 3 Ser., VIII 116., 142.

** History from Marble CCCXIII.

* Br. Ar. Ass. Journal, XXIV, 145.

** Ramsay's York and Lancaster 442.

† Br. Arch. Ass. XXIV. 147.

1403 Decr. JOHN BURLEY (89) and GEORGE DE HAUKESTON (91).

91. GEORGE DE HAUKESTON (1403, 15, 26.)

This Member who was also Sheriff of Shropshire in 1416 was doubtless one of the family of Haukeston of Hawkestone and Silvington and was probably the son of Robert de Hawkeston who presented to the Rectory of Silvington in 1363. George de Haukeston himself presented to that living on the next vacancy in 1395. There was a grant of arms to him in 1416, probably when he was Sheriff and as that grant does not include the 3 hawks borne by the head of the family (for instance Richard Lord of Hawkestone in 1316 or Sir Thomas de Haukeston at the siege of Calais) he was probably one of the junior branch. His granddaughter and heiress was Ankaret widow of Roger Twynyho of Cayford who was accused by George Duke of Clarence in 1477 of the murder of the Duchess Isabel. She was seized, hurried off without any legal warrant to Warwick and there condemned and executed off hand by Justices in Petty Sessions. The judgment was reversed in Parliament but this was no avail to the innocent woman; and within 13 months Clarence himself

was executed in the Tower ; and there is no doubt that the judicial murder of Ankaret Twynyho was one of the factors which led to his condemnation. George de Haukeston was a witness to one of the Sandford deeds in 1426.**

* Lancaster and York, II. 420.

** Sh. Ar. Tr., 1897, p. 118.

1404 Octr. JOHN BURLEY (89) and JOHN DARRAS (82).

1406 Febr. DAVID HOLBACHE (92) and THOMAS DE WHITTON (81).

92. DAVID HOLBACH (1406, 1407.)

This Member for the County was the well known founder of Oswestry School of whom such detailed information has already been given in the *Transactions* that it is only necessary to give a very brief account of him here. Indeed it would have been unnecessary to say anything, were it not that there appear to have been two men of the same name living about the same time, one at Shrewsbury and one at Oswestry, perhaps Father and Son and both members for the County. The writer came at first to the conclusion that the members were one and the same man, but upon reconsideration he is happy to follow the authority of Mr. Lloyd Kenyon (*Transactions* 1901, 78) that there were really two nearly contemporary David Holbaches. Reference may also be made to papers by Mr. Askew Roberts in *Transactions* 1882 p. 1, Mr. Stanley Leighton 1884 p. 258, Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley Owen 1904 p. 185. It will suffice to say here that David Holbach was a lawyer of eminence, probably a member of Thavies Inn and was Steward of the Town and Lordship of Oswestry and also of Ruyton of the Eleven Towns. He first appears in 1377 when he was appointed Pleader and King's Attorney for North and South Wales, an office which was confirmed to him by Henry IV. David Holbach was evidently of Welsh extraction (his Welsh pedigree appears in *Transactions* 1882 p. 238) as in 1406 the House of Commons petitioned the King that he might be allowed to hold office and acquire land in England, privileges denied by Statute to born Welshmen. It was said in support that David Holbach had always been loyal to the English King and had suffered great losses in the Welsh rebellions. The petition was successful and Mr. Holbach was made an Auditor of the accounts of the War and appointed one of a Small Committee to superintend the important work of ingrossing the rolls of Parliament. It has already been

stated that he founded Oswestry Grammar School about 1407 and therefore with the single exception of Ludlow it is the oldest Grammar School in the County. David Holbach was undoubtedly a man of great influence in his time and the statement that it was at his intervention or that of his son that Owen Glendowr was pardoned may have foundation in fact. Dr. Rowland Williams, writing of Glendower at the close of his eventful career says

Holbeche, my Liege, the Deputy in Yale
Had with Sir Gilbert of the Talbots line
Commission to arrange on his behalf.

From a deed dated in 1408 to which Gwenwhyvar who was the wife of David Holbach was a party and in which he is called "her late husband" it seems quite clear that he was then dead and the man of the same name, who represented the County in later Parliaments was probably his son. It has been thought hitherto that the words added to David Holbach's name in the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll "Mortuus sine haerede" proved conclusively that this M.P. had no son, but the writer has no doubt that the David Holbach who was a Burgess of Shrewsbury and resided there, and to whom the words apply, was the Son and not the Father, and if this is so there is no necessity to fall back upon a mere surmise that there is a mistake in the date of the 1408 deed.

* Sh. Ar. Tr. 1903, 170.

1407 Octr. SIR JOHN CORNEWALL (90) and DAVID HOLBACH (92).
1410 Jany. JOHN BURLEY (89) and DAVID HOLBACH (92A).

92A. DAVID HOLBACH (II) 1410, 1414, 1414) the Member in these 3 Parliaments was probably the son of David Holbach (No. 92 before). This member was closely associated with Shrewsbury, had a residence there, was admitted a Burgess in 1397, was Bailiff of the Borough in 1412-13 and represented it in the Parliaments of 1413 and 1417. It is scarcely likely that this was the Oswestry man, founder of the School there, though like him he held several important offices. In 1410 he was Escheator of Shropshire and in 1415 was appointed by Bishop Mascal as Seneschal of Bishops Castle and Lydbury North.* David Holbach is also named as Seneschal of Powysland in pardons to various persons for participation in Owen Glendower's Wars in the years 1411 to 1420.† In 5 Henry V.

Holbach was Steward of the Manor of Ruyton on the Eleven Towns. The late Mr. Joseph Morris thought that this Member owed his connection with Shrewsbury to the Patronage of the Charletons Lords of Powysland and the Fitz Alans Earls of Arundel and Clun** and this probably was so. Mr. Holbach's Will is dated Sept. 1421 and he probably died soon after that date. From the entry in the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll "Mortuus sine hoerde" he may be assumed to have died without issue.

* Bishop Mascall's Register, 87.

** Transactions, 1903, p. 371.

† Mont. Transactions, VII. 350.

1411 Octr. SIR ADAM DE PESHALE (83) and JOHN BURLEY (89).
1413 Febr. ROBERT CORBET (93) and RICHARD LAKEN (94).

93. ROBERT CORBET (1413, 19.)

This Member was the son of Sir Roger Corbet (No. 76A above) and was seated at Moreton Corbet. He was born about 1383 and married Margaret daughter of Sir William Mallory by whom he had a son Roger who succeeded him. Robert Corbet was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1419. He was dead before February 1439 leaving his wife surviving him. This Member was charged at the Assizes in 1412 in company with Richard Lacon, John Burley, Thomas Corbet of Lye, and others with having "with 200 armed men come to the house of William Greene Vicar of the Church of Eton (? Eyton or Eaton) and "plundered Joan the Vicar's maid of 6/8 there," a curious charge against a future M.P.

94. SIR RICHARD LAKYN (LACON) (1413, 14, 21, 23, 30, 33). Sir Richard Lakyn who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1415 was the son of William Lakyn and Margaret Paslewe. The member married Elizabeth the daughter and heiress of Sir Hamo de Peshale (No. 79 above) and in right of his wife became the owner of the Willey estate which for several generations remained in his family. He witnessed the Earl of Arundel's Charter to Oswestry in 1406 and the deed of release to the Burgessess in 1407. Richard Lakyn seems to have been Knighted between 1414 and 1417 as he is described as a Knight in a deed of 1417 and in the return to the later Parliament as Chevalier. Neither this Will nor the Inq. post mortem of Sir Richard Lakyn can

be found.* He was in 1412 charged with Robert Corbet (as stated in No. 93) with having come with 200 armed men to the house of William Grene, Vicar of Eaton and there plundered Joan the Vicar's maid of 6/8, but in his case it was alleged that "the same Richard Lacon is a common malefactor and disturber of the King's Peace."†

* Selattyn (Mrs. Bulkeley Owen), 34.
† Assize Roll 1412 (13 Henry IV.)

1414 Jany, DAVID HOLBECH (92A) and JOHN WELE (95).
95. JOHN WELE (1413/14).

John Wele's fellow Member in this Parliament was David Holbach (No. 92) and from their association in the representation of the County we may safely infer that this John Wele was the same man as he whose name follows Holbach as one of the witnesses of the Charter granted by the Earl of Arundel to Oswestry in 1407. He was probably the son of Edmund Weale of Cotes and may have been the M.P. for Bridgnorth in 1436 but this latter is doubtful. In 1408 this member is styled Constable of Oswestry in the following minute of his election as a member at a Gild meeting held in Shrewsbury. "Johannes Wele Capitaneus de Oswestre pro amore et bono auxilio suo burgensibus villa et communitati ac libertati ejusdem villae habitis et imposterum habendis." Mrs. Bulkeley Owen gives some interesting particulars of this Member in *Transactions* (3rd Ser. IV. 205). In 1411 John Wele was Steward of the Earl of Arundel and appeared as such with the Brethren of the Chantry of the B.V.M. at a Court held at Oswestry. There are various entries of presents of wine and other things to Mr. Wele and his wife about this time given by the Burgesses of Shrewsbury. In 1414 John Wele appeared in a different capacity to that of M.P. There was a presentation by the Hundred of Condover to the Court of Assize that "John Wele Esquire, Captain of Oswestry, came to Pycheford with divers men unknown to the number of 800 armed and arrayed in the manner of war and took from divers tenants of Sir Hugh de Burnell and others divers victuals viz. bread ale and cheese to the value of 100/- and trod down depastured and consumed with horses their corn and grass to the value of £10 and other enormous things against the peace of the Lord the King, not

“paying for the victuals aforesaid.” The sting probably lay in the last few words, but unfortunately the result is not stated. (Sh.Ar.Trans., 3rd Ser., VII, 391). By far the most interesting statement about this Member is that he was the custodian of the wife of Owen Glendower, and of his daughter who married Sir Edmund Mortimer, uncle of the Earl of March and her children. The following entry seems the authority for this statement and it leaves no doubt on the matter. “To “John Wele Esquire in money paid by his own hands for the “expenses of the wife of Owen Glendowrdi, the wife of Edmund “Mortimer and others their sons and daughters in his custody “in the City of London at the King's charge by his command “£30.”* This entry is the more interesting for 2 reasons, one that it refers to the very year in which John Wele was M.P. for Shropshire and another, that Sir Edmund Mortimer's children were very near the succession to the throne. History tells us that Edmund Mortimer's wife and children died in captivity in London, and we can only hope that the Shropshire member had no hand in or responsibility for their deaths. There is no record of the death or will of John Wele himself.

* Exchequer Roll, I Henry V. (1414).

1414 Novr. DAVID HOLBACH (92A) and RICHARD LAKYN (94).
1415 Octr. HUGH BURGH (96) and GEORGE HAUKESTON (91).

66. HUGH BURGH (1415, 16, 21, 22, 25.)

Hugh Burgh was not a native of Shropshire, but though there is very little certain knowledge, Mr. Blakeway in his Sheriffs believes that he came from Westmoreland.* Several accounts have been written of this M.P., namely in Blakeway's Sheriffs and Border Counties Worthies, II. 43, but by far the most, full and interesting is that in the History of the Princes of Upper Powys in Montgomeryshire Collections Vol. I, 90-95. Hugh Burgh seems to have been first associated with Shropshire by his marriage with Elizabeth de Mowethe (otherwise De la Pole) the daughter of John de Mowethe, Lord of Mouthey (Sheriff of Shropshire 1387) and of Elizabeth daughter and heiress of Sir Fulke Corbet of Moreton Corbet and Wattlesborough. Hugh Burgh's wife Elizabeth by the death of her brother Fulke de Mowethe inherited the great estates of her father and mother and so brought large territorial possessions in Shropshire and

Montgomeryshire to her husband the M.P. Hugh Burgh may have been descended from the same family as Hubert de Burgh the famous Justiciar of Henry III, but there is no evidence to support the theory. Mr. Blakeway, upon the authority of an old pardon of unknown date in the Halston collection, states that he came from Westmoreland, and it is a confirmation of this statement that Hugh Burgh was in 1411 the Attorney of Griffin de Hinton to deliver certain Manors in the neighbouring County of York to the wife of John Talbot afterwards the great Earl of Shrewsbury. A later petition of Henry VI's reign, quoted by Blakeway* shews that Hugh Burgh the M.P. was officer to Lord Talbot and other great lords, and accuses him of great malpractices. A Hugh Burgh was Lord Treasurer of Ireland in 1413, but whether this was the Member is doubtful and it may have been one of the family of De Burgh, Earls of Ulster. In the first year in which this Member was elected, it was found that Hugh and Elizabeth Burgh held the Manors of Shelve, Yockleton, and Wentnor of the King in capite and two thirds of all the lands which Fulke de Mowethe, Elizabeth's brother had held. Hugh Burgh was a Justice of the Peace for Shropshire and in 1430 was Sheriff of the County. The Shropshire Visitation describes this Member as Grand Treasurer of England. He survived his wife who died on Octr. 5, 1429 and he himself died, during his year of Shrievalty, on the 18 August 1430. The Inq. p. mortem was held at Shrewsbury on the 26 October 1430, of which perhaps the most interesting part is the finding that the Manors of Wentnor, Shelve, and Yockleton are on the confines of the County adjacent to the Marches of Wales and "were laid waste in the time of the wars of the rebel Welshmen and are now for the most part waste on account of pestilence and the robberies prevailing there in the Marches." An account of Hugh's great possessions including the old Corbet property (Wattlesborough, &c.) is given and the Jury found that John Burgh his son was Hugh's heir and that he was 16 years of age on June 12, 1430.* This son was also M.P. for the County and is No. 112 below.

* Sheriffs, 66.

† Sheriffs, 67.

* Inq. p.m., 9 Henry VI. No. 47.

Mont. Collections, I. 89 and Records 321.

1416 March. HUGH BURGH (96) and EDWARD SPRENCHEAUX (97).
Prynne's Parliamentary Register is the authority for these
Members whose names are not given in the official returns.

97. EDWARD SPRENCHEAUX or SPRENGHOSE (1416)
was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1411, but little is known of him
and Mr. Blakeway gives no memoir. The Member was of the
same family as Roger Sprenghos (No. 3 above) and Fulke
Sprenghos (85). In 1417 (4 Henry V) a grant was made by
the King to "our beloved Esquire Edward Sprencheaux for
"the good service which he has rendered to us in the past and
"will render in the future" in the office of the Keeper of the
Castle of Braumaris for his life, an office vacant through the
death of Sir William Newport the late Constable* and he was
to have the accustomed fee for such office. Edward Spren-
cheaux was in the Commission of the Peace for Shropshire in
1416.

* Patent Roll, 4 Henry V.

1417 Octr. WILLIAM BURLEY of Broncroft (98) and RICHARD FOX (99).

98. WILLIAM BURLEY (1417, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30/1,
32, 1433, 35, 36/7, 41, 49, 50, 55.)

William Burley, who represented the County in these 18 Parlia-
ments and was also Sheriff in 1426, was the second son of John
Burley (No. 89 above). He succeeded his father at Broncroft
Castle and had this great distinction that with the solitary
exception of Sir John Charlton M.P. for Ludlow in 1659-78, he
was the only representative of a Shropshire constituency who
ever held the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons,
an honour which twice fell to Mr. Burley's share. William
Burley was an eminent lawyer and seems to have been Standing
Counsel to the Town of Shrewsbury, but he must not be con-
founded with the William Burley of Shrewsbury who was M.P.
for that place in 1427 and who was quite a different person.
The County M.P. was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons
on 19 March 1436 in place of Sir John Tyrrell, and though
William Tresham was Speaker in the next parliament, Mr.
Burley was again voted to the Chair on 26 Feby. 1444, when
he sat for Shrewsbury and presided for the rest of that Parlia-
ment.† He was an active partisan and supporter of the Duke
of York, and he in 1455, on the illness of Henry VI, headed a
deputation of the House of Commons which waited on the

Lords to ask for the appointment of the Duke of York as Protector of the Realm.* William Burley does not appear to have been knighted as in the return to his last parliament (1455) he is styled "Armiger." The Member died without male issue in 37 Henry VI, 1459, leaving 2 daughters, one of whom married 1st Sir Philip Chetwynd and secondly Sir Thomas Littleton and the other Sir Thomas Trussell.† Mr. Burley was Patron of the Advowsons of Munslow and Rushbury.

† Dict. Nat. Biography.

* Ramsay's York and Lancaster II. 187.

99. RICHARD FOX (1417).

This Member is not mentioned in the Visitation pedigree of the Fox (Foxe) family which begins with John Fox of Knighton "killed in war against Owen Glendower." The only clue the writer has to his identity is a reference to an elaborately executed pedigree of the Foxe family in the possession of the Earl of Powis at Powis Castle. At the top of this pedigree is the figure of a Knight in armour, and underneath "Richard Foxe of "Yorkshire lived in the time of K. Henry V, anno 1416."* This may have been the Member for Shropshire, but if so he was connected with the County before Henry V's reign as the Coram Rege roll for 1393 for Shropshire contains the name of Richard Foxe. In 1415 the Manor of Pitchford which the King held by grant of Hugh Burnell, Lord of Holgate, was granted to Richard Foxe, doubtless this M.P.

* Montgomeryshire Sheriffs, 439.

1419 Octr. ROBERT CORBET (93) and WILLIAM BURLEY (98).
1420 Novr. JOHN WYNNESBURY (100) and do.

100. JOHN WYNNESBURY (1420, 1432), who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1429 was, according to Mr. Blakeway, son of Sir Rowland Wynnesbury and grandson of Henry, Sheriff in 1391.* He was however styled Lord of Humfreston and Donnington in 1416† and it would appear more probable that the Member was the son and not the grandson of Henry and that he was the John Wynnesbury who married Margery daughter and heiress of John Humfreston and that in this way he became possessed of the Humfreston and Donnington estates. He had one child only, a daughter, Margery, who married Sir

Fulke Sprenclose, but according to some accounts he had a son Hamlet. John Wynnesbury as son and heir of Henry Wynnesbury, Lord of Glazeley, presented to the living of Glazeley in 1409**.

* Blakeway's Sheriffs, 66.

† Sh. Ar. Tr. V. 363, VI. 63, 92.

** Bishop Mascall's Register, 175.

1421 May. HUGH BURGH (96) and WILLIAM BURLEY (98).

1421 Decr. SIR RICHARD LAKYN (94) and JOHN STEPULTON (101).

10r. JOHN STEPULTON (STAPLETON) 1421.

This Member was the son of John Stepleton, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1391 who was described by Blakeway as "of an ancient family whose residence was at Stapleton in the Hundred of 'Condover.'"^{*} John Stepleton presented in 1408 to the free Chapel of Stepleton being then described as "Lord of Stepulton." He married Jane Drake but was dead in 1455 when a presentation to the Chapelry was made by his 6 daughters as his heiresses, or their husbands, One of these daughters married Edward Leighton of Leighton, a second Thomas (not Walter as in Visitation) Acton of Longnor, a third Robert Cressett of Upton Cressett (Sheriff 1469), a fourth Joyce, married Thomas Horde, of Horde's Park, Sheriff 1457, a fifth Johanna, Thomas Walwyn and the 6th Mary was the wife of Robert Mounford.[†] The Member is described as "Miles" in the Shropshire Visitation but no authority for the statement has been found and it is probably an error (though oft repeated), as when after his death his daughters presented to the Chapelry, they are described as "co-heirs and participants in the lands of John Stepulton "Esquire."[†] The moated house in which this Member formerly lived was described by Mr. William Phillips in Shropshire Notes and Queries 1892 p. 63 and the mode of life there 500 years ago, when this Member was alive, is ably told by Miss Auden in the *Transactions* 3rd Ser. III. 287. There were proceedings taken in 1470 for a partition of the estates of John Stepulton, such estate consisting of the Manors of Stepulton, Armgrove and Felhampton.**

* Sheriffs, p. 55.

† Eyton VI. 118.

** *Transactions*, 4 Ser., V. 221.

1422 Octr. HUGH BURGH (96) and WILLIAM BURLEY (98).

1423 Octr. SIR RICHARD LAKYN (94) and THOMAS CORBET of Lye (102).

102. THOMAS CORBET of Lye (1423) was the son of Thomas Corbet of Lye,* who died on the 1st August 1420 and was 28 years of age at his father's death, having been born in 1392 as appears by the Inq. p. mortem of the father. The Corbets of Lye were a younger branch of the Corbets of Caus and removed from Lye (or Lee) to Sundorne about the middle of the 18th century, having for a short time resided at Albright Hussey.† This Member who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1427, married Jane daughter of John Burley (89 above) and sister of Speaker Burley (98) and had a son Peter who succeeded him. In the exchequer accounts there is a note of the wages of Thomas Corbet and his rewards and those of "3 archers retained with him to go on a certain voyage" of K. Henry V. into France.**

* Shropshire Visitation, 142.

† Blakeway's Sheriffs, 65.

** Exchequer Accounts, 47. No. 22.

1425 April. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and HUGH BURGH (96).

1426 Febr. GEORGE DE HAUKESTON (91) and JOHN BRUGGE (103).

103. JOHN BRUGGE (1426).

It is a great temptation to follow Mr. Blakeway and to suggest that the John Brugge who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1413 and represented the County in the Parliament of 1426, was the valiant soldier Sir John Brugge who fought so gallantly at the battle of Agincourt and who was Sheriff of Herefordshire in 1417 and M.P. for that County in 1420. There are however several difficulties in the way of adopting this theory. The Agincourt hero was a Herefordshire man, seated at Bridge Sollars in that County, and it is not known that he had any connection with Shropshire. Further this Member is described on his return in 1426 as John Brugge, without the addition of Chevalier or Knight, a rank which the Herefordshire man undoubtedly held at that time, though the omission is not conclusive. As however at this period there were at least 2 Shropshire men of this name, it is far more probable that the Member (and the Sheriff) was one of them. The Will was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1443, of John Brugge, who was therein described as of The Lee near Bishop's Castle and of St. Giles Cripplegate, London. He owned the Manor of Lee and left a legacy to the

High Altar in Bishop's Castle Church ; his wife's name was Joanna and he had 2 sons (John and Thomas) and a daughter Elizabeth.* In 1446 another John Brugge, described as of Bridgnorth, in Bishop Spofford's Register, presented to the living of Coreley.† Both probably belonged to the old family of Brugge of Bridgnorth, three of whom represented that Borough in earlier Parliaments.

* Sh. Ar. Tr., VI. 320.

† Spofford's Register, 366.

1427 August. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and WILLIAM LUDLOWE (104).

104. WILLIAM LUDLOWE (1427) was the son of Sir John de Ludlowe (brother of Sir Richard No. 80 above) and grandson of John de Ludlow (No. 58) and was born in the year 1397. He succeeded to Stokesay, Hodnet, Downton and other estates on the death of his father Sir John in 1398. William de Ludlow was Sheriff of the County in 1433, 37, 43 and 48, and must therefore have been an important man in his time. The Member married Isabel de Pembridge* by whom he had a son Richard (Sir Richard) who succeeded him in his estates. The Member died in 1474 seized of Stokesay and other Manors.**

* Dukes's Shropshire, 188.

** Same 236, Visitation, 340.

1429 August. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and ROGER CORBET of Culsey's (105).

105. ROGER CORBET (1429).

This Roger Corbet who was M.P. in 1429 is described in the official return as of Culseys and it would have been difficult to identify him if it had not been for an entry in the Assize Roll of 1412 (*Transactions* 3rd S. V.II. 395). It is there recorded that a presentment was made by the Grand Jury, that Roger Corbet of Moreton Corbet (doubtless this M.P.) and Roger Adams of Colcesse "Salop, Yeoman, with other evil doers and "disturbers of the King's Peace armed and arrayed in warlike "manner to the number of 40 men entred the house of the "Parson of Edgmond" and carried away his clothes etc. "his "maser cups bound with silver and gilt cups of silver and gilt, "his oxen and 200 sheep." The indictment gives us a striking picture of the lawless state of the country in the reign of Henry IV. This record is valuable as connecting Roger Corbet with

Culseys, (probably the old Manor of Corselle, now Hinstock) and we may infer that Roger Adams of Colcesse was the tenant there. This Roger Corbet was the son of Robert Corbet who was Sheriff in 1419 and who was alive at this time and was living at the Manor House of Moreton Corbet. This probably accounts for the son living at Culseys. The Member married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Hopton and was probably also M.P. for the County again in 1447. If so, he was made a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV in 1464 and he is described as "Knight" in the Corbet pedigree in S.A.T., IV. 82. An Inq. p.m. was held at Wenlock on October 4th, 1467, when the Jury found that Sir Roger Corbet held the Manor of Shrewsbury and Moreton by military service, that he died on 5th June, 1467, and that Richard Corbet, his son, of the age of 19 years, was his heir.

1431 Jany. SIR RICHARD LAKYN (94) and WILLIAM BURLEY (98).

1432 March. JOHN WYNNESBURY (100) and do.

1433 June. SIR RICHARD LAKYN (94) and do.

1435 Sept. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and THOMAS CORBET of Moreton (106).

106. THOMAS CORBET (1435).

Thomas Corbet of Moreton seems to have been the son of Robert Corbet and brother of Roger Corbet (No. 105). He married Ankaretta daughter of Sir Thomas Barre and his wife, which latter was sister of John Lord Talbot. The M.P. died in the following year 1436, without issue and was buried at St. Alkmund's Shrewsbury.* A description of the fine brass which commemorated this Member is given in Mr. Mill Stephenson's paper on Shropshire Brasses in the *Transactions* (2nd Series) VII, 416. He is there represented in complete plate armour, and his wife is shewn on his left side. The brass is lost.

* Owen and Blakeway, II. 287.

1436 Decr. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and HUGH CRESSET (107).

107. HUGH CRESSETT (1437, 47).

This Member heads the family pedigree in the Shropshire Visit ation, but he seems to have been the grandson of Thomas Cressett who married the daughter and heiress of John de Upton (No. 53 above), and the son of Thomas Cressett and Florence his wife.* The M.P. was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1435. It is recorded that in 1431 Hugh Cresset of Upton held

the Manor of Upton from John Mautravers for the service of half a Knight's fee and that it was worth 60/-. Hugh Cressett was succeeded by his son Robert who was Sheriff in 1469.

* Sh. Ar. Trans., IX. 404.

1439 Novr. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and SIR CHRISTOPHER TALBOT (108).
1442 Jany. do.

108. SIR CHRISTOPHER TALBOT (1441).

Sir Christopher Talbot, described in the Dictionary of National Biography as of Treeton, Yorkshire, was the 3rd son of the first, the Great Earl of Shrewsbury, by his first wife Maud de Neville, daughter of Thomas Lord Furnival. Though comparatively little is known of him, the meagre information that we have shews that he was a man of great reputation in his day. There is in the Paston Letters one dated 1st November 1440 in which it is said "There is one come into England, a Knight, out of Spain, "with a kerchief of pleasaunce wrapped about his arm "to which Knight will run a course with a sharp spear "for his sovereign lady's sake; whom either Sir Richard "Woodville or Sir Christopher Talbot shall deliver to "the worship of England and of himself by God's "Grace." This extract shews the very great fame of Sir Christopher at this time, though unfortunately no account of the Tournament can be found. The Sir Richard Woodville who is also mentioned was afterwards Earl Rivers the father of Edward IV's Queen. It is not known to whom Sir Christopher was married, but in the Shrewsbury Corporation MSS.* in the year 1443-4 is an entry of a payment for wine given to divers gentlemen coming to the funeral of a child of Sir Christopher Talbot Knight. Sir Christopher followed the lead of the head of his family and espoused the Lancastrian cause in the Wars of the Roses and he and his brother, the second Earl of Shrewsbury were killed when valiantly fighting for the cause of their King, Henry VI at the battle of Northampton on the 10 July 1460. Sir Christopher is said to have been buried at Whitchurch.

* Hist. MSS. Commission, 15th Report, Appendix, Part X, page 28.

1445 Febr. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) other Member not given.

1447 Jany. ROGER CORBET (105) and HUGH CRESSET (107).

1449 Febr. NICHOLAS EYTON (109) and RICHARD BANASTRE (110).

109. NICHOLAS EYTON (1449).

This Member is described as Armiger in the official return so that he had not been knighted at this time though in the

Visitation and other places he is described as "Miles." He may have been knighted later. Nicholas Eyton of Eyton on the Weald Moots was, according to the Shropshire Visitation, the eldest son of Sir George Eyton and is said to have married Katherine daughter of John the Great Earl of Shrewsbury, but no such daughter is given in either Collins or Burke's peerages, and Mr. Blakeway* says that he can find no confirmation of this marriage. Mr. Fletcher, following Foster, accepts the marriage in his paper on "Royal Descents."** Great doubt is thrown on the whole of the above pedigree by the Will of Fulke Eyton of Shrawardine which was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1454 and which is given in extenso in Griffiths' History of Tong (p. 216). Fulke Eyton† mentions his father as Thomas de Eyton, his mother as Katherine and he appoints his two brothers Nicholas and Roger overseers of this Will of which another brother Richard (Warden of Tong) was an executor. As Nicholas Eyton was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1440 and Roger the other brother named in the Will was Sheriff in 1450, this pedigree agrees with the facts better than the one in the Shropshire Visitation. The writer thinks that it is fairly safe to assume that the M.P. of 1449 and Sheriff of 1440 was the son of Thomas de Eyton and Katherine his wife, and this conclusion is confirmed by an article in the 5th Vol. of the Sussex Archæological Collections (p.12) where Canon Tierney says that Nicholas was Fulke Eyton's eldest brother, †† and Lord of Eyton who is known to have served in the Parliaments of 1449 and 1450. The Member was succeeded by his son Lewis Eyton.

* Sheriffs, 70.

** S. A. Trans., 3 Ser., VIII. 159.

† S. A. Tr., VI. 321.

†† S. Shreds and Patches, I. 137.

110. RICHARD BANASTRE (1449).

Richard Banastre (or Banaster) was the eldest son of Thomas Banastre of Hadnall and of Eliza daughter of Sir Robert Corbet.* In 1425 he proceeded with the men at arms and archers to Dover on his way to the French Wars. In the Act of Resumption (4 Edward IV) he was specially provided that the Act was not to extend to "Richard Banastre for £4 to him granted by 'Our Letters Patent,'" but we have no further particulars.

* Shropshire Visitation, 24.

1449 Novr. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and WILLIAM LAKYN (111).
 1450 Octr. do. and do.

111. WILLIAM LAKYN (LACON) (1449, 1450) was the son of Sir Richard Lakyn (No. 94 above) and his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir Hamo Peshale* No. 79. He was seated at Willey and was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1452. He was evidently a lawyer, as in 1453 he was called on to take the coif and made a Sergeant at law. On 4 June 1465, this Member was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, was reappointed by Henry VI on his temporary restoration in 1470 and again by Edward IV on his return in 1471. The Member was twice married, Sibilla his second wife being daughter of John Syterwald of Cleever, and he left issue. William Lakyn died on 6 October 1475 and was buried at Bray in Berkshire where his memorial brass still remains.†

* S. A. Tr. 3 Series, VIII. 127.

† Foss Judges, 391.

1452/3 March. SIR JOHN BURGH (other Member's name not given).

112. SIR JOHN BURGH (1452/3).

Sir John Burgh is correctly described in the official return as "Johannes Burgh, Miles, filius et haeres Hugonis Burgh de "Wattlesborough." No. 96 above. He was born on the 12 June 1414 at Wattlesborough and was baptised in Alberbury Church, one of his sponsors being John Lord Talbot who gave him a "cup of silver gilt with a cover." How great would be the value of that cup to-day if it had been preserved. Sir John Burgh is said by all the authorities to have been a man of great magnificence as he certainly was the owner of great possessions, including the Caus and Wattlesborough and other Domesday estates of the Corbets. Sir John doubtless served in the disastrous French campaigns of Henry VI, in which all the conquests of Henry V, were lost. It was probably on this account that Sir John styled himself "Seigreur of Olonde near "the Castle of Cherburg" which, however, was reconquered by the French in 1450. The Member served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire for the years 1442, 1449, 1453, 1463, and 1464, and was Knighted between the years 1442 and 1449 as on his first appointment he was styled John Burge, but on his second

as Sir John Burgh. On the last occasion of his Shrievalty Sir John was fined for not "coming to make his proffer." Sir John increased his already great estates by his marriage with Joan the younger daughter, but ultimate sole heiress of Sir William Clopton of Radbrook. Sir John died in 1471 and the Inq. p.m. was duly held, when it was found that he had left no son, but that his co-heiresses were his 4 daughters, Elizabeth the wife of William Newport, Ankaret the wife of Sir John Leighton, Isabella the wife of Sir John Lingen, and another Elizabeth (or Eleanor) the wife of Thomas Mytton. The division of the estates of Sir John Burgh does not seem to have been concluded until 1501, when after a solemn meeting of all parties concerned a partition was arranged of which the particulars are fully set out in a formal deed dated the 12 May 1501.* Sir John Burgh was a main source of the Royal blood running through so many Shropshire families as he could trace his descent through Simon de Montford's wife to King John and through Eleanor Countess of Bar to Edward I.** The copy of the Inq. p.m. of Sir John Burgh (1472) and the original Partition deed of his estates are amongst the Loton records.††

* Montgomeryshire Collections, I. 96—103.

** Sh. Ar. Tr. 3 Series, VIII. 158.

†† Sh. Ar. Tr. 4 Series, III. 290.

1455 June. WILLIAM BURLEY (98) and THOMAS HORDE (113).

113. THOMAS HORDE (1455, 59, 72.)

Thomas Horde of Hoord's Park Bridgnorth who was described in the official return as "armiger et homo generosus" was the eldest son of Richard Horde and he married Joyce, daughter and heiress of Sir John Stapleton (No. 101). This Member was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1457 and also represented Bridgnorth in the earlier parliaments of 1441 and 1449. He must have been a man of importance in his day and warmly espoused the Yorkist cause in the Wars of the Roses, and the disputes between the King and the Duke of York which led to them. In 1457, Shrewsbury "paid for a breakfast to Thomas Horde and Thomas 'Acton for their good Counsel touching the return of a precept 'to the Duke of York directed to the Bailiff's for surety of 'the peace."* It may be remarked that Thomas Acton was Thomas Horde's fellow M.P. in the 1459 Parliament. There is another entry in the Shrewsbury accounts that money was

paid " for the expenses of Thomas Hoorde and William Lyster " riding to the Duke of York at Ludlow to get the precept " dissolved."† Thomas Hoorde's daughter Mary, married Sir Thomas Cornwall, Baron of Burford, (M.P. Shropshire 1529) and in a manuscript pedigree of the Cornwall family it is stated that Thomas Hoorde was Attorney General to Henry VII. His Will was proved at Canterbury in 1500, so that he must have lived to a good old age.

* Owen and Blakeway, I. 224.
† Bellett's Bridgnorth, 113.

1459 Novr. THOMAS HORDE (113) and THOMAS ACTON (114).

114. THOMAS ACTON was the great grandson of Edward de Acton (No. 71 above) and was the son of William Acton of Longnor by his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Fulke Sprenclose (No. 85). According to the Shropshire Visitation the Member married Joan daughter of Thomas Downe and had by her 2 sons, one of whom succeeded him at Longnor and the other at Aldenham. However, from a deed of Rev. Joseph Corbett, quoted in Mr. Blakeway's History of Shrewsbury Liberties* it would appear that Thomas Acton's first wife was named Mary, probably Mary Hoorde, daughter of his fellow member. The deed in question was a marriage settlement dated in 1449, whereby the Longnor and Betton Strange Vills which had been granted by this member to Thomas Hoorde and Thomas Rugge were by them settled on Thomas Acton and his wife Mary in fee tail. It would appear that the eldest son who was born in 1453 (he was 27 in February 1480) was the issue of this marriage, but it may not have been so. Thomas Acton was a Barrister at law and was associated with his fellow M.P. in a breakfast at which the Burgesses of Shrewsbury entertained them in return for their good services with the Duke of York.† Thomas Acton died on the 8 Febr. 1480, and an Inquisition p.m. was held at Wenlock, when the Jury found that the Member at his death was seized of half the Manor of Longnor, of houses and lands in Acton Burnell, Acton Pigott, Wistanstow, etc. and the Manors of Aldenham and Norton. It was also found that Thomas Acton was his son and heir and was then of the age of 27 years.

* Sh. Ar. Tr. 2 Series, I. 384.

† Owen and Blakeway, I. 224.

1460 Septr. No returns found. ? John LEIGHTON (115).
 1461 July and 1463 Febr. do.
 1467 June and 1469 Septr. do.
 1472 Septr. THOMAS HORDE (113) and JOHN LEIGHTON (115).

115. JOHN LEIGHTON (1472, 78).

John Leighton of Stretton en le Dale was the second son of Edward Leighton of Leighton and Stretton, and Elizabeth one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir John Stapleton* (No. 101), and sister of the wife of Thomas Horde, his fellow M.P. in 1472. He married Ankaret, one of the daughters of Sir John Burgh (No. 112), a great heiress, and by this marriage the Wattlesborough, Loton and other estates passed into the hands of his family. John Leighton was a man of great prominence in his County, serving the office of Sheriff in the years 1468, 1474 and 1482. He was appointed in 1463 by the Bishop of Hereford Steward of Bishop's Castle, in 1475 by the Guardian of the estate of the Lord of Powys, Steward of Pontesbury, and in 1477 by the Earl of Arundel, Constable of his Castle of Oswestry. He was also Steward of Montgomery under Richard, Duke of York. Mr. Leighton adhered to the cause of Henry VII before the battle of Bosworth, but died in 1493 being succeeded in his estates by his eldest son Sir Thomas Leighton (No. 118A below). Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P. in his book on Shropshire Houses, states that his Ancestor John Leighton was M.P. for Shropshire also in 1460, and it may have been so as the returns for this parliament are missing. In 1481 the Bishop of Hereford granted permission to this Member to have a Chapel within his house in the Town of Stretton to celebrate Mass and other divine offices.†

* County Seats, 208.

† Bishop Milling, Reg. 206.

1478 Jany. JOHN LEIGHTON (115) and SIR WILLIAM YONGE (116).

116. SIR WILLIAM YONGE (1477/8).

Sir William Yonge of Caynton is said by Blakeway to have been a member of a family which originally came from Ludlow, but they were certainly seated at Caynton for many generations. The member was the son of Sir Philip Young of Caynton and married Margaret, daughter of Nicholas Eyton of Eyton (No. 109). Sir William seems to have been in attendance on the Prince of Wales (the ill-fated son of Edward IV, afterwards

Edward V), on his visit to Shrewsbury in 1478. There is the following entry in the Bailiffs' accounts for that town "wine given to William Yonge, Knight and other gentlemen of the Lord Prince 6/-". Sir William was a firm adherent of the Yorkist cause and is said to have given proofs of his attachment to Edward IV (probably to the Duke of York) when he first aspired to the throne. Sir William was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1492 and died in 1495. He had a son and heir, Francis, who died in 1533 and was buried in the middle aisle of Edgmond Church where there was a monument to his memory inlaid with brass.

1483 Jany. }
1484 Jany. }
1485 Novr. } No returns are extant for these years.
1487 Novr.
1491 Octr. SIR GILBERT TALBOT (117) and SIR RICHARD CORBET (118).

117. SIR GILBERT TALBOT (1491).

Sir Gilbert Talbot who was Member of Parliament in 1491 and Sheriff of Shropshire for the year 1486, is certainly one of the most eminent of the many eminent men who have served the County in one or other of these capacities. He was the 3rd son of the 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury, and therefore grandson of the Great Earl and nephew of Sir Christopher Talbot (No. 108 above). Sir Gilbert is said to have been a man of great talent and equally qualified "for the pursuits of peace or war." He must have been born within a year or two after 1450, and in 1473 we find him already attached to the Court as "one of the King's Carvers," a post of honour. In the same year the County of Wexford was confided to him "without rent" during the minority of the young Earl, his nephew, a boy then about 4 years old. In October of the same year he was appointed Steward of the Town and lordships of Whitchurch and Blakemere, and in 1475 the Duke of Norfolk and his wife granted to Sir Gilbert "for his good and laudable services" the Manor of Stottesden for his life without rent. In 1481 the Stewardship of Wem was added to these high and profitable offices. Sir Gilbert was not however always engaged in these posts of trust, as in 1474 he served in France with men at arms and 30 archers, and in that way doubtless gained the necessary experience for the fateful battle in which he was to bear a high command

later. When Henry of Richmond landed and marched across England to assert his claim to the throne, Sir Gilbert Talbot met him at Newport in Shropshire, the first English adherent, with the whole power of his nephew the Earl of Shrewsbury still a minor, (said to be about 200 men but more probably about 500) and accompanied Henry in that short campaign which ended in the Battle of Bosworth. In that battle Sir Gilbert (according to Holingshed's Chronicle p. 753) commanded the right wing of the victorious army, but this is open to doubt. It is certain however that Sir Gilbert bore him gallantly in the battle (in which he was wounded) and that his name heads the list of those who were Knighted on the battle field by Henry VII after his victory. For his services in this eventful fight, Sir Gilbert was made a Privy Councillor and had a grant of the Manor of Grafton (Worcestershire), with other lands, forfeited by the attainer of Humphrey Stafford. He also had an assignment of £100 towards the expenses of his Shrievalty. Sir Gilbert pursued his military success and was one of the commanders at the battle of Stoke, when Lambert Simnel was captured, and was for his services made a Knight Banneret. Three years later Sir Gilbert formed one of the expedition to Flanders to assist the Emperor Maximilian against the French and later "he was retained by Indenture to serve the King" in Wars beyond the Sea." In 1495 the signal honour of the Garter was conferred on Sir Gilbert "for his martial valour and singular wisdom," and at the same time he was made Governor of Calais. Offices and honours were showered on this Member, as being "a friend to Churchmen and religious," and it is a curious commentary on the times that in 1503, the Prior and Convent of Worcester gave Sir Gilbert 4 marks yearly for his life to defend and protect the revenues of their Church from all invaders. In the same year he was sent with the Abbot of Glastonbury on the King's behalf to congratulate Pope Pius III on his election to the Papal Chair, and in 1508 he was one of the Royal Commissioners for the marriage between Mary the King's daughter and the Archduke of Austria. He seems to have been a special protector of the Dominican order who promised him their prayers during this life and after his death.* There is a curious deed extant, shewing the apprenticeship of one John Pound to "Sir Gilbert Talbot citizen and

"mercer of London and Merchant of the staple at Calais" so that the Governor of that place, as was the custom of his time did not forego the advantages of his position.** Sir Gilbert was continued in his offices under Henry VIII, and in 1509 he was appointed the King's Commissioner to receive the money due from Louis XII King of France. The various honours and stewardships which he gained are too numerous to set out in detail in this short memoir, but enough has been said to shew that this Member was one of the foremost Englishmen of his day. Sir Gilbert was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Lord Greystock and Widow of Thomas Lord Scrope of Masham by whom he had a son Sir Gilbert and other children and secondly to Ethelreda, daughter of Sir John Cotton of Landwade and widow of Sir Richard Gardner, Lord Mayor of London.* Sir Gilbert died on the 19 September 1516 and was buried at Whitchurch where a Chantry was erected for him in St. John's Chapel.** Aston Hall† Wem seems to have belonged to this Member and he may have resided there. It is of Sir Gilbert Talbot that the story is told, that when he received from Henry VIII orders to fortify strongly the walls of Calais of which he was Governor, he replied "He could neither "fortify nor fiftyfy without money of which the King had "sent him none."†† When the elder line of the Talbot family ended with the death of the Earl in 1618, the Earldom was continued in the descendants of Sir Gilbert Talbot, this Member.

* Collins Peerage, III, 28—33.

**Sal. Shreds and Patches, IV, 26.

* Owen and Blakeway, I, 210.

** Sh. Ar. Trans., VIII, 433.

† Garbet's Wem, 354.

†† Duncomb's Herefordshire, II, 383.

118. SIR RICHARD CORBET (1491).

Sir Richard Corbet is said by one writer to have been "as brave "a Salopian as ever put on armour,"† and he appears to have deserved the description. He was the son of Sir Roger Corbet and Elizabeth Hopton (widow of Sir William Stanley) and was seated at Moreton Corbet. He was a devoted Lancastrian, even when that cause seemed at its lowest ebb and he himself claims that at the battle of Banbury i.e. Edgecote in 1469, he saved his future sovereign Henry VII from imminent peril,

conveyed him to Hereford and placed him in safety in the care of the Duke of Bedford. It is certain that when Henry VII landed in 1485 at Milford and passed through Shrewsbury on his way to meet Richard III at Bosworth, Sir Richard Corbet was one of the first to join him at Shrewsbury, and at all risks to himself to take the oath of allegiance to him.†† Sir Richard with 800 followers accompanied his liege lord to Bosworth and fought in his support at that battle in which Richard III paid with his wife the penalty of his crimes and the crown passed to Henry VII. All these facts are set out by Sir Richard Corbet himself in a petition††† which he presented to Henry VII. The petition concludes thus "he nor none of his that were with him at your first field nor any other insurrections nor tumults were never no cravers for no rewards nor offices *as yet*. The which God knoweth best and your Highness." How that Sovereign rewarded his faithful follower (if indeed he rewarded him at all) we are not told. Sir Richard Corbet married Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Lord Ferrers of Chartley (who was afterwards remarried to Sir Thomas Leighton) and had a son Sir Robert who succeeded him. Sir Richard was made Governor of Calais and died there when holding the Government in 1493.*

† Border Counties Worthies II. 66.

†† Owen and Blakeway I. 247. ††† Same 248.

* Sh. Ar. Tr. 4 Series V. 80., 82.

1495 October.
1497 January.
1510 January.
1512 February.
1515 February.

} No official returns for these Parliaments can be found, but Sir Thomas Leighton was M.P. in two of them probably 1497 and 1512.

119. SIR THOMAS LEIGHTON is not mentioned as M.P. in the official returns, but the late Mr. Stanley Leighton M.P. stated that his ancestor Sir Thomas was M.P. for the County* and doubtless he obtained his information from the family records. Sir Thomas is said to have represented the County in Parliaments of Henry VII and Henry VIII, probably in that of 1497 and certainly in that of 1512. The latter statement is put beyond doubt by a letter written to Sir Thomas by the Earl of Arundel in which his Lordship says "I understand you demand 'Knight's pence of my tenants in Clonesland the which was never

“axed of them by no Knight of the Shire before your time.”** The letter was written from Downley in Sussex of which County Lord Arundel was appointed Commissioner of Array in 1512 Febr., and it is fair to assume that this was approximately the date of the letter and it exactly fits in with the Parliament of 1512. Sir Thomas Leighton was the eldest son of John Leighton (No. 115 above) and was born at Stretton about 1453. He was Knight of the body to Henry VII (1488), was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1495, and a member of the Council of the Marches of Wales. In 1501 Prince Arthur invited Sir Thomas to meet him at Reading Monastery and to attend him on his marriage with the Lady Katherine of Spain in London,† so that the Member was a man of great consequence. In 1512 Sir Thomas attended King Henry VIII to the siege of Tournai, and upon the surrender of that place, the King made him a Knight Banneret for his valour at the battle of the Spurs. Amongst the banners of those who accompanied the King on this expedition occurs the following “ Shropshire, Sir Thomas Leighton beareth silver a serpent “ sable with his wings displayed and Boars’ heads couped sable.” These arms are quite different to those borne by the Leighton family. Sir Thomas Leighton, who like his father, was settled at Stretton en le Dale, was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers of Chartley and widow of Sir Richard Corbet (No. 118) who died in 1492. He is said to have had a second wife in Ann Baker, but his will clearly shewed that he was never married to that Lady. By this will Sir Thomas expressed a desire “ that Ann Baker for her service done to me “ shall have the profits of my Mills of All Stretton during her “ life to the finding of her and her children and after her decease “ the remainder thereof to my right heirs for ever.” As Dame Elizabeth Leighton did not die until 1516 (3 years before her husband) and his will was made shortly before his death, it seems certain that his children by Ann Baker were illegitimate, though the Herald’s Visitation gives no hint of this. Dame Elizabeth was buried at Burford, where there is a monument to her memory. It is stated in the Montgomeryshire Sheriffs that Sir Thomas was alive in 1524†† but this is an error. The statement is made on the strength of a Recovery, said to be dated 17 Henry VIII which would be 1524, but a search has shewn that the correct

date of the deed was 17 Henry VII, so that the foundation for the statement falls out. Sir Thomas died in 1519 and was probably buried at Leighton.*

*Shropshire Houses 8.

**Montgomeryshire Sheriffs 61.

†Sheriffs 81.

††Montgomeryshire Sheriffs 61.

*Crangage 243. Mont. Collections V, 427.

1523 April. John Leighton 119A.

119A. JOHN LEIGHTON 1523.

The official returns for this Parliament are missing and there is no positive proof that John Leighton was M.P. for Shropshire in this or any other Parliament, but in Burke's Peerage he is stated to have been M.P. for Shropshire, and if so, it was certainly in this Parliament. The 1803 Edition of Betham's Baronetage Vol. III, p. 98, says "This John Leighton when Knight of the 'Shire for Salop, raised a considerable number of men and "attended the Duke of Suffolk to Calais at his own expense."* The Duke of Suffolk was Lieutenant General of the King's Army in France in 1523** and this exactly fits in with this Parliament and bears out Betham's statement. Further is it stated in the Montgomeryshire Collections in a paper on the Knightly families, that John Leighton was M.P. for Shropshire in the Parliament held at Blackfriars† and this was this 1523 Parliament. These facts combined leave little doubt that John Leighton, like his Father and his son was M.P. for Shropshire. John Leighton was the son of Sir Thomas Leighton (No. 119 above) by his wife Elizabeth Devereux (widow of Sir Richard Corbet) and is said to have been like his father, an Esquire of the body to the King. The member was twice married, first to Matilda, daughter of John Harewell (she died without issue) and secondly to Joyce, daughter to Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, by whom he had (with other children) a son Edward who succeeded him. John Leighton died on the 28th Febr. 1532. The Inq. p.m. was held at Bridgnorth on the 24 September following, when it was found that long before John Leighton's death, William Leighton and others were seized of the Manor of Wattlesborough for this member's use, and that after his death it descended to his son Edward. It was also found that Trustees held the Manor of Stepleton,

Bragginton and Bausley in the Marches of Wales for him. The Inquisition concludes "Edward Leighton is his son and next "heir and is of the age of 7 years."

*Mont. Collections V, 428.

**Doyle's Baronage 442.

†Mont. Collections XXX, 246.

1529. Sir Thomas Cornewall (120) and John Blount (121).

120. SIR THOMAS CORNEWALL (1529).

Sir Thomas Cornewall, Baron of Burford, was the son of Sir Edmond Cornewall, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Horde M.P. 1472 (No. 113.) The member was knighted by Henry VII on the field of Blackheath on the 17 June 1497 after the defeat of the insurgent Cornishmen, no doubt for his services in that action. Sir Thomas was present at the funeral of Prince Arthur in Worcester Cathedral in 1502, of which a full account is given by Leland. It is there said that Sir Thomas Cornewall was one of the four Knights "who con-
"veyed the man of arms, which was the Earl of Kildare's son
"and heir, called Lord Gerard, armed with the Prince's own
"harness on a courser richly trapped with a pole axe in his
"hand, the head downwards into the midst of the Quire where
"the Abbot of Tewkesbury received the offering of the horse,"
a strange sight in a Cathedral Church. Sir Thomas accompanied Henry VIII on the expedition to France which ended in the siege and surrender of Tournai in June 1513, and was made a Knight Banneret on that occasion. In the list of banners on that occasion is that of Sir Thomas Cornewall, Baron of Burford who "beareth silver, a lion gules powdered with besants and a
"crown upon his head, gold and Cornish choughs."† Sir Thomas was Sheriff of Shropshire on 4 occasions certainly, namely in 1506, 16, 20 and 31 and probably also in 1525. In 1521 he was appointed one of the Council of the Marches of Wales. He married Ann, daughter of Sir Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet, M.P. 1491 (No. 118 above) In the Kyre Park Charters there is a lease from his son "Richard Cornewall of
"Burford, son and heir apparent of Sir Thomas Cornewall."* The member died on 19 August 1539, and was buried at Acton near London. There is a small figure representing Sir Thomas on the well known triptych in Burford Church in which his wife Ann who died in 1493 was buried.††

*Kyre Park Charters 64.

†Sal. Shreds and Patches IX, 142.

††Cranage 242.

121. SIR JOHN BLOUNT (1529) was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Blount of Kinlet and succeeded his Father at that place. There is a full account of this M.P. in Mrs. Baldwyn Childe's notes on Kinlet in the *Transactions* 3rd Ser. Vol. VIII, 123. It is there stated that Sir John had arrived at man's estate in 1485, as in the Act of Resumption (I Henry VII) there is a saving clause in favour of John Blount, "in the keeping of the Forest "called Cleobury" of which his father had also been Forester. The member seems to have been in the good graces of Thomas Cromwell and to have obtained from him the Forestership of the Royal parks of Bewdley and Elmwood as well as Cleobury. Until his father's death in 1524, John Blount resided at Bitterley and at Knightley. He was one of the followers of Henry VIII in the Touraine campaign in 1513, but was not then knighted as amongst the banners enumerated of those engaged is that of "John Blount, Shropshire, who beareth silver, a lion passant "gules, the tail reversed with a crown upon his head, gules "and a crescent upon his shoulder for a difference, Richard "Lacon his pretty captain."* John Blount was an Esquire of the body to Henry VIII but was not knighted at the time of his return to Parliament as he is there styled Armiger. Sir John married Katherine, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Hugh Peshale of Knightley, and had a large family including Sir George (who succeeded him. See 121 below), and Elizabeth who became the wife successively of Gilbert, Lord Talbot and Lord Clinton de Say. This lady by her rare beauty attracted the notice of her Sovereign by whom she had a son in 1519, who was created Duke of Richmond. Sir John died on the 17 Febr. 1531, during which year he was serving as Sheriff of Shropshire, and the usual Inq. p.m. was held at Bridgnorth. He was buried at Kinlet, where a monument to his memory still remains. He is there depicted in armour of the early Tudor period and he is wearing the Collar of S.S.†

*Sal. Shreds and Patches IX, 142.

†Cranage's Churches of Shropshire, 320.

1536 June. Trentham (121A).

121A. (? RICHARD) TRENTHAM 1536.

There is no official record of the Members of this Parliament extant, but a letter from Katherine Lady Blount, widow of Sir John Blount (No. 121) and Mother of Sir George Blount (No. 122)

gives us some interesting particulars of this election and shews that one Trentham was one of the members elected for Shropshire.† Writing to Thomas Cromwell, then Lord Privy Seal, on the 5 June 1536, she said that when the writ came to the Sheriff of Shropshire to choose the Knights for Parliament, some of the Worshipful and the Justices wished her to labour that her son George Blount should be one of them, which she did, he being at Court. The Shire did not want the elections held at Shrewsbury, as the plague reigned there, but the Sheriff would have it, so that the inhabitant burgesses with the franchises of the Town might choose one Trentham, and so they assembled themselves riotously, that the Worshipful of the Shire were not content, saying, their voice cannot be heard, and had much ado to keep the King's peace; whereupon they titled their names and went to the Sheriff, willing him to return George Blount, for they would have no other; but in any wise he would not, because the Under Sheriff is a dweller in the said town, and then the gentlemen delivered their names to make report. It is said "the supporters of the rival candidate to George Blount were in preponderating numbers." It is interesting to note that the old Chronicles of Shrewsbury writing of 1536 states "This year was a great plague in Shrewsbury" but the other Shrewsbury historians make no mention of it. As no Christian name is given to the member, it is not possible to state with certainty which of the Trentham family was the Knight of the Shire. Thomas Trentham the younger, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet, and is said to have been a favourite of Henry VIII, was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1512 and 1516 and was M.P. for the Borough in 1512 and 1515. This may possibly have been the M.P. for the County, but it is more probable that it was one of his sons of whom one, Robert Trentham, was one of the Ushers of the Household of Henry VIII. Robert Trentham died without issue and was succeeded by his brother Richard Trentham of Shrewsbury who was Cup Bearer to King Edward VI* when Prince of Wales, and who partly by purchase, partly "ex largitione Magni "Regis Henry VIII" had a grant of the Abbey of Rocester, Staffordshire. Richard Trentham married Mary, daughter of David Ireland by whom he had a son and successor Thomas Trentham. Richard Trentham's will was proved in the P.C.C.

in 1546.** Leland, who was a contemporary of Richard Trentham wrote of him as follows “Trentham of Shropshire “dwelt in the Town itself where his best house was, a man of “50 pounds land. Now he hath sold his lands in Shropshire “and hath bought Rochester Priory in Staffordshire.” The writer inclines to the belief that Richard Trentham was the Member.

†Elizabeth Blount and Henry VIII (Childe Pemberton) p. 238. Record Office Letters and Papers X, 1063.

*Sh. Arch. Tr. 1903, 380.

**Visitation of Staffordshire, 1583. P.C.C. 29 Alen

1539 April. No returns found.

1542 January. Do.

1545. Sir George Blount (122) and Richard Mytton (123).

122. SIR GEORGE BLOUNT was the eldest son of Sir John Blount of Kinlet (No. 121) and Katherine, daughter and co-heiress of Hugh Peshall of Knightley, in the County of Stafford. The member is recorded to have served with distinction while a youth in the French and Scottish campaigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., and to have been in high favour at the Court of the former King, probably through his sister Elizabeth, who, the beauty of her day, was the King's mistress and the mother of his natural son Henry Duke of Richmond with whom young George Blount was brought up. Sir George, who was knighted on the 13th May, 1544, at Leith, was a member of the Council of the Marches of Wales, and served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1564. He married Constance, daughter of Sir John Talbot, who died in 1584, and by whom he had one son who died in infancy and a daughter Dorothy, who was married twice, first to John Purslow, and secondly to Edward Bullock of Bradley. Sir George was not only returned five times to Parliament for Wenlock (viz., in 1554, 1555, 1558, 1562, and 1572), but also sat for Bridgnorth in the two Parliaments of 1553 and 1559, and represented the County of Salop in these of 1545 and 1547. He died in July 1581, and was buried in Kinlet Church, where there is a magnificent monument in alabaster to his memory, said to be one of the most beautiful Elizabethan monuments in England. By his will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1581, Sir George left his great estates away from his daughter to his nephew Rowland Lacon. Mrs. Baldwyn Childe suggests that the daughter

offended Sir George by marrying a simple country gentleman instead of a man of high rank as he had hoped.* This might have been so. There is still at Kinlet a portrait of Sir George Blount, taken in 1546. Sir George was in 1 Edward VI., appointed Chief Commissioner for the Survey of Colleges and Chantries in Shropshire, and received as his share of the plunder a grant of the Chantry of St. Mary in the Church of Alveley.** It is stated in Mrs. Childe's paper on Kinlet (referred to above), that Sir George was M.P. for the County in 1570 and 71, but this must be a mistake, as there was no Parliament in those years, the previous Parliament having been dissolved in January 1567, and the next not elected until 1572.

*Sh. Ar. Trans. (3 Ser.) VIII, 125.

**Same p. 126.

123. RICHARD MYTTON 1545, 52, 53, 54.

Richard Mytton was certainly one of the notable men in the roll of Shropshire M.P.'s, if only for the fact that he was a Shrewsbury rather than a County man, but there are other reasons for marking him out as an exceptional M.P. He was the son of William Mytton of Vaughan's Place Shrewsbury, who also built for himself another Mansion on Coton Hill. Richard Mytton who was born in the last decade of the 15th century, served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1544 and 1560, and was Bailiff of the Town of Shrewsbury on no less than 6 occasions, namely in 1542, 1549, 1553, 1557, 1561 and 1567. He also represented that Borough in the Parliament of 1542 and the first parliament of 1554, and although there is no mention of his name in the official returns for the first of these years the fact that "he gave "the moneys due to him as one of the Burgesses of the Parliament" back to the Bailiffs in 1542* is conclusive proof of the fact. Mr. Mytton seems to have rendered valuable service to the Borough in obtaining the new Charter which was granted to it in April 1542. His next appearance in relation to the Borough is one of a different character. In 1548 considerable forces were raised in most parts of England and were despatched to Scotland to resist any attack by the Scots, reinforced as they were at that time by French allies. Shrewsbury was called upon for its complement of troops, and the Bailiff's accounts shew that "23d. was expended upon Richard Mytton Esquire

“ at his departure with the armed men to the Earl of Arundel,” probably sent to serve under “ Richard Lawley, assigned to be “ Captain for leading the armed men towards Scotland.”* This must have been a curious experience for a Bailiff of Shrewsbury, but there was a stranger one to follow, and this one is intimately associated with the history of England. This was the capture at Oswestry by Richard Mytton of Lord Thomas Grey, brother of the Duke of Suffolk and Uncle of the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey on the 7 February 1553/4, and which is related in these words in the old Chronicle of Shrewsbury “ The “ Lord Thomas Grey was taken at Oswestry, in Wales, by “ Master Richard Mytton of Shrewsbury, being then Bailiff “ which fell out at length to the said Master Mytton’s great “ hindrance.”** The full account of this incident has been so well told by the late Mr. William Phillips in the *Transactions* 3rd Ser. Vol. II, 143, that it is unnecessary to say more than that Richard Mytton conveyed his prisoner to London and that Lord Thomas was beheaded on Tower Hill 2 months later for his share in the Duke of Suffolk’s insurrection. Mr. Mytton lived for 40 years after this exciting episode, but nothing of his subsequent career has been recorded. He was twice married, first about 1517 to Ann, daughter of Sir Edward Grey of Enville, probably a relative of his distinguished captive, and secondly to Eleanor (daughter of George Harborne, Recorder of Shrewsbury) who survived him. He left children by both wives. There is an allusion in one place to an intermediate wife, a daughter of Jenkin Pigott*, but this is open to doubt. Richard Mytton died on the 26 November 1591, and was buried at St. Chad’s, Shrewsbury, where there was a monument to his memory, stating his age as 99 years.† The old Chronicle of Shrewsbury thus records his death, “ This year died Master “ Richard Mytton, Esquire, called the Gentill Master Mytton “ and Alderman of Salop, who had been 6 times bailiff in his “ time, and was solemnly buried the 28 day of November 1591, “ being about 100 years old.” The death of his widow is recorded in the same Chronicle, “ The 30th day of January 1602 “ departed this life, the worthy Mrs. Elnor Mytton being of the “ full age of 90 years. She was of great birth and very good “ to the poor, virtuous, and godly.”

*Owen and Blakeway I, 337 & 342. **Same 351.

*Sh. Ar. Tr. IX, 271

†Same (3 Ser.) II, 149.

1547 Novr. Sir George Blount (122) and Richard Newport (124).

124 RICHARD NEWPORT 1547.

Richard Newport of High Ercall, who was Sheriff of the County in 1552, 1558 and 1568, was the eldest son of Thomas Newport, and his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet. It may be surmised that he was a Soldier as in 1549 the Bailiffs' A/cs. of Shrewsbury contain a payment of 13d. to Mr. Newport on his arrival from Norfolk where he may have been engaged in the suppression of William Ket's revolt at Wymondham, in which 2000 men are said to have been killed. Mr. Newport was knighted by the Duke of Norfolk (the Queen's Lieutenant General in the North) at Berwick in 1560, where probably he was engaged in military duties. Sir Richard was one of the Council for the Marches of Wales, but the date of his appointment is not known. He married a great heiress in Margaret, the only child of Lord Chief Justice Bromley, through whom he obtained the estate of Eyton on Severn where Sir Richard made his residence. Sir Richard died on the 12 Sept. 1570, and was buried at Wroxeter, in which Church there is a fine monument to his memory and that of his wife, over this monument are these punning lines.

Hic equitis tumulus teget ossa Richardi
Newporti, portu navigat ille Novo,
Navigat ille Novo, Superum jam sede receptus
Testis erat locuples anchora tuta fides.*

The early Chronicles of Shrewsbury for 1570, record the death of this Member thus " This year one Sir Richard Newport, a " valiant knight of Shropshire and of a princely personage " deceased, for whose death there was much moan made in " Shrewsbury." His wife survived him many years, dying in 1598, and of her it was said " She was a virtuous lady in all her lifetime, and very good to the poor in town and country."

*Sh. Ar. Trans. (2 Ser.) I, 19. His Will in P.C.C. 39 Holney.

1553 Febr. Richard Mytton (123) and Thomas Vernon, Junr. (125).

125 THOMAS VERNON JUNR 1553.

Thomas Vernon (described as Junior in the return) was the son of Thomas Vernon who acquired a moiety of the Stokesay estate by his marriage in 1497 with Ann, daughter and heiress of John Ludlow and who was Sheriff of Shropshire in the years

1524, 1535 and 1546. This member married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Francis Lovel, and had a son Henry, who claimed the Barony of Powys in 1584, as indeed this member's father had done in 1554. The ground of the claim was that John Ludlow had married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Grey Lord Powis but it never could be proved that Lord Powis ever had any such daughter. The same claim substantially was made by John Kynaston Powell, another M.P. for Shropshire in 1800, but again failed. Thomas Vernon, Junior, survived his father Thomas Vernon and died in 1570.* The burial of Thomas Vernon at Stokesay is recorded in 1561, but this was probably the Father.

*Sh. Ar. Trans. I, 327.

1553 October. Richard Mytton (123) and Edward Leighton (126).

126. EDWARD LEIGHTON (1553, 62).

Edward Leighton of Wattlesborough, afterwards Sir Edward Leighton (born in 1524) was the eldest son of John Leighton (No. 119A above) and of Joyce, daughter of Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, and was only 8 years of age at his Father's death. He was the 4th successive member of the same family (his great-grandfather, grandfather, his father, and himself) to represent the County, and he filled many important offices both in Shropshire and the neighbouring County of Montgomery. Edward Leighton was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1568 and in 1588, and for Montgomeryshire in 1552, and again, after an interval of no less than 50 years, in 1592. In 1574 he was appointed one of the Council in the Marches of Wales, and as such his arms were formerly in the great Hall of the Castle at Ludlow. Edward Leighton was in 1577 one of the Royal Commissioners for Musters in Shropshire. Mr. Leighton in 1586 entertained at Shrewsbury the Earl of Leicester in great state, and it was then said of this member, that he was a person of great weight in the County. This may well have been so, as Mr. Leighton was not only Sheriff and M.P., but was also Custos Rotulorum of the County, as is clearly shewn by his appointment in that capacity of a Clerk of the Peace in 1588.* He was Lord of the Manor of Bausley in Montgomeryshire, hence doubtless his shrievalty of that County and succeeded Sir Adam Mytton in 1552 as Steward of the Barony of Caus. Mr. Leighton was not Knighted until 1591.

Sir Edward was twice married, first to Anne, daughter of Paul Darell of Lillingston Darell, by whom he had a large family, being succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Leighton, also M.P. for Shropshire. His second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Rowland Edwards of Shrewsbury. Sir Edward died on the 10 September 1593, and his death is thus commemorated in the old Chronicle of Shrewsbury. "The worthy Knight, Sir Edward Leighton, and being one of the Counselle in the Marches of Wales, departed this present life, being of great countenance and fame all Shropshire over, whose burial was not solemnised until a month after whose death was sore missed and lamented of many."

*Mont. Collections V, 429.

1554 March. William Charlton (127) and Francis Kynaston (128).

127. WILLIAM CHARLTON 1554, was the son of another William Charlton of Apley (who served in the French wars in 1513, with so great distinction that he was known as Stout William), and his wife Alice, daughter of Thomas Horde. The member was a Barrister at Law at the Inner Temple, and was seated at Wombridge. He died without issue in 1567.

128. FRANCIS KINASTON (1554) was the second son, but ultimate heir of George Kinaston of Oteley and Stoke, and of Jane, daughter of Sir Edward Grey of Envile. He was 22 years of age at his father's death in December 1542.* The member married Margaret, daughter of Francis Charlton, and widow of Arthur Chambre, and had a son Sir Edward, who succeeded him. The writer has not been able to find any confirmation of the statement in a book on Ellesmere (1889) that this member was a Knight, and was Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth.** It is however stated in another Shropshire book (it is not known on what authority) that Francis Kinaston was Cup Bearer to the Queen, and that his cup is still treasured at Oteley.† Mr. Kinaston died (according to the Shropshire Visitation where the pedigree is signed by his son Sir Edward) on the 4th August 1581, but according to his monument in 1590. The former is correct,†† and the monument may not have been erected until some years after his death, and mistakes on monuments are not uncommon. The member was buried in Ellesmere Church,

and on his altar tomb (commemorating himself and his wife), he is represented in Elizabethan armour with ruffs, but the tomb is much mutilated.

*Sh. Ar. Trans. (2) XI, 24.

†Leach's Shropshire Seats.

**Peake's Ellesmere, 18.

††Escheat 23 Eliz. 216.

1554 October. Richard Mytton (123) and William Gatacre (129).

129. WILLIAM GATACRE (1554).

William Gatacre of Gatacre, one of the old Shropshire families was the eldest son of Robert Gatacre, and his wife Jane, the daughter of John Horde, M.P. for Bridgnorth. William Gatacre was admitted to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1522. He married Helen, daughter of William Mytton of Shrewsbury, and had a large family. Mr. Gatacre was in 1562 associated with Sir Henry Sidney (the Lord President), Sir Andrew Corbet and Charles Fox (the Secretary of the Court of the Marches) in a commission to enquire whether the law requiring every person of means to keep a horse and horseman with proper harness and weapons was duly observed. Mr. Gatacre does not seem to have been himself a Member of the Council of the Marches. He died on the 22 December 1577, and was buried in Claverley Church, his death being recorded in the Register as "William "Gatacre, armiger." He is commemorated in Claverley Church by an alabaster slab, on which he is represented in armour and has short hair and a pointed beard. The monument has this inscription "His jacent corpora Willielmi Gatacre, armigeri, "et Helenæ uxor ejus qui quidem Willielmus obiit XXII "die Decembris A.D. 1577, quorum animarum propitietur "Deus. Amen."* His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1577. In 1552 Mr. Gatacre was appointed Steward or Ranger of Morffe Forest for 21 years.

*Gentleman's Magazine 1822, 490. Will P.C.C. 3 Langley.

1555 Sept. Sir Andrew Corbet (130) and Sir Henry Stafford (131)

130. SIR ANDREW CORBET 1555-58.

Sir Andrew Corbet was not the least distinguished man in that distinguished old family which has furnished so many Shropshire Members of Parliament, and so many public men to do its service. Sir Andrew was the son of Sir Roger Corbet of Moreton

Corbet, and his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Andrew Windsor. This member was Sheriff of Shropshire on 3 occasions, viz., in 1551, 1556 and 1570, and in 1569 he was one of the Commissioners for the County Musters, who proposed to Queen Elizabeth that she should keep an appointed number of soldiers always in readiness for service, in other words, a standing army. Sir Andrew was dubbed a Knight at Newcastle in 1547 by the Earl of Warwick, Lieutenant of the King's Army in Scotland, so that he was doubtless at that time on military service. Sir Andrew's principal work seems however to have been in connection with the Council of the Marches of Wales, of which he was made a member in 1551. He took a very prominent part in the work of the Council, and became Vice-President, in which capacity he acted during the prolonged absence of the Lord President, Sir Henry Sidney as Viceroy of Ireland. In 1571 a report was made to Lord Burleigh, Queen Elizabeth's great Counsellor, that there was great dissatisfaction among the people at the favour shewn by the Court to the Papists, and recommending Sir Andrew Corbet "as the only fit and trustworthy " man to have charge in these parts," i.e. the Marches. He seems however to have suffered from ill health, as William Gerard who was himself a member of the Council and one of the Judges in South Wales, in his report on the work of the Council in 1575, spoke of the Vice-President Sir Andrew Corbet as "a very sicklie " man not able to take the toil of that service." In 1577, however, Sir Andrew was again one of the Commissioners for Musters in Shropshire, and he was still Vice-President of the Council of the Marches as the Privy Council notice enjoining strict compliance with the new instructions to the Council was addressed to him in that capacity.* Sir Andrew lived only a few months longer. He married Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Needham of Shineton by whom he had a numerous family. Sir Andrew died on the 16 August 1578, and he is thus commemorated in the old Chronicle of Shrewsbury, and though the notice is long it is worth reproduction. "This year departed " this present life Sir Andrew Corbet of Moreton Corbet, being " Lord Marshal of the Marches of Wales, such a jewel to all " Shropshire and especially to the Town of Shrewsbury, that " the like was not for many years before, for the loss of whom " there was many a sorrowful heart, especially in the Town of

" Shrewsbury, who was worthily buried the 22nd day of September ensuing in the Chapel of Moreton Corbet, at whose burial the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield preached within the said Chapel, and Mr. Preece, Curate of St. Chad's preached 'to the Country and all the people without.' Sir Andrew's Arms were formerly in the Council Chamber in Ludlow Castle, while over the gate of the old Castle of Moreton Corbet are the initials S.A.C. with the dates 1576-1578. In 1546 (37 Henry VIII), Andrew Corbet had a grant from the Crown of the Manor of Red Castle for the sum of £553 6s. 8d.†

*State Papers Domestic (Elizabeth) 426. *ibid* 532.

†Corbet MSS, H'st. MSS. Comm., 15th Report, App. X. p. 75.

131. SIR HENRY STAFFORD 1555.

Sir Henry Stafford was the eldest son of Henry, Lord Stafford and the grandson of the Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded on Tower Hill in 1521. Upon the Duke's attainder, his estates were forfeited, but were in part restored to his son who became 1st Baron Stafford. These estates included Caus, hence principally the Member's connection with Shropshire. Sir Henry was one of those who were Knighted at the Coronation of Queen Mary in 1553. The old Shrewsbury Chronicle contains an account of an affray in the East Foriate between Sir Henry and Edward Herbert, i.e. Edward Herbert, grandfather of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, then resident at Montgomery. The account says " the frays had fallen to great bloodshed if the bailiffs with the Worshipful of the town had not wisely pacified the same."* Sir Henry succeeded his father as second Lord Stafford on his death in 1562. There is in this year a record of the Court baron held at Caus of Sir Henry, son and heir of Lord Stafford, at which being himself present in Court, he gave leave to his tenants of Brownlow to inclose and divide the Common Moor of the Township without any fine or payment.** The member does not appear to have been married, and he certainly left no issue, being succeeded by his brother Edward. Henry, Lord Stafford died in 1568, and was buried at Worthen. The Register of Worthen has the entry " 1562 May 6, buried Henry, Lord Stafford," but this probably refers to the member's father, the 1st Baron, whom he did not long survive. The Pontesbury Register contains the following entry " 1563 May 8th, Honorificabilis tuus dominus Henricus

“Baron de Stafford apud Worthen Sepultus.” There is no corresponding entry in the Worthen register unless there is a confusion as to years, and the two entries relate to the same man. The Extinct Peerage (Burke) gives the date of the member’s death as 8 April 1566, but this is erroneous. His will was proved at Lichfield in 1563.

*Owen and Blakeway I, 352.

**Sh. Ar. Trans. (3rd Ser.) VI, 117.

1558 Jany. Richard Corbet (132) and Thomas Fermor (133).

132 RICHARD CORBET 1558, 62

Richard Corbet of Wortley, was the second son of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon. The manuscript Chronicle of Shrewsbury says of this M.P. that “he was Carver to Prince Edward, “Standard bearer to his band at Bullen and one of the Queen’s “Majesty’s Council in the Marches of Wales.” With regard to the latter office, Mr. Corbet’s name does not appear in any of the lists of the Council now extant. The statement that Mr. Corbet was Prince (afterwards King) Edward’s Standard bearer at Bullen, probably refers to the expedition of Henry VIII. resulting in the capture of Boulogne in 1544, though the Prince was then only 7 years old. Mr Corbet was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1561. It is said that he adhered to the cause of Lady Jane Grey, was committed to the Tower, and was one of the 4 gentlemen excepted from Queen Mary’s general pardon, but there is considerable confusion as to the name given in the various accounts, and it is doubtful whether this refers to the member. Mr. Corbet married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Savile, and widow of Thomas Wortley of Wortley, but though the Visitation assigns to him a son Edward, the contemporary Chronicle says that he died without issue. According to that Chronicle, Mr. Corbet died in 1566 and was buried “in the “west side of Shawbury Church, 5 miles from Shrewsbury.” This is a very circumstantial statement and is correct, but there is a fine altar tomb in Moreton Corbet Church to the memory of this member which bears this inscription “Here are buried “the bodies of Richard Corbet, armiger, who was the second “son of Robert Corbet of Moreton, Knight, and Margaret his “wife, formerly the wife of Thomas Wortley of Wortley in the “County of York, and daughter of Sir John Savile, which

"Richard died on the 16 July 1567." It will be seen that the date differs by a year from that given in the manuscript Chronicle, and the place of the burial differs also, but both clearly refer to the same man. The monument may have been erected (as was not unusual) many years after Richard Corbet's death. The date given in the Chronicle is confirmed by an entry in the Shawbury Register that on "1566 July 17, Mr. Richard Corbet was buried in "Shawbury Church." His will was proved in P.C.C. 1566 (22 Crymes).

133. THOMAS FERMOR 1558.

Thomas Fermor who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1559, was the 4th son of Richard Fermor, a merchant of the Staple of Calais, who made a great fortune which he lost and was reduced to poverty through assisting with "8d. and a couple of shirts," a Roman Catholic who had formerly been his confessor. In this way he incurred the severe displeasure of Henry VIII., his whole property being seized, though afterwards some portion of his estate was returned through the intervention of the King's Jester, Will Somers. The member Thomas Fermor inherited the estate of his Uncle, William Fermor, Clerk of the Crown and was seated at Somerton on the River Cherwell in Oxfordshire. His connection with this County arose through his marriage with Frances, daughter and heiress of Thomas Horde of Horde Park (where the member occasionally resided), and widow of Edward Rawling of Farminghoe. Mr. Fermor seems to have been himself suspected of a leaning towards papacy, as in 1575 there was a complaint that "Sir Thomas Stanley is "come to dwell in this Country and many papist gentlemen "resort unto him, Mr. Fermor and others as well in Shropshire "as others."* Mr. Fermor died in 1580 August 8th, and was buried in Somerton Church, where there is a monument of white marble to him and his wife Bridget, so that he must have been married a second time. On this monument, the member is depicted in armour and there is this inscription "Thomæ Fermor, "armigero, viro animi magnitudine contra hostes, beneficentia "erga Doctos admirabili, domino hujus territorii, benignissimo "et novæ Scholæ fundatori optimo." Mr. Fermor's first wife Frances Horde died on July 10, 1570 and was buried in Bridgnorth Church where there was an Altar monument with her figure in alabaster upon it.†† Mr. Fermor's will dated June

15, 1580, was proved in the Prerogative Court, and he is said to have thereby benefited Bridgnorth and Astley.† The Fermors Barons Lempster and Earls of Pomfret, peerages now extinct, were descended from the member's elder brother Sir John Fermor. Mr. Fermor's daughter Mary married in 1509 Francis Plowden of Plowden. An extract from Mr. Fermor's will the accounts of his executors and the contract for his monument are given in the *Archaeological Journal* VIII, 179.

*Owen and Blakeway I, 365.

†Collins' Peerage IV, 200. Will P.C.C. 30 Arundell.

††Symonds' Diary 250.

1559 Jany. Sir Andrew Corbet (130) and Sir Arthur Mainwaring (134).

134. SIR ARTHUR MAINWARING (1558).

Sir Arthur Mainwaring of Ightfield, who was Sheriff of the County in 1563 and in 1577, was the son of Sir Richard Mainwaring (who served the office of Sheriff in several years) and Dorothy daughter of Robert Corbet of Moreton. The member was knighted in 1547 at Berwick by John, Earl of Warwick, Lieutenant of the King's Army, so that we may infer that he was engaged in military service in the campaign which resulted in the battle of Pinkie. Sir Arthur married* Margaret, daughter of Sir Ranulph Mainwaring of Peevor, and had, with other children a son George, who succeeded him. Sir Arthur was one of the Commissioners of Musters in 1577, and it is interesting in these days to note that by this Royal Commission, all men between 16 and 60 years of age, within Salop and its liberties were to be "armed, trained and inspected." Sir Arthur died late in 1590 or early in 1591, as on the 29 April in the latter year his son was admitted tenant of Edstaston Hall on his father's death.† His will was proved in P.C.C. 1591 (49 Sainberbe).

*Shropshire Vis. 349.

†Garbet's Wem, 267.

1563 Jany. RICHARD COREET (132) and EDWARD LEIGHTON (126).

1572 April. GEORGE BROMLEY (135) and GEORGE MAINWARING (136).

(This Parliament was not dissolved until 1583).

135. GEORGE BROMLEY (1572-83) of Hallon, was the son and heir of George Bromley (one of the Council of the Marches and Sheriff of Shropshire), and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon of Willey. He was born at Hodnet about 1525, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple of which, like his father, he became reader and was Treasurer from 1562-1571. Though George Bromley did not rise to so great fame as

his younger brother Thomas, who became Lord Chancellor, still he attained to an eminent place in the legal profession. In 1554 he was General Steward of the lands of Queen Mary in Shropshire, from 1566-1580 he was Attorney General of the Duchy of Lancaster, was Justice of the Anglesey Circuit of North Wales from 1567 to 1580, and on 26 May, 1580, George Bromley was appointed Chief Justice of Chester, which office he held to his death. Mr. Bromley was one of the Council of the Marches of Wales, and was Knighted on his appointment as Chief Justice of Chester on the 3rd June, 1580 at Nonsuch. Sir George was M.P. for Much Wenlock 1558 and 1559, for Liskeard 1562 to 1567 and Shropshire in this long Parliament. He was also Recorder of Shrewsbury from 1578 to his death, was High Sheriff of the County in 1552 and Custos Rotulorum thereof. Sir George married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Wannerton of Hallon, and by this marriage acquired extensive estates in the parish of Worfield. They had 10 children, one of whom, Sir Edward, carried on the legal traditions of the family and became one of the Barons of the Exchequer. In an old manuscript of 1576, Sir George is described as "one of the Justices of the Court of the Marches who serves not," probably being engaged in his duties as "Attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster." The member died on the 2 March 1588/9, and was buried at Worfield where a splendid monument to his memory still remains with this inscription "Sir George Bromley, Knight, Chief Justice of Chester " and of the Council in the Marches of Wales, a just man and a "great professor of the Religion now established."*

*Sh. Ar. Tr. 3 Series, II. 314.

*Williams's 'Welsh Judges' 32.

136. SIR GEORGE MAINWARING 1572.

Sir George Mainwaring was the eldest son of Sir Arthur Mainwaring (No. 134 above). He was educated at Shrewsbury School, his name standing first in the 2nd class in the school list of 1562. He was a barrister, having been admitted to the Inner Temple in 1565. Sir George was Knighted in 1595 and his arms were formerly in the Council Chamber in Ludlow Castle as one of the Councillors of the Marches in 1608 and before. The member married Anne, daughter of William Moore of Losely, a sister of Sir George Moore, and had a son, Sir Arthur, who succeeded him. In 1611 a volume of sermons under the name

of "Scala coeli" was published by Francis Burton, which was dedicated to "The right worshipful Sir George Mainwaring of Ightfield, Knight, and to the virtuous Lady, Madam Anne "his beloved wife and to the right worshipful Sir Arthur, their "son and heir, Carver to Prince Henry, Prince of Wales," a dedication significant of the time.* Sir George and his son bought Stokesay Castle from Henry Vernon before his death in 1607, but it was again sold by the Mainwarings to Lady Craven in 1620. Sir George in 1621 was one of the Shropshire Commissioners for attaching persons not having 40/- a year in freehold lands for killing game or keeping hounds or ferrets. According to a statement in the Inner Temple Records, Sir George died in embarrassed circumstances. He was dead at the Visitation of 1623, and was buried at Chertsey,† Surrey. Two of his sons were Knighted, one Sir Thomas being Recorder of Reading, and another Sir Henry, a Captain in the Navy "who became a battered old sailor steeped in poverty."**

* Sal Shreds and Patches, VIII. 13.

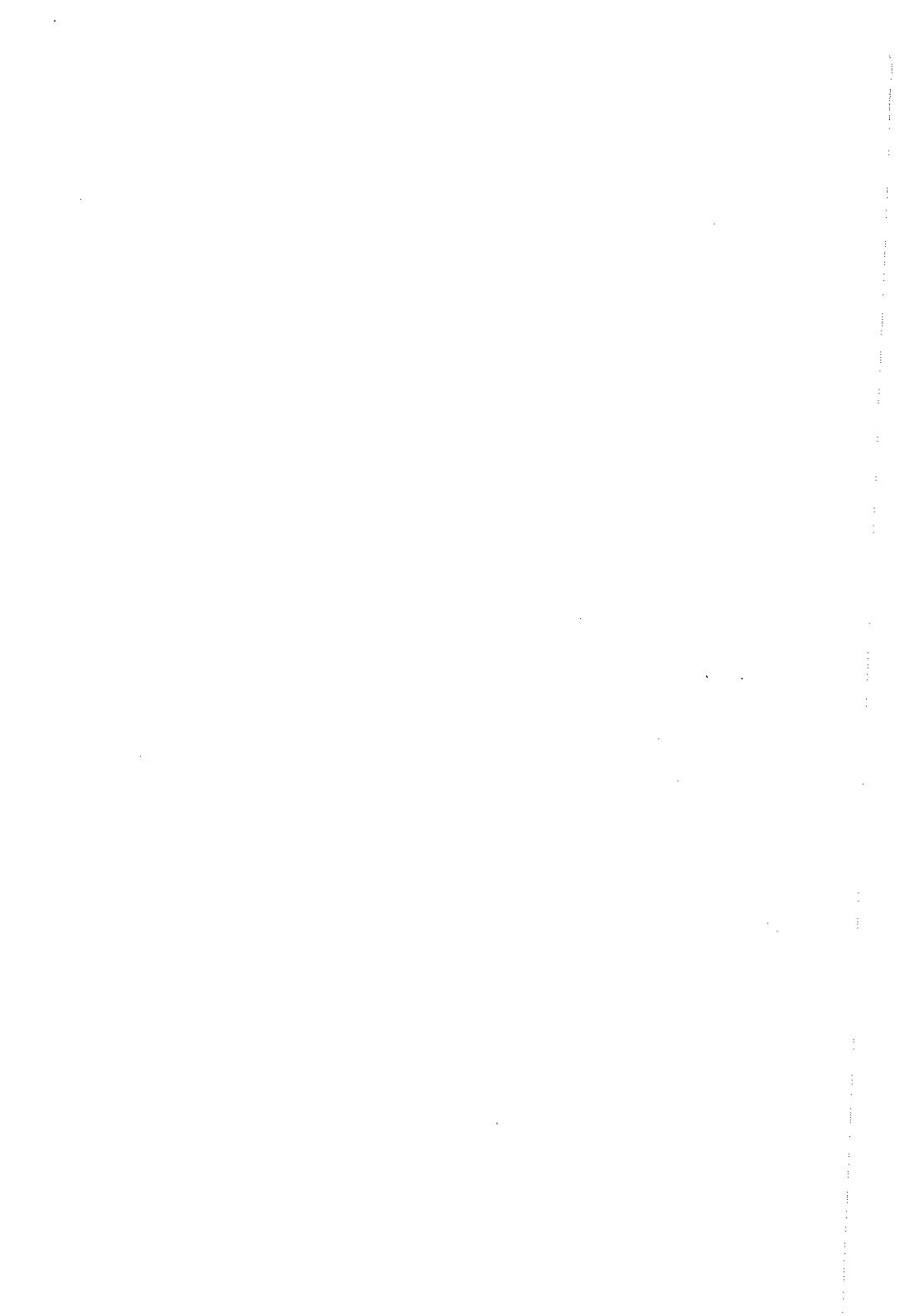
** Inner Temple, 166.

† Burke's Extinct Baronetage, 335.

1584 Novr. WALTER LEVESON (137) and FRANCIS BROMLEY (138).

137. WALTER LEVESON 1584—1592.

Walter Leveson of Lilleshall Abbey, born 1550, was the eldest son of Sir Richard Leveson and grandson of James Leveson to whom Lilleshall Abbey was granted at the Suppression. The member was educated at Shrewsbury School, being in the 3rd class there in 1562. He was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1576 and was Knighted on 12 July 1587. Sir Walter was married twice, first to Ann, daughter of Sir Andrew Corbet of Moreton Corbet, and secondly to Susan, daughter of John Vernon of Hodnet. Sir Walter was Lord of the Manor of Wolverhampton, and in that capacity engaged in litigation with Dr. Joseph Hall, Prebendary of Willenhall (afterwards Bishop of Norwich) which lasted even beyond the member's life. Sir Walter seems to have bought a moiety of the Seignory of Newport in 1575, while he sold the advowson of Edgmond to Thomas Pigott in 1599. It is said that he "possessed much wealth, but was also distinguished for his talents and the services he rendered to his country." Sir Walter who died on 20 October 1602, seized of Lilleshall, Wyrley and other Manors, was succeeded by his son by his first wife Ann Corbet, Richard (No. 139 below) then 33 years of age.



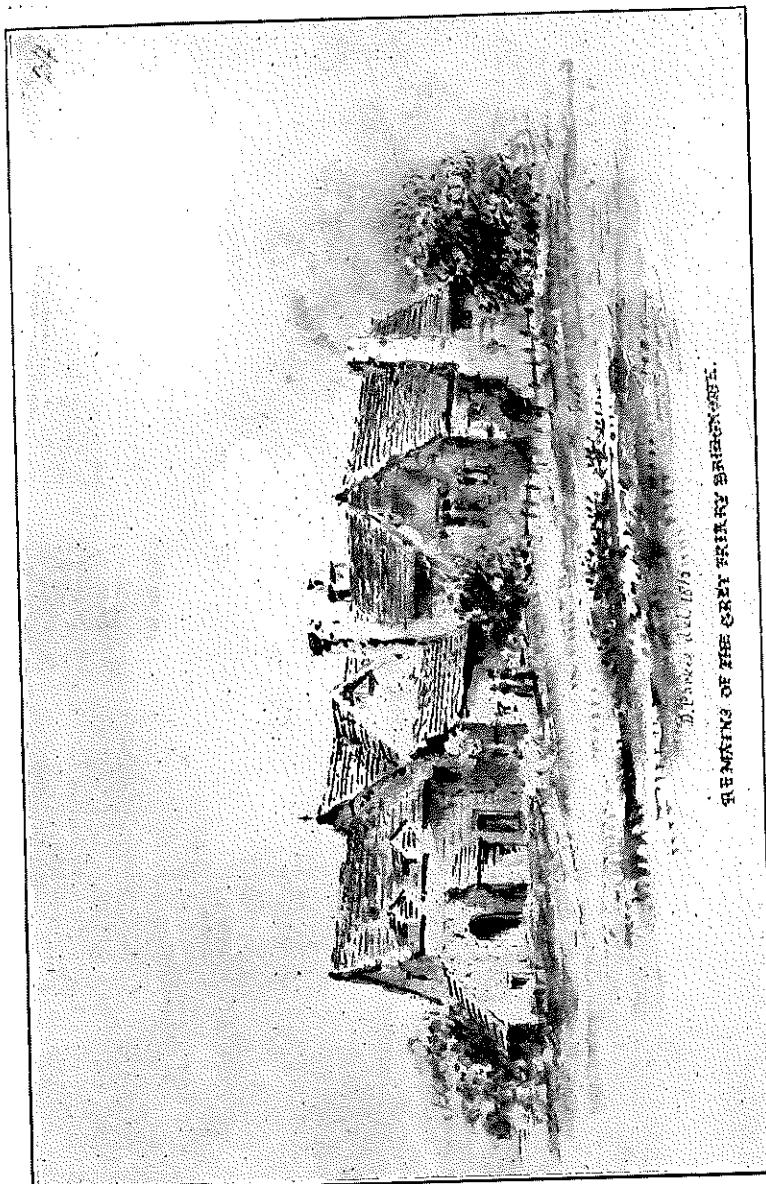


FIG. I. PARKES'S SKETCH OF BRIDGNORTH FRIARY IN 1815.

THE GREY FRIARS OF BRIDGNORTH.

BY THE REV. PREBENDARY W. G. CLARK-MAXWELL, M.A., F.S.A.

The following account of the Grey Friars of Bridgnorth is largely based on information supplied by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A., who very generously placed at my disposal the material collected by him on the subject, with which I have combined such information as I had myself come across. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. A. G. Little, F.B.A., who is a mine of information on all subjects connected with the Mendicant Orders in England, and who has supplied, with other information, the extracts from the "Ministers' Accounts," which are printed in the Appendix to this paper. It is a matter for regret that there is not more to chronicle ; but Bridgnorth though a comparatively early foundation of the Franciscans in England, never rose to any prominence, so far as our information extends, and seems to have fallen very low, for some time preceding its suppression in 1538.

W.G.C.M.

The precise date of the foundation of the house of Grey Friars in Bridgnorth is not recorded ; but it must have been some time between 1224, the year in which this order of Friars reached England, and 1244, when King Henry III. ordered the payment of 40s. to the Friars Minors of Bruges "ad fabricam ecclesie sue."¹ This would seem to indicate that the Friars were still engaged in building their church, and therefore that their establishment in the town had been comparatively recent ; but we cannot be sure of this, as the King's gift may be simply a grant for necessary repairs. By 1247, however, the Friars had evidently become so far settled in their Bridgnorth habitation, that they contemplated its extension, and accordingly asked for, and obtained leave to enlarge their site by the alteration of a road, so as to make it run inside the town ditch, instead of outside.

(1) Liberale Roll, 28 Henry III. [No. 20] Mem. 6. See Appendix.

“ For the Friars Minors. Whereas the King has understood by inquisition that it would be to the advantage of the town of Bruges, if the King should grant to the Friars Minors of the said town, that that road, without the ditch on the western side of that town, be altered, and be made within the ditch, it is commanded to W. de Cantilupo that he allow the said road to be inclosed and be made within the ditch, for the increase of the area of the said brethren. Witness the King at Windsor, the seventh day of June [1247]”¹

Two observations suggest themselves on the above grant ; first that the Friars' establishment lay outside the town boundary and close to it, a very usual situation for an early Franciscan house, which was usually placed just within or without the town wall ; partly, no doubt, because the centre of the town was already occupied, and partly also because here dwelt the poorest of the inhabitants, to whom the Friars were specially sent. The other point is that either there is a mistake of “ west ” for “ east ” in the writ, or the Friars shifted from their first abode ; since the present site of the Friary is distinctly on the *east* of the town.

Not content however, with the increase thus afforded them, the Friars proceeded to attempt a further extension of their site, in a way which brought them into trouble with the authorities. In 1272 the Jurors of the Borough report that the Friars Minors had by casting rubbish into the Severn in order thereby to enlarge their area, been the cause of damage to the King's Mills of Pendlestone, by causing the water to pound back there-upon, and that this had been going on for the past sixteen years, *i.e.* since 1256 (Eyton i. 352). The result of this complaint is not recorded ; and it is doubtful whether any result would follow in the way of restraint of the Friars' action ; since it is difficult to avoid the conviction that this was a merely vexatious accusation, as the river-bank has been considerably further advanced since 1272, by the deposit of ashes and other rubbish, and in 1898 a roadway was formed between the eastern boundary of the Friary site and the river ; yet even so there is no sign of the pounding back of the water on the Mills at Pendlestone, which

(1) Close Roll, 31 Henry III. Printed Calendar 1242—1247, p. 517.
See Appendix.

in any case derive their water-power from the Worfe, and not from the Severn.

In 1282 the Friars Minors of Bruges had a gift of six oaks, fit for timber, from the King's forest of Shirlot¹. This would imply some work of construction or repair at the time.

In April 1290, Bishop Swinfield of Hereford, being then at Colwall, sent them a present of five shillings, to provide them one pittance or extra course at their meal²; and if we calculate that this was at the rate of 4d. per friar, as was the case with the pittances provided by the King in other convents, we obtain 15 as the probable number of inmates at this time. Though it falls short of certitude, this is not an unreasonable estimate in view of the numbers recorded elsewhere about this period³.

Agnes Orm, of Ludlow, in 1304 left by her will a like sum of 5s. to the Friars Minors of Bridgnorth⁴.

In 1418 John Chelmyswyk left by his will " to the freres menours of Bruggenorth to singe for my soule and for the soules of my fader and moder Thomas my sone and Elyanore late my wyfe Jonet Chelmyswyk my Graundame and all my god fryndys soules and for alle cristen soules the hole Seint Gregorie Trentall and to praye devoutly for my soule and the soules aforesayde xl.s."⁵

Thomas Horde, of Hords Park, by his will dated June 11, 1498 leaves 20s. to the Gray Fryers⁶.

In 1502 Thurston Smyth makes them a bequest of twelve pence.⁷

In 1514 Joan Hungerford of Charlecote leaves "to the grey friars of Bridgnort . . . my challys" a legacy which indicates a special interest in the house⁸; and Sir Thomas Lucy, who claimed the "foundership" (see below) in his will dated 17 Nov. 15 Hen : VIII. (1525) leaves 66s. 8d. to the Grey Friars of Bridgnorth⁹; while after his death in Aug. 1529 his executors pay

(1) Close Roll, 10 Ed. I, Mem. 4. Calendar 1279—1288, p. 157.

(2) Swinfield Roll, Ed. Webb (Camden Soc.) 152, clixix.

(3) Little, Studies in British Franciscan History, p. 39.

(4) Shropshire A. & N.H.S. Transactions V: 259.

(5) P.C.C. 42 Marche. See also 'Transactions' (4th Ser.), Vol. VIII, p. 219.

(6) Register F. at Canterbury, fol. 15.

(7) P.C.C. 17 Blamyre.

(8) P.R.O., Ancient Deeds, V. A. 12393.

(9) Letters & Papers, Henry VIII., Vol. IV. App. 52 (p. 3093).

6s. 8d. to "the Warden of Bridgnorth" and 4*l.* to the house, for trentals to be said there¹; but despite these and other smaller gifts, the house must always have been a very poor one. The brethren no doubt were grateful enough for any help that was given them, and were ready to make what return they could for the material assistance thus afforded. Thus in 1333, Brother Roger de Denemedé, provincial minister of the Order in England, gives them leave to appropriate to Nicholas de Pichford and Joan his wife, a daily Mass of the Blessed Virgin, and a daily Mass which was wont to be said for benefactors². A further document dated 1337 states that it is ordered in the convent of the Friars Minors of Bruggnorth that the benefit of these two Masses shall extend to the children of the said Nicholas and Joan, and all persons, alive or dead for whom they may wish the Masses to be celebrated. Dukes in his Antiquities of Shropshire, App. p. xli, quoting the above documents, gives two seals as belonging thereto; viz. one small, with the legend S. GARDIAN. FR. M. BRVGIE.; the other large, with the legend S. CONVENT FR.M.ORDIS. PREDICATOR. BRVGEN. Of these, the first presents no difficulty, being the seal of the local head (styled by the Franciscans *Gardianus*) of the Bridgnorth Convent; but the second, if we are to take Dukes's words in their obvious signification, implies that the Franciscans of Bridgnorth used a seal which describes them as "fratres ordinis predicatorum" the specific title of the Black Friars or Dominicans, a thing which we may say was frankly impossible. Dukes gives a rough woodcut of the seal, and a better representation is found in Bellett's Antiquities of Bridgnorth, p. 90. This shows an oval seal with a figure of S. Paul treading under foot the head of the Emperor Nero; the legend is as given by Dukes, except that FRM forms one word, i.e. *fr[atriu]m*, instead of FR.M., i.e. *fr[atrium] m [inorum]*. The date is probably early fourteenth century. Now if the seal stood by itself, we should have little hesitation in ascribing it to the Black Friars of Bruges in Flanders, whose church is dedicated to St. Paul. It is obviously not a forgery, nor can

(1) *Ib.* No. 5870.

(2) Nicholas de Pichford, who owned, among other property, the Manor of Little Brug, was one of the richest men in Shropshire; and his Assessment of 40s. for the lay subsidy of 1327, was the highest in the county.

we well suppose that the Grey Friars of Bridgnorth appropriated the seal of the Black Friars of Bruges for their own use ! The only solution of the difficulty seems to be to conclude that Dukes got confused in transcribing his notes, and thought that he had seen the seal appended to the document of 1337, whereas he had really seen it independently, and not unnaturally imagined it to belong to the Bridgnorth Friary. If the documents themselves could be consulted, the point would be made clear ; but for the present at any rate, their whereabouts is unknown, nor does Dukes give any reference to the place where he saw them. It is probable that the matrix of the *PREDICATORVM* seal is still in existence, and that it is, or recently was, within the County of Salop, since impressions in *gutta-percha* of it and other county seals, are preserved in the Shrewsbury Museum, at Much Wenlock, and in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries.

The documents are given by Dukes as follows ; (Antiquities of Shropshire, 1844, App. p. xli.)

1333. Frater Roger de Denemed, minister fratrum minorum Anglie, grants (at the instance of Nicholas de Pichford and Joan his wife) license to the brethren comorant in Bruggnorth to appropriate to the said Nicholas and Joan a daily mass of the blessed Virgin Mary cum nota vel sine nota, and a daily mass which is wont to be said for benefactors living or dead.

1337. It is ordered in the Convent of the Friars Minors of Bruggnorth, that the two messuages [*leg. masses*] ordained of the father [*leg. provincial*] minister of England shall extend to the children of the said Nicholas de Pichford and Joan his wife, and ad omnes personas vivas et mortuas pro quibus idem Nicholas et Joan volunt illas missas perpetuo celebrari huic etiam cedula guardianus ejusdem conventus sigillum suam apposuit—two seals, one small, with the legend *S. GARDIAN FR.M. BRUGIE*—the other large, with the legend *S.CONVENT.FR.M.ORDIS. PREDICATOR.BRUGEN.*

We may perhaps associate with some considerable benefaction to the house by the family of de Higford, the claim to be its "founder" which was made by the Lucy's of Charlecote, to whom the inheritance of Apley, etc. descended through marriage

[NOTE—In "Monumenta Franciscana" p. 538. In list of *Ministri Provinciales* [in Anglia]. "XVIII. Frater Rogerus de Denemed doctor Cantebrigiae, jacet Sarum."]

with the heiress of de Higford. Eyton says "at length Alice sister and eventual heir of the last Sir William de Hugford, carried his estates (viz: Higley, Apley, Norton, etc.) into the family of Lucy of Charlecote." (Antiquities of Shropshire, iii. 18.) This claim of the Lucy's to the foundership is illustrated by the will of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote in 1525, in which he leaves 66/8d. to the Grey Friars of Bridgnorth, "whereof I am founder."¹

Dugdale's *Monasticon VI.* p. 1531, quotes Tanner's statement, which in its turn is founded on Speed, that the house was founded by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury in the time of Henry VI. This is obviously an error, since the house was in existence 200 years before this period. Blakeway in his MS. *History of Bridgnorth* (Bodleian Library MS. Blakeway 18, fol. 123.) repeats whether independently or not, the statement; but Eyton (I. p. 350.) has shown that this was a claim to [hereditary] foundership put forward by the Earl of Shrewsbury as heir and representative of Ralph le Strange, whom the friars claimed as their founder, but that the claim was erroneous, and like many other similar claims by friaries, rested on no solid basis of fact. It is indeed improbable that the house had any formal founder at all, but in later times friaries often claimed, or acknowledged, powerful families as their "founders," hoping no doubt to establish thus a claim for special favour or future benefits.

Bridgnorth was one of the nine houses in the "custody" of Worcester, the others being Preston (Lancs.), Shrewsbury, Coventry, Chester, Lichfield, Stafford, and Llanfaes,² and was probably an earlier foundation than that in the far more important town of Shrewsbury. The reason for this priority is now, in the total absence of all evidence, impossible to determine; but Bridgnorth lies in the line of the friars' advance from Worcester towards Shrewsbury, and was, we must remember, a relatively much more important place in the 13th century than at any subsequent period. It is at any rate from this earliest stage of the house's existence that the one personal touch comes, which connects it with the name of one of the early Franciscan converts. The fifth novice received [in England] was "frater Philippus Londonia oriundus, ordine sacerdos, qui postea

(1) *Letters and Papers, Henry VIII.*, (IV.) App. 22 (p. 3093).

(2) A.G. Little, *Studies in English Franciscan History*, p. 235.

gardianus Brugensis factus" (brother Philip, a native of London, in priest's orders, afterwards made *gardianus* of Bridgnorth). He was afterwards sent to Ireland, and died there. (*Tractatus*, ed. A.G. Little, pp. 20, 153.) Beyond this, no names of heads or *gardiani* are known, and the history of the house is an almost complete blank. From time to time, members of the house are recorded in the Episcopal Registers as receiving Orders; for instance, in the Register of Bishop Stretton, of Lichfield, (1360-1385), published by the William Salt Society, we have the following:—

1364. viij. Id. Mart. Fr. John de Tyso, Order of Minors of Bruggenorthe, ordained deacon.
(same date.) Fr. William Mos, do. ordained priest.

1375. viij. Id. Apr. Fr. Ric. de Tonneworth, Ord. Min. Brugg, sub-deacon.

1376. ij. Id. Mart. Fr. Wm. Austin, Ord. Min. Brugg, priest, [conditionally].

A further search in the Lichfield Registers would almost certainly discover many new names.

The Hereford Registers have proved somewhat more fruitful; the Register of Thomas Charlton, (1327-44) records the ordination as deacons of Thomas Luci, Robert Stirklonde, and William de Draycote, as deacons, on Dec. 24, 1328 (p. 103); of Alan de Maxtoke, as deacon, on Mar. 16, 1330 (p. 119); of Thomas de Kokenage, Richard de Oswaldestre, Walter de Bikerton, as acolytes, on Dec. 19, 1332, (p. 129); and on the same day, Nicholas de Alvinchirche as deacon, (p. 131). Bishop Trefnant (1389-1404) records (p. 220, 1) that on Sept. 22, 1397 he ordained David Pentraeth as sub-deacon, William Burcetre as deacon, and John Cardigan as priest. Bishop Spofford (1422-48) on April 6, 1436, ordained Donat Barly as deacon (p. 323); and Bishop Bothe (1516-1535) on April 10, 1523, licensed Brother Thomas of the Minorites of Bridgnorth to preach throughout the diocese (p. 140); and on Sept. 28, Brother Thomas Wellis, of the same house, and presumably the same person, is commended to the favourable reception of all in the diocese. (p. 146.) (The references are to the pages of the Cantelupe Society's publication). Besides the above, there are ordinations described as of "Friars Minor of Ludlow," (which never existed !)

or of "Fr. Min." with no house specified; these *may* refer to Bridgnorth Franciscans, but we can do no more than guess at the possibility.

The comparative insignificance of the Grey Friars' house in Bridgnorth is illustrated by the fact that it seems not to have been usually visited by the bearers of the Obituary Rolls of deceased persons of distinction, so far as we may judge from such records as remain to us. We may draw this conclusion from the fact that out of the four Rolls of Priors of Durham, in which we might reasonably expect to find the *titulus* of the house, praying for the repose of the soul of the departed Prior, it occurs in one only, that of Priors Ebchester and Burnby, in 1464, whereas all four record the suffrages of the Carmelite and Austin Friars of Ludlow; thus serving to indicate that it seemed to the *brevigerulus*, who carried the roll, hardly worth while as a rule to turn aside to visit so unimportant an establishment (see *The Durham Obituary Rolls*, Surtees Soc. Vol. XXXI.)

During the later part of its existence, indeed, the house seems to have fallen very low, and a rather pitiable state of things is revealed in the letter of Richard Ingworth, Bishop of Dover, Henry VIII's Commissioner for visitation (and suppression) of Friaries in Aug. 1538. In a general account of his proceedings, furnished to Cromwell, and written from Lichfield, he mentions that he has taken into the King's hands, the Grey Friars in Bridgnorth of which he says that it is the poorest house he has seen, not worth 10s. a year "all the houses at fallyng downe," and he recommends Nic. Holte who wishes to have it.¹ The certificate of the surrender, dated Aug. 5 and signed by Thomas Hall and Randolph Rodes, bailiffs of the town, sets forth that the warden and brethren say they could not live, for the charity of the people was so small, that in three years they had not received in alms in ready money 10s. a year, but only live by a service they had in the town in a chapel on the bridge.² This was the Chapel of St. Syth, known also under other names, of which some account was given in the *Transactions*, 4th Series, vol. IX., p. 118. To the authorities there quoted, should be added a reference to the Calendar of

(1) Letters and Papers Henry VIII., XIII, II. No. 49.

(2) Ib. No. 41.

Papal Letters, vol. VI., p. 54, where will be found an exhortation dated Sept. 17, 1405, to all the faithful to contribute to the repair and conservation of the bridge and chapel of All Saints, which John Pleylen, priest, of the diocese of Lichfield, has caused to be built at his own cost at the town of Bruggenorth over a certain perilous water called the Severne, which bridge on account of the strong current (*gravem cursum*) of the said water, requires no little yearly repair ; a recital of the spiritual benefits to be thus obtained, follows.

If the statement is taken literally, that the Chapel was first built by John Pleylen, of whom I have been able to discover no further particulars, we are brought down to a much later date for the construction of the chapel than that conjecturally assigned to it in my earlier paper ; and it is true that no definite reference to it earlier than this of 1405, has been traced ; but it seems more likely that the reference is to a rebuilding or extensive repair by Pleylen. In any case the Grey Friars were responsible for the maintenance of the services therein.

The house was surrendered as stated above on Aug. 5, 1538, and an inventory of its goods made the same day. (Letters and Papers, Hen. VIII., XIII. ii, no 41b.) As this has been already printed in the *Transactions* (Series III, vol. V., p. 377) it need not be repeated here ; but opportunity may be taken to correct two small inaccuracies in transcription. In the list of contents of the kitchen "an old hangeing baner" should read "an old hangeing laver" (*i.e.* basin), and the last item should run "a coundythe cumyng from ye hey crosse" instead of a *carving* from the high Cross. Even so the entry is not very clear ; but the meaning seems to be that from the main conduit of the town at the High Cross in the market-place, a branch supplied the Friary kitchen ; but that this had been out of use, concealed, or forgotten, for many years. The conduit at the High Cross is mentioned in the Great Leet Book of the Borough, fol. 95 (see *Transactions* 1st series, X. p. 140.) where the Bellman of the town is directed among other things "to rydd the three cundydes the crosse & the markett places wekely," and the probable explanation of the Friars' connexion with the town water supply is that at Bridgnorth as in many other places, the Franciscans were the first to introduce a supply of pure water into the town. This after supplying the various public

conduits would terminate at the Friary ; and by and by men came to look upon the Grey Friars as dependent on the town supply, whereas in reality the reverse was the true state of the case. It is an eloquent testimony to the low level to which the House had fallen, that when this conduit failed, from whatever cause, it remained unrepaired, and indeed its very existence had passed out of most men's knowledge.

Dr. E. Hermitage Day, in his recently published book on "St. Francis and the Greyfriars," says (p. 108) "In many towns it was the Friars who first provided good water supplies, doubtless using to good purpose, the experience of Italy. The conduits which they made for their Friaries were placed at the service of the townsmen ; Bristol and Grantham and Lincoln have been indebted for water until recent years to the provision made by the Greyfriars six centuries ago." And we may add that Bridgnorth uses it still ! At Newcastle also, the Friars laid water on, and the burgesses later on interfered with the conduit from which the friars had supplied the town, and in 1341 had to be restrained from doing this. At Southampton, the town took over the friars' water supply in 1421. For further details concerning the water supply at these places, as well as at Richmond and Coventry, see A. G. Little, *Studies in English Franciscan History*, pp. 13—16.

The Inventory records "stuff," *i.e.* furniture and goods, in (i) a place unnamed, but probably the vestry, the most richly provided of the whole house, (ii) the quire or chancel of the Church with (iii) the steeple or belfry, by which we need not necessarily understand more than a bell-turret. The nave of the church is not mentioned, and probably contained no furnishings. (iv) the frater or dining hall, containing five tables and nothing more, and therefore probably no longer used for meals, (v) the plate consisting of no more than one chalice (presumably with paten) for use at Mass, and six spoons for the table. These one would have expected to be kept in the buttery and in the vestry, but the house's poor store of silver is mentioned together, as this was to be taken "to the King's use"; (vi) the kitchen sparsely enough furnished, though far better than the frater, and (vii) the brewhouse, containing only the fixed furnace or mash tub, and the big brass pan or cooler. Besides the places mentioned, there must have been a chapter-house, and dormitory,

as well as a buttery as indicated above, and in all likelihood, a guest house, and lodging for the *gardianus*: but these one can only suppose, had either fallen into ruin, or were devoid of furniture. The wonder is, where the friars managed to sleep! The whole inventory reveals a rather pathetic contrast between the plentiful, if somewhat dilapidated provision for Divine service, and the complete penury of everything else.

There is no statement of the number of inmates at the time of the surrender. There must have been the *gardianus*, and at least two others, since Bishop Ingworth's letter speaks of the warden and the brethren, but if we add one more, to make a total of four, that is about as far as probability will allow us to go, if we are to be guided at all by the numbers recorded for the Austin Friars and the Carmelites of the county.¹ It was probably only in the Observant branch of the Franciscans that anything like the old fervour remained; and the observants had been practically exterminated in England by August 1537. Only Friar John Forrest remained of them; and on May 22, of this very year of the suppression (1538) he was barbarously put to death by being roasted alive for denying the King's supremacy. Small wonder then, if the "conventional" Franciscans, such as those at Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, like the other friaries in the county and in England generally, made little or no resistance to the royal will.

Though the house was always a poor one, and never more so than at the time of its surrender, yet the site and buildings had a certain value, and there were one or two small patches of ground belonging to it. These figure in the Ministers' Accounts of 1538-40, extracts from which are given as an appendix to this paper. As is often the case, their evidence is not very clear; but it would appear that one Nicholas Holt acted as administrator in 1538-9. £11 os. 5d. was received for "superfluous" buildings, and the lead on the ridges (of the roof) was sold to Thomas Holt for £1 6s. od., of which 6s. was paid, and the rest remained in arrear. One of the bells, estimated to weigh 2 cwt. 3 qrs. was sold to Thomas Hall, presumably the

(1) There were a Prior and three brethren at the Austin Friars in Ludlow; five brethren at the Carmelites there; and a Prior and two Irish brethren at Shrewsbury Austin Friars. (Transactions, 3rd Series V. p. 390-1).

bailiff, for £2 12s. There were also various small sums due, but not collected, and therefore not brought into account. In the way of rent, the site with such buildings as were deemed fit for use, and had therefore been left standing, was let for 15s. 6d., and a parcel of land, called le Conyngre, about half-an-acre in extent, which had been given to the friars by Thomas Horde,¹ was let at 16 pence, though the tenant is not specified. Another parcel of ground, or croft, on the east side of the Conyngre, known as 'Acton's Copie,' is rented at twenty pence, and again the name of the tenant is left blank, though from entries in the two succeeding years, it may be conjectured that Frances, daughter and heiress of Thomas Horde (? the original donor) was the tenant throughout. She was the wife of ——— Rawley, who is described in the last entry as 'nuper,' implying that he was then dead.

On Aug. 21, 1540, Nicholas Holt is granted a lease of the site of the Friary,² and is accordingly described in the Ministers' Accounts as "firmarius." On 18 July, 1544, the house, etc. of the late Friars Minors of Bridgnorth is granted in fee, with a good deal of property elsewhere (Leicestershire, Wenlock, etc.) to John Beaumont.³ John Beaumont, the purchaser of Gracedieu, Leicestershire, was on the commission for the ecclesiastical survey of Leicestershire 1534, reader and treasurer of the Inner Temple, and recorder of Leicester, and master of the Rolls 1550 to 1552. In the latter year he was deprived of his office and fined for grossly abusing his position. By his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Hastings, he was father of Francis Beaumont, Judge of the Common Pleas 1593—1598; and grandfather of Sir John Beaumont, Bart., and of Francis Beaumont the eminent dramatist.⁴

The earliest description of the Friary buildings that has come down to us, is in Cox's *Magna Britannia* (1720—1731) pp. 693, 4, and runs as follows :

"*Bridgnorth*, wherein were anciently divers Religious Houses, etc..... *The Friars*, being in the times of Popery, a

(1) Not the testator of 1498. I have not come across the will of any later Thomas Horde.

(2) Letters and Papers, Henry VIII. xv. (No. 75).

(3) Ib. xix. g. 1035.

(4) D.N.B. iv. 57. Vis. Leic. Harl. Soc. ii. 172.

Convent of *Franciscans*, or Minor Friars, and was doubtless much larger than now it appears, there being some plain marks of its ancient magnificence, yet visible ; for in the Court or Yard thereof are Vaults under ground, which run parallel to the House for some space, and extend themselves several ways, but how far in some places, is not known. The end of one of these subteraneous passages was lately discovered. It resembled the Hearth of a Chimney, with seats on each side of it, without any appearance of a tunnel. In it were found Jars, and other earthen vessels. The height of this Cavity was such, that a man of an ordinary stature might walk in it almost upright. It was walled on both sides, and arched with stone at the top, and paved at the bottom. What was the intent, design and use of them, is not yet discovered."

The remains described are evidently part of the domestic buildings of the Friary, or of the substructures thereof.

In the Blakeway MSS. in the Bodleian Library (No. 18, fol. 123) is given the following description :

"On the West side of the river, there is an old Priory, now converted into an Alehouse, which was founded by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, for Grey Friars of St. Francis."

The Parkes note-book in the British Museum (Add. MS. 21,181, p. 24) which give us the sketch referred to later, adds this brief note on the buildings as they existed in 1815 :

"This Friary is situated in the N.E. part of the lower town, on the banks of the Severn. It was founded, according to Leland, temp. Hen. VI. by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Little can be known of its former state from the present mutilated remains. Two stone coffins were found a few years back in the garden adjoining, and near the same spot, a coffin-shaped stone, with a cross fleury, as represented below." See fig. 5.

Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, published in 1831, has rather fuller detail (vol. I. p. 250) :

"At the northern extremity of the town, on the western bank of the river, are the remains of a convent of Grey Friars, which have been converted into a malt-house : the great hall, or refectory is still nearly in its pristine state : the panelling oak ceiling, the stone fire-place, and many of the windows, though the lights are stopped with plaster, are still in entire preservation."

The Rev. G. Bellett, in "The Antiquities of Bridgnorth," published in 1856, gives a still more detailed description ; the testimony no doubt of an eye-witness, as he had then been

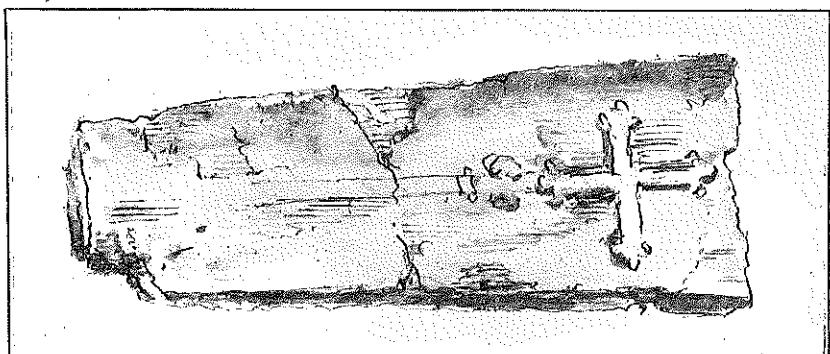


FIG. 5 Parkes's sketch of Grave Stone, discovered c. 1810.

for more than 20 years, Rector of St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth. He says, "that about the middle of the reign of King Henry III., a branch of this fraternity [Grey Friars] settled in Bridgnorth, and fixed their residence by the Severn side, on a site now occupied by Messrs. Southwell's Carpet Manufactory. There they built both a Friary and a Church. The great hall or refectory, which belonged to this establishment is still standing, and its oak pannelled ceiling and stone fireplace have not yielded to the wear of time, but after the lapse of six hundred years, are still in good preservation. Some years ago, a few skeletons were dug up near this spot, and very lately, several others have been found ; the place where they lay marking out, no doubt, the situation of the Cemetery, which belonged to the Church of the Friars."

There was thus, till within recent years, a considerable fragment of the house remaining, in the shape of a hall with oaken roof, possibly the Refectory or 'Frater' mentioned in the Inventory ; but this was entirely demolished some sixty years ago, for the extension of the Carpet Factory which now occupies the site of the Friary. A considerable number of skeletons have been found in the course of the various enlargements of these works, some

of them buried in graves cut in the soft sandstone of which the hill is composed (see fig 3), and with one at least of these, had been

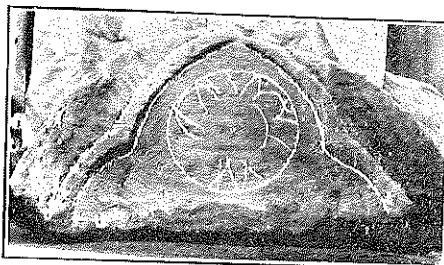


FIG. 3. Portion of Rock-cut Tomb,
discovered 1899.

buried a chalice and paten of base metal, of the type known as "coffin chalice," betokening his priestly status. The chalice and paten are now preserved in the Stackhouse Library, attached to St. Leonard's Church (see fig. 4). All the skeletons were found, so far as I

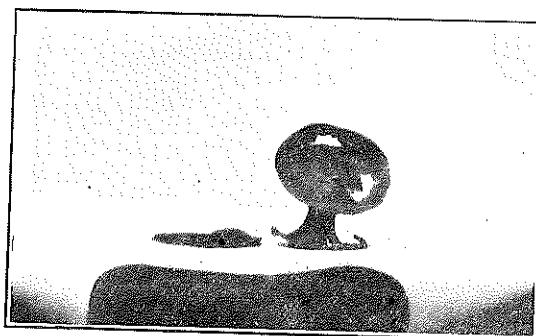


FIG. 4. Funeral Chalice and Paten,
discovered 1899.

can ascertain, at the southern end of the site, and the old Hall, which according to the testimony of old workmen of the factory, contained a *stone* pulpit as well as the oak pannelled ceiling and stone fireplace, lay to the north; we may therefore conjecture with some show of probability (but we need to remember that it is merely conjecture after all) that the friars' cloister lay to the north of their church, with a consequent

reversal of the more usual plan of the buildings. Such an arrangement was usually dictated by the slope of the ground, or the natural outfall of the great built drains of the domestic buildings, such as seem to be described above in the extract from the *Magna Britannia*. The slope of the site is indeed to the North and East ; but any trace of the system of drainage, or of any stream, by which the drains might be kept sweet, has long since disappeared.

The only representation of any part of the Friary known to me is the pen-and-ink sketch alluded to above, made by D. Parkes in 1815, and now in the British Museum.¹ This is a rather uninformative drawing of somewhat dilapidated-looking dwellings and is reproduced as a frontispiece to this paper (see fig. 1). It is very unfortunate that no record appears to have been preserved of the buildings taken down in the sixties of the last century, but such as it is, this drawing must serve as the only pictorial representation left to us of the Grey Friars' Convent at Bridgnorth. By the courtesy of Messrs. H. & M. Southwell, a plan of their factory, as it existed in 1860 is here reproduced on a reduced scale : and on it I have marked the conjectural sites of the principal buildings of the Convent, so far as I have been able to guess at their position (see fig. 2). Parkes's sketch must be of the building marked "Old Malthouse" taken from about the spot marked * on the river bank.

(1) Add. M.S. 21, 181, p. 24.

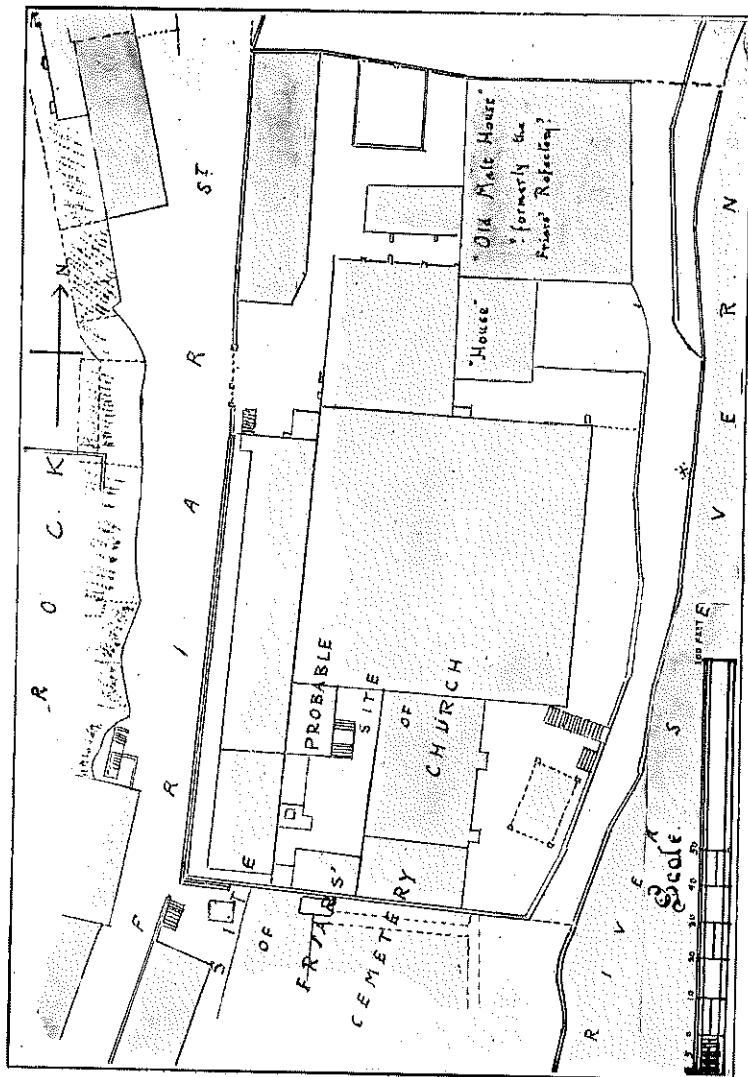


FIG. 2. SOUTHWELL'S CARPET WORKS, ON SITE OF FRIARY, IN 1860

APPENDIX.

*Extracts from the Rolls.*GRANT OF FORTY SHILLINGS FOR THE BUILDING OF THEIR
CHURCH.

“ Mandatum est custodi episcopatus Cestrie quod de eisdem exitibus faciat habere fratribus minoribus de Bruges xls. ad fabricam ecclesiarum suarum de dono Regis et computabitur Scaccario. Teste Rege apud Nottingham xvij die Julii ” [anno 1244]. Liberate Roll, 28 Henry III. no.20,mem.6.

PERMISSION TO ALTER LINE OF ROAD.

“ Pro Fratribus Minoribus. Quia rex accepit per inquisicionem quod erit ad commodum ville de Brug' si rex concederet Fratribus Minoribus ejusdem ville quod via illa extra fossatum ex parte occidentali illius ville mutetur et fiat intra fossatum, mandatum est W. de Cantil' quod permittat predictam villam (*leg. viam*) includi et infra fossatum fieri ad augmentum aree ipsorum fratrum. Teste Rege apud Wind' viij die Junii [1247] ” Close Roll, 31 Henry III.

FROM THE MINISTERS' ACCOUNTS.

7444, m.27. Michaelmas, 30-31 Henry VIII. [1538-9].

Com. Salopp. Terre et possessiones nuper Fratrum Minorum de Brydge North. Computus Nicholai Holte, etc. Redditus Sed respondet de xvjd. de redditu unius parcelle terre arabilis continentis per estimacionem dimidiam acram terre vocate le Conyngre date nuper fratibus domus predicte per quemdam Thomam Horde ut dicitur modo in tenura [blank] solvendis ad festum S. Michaelis archangeli tantum. Et de xxd. de redditu alterius parcelle terre sive crofti vocate Actons Copie adiacentis dicte le Conyngre ex parte orientali eiusdem nuper in tenura [blank] solvendis ad festum predictum. Scitus nuper domus predicte. Et de xvs. vjd. de redditu sive firma scitus nuper domus predicte cum domibus edificatis infra precinctum eiusdemffirmario magis aptis et necessariis Ac cum terra et solo infra et circa precinctum occupatis per nuper priorem, etc. [no acreage given].

7430. 30-31 Henry VIII.

nuper domus } De aliquibus denariis ibidem receptis
 ffratrum minorum } hoc anno non respondet (?) quia
 de Brigenorth. } non computavit.

Summa nulla.

nuper domus } Sed de xj li. vd. pro edificiis superfluis
 ffratrum in } eis venditis, et de vjs. de parte xxvjs. ut
 Brigenorth } in precio plumbi ibidem jacentis super le
 Rydges certarum domorum ibidem venditi Thome Holte . . .
 Et de xxs. de residuo precii dicti plumbi prefato Thome
 venditi Et de lijs de Thoma Hall ut in precio unius
 campane ponderantis per estimacionem cc.ijj quart metalli
 precii cuiuslibet Centene xixs.

Summa xiiij li. xviijs. vd.

7431. mem. 33d. (?) 32 Henry VIII. (1540-1).

nuper domus } Fraunciscam uxorem [blank] Rawley
 ffratrum minorum } sup filiam et heredem Thome Horde pro
 in Bridgnorth } redditu parcella terre arabilis vocata
 le Conyngre ad xvjd. per annum et pro redditu alterius
 parcella terre sive crofti adjacentis dicte le Conyngre ad xxd.
 per annum a retro tam ijs de arreragio anni precedentis
 prius non onerato quam ijs. de exitibus huius anni de
 arreragio suo unde, etc.

Nicholaum Holte firmarium et collectorem reddituum
 terrarum et possessionum nuper domus fratrum minorum in
 Bridgenorth viz. de denariis in manu sua remanentibus
 super computum suum anno xxxij do. Regis Henrici VIII. de
 arreragio suo unde, etc. xijs. ijd.

Eundem Nicholaum Holte de parte xxvjs. de precio
 [blank] ponderis plumbi, etc. xxs.

Summa arreragii nuper
 domus ffratrum } xxxviijs. ijd.
 minorum in bridgenorth

[In 7432 it is "nuper Rawley ut in jure ffrancisce uxoris
 sue et heredis Thome Horde defuncti."]

THE KING'S HEAD AND TOWN WALLS IN
MARDOL, SHREWSBURY.

BY J. A. MORRIS.

I. THE KING'S HEAD INN.

From early times Mardol must have been one of the busiest approaches to the centre of the town ; before the Normans came it would be the outlet for traffic towards the Welsh border, and the name itself suggests a Welsh origin. Various etymologies have been suggested from the Welsh language, amongst others —Mur a wall, and Dol a meadow near the river—hence we get Mardol, the street separated by a wall from the meadow on which the Smithfield now stands.

As early as the 12th century there was an almost continuous line of houses on either side of the street, the stone foundations of which lie below the modern buildings. On the north side, the houses had barns and outbuildings running back to the old town wall which extended from the bottom of Roushill bank to a tower near the old Welsh Bridge. This wall must have been destroyed at a very early period, when the premises overflowed the old wall and reached the lane which was the continuation of Roushill, and ran parallel with Mardol to the river. Somewhere near the King's Head Inn was a messuage which belonged to the Abbot of Haughmond in the 13th century, with a chapel adjoining it.¹ Many of these houses were hostellries, and the land behind provided accommodation for the carts and waggons which brought the country produce into the town. Amongst these, the most famous was the King's Head Inn, which stood at the corner of Roushill on the site of the premises now occupied by Mr. R. D. Bromley. In 1820, this Inn had ceased to exist, and the name had been transferred to another, “lower down the street”² formerly “The Last.” It is believed that the building now about to be described then became The King's Head Inn.

(1) The foundations of an ecclesiastical building which might be the chapel were discovered when the Empire Cinema Theatre was erected a few years ago.

(2) George Morris's list of Shrewsbury Inns.

Until a few months ago, the old building was divided into two tenements, the lower portion was obviously modern, whilst the upper part with its warped overhanging superstructure was shrouded in mystery, and covered with plaster. This has now been removed and the old timber framing exposed. The general design is somewhat unusual, and suggests the influence of the flamboyant period of French architecture, which was co-incident with the perpendicular period in this country. The building may have been erected late in the 15th century. The upright timbers are spaced rather farther apart than was customary, making the panels unusually wide: the trefoil arches are very similar to those in an old house in Oswestry built in the same century. The windows are not separate frames, as was generally the case in buildings of a later date, but constructed as part of the framework of the structure. The mullions and tracery much resemble those in the window in the old house on the Wyle Cop, where tradition states that Henry VII. lodged in 1485.

The interior is in keeping with the outside appearance—a series of low ceiled rooms with heavy beams, and a kitchen behind which still retains the broad ingle fire place. The upper rooms are also lacking in height, but the limited window area of the mediæval period has been increased by the addition of windows of a similar design to those which were found in a mutilated condition when the plastering was removed. The old tracery which had not been destroyed was in excellent condition, and has been reproduced in the new work.

The two front rooms on this floor were the most interesting part of the house. At some period when the lower portion was converted into shops, the floors had been laid with tiles on the top of the oak boards. These tiles are nearly all of the same design, and were probably made near Broseley, where flooring tiles have been made throughout the centuries from Roman times. Many are worn, but most of them still retain the surface when they were made in the 14th century. The pattern is composed of four tiles, which placed together form a circle, the angles being filled with conventional designs. The pattern is impressed into the surface of the tile, and in some instances is filled with a yellow slip, in others the yellow filling is omitted;

the whole surface having been originally coated with a glaze of greenish colour.

There is one tile of exceptional interest, with a design in yellow colouring on the red ground ; in the centre is the Agnus Dei symbol of St. John, with lettering around the margin ; the only word that can be made out with certainty, is ECCE (behold). The inscription was probably a shortened form of the latin words for "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." Within a short distance, on the other side of the Welsh Bridge, was a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which was destroyed early in the 16th century ; the Agnus Dei was the symbol of this house. It seems not improbable that the tiles came from that building. Since the alterations, they have been taken up, and now form the border of the floor in the entrance vestibule of the Inn.

Little is known of the owners of this property : late in the 18th century it was purchased, together with nearly all the property known as Mardol Quay, by Sir Richard Hill of Hawkestone. He also owned extensive properties in Frankwell, Coleham and Castle Foregate. In 1808 he sold the greater portion --including this property to the Earl of Tankerville, for £25,000. In course of time it passed into the possession of Dame Annie Margaret Puleston, who sold it to Mr. James Cockcroft, from whom it was recently purchased by Messrs. Worthington & Co.

II. THE MARDOL PORTION OF THE TOWN WALLS.

Many authorities have assumed that there is no evidence to show that the Town Walls extended beyond the bottom of Roushill Bank, and some have suggested that the early wall terminated at that point.

Blakeway says in his "Topographical History of Shrewsbury" that "we lose trace of them" down the course of Roushill Lane till we come to the river ; and Leighton in his "Shrewsbury of Past Ages" shows on his plan the wall terminating at a gateway at the bottom of Roushill Bank, near the lane leading to Mardol, where he says there was a "Tower" or "Gateway" called "BULGERLODE." One jamb of this gateway with its hook stone for the gate, can still be seen. Lord Burleigh in his Elizabethan map also shows this tower, and a line of houses but no wall, between the gateway and the Welsh Bridge.

But subsequent investigations have proved that the early wall did continue from Bulgerlode towards the Welsh Bridge and that it can be traced through the foundations of the houses on the North side of Mardol.

The late Mr. William Phillips writing in 1898 says:—"that a wall must have existed from Roushill along the back of Mardol houses cannot be doubted, and yet it is almost impossible to find its foundations." This supposition has been proved to be correct, by the discovery of the foundations which we traced when I made a plan of the town walls with the assistance of the late Mr. R. E. Davies in 1913.

In a passage, just below the King's Head Inn there are the remains of what appears to be an old Tower, which is not alluded to by any of these authorities, or shown on any of the plans. It consists of a wall about 26ft. long, which has evidently been returned at each end, so as to form a square building. It is built of red sandstone, but has few architectural features to suggest the date of its erection.

Colonel Prideaux, who made a study of the old walls of the town about the end of the last century, thought that it might be a tower at the termination of the early Norman wall, which seems a likely supposition.

There are several blocked up openings in the wall, which appear to have been embrasures or window openings: one of these has a chamfered jamb, typical of 13th century work. There are also the remains of what may have been a doorway, and evidence of various alterations made at different periods. The level of the surface appears to have been raised, and it is probable that the original floor of the tower is several feet below the present floor.

If the old ruins described are the remains of a tower, it appears to have no written history; possibly like the adjacent section of the wall it ceased to be a defence at an early period, and was used as a storehouse. Perhaps it is the Tower referred to in the Borough Records as FOSTER'S Tower, which was situated in "Roushill by Severn" and referred to in the order made by the Corporation in 1737 by which Mr. Francis Baldwynn was to be restored "to the possession of the tower known "as FOSTER'S "tower, sett to Mr. Richard Onslow in fee farm," and it may

be that the name originated from Robert Forster who was Mayor in 1650, and lived in Dog Lane (Claremont Street). Francis Baldwynn, who lived in the latter part of the same century may have been his successor. All three lived in St. Chad's Parish.

Roushill, which commenced from Pride Hill, originally terminated at Bulgerlode gate. Various suggestions as to the origin of the name have been made. Blakeway thought that it might have been derived from the Saxon or French,—signifying red, in allusion to the red stone of which the walls were built. He had a theory that this was an older road than Mardol, and that it led to a Bridge crossing the river some distance above the old bridge, which continued in a direct line with Mardol. He says that there was a tradition to this effect, and thinks the conformation of the land on the opposite side of the river supports the theory. Leighton says, that the name spelt "Rowenhull in 1292 was probably derived from the "Hill leading from the "Rows," that is from Baxter Row and Corvisor's Row, now Pride Hill and High Street.

Whichever derivation may be correct, it appears highly improbable that the supposed earlier bridge ever existed: the extension of Roushill beyond Bulgerlode was known as Roushill Lane and terminated at Roushill Water-gate on the river: it is much more likely to have been a back approach to outbuildings barns and gardens, that lay at the back of the houses in the lower part of Mardol, and which at an early date were built over the old town wall.

In 1599, the condition of Rowshill Lane may be gathered from an extract taken from a petition from "The inhabitants "in the streets about Rowshill Lane." "Rowsell Lane hath "byne kept cleane for sundry yeres past, on the charges of "sundry well willinge the inhabitanice ther about, May it there- "fore please your Worships to assent to give the mucke or dung "which is or shall be brought to Rowsell from tyme to tyme "towards the keepinge of the said Lane cleane so that for every "weane lode of dunge that shall be here after thense taken shall "pay therefor one penny, and everie boat ladin " the same.

The Report after inspection was as follows:—

"We find this sute to be reasonian in regarde the Lane is "verie noysom for lacke of keepinge cleane."

The land between Roushill Lane and Meadow Place now covered by the Smithfield was originally at a much lower level and liable to flood.

At some period a thin screen wall was built, projecting at a sharp angle, running north and west as shown on Speed's map (1610). It was described in 1576 as lying "open in ruynous "manner," and "very dangerous for passengers especially "children" and the bailiffs decided to have it "fortyfyed and "made newe, and pleasant for all people."

It does not seem likely that this wall was intended to be anything more than a defence from flood, and that it was "forty- "fyed" and strengthened for that purpose. The top of the wall was probably used as a walk for communication between this portion of the town and Castle Foregate; just as in more recent times Charles Darwin recalls in his notes an unpleasant experience, when walking on the restored wall on his way to school, in a fit of absent mindedness, he had a nasty fall from the top.

The wall again became ruinous, and is stated to have been rebuilt as a fortification during the Civil Wars. Towards the end of that period (1645) Shrawardine Castle was destroyed, and a good deal of the stone was brought down the river in barges to repair the wall.

As a result the access to the Water-gate at the bottom of Roushill lane was blocked, and a petition sent to the Corporation explains the inconvenience caused to the owners of adjacent property thereby :—

To the Right worl the Maior Aldermen and Assistants of the Towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble peticon of Abraham Gyles of the said Towne Trowman, a Burges of the said Towne.

Humbley sheweth that yor petitioner lately purchase d of John Taylor, Dyer, one small house and buildinges thereunto bellonginge in Mardall w'th some backe grownde on Rowsell side leading to the River of Seaverne where hee the said John Taylor and his Auncestors had free passage to the River of Seaverne till the Ston wall was builded. That hee lately moved the hoble Governor of this Towne to have liberty to make a passage through

the said wall to the River of Seaverne and his answer was that hee saw noe cause but that hee might doe it in regarde Mr. Cooke and John Milward have thire libertye to the River.

Yo'r petitioner being at the chardge to make the passage through the wall and to place a double planckte door with stronge hinges at the said passage or Gate so to be made, and delivering such stone as shall bee spared that is taken out of the said Wall to the Coroners of the said Towne for the Corporations use, and if occation shall happen to bee then to make upp the said passage or Gate at the proper chardge of your petitioner.

The premises considered, his humble desire unto yor worpps is to graunt him liberty upon the considerations aforesaid to make a passage or Postern gate through the saide Wall to the River of Seaverne one yarde broade, or thereaboute smooth and hand-some, and yor petitioner shall ever pray &c. 25th of August 1654.

They have made choice of Mr. Cooke, the 2 Chamberlayns, Mr. Fawkknor, Mr. Thos. Hunt, and Mr. Rc. Proude to vew and certifie at the nexte meeting.

37ber.54

(In another hand.)

In case he can by writinge make itt appeare that he hath a property to the wall he is to have a passage through ye wall, or els not.

In 1670 it is stated that Roushill Meadow was "enclosed," and in 1719 it was leased to Mr. John Thornton for a period of 99 years. He levelled and sowed it with rye grass.

Rocque's map (1745) shows Rowsell wall re-erected parallel with the river, and in a direct line from Mardol to the bottom of Meadow place.

Another map in one of St. Chad's Parish Books (1725) shows the wall with a "Watergate" opening to the river at the termination of Roushill Lane. The boundary line between St. Chad's and St. Alkmund's parishes was about 8 perches beyond the line of Roushill Lane, showing that the former parish extended as far as the line of the old wall shown on Speed's map, whilst what is described as "Roushill Meadow" was included in St. Alkmund's Parish.

WILL OF ADMIRAL JOHN BENBOW. 1702.

The following Will of Admiral Benbow is here printed from a typed copy in the Shrewsbury Public Free Library. It is dated 10 June, 1701, when he was at Deptford, shortly before his last voyage to the West Indies. He died 4 November 1702, and was buried at St. Andrew's, Kingston, Jamaica. His widow died at Deptford 14 December 1722. The Admiral names in his Will his wife Martha, his children John, William, Richard, Martha, and Katherine, and his sister Elinor Hinde. The Will was proved in the P.C.C. on 10 March 1702-3 (47 Degg.) The inscription on his monument is given in Le Neve's *Monumenta Anglicana*, page 54.

For the Admiral's biography see *Transactions*, VI. 333-344, Owen & Blakeway's History, II. 390-394, the *Biographia Britannica*, and the D.N.B., IV. 207. The latter work also gives an account of his eldest son John. Musgrave's *Obituary* has a number of references to various members of this family. The pedigree will be found in Owen & Blakeway's History, II. 394.

The Admiral's father, William Benbow, was admitted a burgess of Shrewsbury in 1648, and his grandfather, William Benbow in 1628. The Will of his great-grandfather, Lawrence Bendbowe of Prees, was proved in the P.C.C. in 1591 (69 Sainberbe.)

W.G.D.F.

Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I JOHN BENBOW of Deptford in the County of Kent Esqr. Reare Admirall of his Maties Fleet being bound out upon an Expedition in his Maties Service considering the frailty and uncertainte of human life doe therefore and for the avoiding of all suites and controversies which might otherwise arise after my decease make this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) I recommend my soul to Almighty God who gave it

hopeing through the meritts and meadiation of my deare Savioure Jesus Christ to receive pardon for all my sinns And my body I committ to the Earth or Sea as it shall please God to order to be decently interred as my executores shall think meet And as touching all such worldly estate which it shall please God at the time of my decease to bless me with I give bequeath and dispose thereof as followeth (vizt) Impris I give and bequeath vnto my welbeloved wife Martha Benbow dureing the terme of her naturall life (if she shall soe long continue my widdow and vnmarried) one annuity of three score and ten pounds sterlign pr annum free and clear of and from all taxes and other charges whatsoever to be paid vnto her quarterly out of the interest of a mortgage of Two thousand five hundred pounds to me made of certain lands called Greenlands in the Parish of Hambleton in the County of Bucks and out of all other my estate whatsoever But if my said wife shall happen to marry again then and from thence forth the said annuity of three score and ten pounds to cease determine and be utterly void anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding Provided alwaies that the said three score and ten pounds pr annum hereby devised to my wife shall be and is hereby by me declared to be my intent and meaning in full recompense and satisfaction of her dower and thirds or any other demands whatsoever which she may claime out of any estate reall or personall which I shall have at the time of my death And that in case my said wife should make any demands of her dower or thirds or other demand whatsoever over and above the said three score and ten pounds pr annum That then and from thenceforth my devise of the said three score and ten pounds pr annum to cease and be utterly void.

Item I give and bequeath all my household goods to and amongst my children yet my desire is that my wife have the use of them or such part thereof as shall be requisite dureing her life (if she continue my widdow and not otherwise) After her decease or marriage to be divided amongst my children or the survivours or survivour of them Item All the rest and residue of all and singular my lands tenements goods chattells moneys and estate whatsoever as well reall as personall and which shall be mine or due and oweing vnto me at the time of my death after my debts and funerall charges paid and discharged I doe give will and devise the same vnto and amongst my children John

Benbow William Benbow Richard Benbow Martha Benbow and Katherine Benbow to be divided amongst them share and share alike and to be paid vnto my said sons at their severally ages of one and twenty yeaeres And to my said daughters at the age of one and twenty yeaeres or days of marriage which shall first happen And if any of my said children shall happen to depart this life before they shall attain such ages or before such legacy shall be due and payable Then I doe give and order and will that such deceasing childs portion shall be divided amongst the surviveing brothers and sisters equally And my will and meaning is that the sume or sumes hereby by me devised as portions to my children shall vntill such time as my said children respectively shall attaine the ages aforesaid be sett out at interest by my executors for such child or children's benefit my said executors paying out of the increase thereof to my said wife such sume as they shall think fitt for the respective maintenance of the said children and for their education dureing the time she continues my widdow But afterwards I recommend the care and education of my children to me executors But my will and meaning is that in case it shall happen that my estate reall and personall shall amount to above One thousand pounds apeece to my children Then I give and devise such overplus vnto and amongst my sons equally to be divided And if it should happen that it should not amount to one thousand pounds apeece Then I give and devise One thousand pounds apeece to my said sons and the rest to be shared amongst my said daughters equally And my will and meaning is that if I should purchase any estate in my lifetime or any to my use That the same shall be subject to my said devises and not that my heire shall not by Inheritance claime the same and by this my will share of the devises before mentioned my will and intention being that he shall have no greater share or proportion than the rest of his brothers And I doe hereby nominate and appoint my loveing friends Thomas Waring of London Merchant Nathaniel Baskerville of Shrewsbury Gentl and Thomas Minshall of London Fishmonger. EXECUTORS of this my last Will and testament And my will is that my said executors and trustees be indemnifyed for any lawfull acts they doe by virtue hereof And I give and bequeath vnto my said executors Thomas Waringe and Nathaniel Baskerville the sum of twenty pounds apeece And I forgive vnto my said

executor Thomas Minshall the debt he oweth me by Bond And
I give and bequeath vnto my loveing sister Elinor Hinde twenty
pounds to buy her mourning I hereby revoke all former wills
by me made and declare this to be my last will and testament
IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and sealed
and published and declared this to be my last will and testament
this tenth day of June in the Thirteenth year of the Raigne of
our Soveraigne Lord William the Third over England &c King
Defender of the Faith Annoq' Domini One thousand seven
hundred and one J. BENBOW (L.S.) Signed sealed published
and declared by the said John Benbow to be his last will and
testament in presence of and the witnesses subscribed their
names in my presence.

RICHARD PLOWMAN—CHA BAYNTON—NATH. BEALE.
Proved March 10th 1702.

Fos.15.

A. Mc. M.

47 DEGG.

REPORT BY SIR FREDERICK KENYON ON A COLLECTION OF
 CHARTERS, ROLLS, AND PAPERS FROM ASHRIDGE PARK, COUNTY
 BUCKINGHAM, BELONGING TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
 LATE LORD BROWNLOW.

I. CHARTERS. There are nearly 400 Charters ranging in date from the 12th—18th Century, almost half of them being of an earlier date than A.D.1400. Two-thirds of the total number of Charters relate to Ellesmere (and Welshampton) Co. Salop, and a large proportion of the remainder to neighbouring Parishes (especially Knockin, Great Ness and Middle), and to the ancient Hundred of Maelors Saesneg in County Flint. These lands formed part of the possessions of the family of Le Strange, Lords Strange de Knockin. There are a number of deeds of John Le Strange IV (1269-1275) and V (1275-1299) some with good impressions of their seals. Of the later Lords Strange, Richard (1397-1449) is strongly represented, and there are numerous impressions of his seal and that of his first wife, Constance. At the end of the 15th Century the possessions of the Le Stranges passed by marriage to the Earls of Derby; A few 16th Century deeds executed by them are in the collection. In the following century the Egertons, afterwards Earls and Dukes of Bridgewater, became possessors of these lands, together with others in Cos. Buck., Northt., etc., and the latest Charters, which are a very small proportion of the collection, are concerned with their transactions. These deeds reveal the not uninteresting fact that Lord Chancellor Ellesmere found time to do some of his own conveyancing, more than one deed being in his own hands.

Abstracts from the Charters by the Rev. John Brickdale Blakeway, F.S.A., historian of Shropshire, were presented to the Bodleian Library, Oxford in 1840 and are now in Blakeway M.S.17,ff.133-170 (Madan, Summary Cat.No.22101, art. 7.) These abstracts were used by the Rev. R. W. Eyton for his *Antiquities of Shropshire*, where descriptions of many of the more important documents in the collection will be found. It is probable that a number of the Charters were printed in *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, IX. 26, 86-92, 107, 116 (cf. Gross *Sources of English History*, No. 2574) but this Volume is not in the Department of Printed Books.

In addition to the parishes mentioned above there are Charters relating to the following places:—

COUNTY SALOP. Baschurch, Buildwas, Clive, (?) Kinnerley, Loppington, Melverley, Oswestry, Petton, Ruyton, Shrewsbury, Stapleton, Whitchurch, Whittington, Wrockwardine.

COUNTY FLINT. Cwm, Northop, Overton.

COUNTY CHESTER. Bebington, Chester, Dunham, (?) Farndon, Malpas, Marbury, Plemonstall, Tarvin, Tilston, Whitgate, *al.* Newchurch, Worleston, Wybunbury.

COUNTY BEDFORD. Leighton Buzzard.

COUNTY BUCK. Eddlesborough, Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Winslow.

COUNTY CAMB. Milton.

COUNTY DENBIGH. Holt, Llanarmon.

COUNTY DERBY. Ormskirk.

COUNTY LINCOLN. Halton.

COUNTY OXON. Goring.

COUNTY STAFFORD. Dilhorne.

Rough slips of identification (requiring verification) have been placed with each Charter.

A Selection of Charters of exceptional interest has been made (examples of early Ellesmere Charters and impressions of the seals of the Le Stranges and others have not been included) as under:—

1. ROYAL CHARTERS—ENGLISH. Grants, etc., (9) from the following sovereigns; Edward I. (before accession), Edward II., Edward III, Henry VI, Henry VII, Edward VI. 1266-1549. All except the first and last three are summarised in *Calendar of Patent Rolls* or *Calendar of Charter Rolls*.

2. ROYAL CHARTERS—WELSH.

(a) Grant by Llywelyn the Great to Haughmond Abbey 1205-1225.

(b) Bond by Davydd II, Prince of N.Wales to Henry III. 1241.

3. ORIGINAL MONASTIC MUNIMENTS.

(a) BUILDWAS. 4 Charters by the Abbots of Citeau and Savigney relating to the subjection of the Houses of St. Mary, Dublin, and of Basingwerk, Co. Flint, to Buildwas; late 12th Century 1301 various grants, viz., Confirmation of previous grants by Hugh/ Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, 1192, a quarry in Broseley, Co. Salop, *circ.* 1200.

No collective Chartulary of Buildwas Abbey is known to exist.

- (b) HAUGHMOND ABBEY. Grants to (2) and release by, *temp.* Edward I. 1439 (cf. also Royal Charters—Welsh.)
- (c) ASHRIDGE COLLEGE. Quit-Claim to, exchange by, 1286, (shortly after foundation) 1369.
- (d) HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM. Lease by; 1514.
- (e) FOUNTAINS ABBEY. Licence by; 1538.

Splendid impressions of seals are attached to some of the Charters.

4. VARIOUS SELECTED CHARTERS.

- (a) 12th Century grant in Maskingfield, Co. York with fine impression of seal.
- (b) 13th Century copy of a Bull to the Dean, Precentor and Treasurer of Hereford; ? 15th Feb. 1234.
- (c) Incorporation of Ellesmere as a Borough by Roger Le Strange, 4th Lord Strange de Knockin; 1343.
- (d) Agreement between Alyne (Alaine) widow of Roger Le Strange, 5th Lord, and her son John Le Strange concerning his maintenance 1383.
- (e) Original Will, with Probate, dated 12th April 1399, endorsed, of Sir John Neyrnaytz, of Fleet Marston, Co. Buck.
- (f) Five examples of deeds in English; 1414-1457.

II.

PAPERS.

- (a) Egerton Family papers 1582-19th cent.

The collection consists of autograph letters and signed documents and possesses considerably more interest than usually attaches to such collections. The papers have been provisionally arranged in one volume and a complete list of the writers placed with them.

Members of the family represented include:—Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Chancellor; his third wife Alice, widow of Ferdinando, 5th Earl of Derby; Sir Thomas (died 1599) and Sir John Egerton, 1st Earl of Bridgewater (1617) sons of the Chancellor; John, 2nd Earl, Scroop, 1st Duke; John, 2nd Duke; Francis, 3rd Duke of Bridgwater, etc.

Other writers are Henry Stanley, 4th Earl of Derby, Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor ; Gilbert Talbot, 7th Earl of Shrewsbury, Henry Hastings, afterwards Baron Loughborough, etc.

- (b) Accompt book of John Whildon, agent to Francis, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater at Ashridge Park ; 13th May 1773-25th May 1782.
- (c) Miscellaneous unsorted papers consisting chiefly of transcripts of Charters some of which are in this collection.

III.

ROLLS. Fourteen Rolls consisting of (a) illuminated pedigrees, (b) shields or arms in tincture with explanation of the quarterings of the Egerton and allied families. The Rolls are in good condition and the majority date from the end of the 16th century ;—16th to 18th centuries.

IV.

MISCELLANEOUS. (a) A Leaf from a breviary (apparently of Roman use) containing parts of the sanctorale for Aug-Sept. Written in Italy. Early 15th cent. (b) Bronze axe head ; about 1000 B.C. (c) impression of seal.

[In Vol. IX. of *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, as suggested by Sir Frederick Kenyon, several of Lord Brownlow's Charters were printed :—

- (1) Charter by Roger Lord Strange to Ellesmere, dated 9 May 13 Edward III.
- (2) Confirmation by Edward IV. to the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England.
- (3) Charter by Oliver, Lord Protector to the bailiffs and burgesses of Ellesmere, dated 1656.

MYDDLE DOCUMENTS.

The Rev. S. A. Woolward, rector of Myddle, inspected many of the documents relating to Myddle at Ashridge in August, 1921, and has kindly given me notes of some of the more important of these documents. Amongst many others are the following :

Charter of George, Lord Stanley, dated 13 April, 21 Edw. IV.

Court Book of Myddle, 18 to 32 Henry VIII.

Rentals of Myddle, 10 Henry VII, 1588, 1595, 1597, 1617, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1654, etc.

Exemplification of Recovery of the Castle and Manor of Myddle, Richard, Bishop of Winchester and Thomas Kynaston, Michaelmas 21 Henry VIII.

Court Roll of Myddle, Anne, Countess of Derby, temp. Elizabeth.

Court Book of the Manor of Myddle, 1614 to 1626.

Grant by Thomas, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Chancellor to Arthur Corbet of Stanwardine, of the warren of coneyes in Myddle, 1608.

Map of the Demesnes of the Manor of Myddle, 1650.

Surrender by Arthur Maynwaring to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, of land in Myddle, Sleape Gorse, and Billmarshe, 3 February, 1605.

Award by Henry, Earl of Derby, concerning Haremere and Brown Mosse in the Manor of Myddle, variance between Francis Ridley, Vincent Corbet, Esq., and another, 26 September 30 Elizabeth.

Award relating to the boundaries of the Manor of Myddle and the lordship of Burleton, Sir Andrew Corbett, Knt. and Robert Eyton, Esq., 12 Jan: 17 Elizabeth.

Award by Lord Chief Justice Gawdy, as to lands in Myddle, Sleape Gorse, and Billmarsh, 1 Dec. 3 James I.

Bargain and Sale by George Lee *alias* Leigh and Thomas Bowyer to Arthur Chambre, of the Advowson of the Rectory and Church of Myddle, and lands and tithes in Myddle, 28 May 2 Elizabeth.

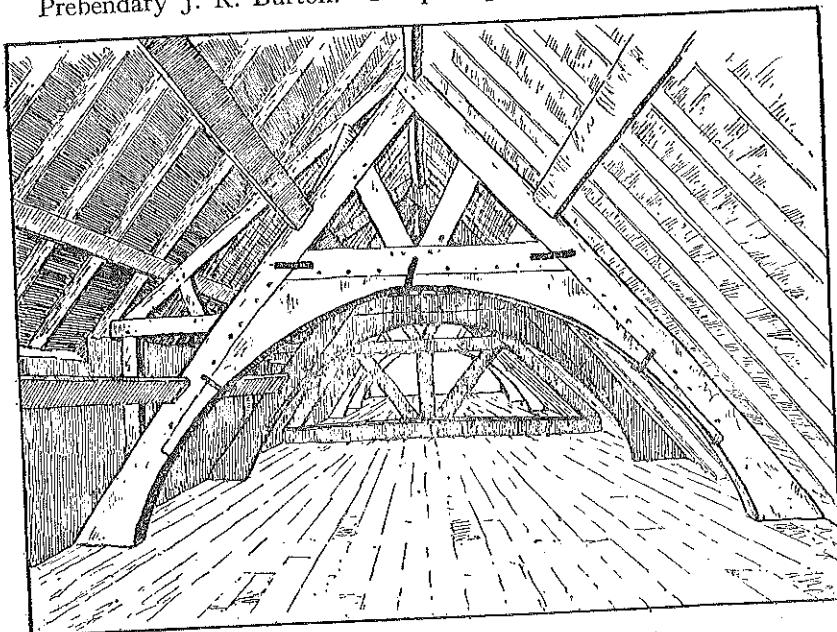
And many other deeds and documents.—EDITOR.]

SOME OLD SHROPSHIRE HOUSES AND THEIR OWNERS.
(Second Series).

BY H. E. FORREST, F.L.S.

I. LEDWYCH COURT,—BITTERLEY.

This house is situated in the parish of Bitterley, to the north of the road towards Bridgnorth. As seen from the road it looks an uninteresting brick structure, but actually it is a sixteenth century timber manor house which still retains its original frame, though externally hidden by a coating of rough-cast, and the front replaced by brick. The roof timbers are remarkably fine, as may be seen by the sketch here reproduced, kindly lent by Rev. Prebendary J. R. Burton. The principals are hammer-beamed



UPPER LEDWYCH MANOR HOUSE, BITTERLEY.

and the Hall was originally open from floor to roof-tree, but at a later date a floor was inserted on the level of the hammer-beams, to form attics; it is only this upper part that is shown in the

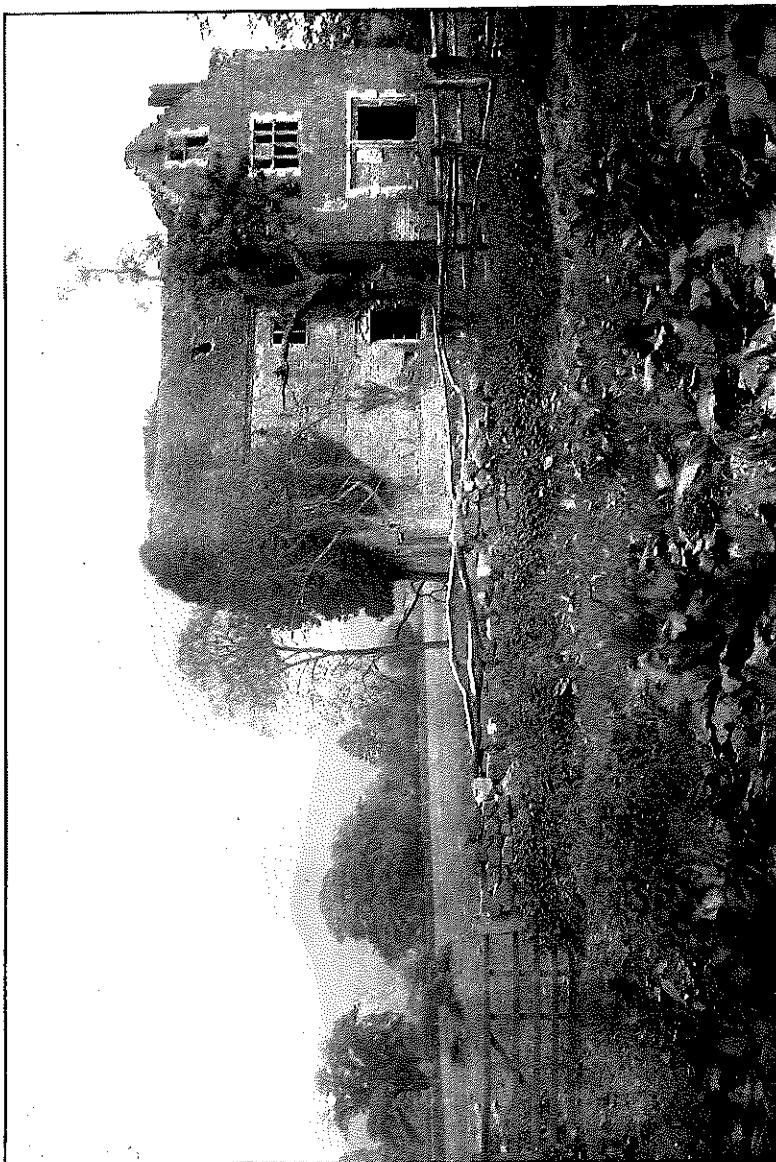
sketch. It will be noticed that each bay—the space between principals—is divided by smaller timbers into three subdivisions: this is unusual. It will also be seen that the rafters to the left of the drawing have been cut off short. This is the south side of the house—the side which always suffers most from exposure to sun and rain. Evidently the timbers on this front of the house had decayed, and they were removed bodily, and replaced by the present brick wall, which was set back 2 or 3 feet. This was done after 1808, for it was described in the sale catalogue at that date as "built with timber." The frame on the other three sides still remains, though hidden by plaster (except in the attics) and it is close-timbered with transomes half-way up each storey: this indicates the date of building as about mid-sixteenth century. It will be seen, however, from the following notes that there was an earlier manor-house at Ledwych, and it is quite possible that some parts of that are incorporated in the present building.

There was a Church at Ledwych, in the 13th century, but it had ceased to exist as a separate parish by 1534. The manor was anciently called Sheriff's Ledwych. A deed of 1489 mentions the "Manor-place of Sheriff's Ledwych" while at the inquest in 1502 on Alan Stanwardine he was declared as seised in fee of the manor, his son and heir Thomas Stanwardine being then aged 10. In 1555

FRANCIS CRUMP purchased the Manor of Sheriff's Ledwych, with a messuage, garden and lands, and the advowson of the Church, paying an annuity of 53s/4d to the vendors Peter Banaster and Constance his wife. This annuity was released in 1602 to

THOMAS CRUMP, who was probably son of Francis. In 1611 Agnes Crump of Ledwych, widow of the above Francis, gave 40s/- to the poor of Stottesdon. Thomas Crump was one of the Attorneys of the Court of the Marches. In 1614 he purchased the Chapel and glebe lands of Ledwych subject to payment of 6s/8d to the Rector of Bitterley. He married Frances Baldwin of Aston Munslow, and in 1623 he and his wife sold to Thomas Lucy of Middleton all the capital messuage in which he lived and all the Chapel of Ledwych with its glebe land, etc. Most of the above particulars are





PARK HALL, BITTERLEY.

Photo : Alfred Watkins.

taken from the note book of the Rev. Prebendary J. R. Burton, which he kindly lent me. As the house at Ledwych dates from about the middle of the 16th century, I think there can be little doubt that it was built by the above Francis Crump, probably on the site of the earlier "Manor-place." In the Bitterley register we find a (son?)

JOHN CRUMP who had children baptized from 1663 onwards. His first wife Catherine died in Oct. 1668, but only four months later the widower married Jane Davis, and had by her several more children. John Crump died in 1681 but his widow survived till 1727. In 1678 Thomas Crump as magistrate certifies that Widow Rudd was buried in wool. If this was the father of John, he must have been a very old man. John Crump's eldest son

ANDREW CRUMP, by his first wife Catherine, was baptized at Bitterley 24 Oct. 1663, and buried there 30 June 1728. There were Crumps also in Stanton Lacy in the 17th and 18th centuries. After the sale of Ledwych in 1623 to

THOMAS LUCY of Middleton, that gentleman in 1637 granted the estate to his son THOMAS LUCY (junior), receiving an annuity of £36 10s. In 1661, the latter, with Susan his wife sold this property to William Griffiths of Ludlow for £1300.

WILLIAM GRIFFITHS by his will, 1685, settled Ledwych on John Salwey and his wife Jane (daughter of Wm. Griffiths) and their eldest son

RICHARD SALWEY. The property remained in the Salwey family until the marriage in 1760 of Jane Salwey with Benjamin Booth, whose daughters and co-heiresses Elizabeth M. Booth, and Lady Marianne Ford, sold it in 1810 to Sir C. W. Rouse-Boughton, the house being then described as "all that capital messuage (formerly 2 messuages) called Upper Ledwych Court."

These latter notes are by Mr. H. T. Weyman. In the particulars of sale 21 Sept. 1808, at the Crown Inn, Ludlow, the Buildings are described as "consisting of a large and convenient Farm-house, built with timber, and tiled, 2 barns, 2 stables, beast-houses for upwards of 20 cattle, dove-house, etc. Tenant Mr. Thomas Bach."

II. PARK HALL,—BITTERLEY.

A most interesting old brick mansion, now derelict, and in the last stages of decay. It is situated close to Bitterley Rectory, but the site was ill-chosen, being in a damp hollow which could not offer a firm foundation : this, no doubt, was the reason for its final abandonment.

In plan the building is T-shaped, with an octagonal stair-turret, having a conical roof, in the N.W. angle ; but the most notable features are the crow-step gables, and the windows with transomes—as well as mullions—of moulded brick. The whole building is of brick, and all of the same date—about 1620/30. The bricks all measure 9 inches \times $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The bricks for the copings to the crow-steps are specially moulded, as are also those for the mullions and transomes which are chamfered outside and hollow-moulded inside. The transom bricks are unique in that they were tongued on one side and grooved on the other so that when joined they could not slip out of position. Crow-stepped gables are of Flemish origin so that it seems strange to meet with them in this remote part of Shropshire. I can only account for their occurrence here by supposing that some of the Dutch brickmakers who were employed by Sir Edward Pytts at Kyre Park, near Tenbury (and who built the fine crow-stepped barn there in 1618) worked later on the building of Park Hall. Another house in the district (to be described presently) Crow Leasow, also shows Flemish influence ; and this may be attributed to the same cause. The staircase of Park Hall is spiral and contained in an octagonal turret. The house is of three storeys, and on the first floor is a fireplace surmounted by a large panel of plaster-work arranged in rows, each row of one design many times repeated—see illustration. Both plates of Park Hall are kindly lent by the Woolhope Club, and are from photographs by Mr. Alfred Watkins, F.R.P.S.

Park Hall was built by one of the Page family, either RICHARD PAGE, or his father, whose name we do not know, as the Bitterley register begins later than his time. (A William Page had a daughter baptized at Stanton Lacy in 1562, and a John Page was witness to the Will of John Shepheard, of Stoke St. Milborough in 1564). Richard Page was church-warden for Park Hall 1668 and 1687, and was



FIREPLACE IN PARK HALL, BITTERLEY. *Photo Alfred Watkins, F.R.P.S.*

buried at Bitterley 7 May 1692. His daughter Mary Page had married in 1664 John Shepheard (VII.) of Hillupencote, etc. and on Richard's death in 1692

JOHN SHEPHEARD (VII.) with his wife and family came to live at Park Hall. Both John and his wife Mary lived to a good old age, John dying in 1714, and Mary in 1728. Their only son Richard predeceased them in 1700. The eldest daughter Elizabeth Shepheard married in 1687 her cousin John Shepheard (V.) of Hillupencote, etc. (1663-1711) from whom all the later Shepheards descended. The aged widow Mary divided the properties at her disposal between her grandchildren, Park Hall going to the descendants of her daughter Eleanor who had married

JAMES HORTON whose son

WILLIAM HORTON had by his wife Elizabeth three daughters—

Elizabeth, Mary, and Ann Horton—all mentioned in their great-grandmother's will. Park Hall appears to have remained in the same family till about 1860 when Mrs. Horton sold 50 acres, including the house, to the Rev. Charles Walcot of Bitterley Court, and the remaining 120 acres to Sir Charles H. Rouse-Boughton, Bart. The oak paneling from the Hall was removed to Bitterley Court by the Rev. John Walcot in 1880. The last occupant, Price Edwards, a farmer, ceased residence there in 1890, since which date it has been given over to the ravages of ivy and the destructive agencies of nature.

III. LUPENCOTE,—BITTERLEY.

IV. CROW LEASOW,—BITTERLEY.

Both these are brick houses dating from early in the seventeenth century, and both were homes of the Shepheard family, who, according to the Herald's Visitation of 1623, were originally seated in the neighbouring parish of Wheathill. I am inclined to think that both houses were built by the same John Shepheard who in the following account of the family is marked as John Shepheard III, and who described himself as of

HILLUPENCOTE [now abbreviated to Lupencote].

This is an unpretentious building of red-brick, the form of which can be seen by the illustration, taken from a photograph lent by Mrs. Reynolds, the occupier. Beyond the projecting

string courses at the floor-levels, and a simple chevron moulding over one of the windows, it is devoid of ornament : nevertheless the house has a warm and comfortable aspect which is pleasing.

The rear wall is timber-framed, with oak-mullioned windows —evidently retained from the earlier house.

CROW LEASOW.

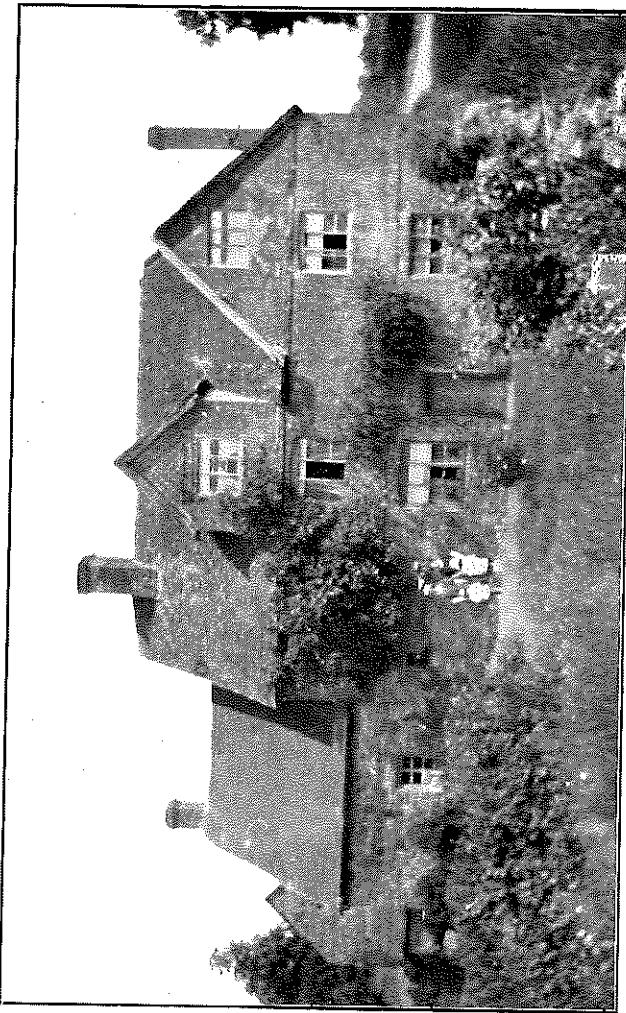
This is really a remarkable building, exhibiting, as it does, distinct individuality of treatment, so that it stands out as differing in character from any other house of its class in Shropshire. The doorway is flanked by "rusticated" pilasters and surmounted by a low triangular pediment enclosing an elliptical moulded archway. The first floor is outlined by projecting courses of brick, above which are several rows of ornamental brickwork formed by bracket-shaped bricks upon which rest shelves of ordinary flat bricks. The brackets are differently shaped in each row—ogee, half-round, and chevron. The general effect resembles arcading at a short distance. The main gables face towards the front, and the rainwater from the valleys between them issues through arches in the brickwork. The window mullions are of moulded bricks similar to those in Park Hall, but encased in cement to look like stone. A chevron course at the first floor level runs all round the house except the western wing, which appears to have been added at a later date. The front door is original, and consists of the usual vertical planks outside and horizontal inside, studded with nails. A short distance from the front of the house stands an immense oak tree, the trunk measuring 32 feet round at 4 feet above the ground : it is still vigorous and—except for a split down one side—quite sound.

THE SHEPHEARD FAMILY, OF BITTERLEY.

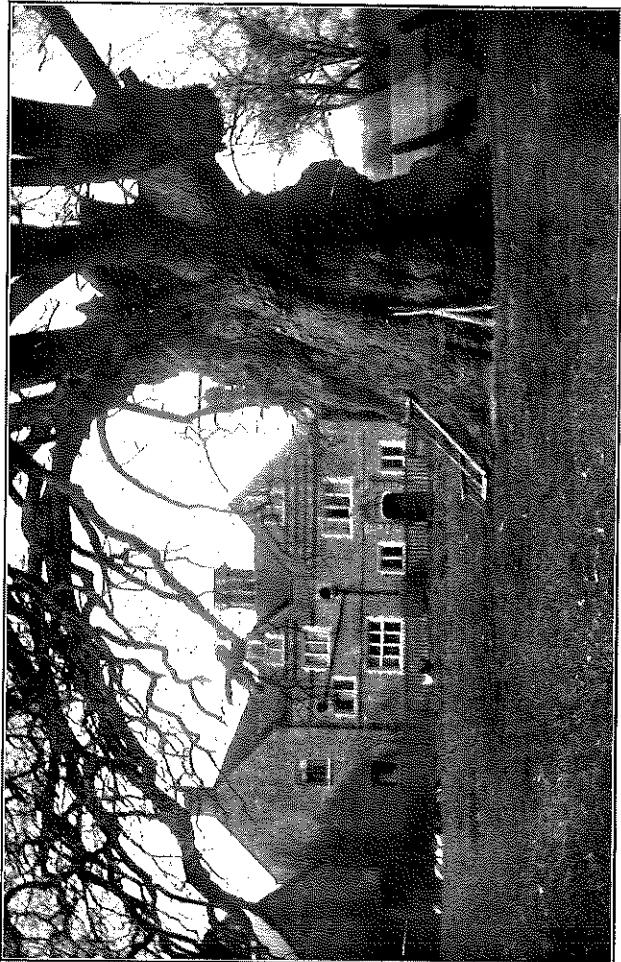
Although the Herald's Visitation of 1623 dismisses the Shepheards of Whethall (Wheathill) with very brief notice, there is ample evidence from wills, registers, and other documents that the family was of considerable importance in the 16th century, and was represented in many places round the Clees. It is curious that the pedigree in the Herald's Visitation begins with

JOHN SHEPHEARD (I) *alias* Egerton—Why the alias? He had
| a son





LUPPENCOTE, BITTERLEY.



CROW LEASOWE, MIDDLETON, BITTERLEY.

Photo 5th April, 1926.—H. E. Forrest

THOMAS SHEPHEARD (I) of Wheathill, who married Joan, daughter and heiress of Henry Wall of Benthall. Their son THOMAS SHEPHEARD (II) was baptized at Wheathill 1586. He married Martha, daughter and heiress of Thomas Jorden of Sutton in Corvedale by whom he had two sons Thomas and George who were born before 1623. The former of these THOMAS SHEPHEARD (III) M.A. was inducted rector of Wheathill in 1641.

We now revert to another

JOHN SHEPHEARD (II) who was probably cousin to the above John, since he appoints the latter one of the overseers of his will. He lived at Kinson (or Kinston) in the Parish of Stoke St. Milborough, and in his will, proved 1564, mentions his wife Agnes, and four sons, the eldest of whom

THOMAS SHEPHEARD (IV) had four children—John, Thomas, Philip, and Agnes. The eldest son

JOHN SHEPHEARD (III) appears to have been a man of great enterprise and wealth. He was born about 1560, and died 1631. His will (P.C.C.112 St. John) with two codicils, is a lengthy document, and throws a flood of light upon the history of the several houses in Bitterley and district which we are investigating. John Shepheard himself is described as of Hillupencote, but he also owned properties at the Lynche, Westy Brooke, and Stoney Cross in Little Hereford ; Clee Stanton in Stoke St. Milborough—which came to him from his uncle Edward and Alice his wife ; a farm called Nash, purchased from the Littletons ; land and messuage in Kington Co. Hereford from the Wigmores ; messuage in Middleton from Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote ; land at Bayton, Co. Worcester ; a messuage, tenement, and farm called Crowe Leasow, which he leaves to his son George Shepheard and his heirs for ever ; and a leasehold tenement in Neen Sollars which he leaves to the children of his daughter Alice, wife of John Birch of Milson. Another daughter Susan was wife of Thomas Pardoe (of a well known local family) and had a son George Pardoe. To understand what follows we must take each of the three sons separately—Thomas (V), Richard (I), and George (I).

THOMAS SHEPHEARD (V) predeceased his father John, leaving a widow Anne who was living in Bitterley in 1649, and was

buried there in 1660. Besides three daughters, they had two sons, John and George, the latter of whom inherited Clee Stanton from his grandfather. The elder son

JOHN SHEPHEARD (IV) succeeded (very young) to Hillupencote on the death of his grandfather in 1631. In 1661 he married Mary Burtles, but died 8 years later leaving a widow and baby boy

JOHN SHEPHEARD (V) (1663—1711) who in turn succeeded to Hillupencote. He married his cousin Elizabeth Shepheard of Park Hall in 1687, by whom he had 4 sons and 2 daughters. By this marriage several of the family properties reverted to the senior branch. The eldest son John Shepheard (VI) (1689—1713) died unmarried, so the second son

RICHARD SHEPHEARD (II) (1693—1746) succeeded to the estates. Not only so, but in 1740 he also purchased Crow Leasow from his cousins, so that all the original Shepheard properties in Bitterley thus became re-united. In his will (proved by his wife Mary, executrix, at Hereford 15 April 1746) he is described as Richard Shepheard of Middleton, Hugford, p. of Bitterley, gentleman. He leaves his lately purchased messuage, Crow Leasow, to his eldest son Richard (III) (1726—1749) with directions to pay £1000 to each of his younger children at age 21, or on marriage in the case of the daughters. Of the 4 sons and 2 daughters not one left issue. The estate of William (1727—1776) was administered by his mother, so she was still living 30 years after widowhood. The last survivor was Mistress Anne Shepheard (1724—1808) who left Brook House, Crow Leasow, and Meazles to Sir William Edward Rouse-Boughton. She also left £500 to the poor of Bitterley.

We now revert to

RICHARD SHEPHEARD (I). Besides property at Nash and Middleton, inherited from his father (see above) this gentleman seems to have erected a paper-mill at Milson. His widow Elizabeth was living there up to the time of her death in 1672. He is perhaps the Richard Shepheard buried at Bitterley in 1659. His son

JOHN SHEPHEARD (VII) succeeded to the estates including the paper-mill at Milson, while by his marriage in 1664 with Mary, daughter of Richard Page of Park Hall, he also acquired

that property and went to live there on the death of his father-in-law in 1692. He died at Park Hall in 1714, and his widow Mary in 1728. The only son Richard Shepheard (III) died unmarried in 1700, and the property appears to have been divided between three daughters—Elizabeth who married her cousin John Shepheard (V) (see above) and died in 1714: Mary (bapt. 1667) married (1701) Richard Browne; and Eleanor who in 1710 married James Horton, while his son William Horton had three young daughters named in the will of their great-grandmother in 1728. Park Hall itself was left to the Hortons: the paper-mill at Milson to the Brownes.

Lastly we revert to

GEORGE SHEPHEARD (I) to whom Crow Leasow was left by his father John Shepheard (III). In his will, 1648/9 he also mentions property at Middleton, Hugford; Stoke St. Milborough; Lynch, Little Hereford; Upton Co. Hereford; Clee Stanton; and Brandon Hall, Wheathill. By his wife Margaret, George had 4 sons and a daughter Margaret who married Lancelot Nicholls, and had a son Thomas in 1649. The second and third sons—Thomas and James—were left the Wheathill property; the youngest son George Shepheard (II) was of Bitterley; his estate was administered in 1673 by his widow Margaret, whose own will (1677) describes her as of Hints in the parish of Coreley. [A Richard Shepheard was rector of Coreley in 1635—42.] The eldest son

JOHN SHEPHEARD VIII succeeded to Crow Leasow on the death of his father in 1649. He died in 1688, leaving by his wife Anne, who survived him three years, three daughters and two sons—John (bp. 1659) and Benjamin (bp. 1672). From one of these brothers (or more probably from their heirs) Crow Leasow was purchased about 1740 by Richard Shepheard II, as already related.

I am indebted to Rev. Canon C. H. Mayo for copies of wills etc. which enabled me to trace the Shepheard family as above. Most of the later wills are at Hereford; the earlier at Somerset House. At the beginning of this article I mentioned that the Shepheard family had representatives in many places round the Clees. One branch appears to have been seated at Balcot

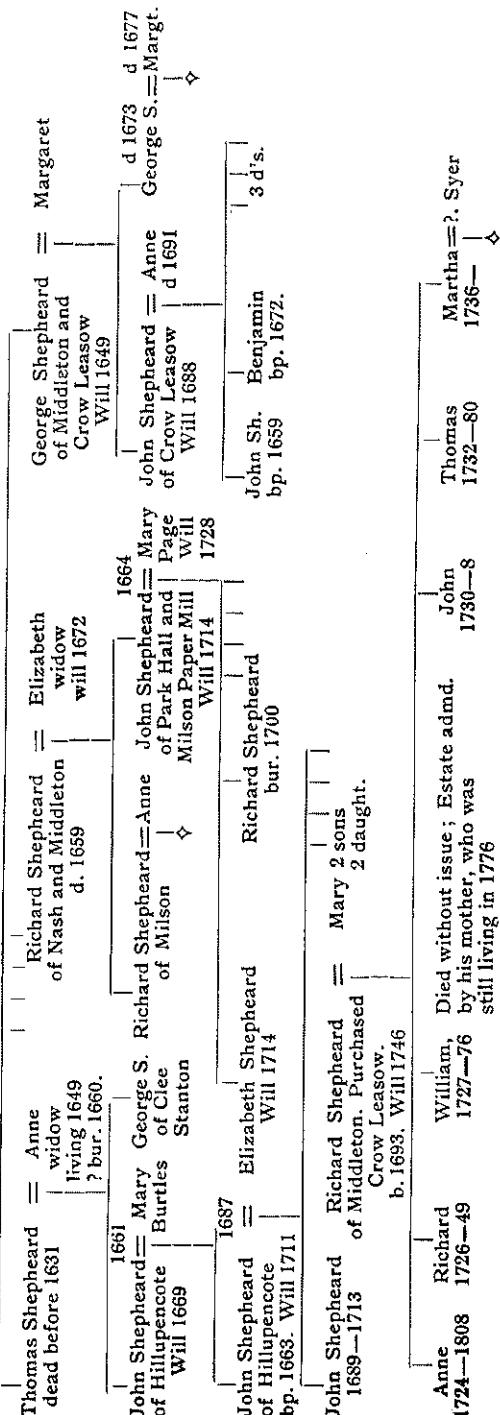
PEDIGREE OF SHEPHEARD OF BITTERLEY, SALOP. Drawn up by H. E. FORREST.

Arms. Visitation of Shropshire, 1623. Az. on a chevron engrailed or between 3 deer \ddagger as many \bullet stooles gules

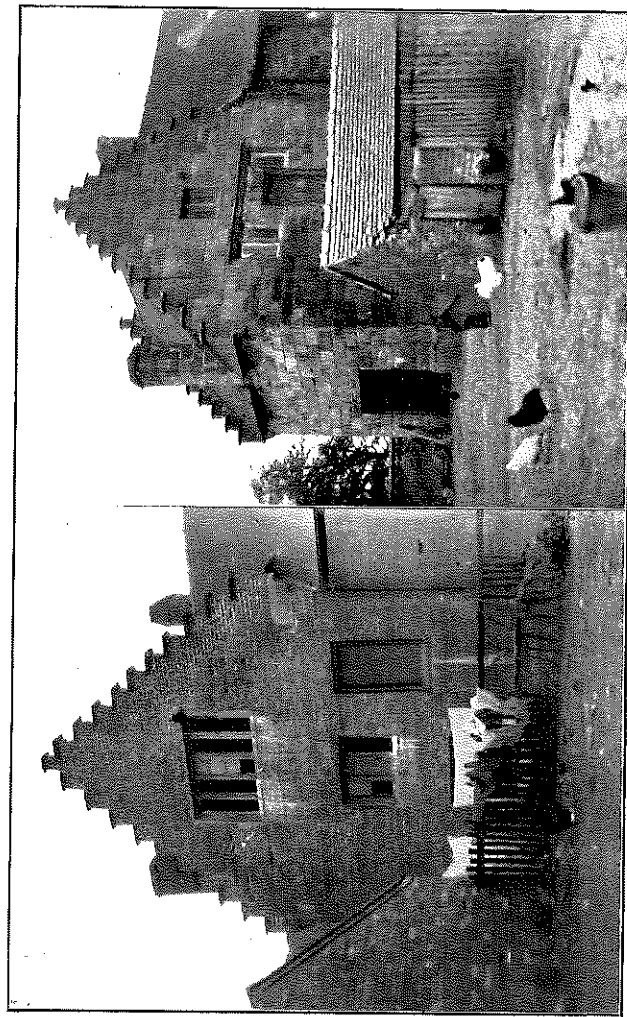
John Shepheard \equiv Agnes widow of Stoke Milburge Will 1564 (Witness John Page) John Shepheard of Wheathill Overseer of Will 1564

Thomas Shepheard \equiv

John Shepheard \equiv Elizabeth of Hillupencote born circ. 1560 Will 1631



N.B.—The less important persons are omitted—or merely indicated by \diamond for the sake of clearness.



BELLAPORT OLD HALL.

Photo: Sir Charles Marston.

in Corvedale. Blakeway in his *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p 166, discussing the ancestry of the Marquis of Conyngham (who descended from the Burtons of Longnor) writes :—" The Irish Peerages have all stated erroneously the descent of the progenitor of this ennobled branch. His real place in the pedigree is proved by the following circumstance ; Francis Shepheard, of Balcot, in Corvedale, had been obliged to leave Shropshire in consequence of having slain in a duel, 1607, Richard, the eldest son of Jasper More of Larden, his rival in a love affair. Shepheard entered into the army, where he highly distinguished himself, and got a great estate from the Irish rebels. Deceasing in early life, he made Captain Burton (with whom he was well acquainted before he left Shropshire, Balcot being close to Millichope, and Burton's sister being wife of Charles More of that place) executor to his will, and Anne Shepheard, his sister, his heir. This led to their subsequent marriage ; and the fortune thus acquired by Mr. Burton laid the foundation of the opulence of his descendants, which ultimately raised them to the peerage.... The anecdote just quoted is contained in some memorials written by Thomas More of Millichope, the last heir male of that ancient family, whose mother was daughter of Richard, the last heir male of the Shepheards of Balcot."

V. ALKINGTON.

Some two miles S.W. of Whitchurch stands a most interesting old house known as Alkington Hall. It is of brick, with stone facings, and in style, though not in design, resembles Whitehall, Shrewsbury. The gable finials, in particular, are very similar—slender, tapering, and terminating in a flat cap and ball. The bricks are thin and rough ; typically Elizabethan. The windows have stone mullions, and the walls have plinths, quoins, and copings of stone. The building is of three storeys. The plan of the house, taken in conjunction with the probable date of erection, is curious, and puzzling. The main building is almost square in plan, but consists of two spans side by side, the roofs presenting two gables to the front and two to the rear, with a rain-water gutter between them. The curious part of it is that a big chimney-breast has been built right up the end of the house, so that it nearly blocks up the rainwater channel and hides almost half of the gable-end. The arrangement is so awkward

that it is difficult to imagine that this was part of the original design. Two other additions appear to have been made about the same time—a square bay projecting from the left-hand side, and an extension to the rear added on to the main building. That these were additions is shown by the fact that in each case the stone quoins and copings are lacking. At the same time it is evident that the additions were made very soon after the main building was erected, for the bricks used are identical. Over the back door was carved on a beam the date 1592, and this was probably the year in which the main building was put up. Of the internal features the most important is a large room on the first floor. This is completely lined with contemporary oak paneling, while the ceiling is lavishly decorated with plaster ornamentation on both beams and flats. The whole surface is divided up by geometric mouldings, within which are displayed a variety of designs, the pomegranate and fleur-de-lis predominating. It is a very fine ceiling and in good preservation. All the work seems to be of about the same date—late Elizabethan.

Alkington was a seat of the Cotton family—originally of Coton, near Wem. It was acquired about 1400 by the marriage of Roger Cotton with Ellen, daughter and co-heiress of John Gremyson of Alkington. This proves that there was a house here at that date, but of this nothing now remains. The present house was built in the reign of Elizabeth by Ralph Cotton, great-great-grandson of the above Roger. Alkington was the principal seat of the Cotton family from about 1400 till the time of James I, when Bellaport—of which we treat next—was rebuilt by Ralph's grandson, Sir Rowland Cotton, and to some extent superseded it, though Alkington still remained in their occupation.

VI. BELLAPORT OLD HALL,—MARKET DRAYTON.

There seems to have been a house here at least as far back as the reign of Henry VIII, when it belonged to a branch of the Grosvenor family. Leland in his *Itinerary* mentions that Grosvenor of Bellaport, 3 miles out of Drayton Market, and Grosvenor of Eaton Boat in Cheshire came of two younger brethren of Grosvenor of Hume. A Captain Richard Symonds whose diary of the "Marches of the Royal Army during the Civil War" is printed in *S.A.T.* 1879, was descended in the

sixth generation from John Symonds of Stretton, Staffordshire, whose wife was a Grosvenor of Bellaport. In his diary he writes thus:—"Tuesday May 20th, 1645, His Majesty with his army removed from Chetwynd through Drayton Co. Salop, and lay a mile further, at Church's house in Drayton parish. The Earl of Lichfield etc., at Norton[in-Hales] at a house sometime the habitation of Grosvenor, now Cotton's. The elder house of Grosvenor in this County is Bellaport. Azure, a garb or, a crescent for difference [Grosvenor]. This garb is impaled often in this house lately. In a chamber window of this house—these are painted—a large crucifix, before which kneel the effigies of a male and female. The male is habited in armour, but without the helmet, and wears a surcoat embroidered with his arms, viz. argent a cross flory, sable. In the upper part of the surcoat there is a slight difference in the charge, being per saltire and a cross flory, counter changed. Over his head is a talbot's head erased or, for crest. On the lady's mantle is this coat, azure three water-bougets or." "[The arms of the male are those of Peshall. Thomas Grosvenor of Bellaport married Isabella d. and co-h. of Richard Peshall.]"

The Old Hall is now a farm house and is situated in fields at a considerable distance from the main road, from which it is separated also by the railway. Mrs. Stackhouse Acton in her *Castles and Old Mansions of Shropshire* (p.38) gives a very curious picture, from an old drawing, of the Old Hall, with a formal garden enclosed by palisades, gatehouse, and wide water-moat, with swans. This is said to represent the Grosvenor's house built in the time of Queen Mary and taken down early in the 19th century. The picture looks like an architect's sketch plan for a building, and bears not the slightest resemblance to either the new or old halls at Bellaport. I can make nothing of it!

Bellaport Old Hall as it now stands, occupies only about a quarter of the moated area. It is L-shaped in plan, and is 2-storied throughout, with attics above. The walls are very strongly built of fine ashlar, except the gable ends of the main wing which are of early brick; the windows have stone mullions, but no Tudor dripstones. The most notable external feature, however, is the fact that all four gables are crow-stepped. Internally the house exhibits a fine oak fireplace and much

paneling of Jacobean date. All details point to the date of building during the reign of James I., while the crow-steps imply some connection between the builder and Flanders.

Bellaport is said to have been purchased from the Grosvenors by Sir Rowland Cotton, who died without issue in 1634. He evidently rebuilt it entirely as the existing house is all of that period. [Richard Grosvenor, gentleman, occurs repeatedly in the parish register between 1573 and 1586 in which last year his wife Ursula was buried. On 28 Sept. 1605, Margery Grosvenor, aged 110 was buried. The last of the family entitled "gentleman" in the Register is William Grosvenor who had a daughter Margaret, buried in 1615, and a son Richard in 1628. His first wife Anne died in 1634, and the following year he married Margery Naylor and had a son William in 1639, but he himself died in June 1641. The name Grosvenor does not occur after this in the register.] Fuller in his *Worthies of England* II, 274, writes of Sir Rowland Cotton:—"Incredible are the most true relations which many eye-witnesses, still alive, do make of the valour and activity of this most accomplished knight; so strong, as if he had been nothing but bones; so nimble, as if he had been nothing but sinewes." This redoubtable knight was succeeded at Bellaport by a nephew William Cotton who was host to the Royalist officers on the occasion described above by Symonds. There is still preserved at Etwall a portrait of this gentleman, and the following order by Prince Rupert:—"Wee doe hereby strictly charge & command all and every of you whom it may or shall concern that imediately upon your sight or knowledge hereof, you doe no manner of injury, hurt, violence, or damage, to William Cotton of Bellaport in the County of Salop, in his person, goodes, family, halle, and chattels, whatsoeuer, here or elsewhere remaining. As you will answe for contrary att your uttmost perrills. Given at Salop this eleventh of May 1644.

Rupert.

To all Commanders and Officers & soldiers whatsoever or anyways belonging to His Majesty's Armye."

It seems evident that there was some special bond of friendship between Rupert and William Cotton. I venture to suggest that they had been companions in arms in the Low Countries, where the Prince had seen active service. This may account

for the Crow-stepped Gables of Bellaport Hall, which, as already remarked, are of distinctly Flemish character.

Bellaport was occupied successively by Ralph Cotton, son of the above William ; and then by Ralph's son Rowland Cotton (II) who married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Samuel Sleigh, Kt., of Etwall Hall, co. Derby ; he removed to Etwall, where all their successors have resided to the present day.

THE FAMILY OF COTTON.

The pedigree in Burke's *Landed Gentry* begins with

SIR HUGH COTTON (I) Knight, of Cotton, who was living in the time of Henry II. By his wife Elizabeth, d. & h. of Hamon Titley, of Titley, he had three sons—Hugh, Allen, and William, the latter dean of Worcester. The eldest

SIR HUGH COTTON (II) made his brother

ALLEN COTTON (I) his heir. He married Margaret, d. of Roger Acton, and had a son

HUGH COTTON (III) who married Isabel, d. & h. of Thomas Heyton. Of his two sons, the elder, Nicholas Cotton, succeeded to Cotton, while the younger

HUGH COTTON (IV), who was living in the reign of Edward III, had a son

RICHARD COTTON (I) whose son

ROGER COTTON (I) married Ellen, d. and co-h. of John Gremyton of Alkington. By this marriage the Cottons acquired Alkington which remained with them for many generations. Rogers' son

WILLIAM COTTON (I) was of Alkington in the reign of Henry VI. His son and heir

JOHN COTTON of Alkington was living in 1485, and married Catherine, d. of Thomas Constantine of Dodington, Whitchurch, by whom he had three sons—Thomas : William, alderman of Coventry : and Richard, a priest. The eldest son

THOMAS COTTON of Alkington, in the time of Henry VII, married Alice, d. & co-h. of Ralph Johnstone of Whitchurch, and had four sons, of whom the eldest

RALPH COTTON I, of Alkington, is stated by Garbet to have produced evidence of title to the freehold of Cotton and Alkington in 1561. It was probably he who built the existing house at Alkington, described above. He married Jane, d. & co-h. of John Tarbock of Newcastle, by whom he had

three daughters and six sons—John, Thomas, William, Ralph, Roger, and Allen. Of these the eldest JOHN COTTON, married but left no issue surviving: he founded a school at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

THOMAS COTTON died unmarried, as did also RALPH, who was a captain in the West Indies. The youngest son SIR ALLEN COTTON was a merchant and alderman of London; a knight, and Lord Mayor in 1625. He married and left numerous issue.

ROGER COTTON (II), fifth son, poet, was born at Whitchurch, and most likely educated at the newly-founded Grammar School there. He settled in London and carried on business as a draper in Canning Street, being admitted a member of the Drapers' Company. He was a great friend of Hugh Broughton, the Hebraist, and through him became strongly inbued with religious sentiment. The Cotton family esteemed Broughton so highly, that when he was abroad they frequently sent him of their love—occasionally £100 at a time. He married Katherine Jenks of Drayton, and left two sons. His works are extremely rare. Ralph's third son, WILLIAM COTTON (II) was also an alderman of London. (He appears to have pre-deceased his father Ralph who lived to a great age). By his wife Jane, d. and co-h. of William Sha[w]bury of London, he had a numerous family, several of whom are described as of Bellaport. His eldest son was SIR ROWLAND COTTON who purchased Bellaport and rebuilt the Hall. He was twice married, 1st to Frances eldest daughter of Robert Needham, Viscount Kilmorey; 2nd to Joyce d. & h. of Sir R. Walshe of Shelsley Co. Worcester; but left no living issue. He was sheriff of Shropshire in 1617, and died 1634. There is a fine monument to him in Norton-in-Hales church. His will (P.C.C. 100 Seager) mentions his wife Joyce (d. 1687); four nieces, daughters of his brother William; nephew Philip Cotton; John, son of Allen Cotten, clerk, deceased; Roger, son of Samuel Cotten, deceased; niece Joyce Bromley "if my nephew William Cotton do not marry her" [he did so]; nephew William Cotton to whom he left "All my books, papers, etc." executor; and "Uncle Edmund Welsh, gentleman" whose burial is entered in the

register as "Edmund Walshe of Bellaport, Esq. Feb. 8. 1637/8." He was succeeded by his nephew William Cotton (IV.) son of his brother

WILLIAM COTTON (III) of Alkington and Bellaport, who was also twice married, but left issue only by his second wife Ann, daughter of Philip Draycot of Bainley, Co. Stafford. The eldest son

WILLIAM COTTON (IV) of Bellaport was the gentleman who received the Royalist officers, and to whom Prince Rupert gave the letter quoted above. He lost his first wife Joyce, d. of Sir Thomas Bromley, Kt., in 1649; and in 1652 married Dorothy, daughter of John Whetenhall of Hanklow, Co. Chester. He was succeeded by his eldest son

RALPH COTTON (II) of Bellaport. In 1669 he married Abigail, d. of Sir Thomas Abney, Kt. of Willesley Co. Derby, and dying in 1673 left an infant son

ROWLAND COTTON (II) of Bellaport, who married Mary, d. and co-h. (with her sister, who married Humphrey Chetham, but d.s.p.) of Sir Samuel Sleigh, Kt. of Etwall Hall, Co. Derby. By her he had issue a son William, and two daughters, the younger of whom, Elizabeth Abigail, married Sir Lynch Salisbury Cotton, Bart. of Combermere, Co. Chester, descendant of the younger branch of Cotton of Cotton. The son

WILLIAM COTTON (V) of Bellaport and Etwall (1700—1776) married Rebecca, daughter of Daniel Webster. His only son William, died unmarried in 1819. There were five daughters. The Etwall estate passed to Elizabeth Cotton (1748—1833) who married Joseph Green. After his decease she assumed by Royal license the name and arms of Cotton: Etwall remains with her descendants. Bellaport passed to Elizabeth's sister, Maria Theresa Cotton, who married Rev. Lawrence Dundas Henry Cokburne, rector of Norton. He died in 1830, when the estate passed to the next rector Rev. Hugh Ker, who took the name of Cokburne, and died in 1866. From him it passed to Hugh Ker Colville, who was sheriff of Shropshire in 1899.

VII. SNYTTON—BITTERLEY.

This is an interesting moated, timber-framed, house lying a little to the south of the main road from Ludlow to Bridgnorth. The original plan seems to have been T-shaped though additions

and extensions made later mask its form. It appears to date from the middle of Elizabeth's reign, the diagonal timbers of the frame forming the diamond pattern characteristic of that period. The ceiling beams and frame posts are very massive and finely moulded, while the front-door is original, though not now *in situ*. One or two old oak-mullioned windows still remain at the rear. The back-kitchen retains the open hearth, with crane, pot-hangers, and old-fashioned baking oven heated by burning brands of wood. The central chimney also exhibits the original picturesque shafts of Elizabethan brickwork.

Snytton was one of the possessions of Wigmore Abbey, and there was a house here as early as the reign of Henry III. Lady Isabel Mortimer was delivered of a baby boy herein, but it died very soon afterwards. Her lord Roger de Mortimer I, of Wigmore had made a gift of the township to Wigmore Abbey, but had afterwards withdrawn it. The death of the child was regarded as a judgment upon him for impiety, and at Lady Mortimer's intercession he restored the gift. Snytton remained in the possession of Wigmore Abbey till the Dissolution when it passed to

THE POWYS FAMILY.

This family derives from a Lord of Mochnant youngest son of Meredith King of Powysland. In the time of Henry VII. WILLIAM POWYS was settled at Ludlow and held a position in the Court of the Marches. JAMES POWYS is mentioned as of Ludlow in 1494, and it was probably he who secured Snytton from the wreck of Wigmore Abbey at the Dissolution. The existing house was probably built by

THOMAS POWYS who was born 1558. He married Elizabeth d. of Richard Smyth of Credenhill, Hereford. They were buried in Bitterley Church 1639 and 1645, leaving nine children. The eldest son

THOMAS POWYS (1617-1671) became a Serjeant-at-law. His first wife was Anne d. of Sir Adam Littleton, bart. of Stoke St. Milburgh, fourth in descent from the celebrated judge. His second wife was Mary Cotes of Woodcote. Two distinguished sons were born at Snytton.

SIR LITTLETON POWYS (1647-1731) Judge of Queen's Bench, patron of Bitterley, and buried there, and

SIR THOMAS POWYS (1648-1719) Solicitor General 1686 at the trial of the Seven Bishops. In 1711 he purchased the Lilford estate, Northants, and was ancestor of the present Lord Lilford.

REFERENCES TO WALES AND THE MARCHES
IN THE PENSHURST PLACE MSS.

BY CAROLINE A. J. SKEEL.

Some fresh material for the history of Wales and the Marches in the sixteenth century has been made available by the recent publication of Vol. I. of the Report on the MSS. of Lord de l' Isle and Dudley at Penshurst Place, edited for the Historical Manuscripts Commission by the late Mr. C. L. Kingsford.

Among the papers relating to the Council of Wales (pp. 321—363) are various documents dealing with the work of the Council :

1. An abstract of the Instructions of 1526, possibly drawn up for Sir Henry Sydney in 1560 and printed by Collins in the *Sydney Papers*. Part of a further memorandum follows, dealing with the vexed question of the Council's jurisdiction in the Marches of Wales.
2. The Instructions of 1560, resembling in part those of 1553 printed in Haynes' *Burghley Papers* and those of 1574 printed in Clive's *Ludlow*.
3. Draft Orders dealing with the counsel and attorneys of the Court and containing pungent remarks such as the following :—
" Alsoe there passethe betwene theyme at the barre many tymes
suche quarellinge woordes, unsemelie speeches, rather fitte for
scouldes than councillors—as not onlie the foolish standers by
take hould to laughe at but alsoe the wise sorte abashe to heare."

Among the Miscellaneous Documents relating to the Council of Wales the most noteworthy are the following :

1. A letter from the Sheriff and J.P.'s of Pembrokeshire to the Lord President and the Council (8 Mar. 1562) informing them of the appointment of a fit person to receive armour at Bristol and of the selection of a house at Haverford West called ' the

Charnell' for its reception. Details of the armour follow: there are also receipts for armour furnished in Anglesey, Cardigan, Carmarthen and Merioneth.

2. A legal opinion by Sir James Dyer and other justices as to the liberty of the county palatine of Chester, followed by a long statement by William Glaseor, deputy chamberlain of Chester, touching heated altercation with Sir John Throckmorton, Justice of Chester. Glaseor's statement was sent to the Earl of Leicester 5 March 1569: it was forwarded apparently to Sir Henry Sydney to whom Throckmorton wrote 2 April thanking him for his honourable dealing in the matter of Glaseor's discourse in which "I fynde little truth but shamelesse impudencye over muche."
3. Documents relating to the renewal of the Instructions to the Lord President and Council, list of names to be removed or added, also additions to be made to certain articles.
4. The opinion of the Attorney General in 1574 as to the Council's jurisdiction in Worcestershire.
5. The accounts of the Lord President's household in Wales, full of useful and interesting details. A note shows that from 1559 to 1562 Sir Henry Sydney spent out of his own revenues, over and above the Queen's allowance and sundry gifts from other persons, no less than £782 15s. 9d $\frac{1}{2}$. Furthermore he had defrayed from his own purse the charges for his horses and stables, riding charges, servants' wages and liveries. On this account £425 16s. 4d. was due to him from the Clerk of the Fines, but he had received only £100.

Equally interesting are the accounts for 1569 to 1584 by various servants and receivers of Sir Henry in the Marches. Under date 1567-9 is a bill for repairs at Ludlow and Tickenhill in 1568 (£3-18-0). In 1575 a sum of £27-6-6 was spent on the wainscotting of the parlours at Bewdley. In 1570-1 repairs purchase of various utensils and hire of pasture at Bridgnorth, Hereford and Ludlow amounted to £50-14-0. Under 1569-72 is a charge (£5-8-0) for carriage of my Lord's stuff from London to Bridgnorth, and from Ludlow to London (£3). Household implements, storehouses, repairing and tiling the well-larder at Ludlow cost £28-3-2. There are several references to frieze, probably of Welsh manufacture; 180 yards, costing £8, were sent to London in 1570-1. Between 1569 and 1572 frieze for liveries costing £30-2-6 was sent to Ireland, and 180 yards

costing £26-1-0 were sent to London for musicians' liveries. In the account for 1575-6 is a note of "frieze bought of David Lloyd of Shrewsbury and sent for your lordship's servants in Ireland, £30." Details are also given of the cattle sent from the Marches to Penshurst. In 1573 six oxen costing £150 were sent, the cost of driving being 10/- . In 1584 thirty oxen, costing £96-10-0, were despatched to Kent. Under date 1567-9 is noted a payment to Richard Aphill for bringing into Ireland "one bull and ij kene, color whight."

References to persons and places in the Marches naturally abound in the accounts. In 1572-3 the sum of £300 was borrowed from the Bishop of Hereford and the bailiffs of Ludlow, and plate was bought from the goldsmiths of Ludlow. A painter for work at Ludlow received £6. In 1573-4 there was a payment of £20 for "one grete mase of silver and guilte, which was delivered to John de Vaugh, her majesty's serjeant at armes in the Marches of Wales." In 1575 two new saddles were bought at Ludlow. Under date 1567-70 it is noted that the revenue from the President's office in Wales was £802-2-10. Among the Irish accounts is the entry (p. 401) "John Apprice and Owen App Robertes, Keepers of the post-boat at Holyhead in Wales, overpaid, £29-7-7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The Lord President's children frequently figure in the accounts. On pp. 267-271 are payments for Robert Sidney and his sisters, including "a paper booke to writ in Latyne at the Skole," 1s. 4d., "To a toothe drawer that plucked out Mr. Robert his teethe, 2s." Full details are given of Robert Sidney's expenses at Ewelme and Oxford in 1575-6. Among the papers relating to Sir Philip Sidney is his institution on 7 May 1564, by the Bishop of St. Asaph to the church of Whytford, and on 2 Nov. 1564, by the Bishop of St. David's to the Prebend. of Llangwello in the Collegiate Church of Christ at Brecon. On p. 270 is the following letter dated 22 Feb. 1576-7.

"Servante Walker. I pray you that you will out of the money you receive of my father lett my sister's old governes, Mrs. Jane Mantell, have the summe of twentie poundes, wh. is dew unto her for her wages my father owes her. If you possibly may I pray you doe this and you shall doe me a greate pleasure. And so farewell. This 22nd of Februarie, 1576. Your lovinge frende, Philippe Sidney.

"To my lovinge friend, Mr. Roberte Walker etc. Philip's sisters Mary and Ambrosia are often mentioned. Lutestrings for Mistress Mary cost 3s. and pins for her and her sister cost 5s. "A pair of red hose for Mistress Ambrogia" cost 1s. 8d. (pp. 267-279). In 1571-2 a lute was bought for Mistress Mary. In 1573 a box of marmalade containing 2lbs. and costing 3s. was delivered to "Mr. Lodowicke, Mistress Ambrocias Scole-master" (p. 264). In the same account is included "Oyle of Camenell and capars for Mistress Ambrocia" and also "Diverse serups by Mr. Doctor's appoyntement for Mistress Ambrocia." Among the Irish accounts (p. 427) is the entry of alms to the poor at Mistress Ambrosia's burial and at divers times, £22-6-0.

This volume is the first of the Reports of the Historical MSS. Commission to be published, bound in boards at the price of 10s. 6d. Copies in paper covers may be had uniform with the previous reports in the series, price 9s. It would not be easy to find a volume of more interest for the history of the Marches in the sixteenth century.

THE DETTONS OF WHEATHILL.

BY THE REV. R. C. PURTON, M.A.

Wheathill lies a few miles north-west of Dodington or Detton, the original home of the Dettons, and close to Ingardine, where the family held lands. The parish includes two small hamlets, Egerton and Bromdon,—the latter reputed a manor. The earlier history of Wheathill will be found in Eyton (Vol. iv. 283). It was held under Mortimer by members of the Hacket family for several generations, and Sir Walter Hacket, who was lord in 1284, was a person of some consequence in Shropshire, and served as Knight of the Shire in the Parliament of 1316.¹ In 16 Edward III. (1342) there was an enquiry as to "what malefactors seized John Hackette, late parson of Wheathill, at Wheathill by night, and took him to Lodelowe, and there feloniously drowned him in the water called Temede."² This John Hacket had been presented to the Rectory by Sir Walter Hacket³ in 1333. In 23 Edward III. (1349) Walter son of Walter Hacket, lord of Wheathill, grants to William de Wyrleye and Elizabeth his wife his manor of Whethull with the advowson of the Church,⁴ and in 1353 we have a fine between Elizabeth who was the wife of William atte dych de Wyrleye, plaintiff, and Simon Ankerdene and Katherine his wife, deforciants, of the manor of Whethull, "jus Elizabethae."⁵ By 1362 the manor and advowson had passed to John de Stoke, who as lord presented that year, and again in 1366. The arms of Stoke (arg., on a bench sable three dolphins embowed or, within a bordure engrailed . . .) are in a quatrefoil window in the Church.⁶ In 1392 Hugh Ferour, chaplain, levied a fine of the manor and advow-

(1) Trans. 4th Ser. x. 27.

(2) Patent Rolls.

(3) Sir William Hacket, given in Trans. 4th Ser. iii. 382, is a mistake.

(4) Coll. W. Mytton; cited by Blakeway in a note (MS. 3, Bodl. fol. 254).

(5) Dukes, Antiquities, p. 257.

(6) Sketched in Blakeway MS. (Bodl.) 3, fol. 256. These arms, without the bordure, are quartered by Foxe of Ludford, etc.

son.⁷ According to Eyton, Reginald Cokes was presented to the Rectory in 1399 by Thomas *Stokes* and Joan his wife, but in the list given by the Cantilupe Society, the name is printed *Steeves*.⁸ In 1414 Reginald Vernon, parson of Wheathill, was charged with premeditated murder of John Hunt.⁹ In 1454 John Earl of Salop died seized of Wheathill, and was succeeded here by his younger son, Sir Humphrey Talbot, who presents in 1469 and 1479. At the Inquisition on Sir Humphrey's death (1494) it was stated that he had enfeoffed John Rowdon and Thomas Booth with others of the manors (*inter alia*) of Wheathill and Necnton, held of the Earl of March by fealty. His next heir was George Earl of Salop, but in 1540 Peter Watson was presented to the Rectory by the grantees of Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount Lisle. Shortly afterwards the manor with the advowson was held in two moieties by the Detton and Holland families, and this joint tenure continued till the eighteenth century. It presumably arose in connection with the marriage of Alice, daughter of John Detton with William Holland of Burwarton. In 1557 we have a suit between William Holland of Burwarton, Robert Detton and Thomas Smythe as to the manor and lands of Wheathill, and the advowson.¹⁰ Robert Detton and William Holland present to the Rectory in 1566. A full account of the Holland family will be found in *Transactions*, 4th Ser. V. 82. This paper is concerned with the Detton moiety only.

In a former paper it was shown that Robert Detton of Detton died in 1575 seized of a moiety of the manor and advowson of Wheathill, held of the Queen as of her Earldom of March by service of half a Knight's fee; and further that Thomas Detton of Detton died in 1614 seized of the said moiety. But before his death, Thomas Detton in 1612 had granted a long lease of his Wheathill property to his kinsman Robert Detton, who had been living there some years previously. The moiety of the manor and advowson continued to be held by this younger branch of the family long after the elder branch had disposed of their lands at Detton.

(7) Dukes, *Antiquities*, p.257.

(8) Blakeway appears to have read *Stones*. In 1374 William de Ayleston had presented, but he may have been *grantee* only.

(9) *Trans.* 4th Ser. vi. 193.

(10) Burwarton Deeds.

ROBERT DETTON, whom I take to be the fourth son of Robert Detton of Detton, was living at Wheathill in 1603, and was buried there in 1638. His Will (proved at Hereford) is dated May 23rd, 1638, and states, "Whereas I have the moite or one halfe of that capytall messuage in Wheathill wherein I now dwell wth the moite of all lands thereto belonging for many yeeres yet enduring yf I and Margaret my wife and Robte my sone or any of us so long live, I bequeathe unto the said Margaret my wife the said p'te of the said messuage and lands for the terme of fourty yeares after my decease if shee keepe her selfe unmarried, and after her decease or marriage I bequeathe the said moite unto the said Robte my sonne for the residue of the terme mencoid in the deede of Lease by which I hold the said lands granted to me by Thomas Detton of Detton Esq. bering date the xxth June in the xth yeere of our late sovaigne King James." Besides Robert the eldest, three other sons are mentioned, viz:—Richard, John (bp. at Wheathill 1608) and Thomas¹¹ (bp. 1622). "If my daughters Anne, Marie and Elizabeth marrie with the consent of my wife and Richard Detton my sone, then I will unto each of them xlii and a feather bed, but if they marrie without the consent of my wife and sone they shall have but xli." Mention is made of another daughter Martha, who gets only xii^d., perhaps because she was married and already portioned. The youngest daughter Elizabeth became the second wife of the Rev. Thomas Shepherd, Rector of Wheathill (m. there 1642).

ROBERT DETTON, eldest son, was baptized at Wheathill in 1603, and presented to the Rectory, with William Holland, in 1641 and 1667. He died in 1673, but his burial is not in the Register of Wheathill, though there was formerly in the Church a monumental inscription:—"Memento mori. Robert Detton gent. one of y^e Lords of this manour buried Dec^r. the 7 1673." He appears to have died without issue, for the Wheathill moiety was held by the descendants of his brother Richard.

RICHARD DETTON was baptized at Wheathill in 1605. B.A. of New Coll. Oxford 1628; M.A. 1632. Instituted to the Rectory of Acton Scott 1631, and to that of Aston Botterell 1634. He married at Aston Botterell in 1632 Joyce, daughter of David and Alice Millichap of Aston, where she was buried in 1649.

(11) Perhaps Rector of Wolstaston (bur. there 1669).

Richard Detton was buried there in 1678 (Will proved at Hereford 1679). Both he and his son Richard contributed to the "Free and voluntary Present to His Majesty" in 1662. He had three sons and four daughters, all baptized at Aston B., viz:—Richard, of whom further; George, who died in infancy; Edward (bp. 1643); Anne (bp. 1635); Mary (bp. 1637), mentioned in her father's will, married at Bitterley in 1668 to George Pardoe of Cleaton, and secondly at Bitterley in 1685 to Thomas Stary; Martha (bp. 1639); Elizabeth (bp. 1645), mentioned in her father's will, wife of the Rev. Francis Atkinson, executor to his father-in-law, and his successor as Rector of Aston Botterell.

RICHARD DETTON, the eldest son, was baptized in 1633. He was Rector of Neenton 1661. He married at Munslow in 1665 Isabel, daughter of Rev. George Littleton, Rector of Munslow, by Mary¹² daughter of Rev. Roger Tydder, Rector of Pitchford and Isabel his wife. "Richard Detton, junior, Rector of Neenton," was buried at Munslow in 1668. Besides a daughter Elizabeth, who died an infant, he left a daughter and heir Mary (bp. at Munslow 1666), wife of George Crump of Bouldon. As "Mary Crump, widow," she presented to the Rectory of Wheathill (with Thomas Holland) in 1714. She was buried at Holgate in 1716.

The Crump family lived at Bouldon, a detached portion of the parish of Holgate, where there were furnaces for the working of iron. Adam Crump of Bouldon married Jane, daughter of Rowland Fewtrell of the Down in the parish of Chetton.¹³ She was sister of Richard Fewtrell of the Down, who died in 1640; and on the death of his widow in 1650, the Down estate passed to the Crumps. The will of Adam Crump is dated 1650 (proved P.C.C. 1658). It mentions Bowldon farm and lands, "which I hold by the devise and grant of Charles Lord Carington, son of Sir Francis Smyth Kt., and of Robert Smyth Esq., uncle to the said Lord." Both his eldest son (whose "children"¹⁴ are mentioned) and his youngest son (executor) were named Richard.

(12) She was bapt. at Pitchford in 1605; m. at Cound in 1628; and bur. at Munslow in 1659,—where her father and mother were also buried. For Isabel Littleton see *Trans.* 4th Ser. III. 319.

(13) See the Fewtrell Pedigree in the Herald's Visitation of 1623 (Harr. Soc.)

(14) Thomas Crump of Bouldon, whose Will was proved at Hereford in 1672, was probably one of these children. He had a brother Lawrence and sisters Margery and Elizabeth. Richard and Lawrence Crump, both of Bouldon, were recusants in 1691.

Margaret, widow of his third son Gregory, with her three "children," are mentioned, and four daughters,—Jane, Margaret, Mary and Winifred.

In 1670 (Sep. 3rd, 22 Chas. II.) we have Indentures between Francis Viscount Berisford Lord Carington of Wotton Wawens, and Margaret Crump of Bouldon, widow, whereby on surrender of a former Lease of the Capital Messuage at Bouldon, with watermilne and lands, for 99 years made to Jane Crump, Gregory Crump and Margaret Crump (party to these presents) and in consideration of £250 paid by Margaret,—the said Lord has demised, granted etc. to Margaret Crump the said Capital messuage etc., "excepting and reserving to the said Lord Carington, his heirs etc. all tymber trees, rootes, woods ect. (other than such as shalbee hereafter graunted for necessary bootes), with free liberty for the said Lord Carington, his heirs and assigns, and to and for theire servants, workmen and labourers from tyme to tyme to come in and upon the premises and upon any parte thereof to fell, cutt downe, converte into coale, and carry away with wayne teame horses or otherwise all such tymber etc."—The said Lord to have at all times full liberty "to digge sufficient turfe upon the premises or any part thereof in the most convenient places for the makinge of coales, allowing consideration for the damage that may be sustayned by the opinion of two indifferent men to be elected and chosen by the said parties." Also excepting and reserving to the said Lord "the Fornace for the makinge of Iron, with all the accomodations thereunto belonginge to the same," paying to Margaret four pounds during the continuance of the said works, and when the said works are "utterly blowne out," leaving to her all edifices and buildings belonging, except the bellowes and Iron belonging to the same. Reserving also to the Lord liberty to "hawke hunt fish and foule" in the said premises. To have and to hold the said Capital Messuage etc. to the said Margaret Crump for 99 years, if the said Margaret Crump, George Crump her son, and Ann her daughter or any one of them shall so long live, at a yearly rent of £5. The best beast as a heriot. And if the Lord be compelled to serve in person in the wars, Margaret pays him £3. And she covenants to provide at Bouldon at her own cost for two days and three nights every year for the Lord and his servants, and for the Steward and his servants, meat and drink and.

lodging, and stable-room, hay, litter and provender for seven horses or geldings, during their abode there.¹⁵

Margaret Crump was buried at Clee St. Margaret in 1690.

George Crump, mentioned in the above Deed, married (as already stated) Mary, daughter and heir of Rev. Richard Detton and Isabel his wife. In 1684 (Ap. 2nd, 36 Chas. II.) we have Indentures tripartite between George Crump of Bouldon, gent. of the first part, Isabel Detton of Wheathill, widow, of the second part, and Thomas Littleton of Oxenbold, gent. and Edward Botterell of the Heath, gent. of the third part,—by which, in consideration of a marriage to be solemnized between the said George Crump and Mary, only daughter of the said Isabel Detton, he grants to Littleton and Botterell all his moiety, part or purport of and in that Capital Messuage etc. commonly called the Downe, and of and in all that Messuage and Tenement heretofore in the tenure of one John Burtweesell, and of and in all that Messuage and Tenement heretofore in the tenure of one Robert Overton, and now in the tenure and occupation of Richard Smalman, and of and in all that water corne Mill heretofore in the tenure of John Blunt, and now in the tenure and occupation of the said Richard Smalman,—all lying and being in the town and parish of Chetton, and are the inheritance of the said George Crump; to have and to hold etc. to the use of George Crump for life, and after his decease to the use of Mary his wife for her jointure, and after her decease to the use of their children etc.¹⁶

By this marriage the Wheathill moiety came to the Crumps. The house which belonged to them was known as Culverhouse (now Coveridge). George Crump died in 1692, and was buried at Holgate, his wife surviving him (as already stated) till 1716. Their son, George Crump, who is described as of the Forge, Cleobury Mortimer, married Anne, daughter of John Pardoe of Faintree, who was buried at Holgate in 1752. In W. Mytton's time George Crump and William Holland of Burwarton were joint lords and patrons of Wheathill, but soon after 1736 Crump sold his moiety to Anne, widow of William Holland of Burwarton.¹⁷ Thus the Hollands became sole owners of the manor and advowson, and their descendant, Viscount Boyne, is still

(15) Deed in my possession.

(16) Deed in my possession.

(17) The leasehold had presumably been converted at some previous time into a Fee-simple.

lord of the manor. George Crump died without issue in 1760, aged 71.

His sister Mary was married at Holgate in 1718 to Thomas Pardoe of Faintree, and was mother of Thomas Pardoe, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1791.

The arms of Detton (Dodington) of Detton, as entered at the Heralds' Visitation (Harl. MS. 1241) are as follows:—"Azure, a fesse or, in chief two mullets and in base a chevron of the second, within a bordure argent." In Harl. MS. 615 the mullets are pierced and the bordure engrailed. Crest:—"A lion's gamb couped and erect or, armed sable."

Robert Detton of Wheathill did not enter his pedigree at the Heralds' Visitation of 1663, nor does his name appear among the "Disclaimers."

ADDITIONAL NOTE. There was a branch of the Dettons living in Harley Parish, who were probably connected with the Neen Savage family. Thus in the Harley Register we have the following entries:—

- 1652. Mary w. of Richard Detton, gent., buried.
- 1664. Joshua s. of Richard Detton, gent. & Frances, bap.
- 1667. Robert s. of the same, bap.
- 1669. Elizabeth d. of the same, bap.
- 1671. George Detton, buried.
- 1672. Richard s. of Richard & Frances Detton, bap.
- 1675. Mary d. of the same, bap.
- 1678. Abigail d. of the same, bap.
- 1683. Anne d. of the same, bap.
- 1708. Richard Detton, buried.
- 1723. Mr. Robert Detton, buried.
- „ Mrs. Frances Detton, buried.

In COUND Register:—

- 1698. Dorothy Detton of Cressage, buried.
- 1700. John son of Richard & Mary Detton, bap. & bur.
- 1702. John son of Richard & Elizabeth Detton, bap.
- 1708. Richard son of Richard & Mary Detton, bap.
- 1711. Thomas son of Richard & Mary Detton, bap.
- 1713. Samuel son of Richard & Mary Detton, bap.

In HUGHLEY Register :—

1749. Mrs. Jane Detton, buried.

In WENLOCK Register :—

1639. James Lewis of Wenlock & Anne Detton of Morville,
marr.

In WOLSTASTON Register :—

1662. Rev. Thomas Detton & Mary Colebarne, marr.

1664. Mary daughter of Thomas & Mary Detton, bap.

1669. Thomas Detton, minister, buried.

1708. Mary Detton, buried.

In BURWARTON Register :—

1621. Rev. Thomas Amias & Mrs. Martha Detton, marr.

In TASLEY Register :—

1706-7. Andrew Corbet & Mary Detton, marr.

In BILLINGSLEY Register :—

1712. Elizabeth w. of George Detton (Churchwarden that
year), buried.

1730. George Detton, senior, buried.

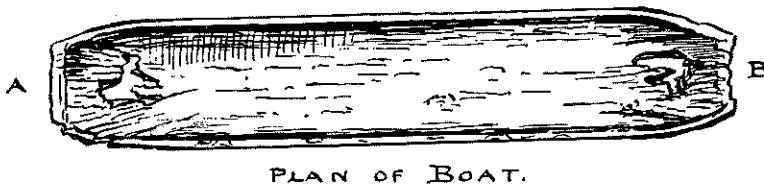
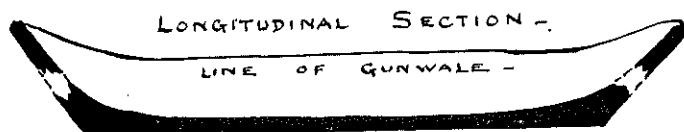
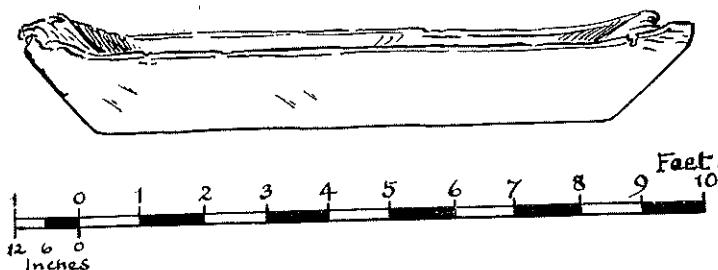
1731. George Detton & Elizabeth Fosbrooke, marr.

1731. Elizabeth daughter of James & Jane Detton, bap.

1732-3. George son of George & Mary Detton, bap.

(and other entries at a later period).

There are also Detton entries in Cleobury Mortimer Register,
but not till 1768.



End View
A.



Section
across
Centre.



End View
B.

BOAT FROM
WHATTALL MOSS,
ELLESMORE. *Lily F. Chitty -
1926.*

Fig. 1.

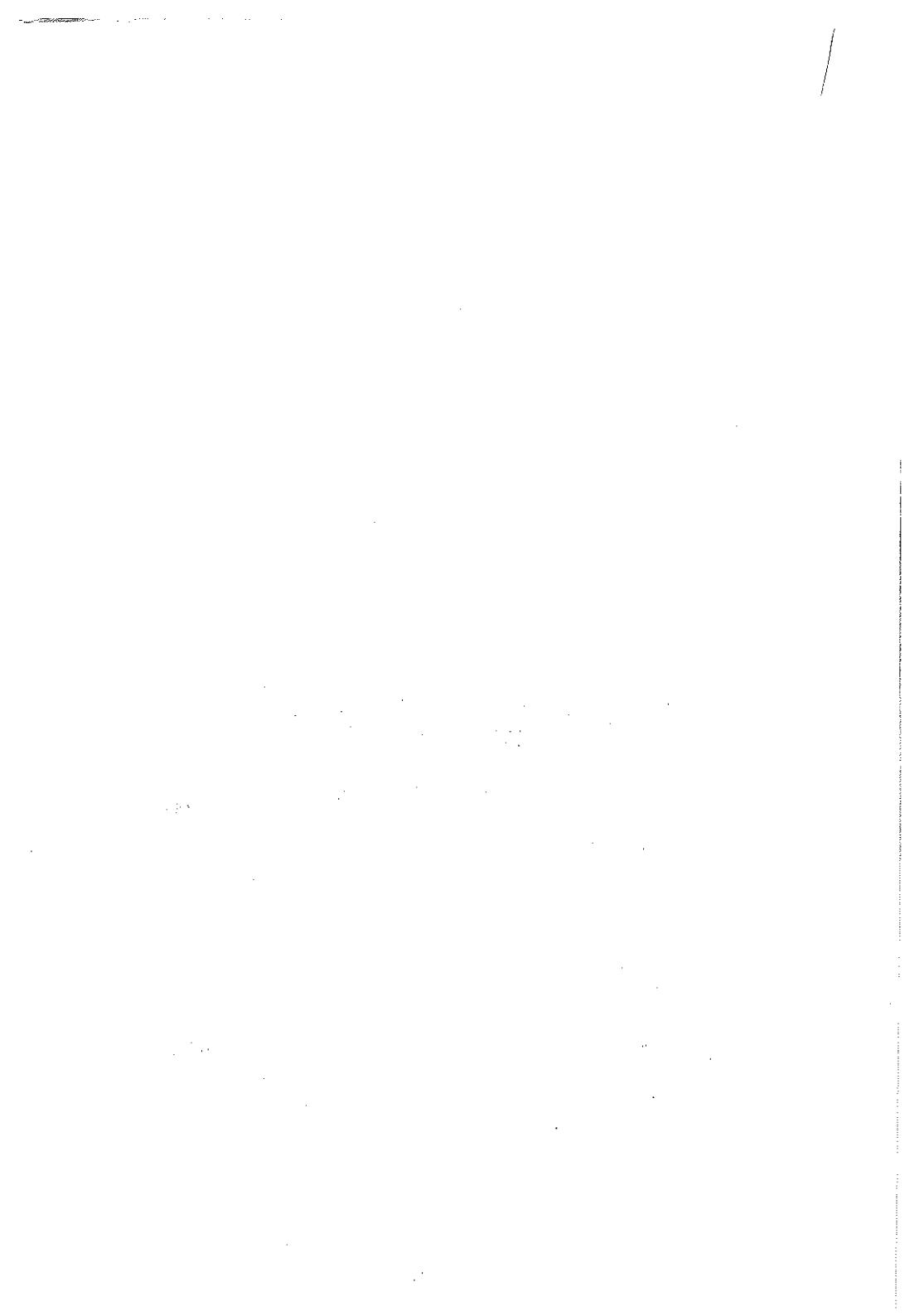
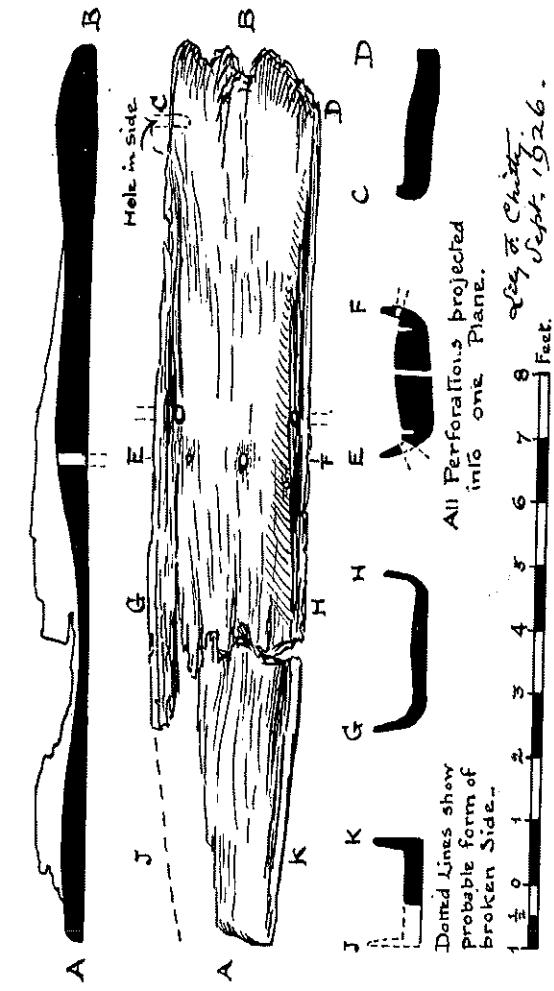




Fig. 2. Dug-out Canoe found at Knockin, lying outside Shrewsbury Museum
(Now lent to Shrewsbury School Museum).

THE KNOCKIN CANOE.



All Perforations projected
into one Plane.

City of Chester, Sept. 1526.

Fig. 3.

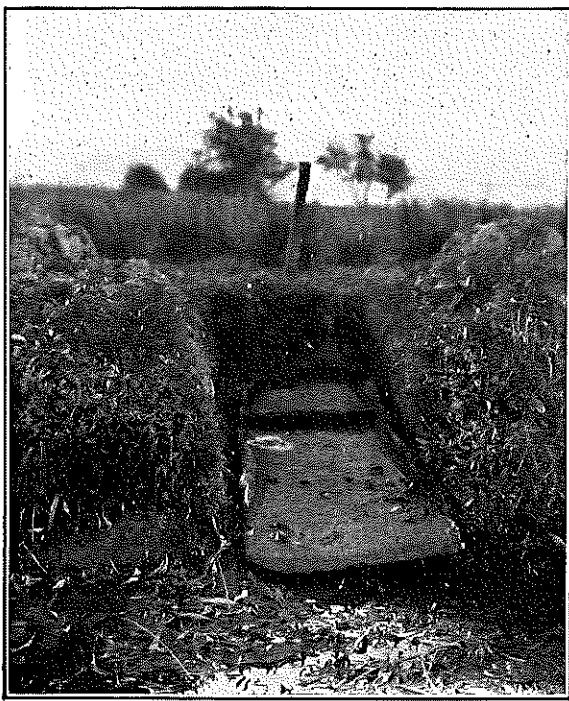
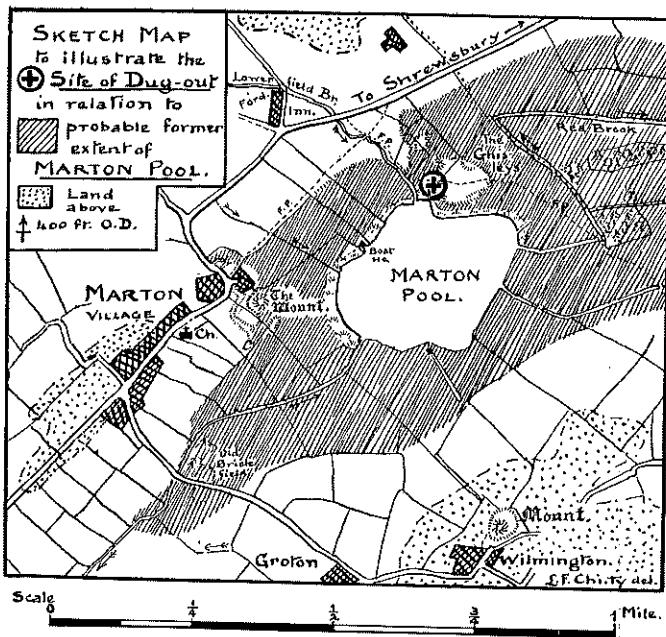
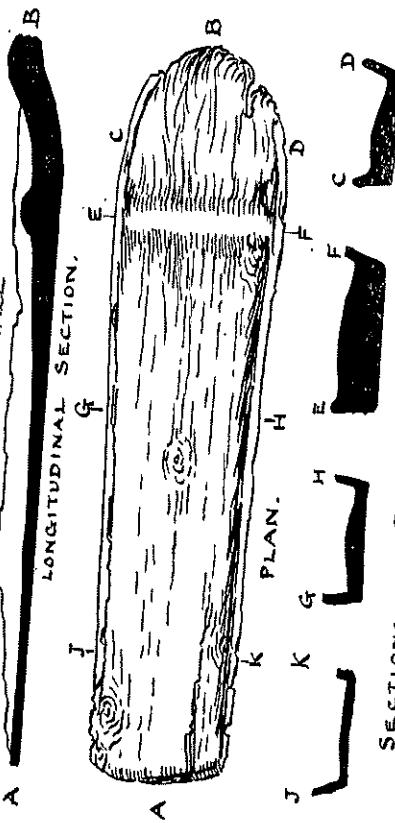


Fig. 4. The Marton Dug-out in position (looking S.E.)
The low bushes stand on the former island in the
Ghisleys.



THE MARTON DUG-OUT.

LINE OF GUNWALE



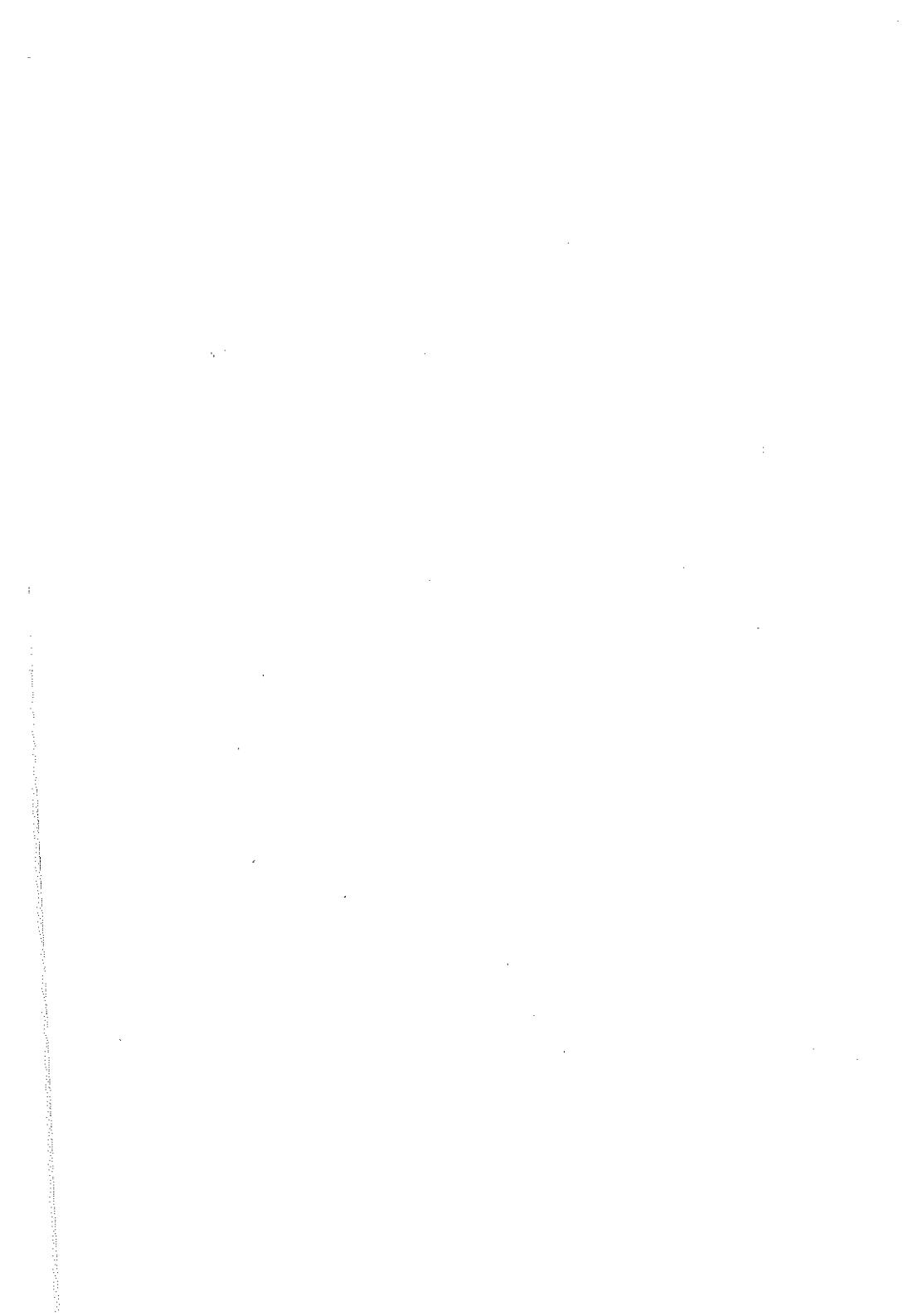
LONGITUDINAL SECTION.

SECTIONS AT POINTS INDICATED ON PLAN.

SCALE OF FEET.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
12 10 8 6 4 2 INCHES

Fig. 6

[See face page 186].



DUG-OUT CANOES FROM SHROPSHIRE.

BY LILY F. CHITTY.

INTRODUCTORY.

On 17th December, 1925, Dr. Cyril Fox, now Director of the National Museum of Wales, read before the Society of Antiquaries a valuable paper on the subject of Dug-out Canoes.¹ I am deeply indebted to this article, as well as to its author for his help and advice in the preparation of these notes, some few of which were quoted in his paper, while a large proportion are gathered from local publications hereafter referred to. I must express my gratitude also for assistance kindly given by Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., President of the Shropshire Archaeological Society, in locating the site of the boat from Marton-in-Chirbury and in recording its history; by Mr. John Higginson, M.R.C.V.S., the historian of Knockin; and by Mr. A. A. Thompson, Curator of Ellesmere Museum, whose knowledge of the antiquities of his district, generously placed at my service, has been of the very greatest value. I would also thank Mr. Alfred Newstead, Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, and Mr. Ernest Hitchens, B.Sc., of Congleton and Astbury, for particulars of the Cheshire boats, and Mr. T. Pape, F.S.A. for permission to quote his report on the Oakley Park specimen. To Mr. Hitchens and Mr. Pape we are indebted for the photographs of these boats, which are reproduced from blocks kindly lent by the Editors of the "Congleton Chronicle" and the "Staffordshire Sentinel."

'Dug-outs,' or boats worked out of a single log of wood, are often found associated with islands or crannogs in lakes, in marshes, peat-bogs and old river channels: they are common in Ireland and Scotland. Dr. Fox's list of those found in England numbers 57, with 5 from Wales. His map of their distribution² shows them to be grouped mainly in seven distinct areas, with

1. *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. VI, pp. 121—151: "A 'Dug-out' Canoe from South Wales: with Notes on the Chronology, Typology, and Distribution of Monoxyloous Craft in England and Wales," by Cyril Fox, Ph.D., F.S.A.

2. *Op. cit.* p. 127.

a complete blank in the Midland Plain. The Shropshire and Cheshire group have a regional unity and are related in type, the six surviving examples being flat-bottomed and parallel-sided, with approximately rectangular cross-sections, though they vary in other respects. They are of medium size ; what may have been the largest (Bagley) is reported (perhaps inaccurately) to have been 18-20 ft. long ; the smallest (Ellesmere) is 10 ft. 9 ins. Transverse ribs exist in the Marton, Astbury and Baddiley boats. In Shropshire, such craft have occurred in districts which drain to the upper Severn, in Cheshire, to the Weaver : the distribution of prehistoric implements in the two counties show that lines of ancient communication existed between these areas. A note on Cheshire dug-outs is therefore appended, including two which should be added to the general list, as well as the Oakley Park specimen, from the border of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Our region, unfortunately, furnishes no positive evidence towards the problem of the period to which the boats should be referred, as no dateable finds have been associated with any found locally (with the possible exception of a lost specimen from Buildwas). Elsewhere, however, dug-outs have come to light which contained stone implements ; in one, a bronze rapier lay ; the Glastonbury boat probably belonged to lake-dwellings inhabited during the period of La Tene III (1st. century B.C.), and others date from Romano-British, mediæval, and even later times.³

Each of the three Salopian examples extant has been cut out of a solid oak trunk. The workmanship of the Ellesmere boat is vastly superior to that of the others : Dr. Fox describes it as a box-like structure closely paralleled by one from the Thames at Kew. In view of the exact setting out of our boat, and bearing in mind the well-known skill of the carpenter in the Early Iron Age, it may well be that the two craft are contemporary. He places it in his Group I (square-ended and flat-bottomed), and notes the difficulty of classifying the other two boats owing to their damaged condition : Knockin, which seems to have had one end square and the other pointed, might belong to Group II, and Marton may probably be referred to Group III (parallel-sided with rounded ends). The Bagley boat was almost

3. For details, see *op. cit.*, pp. 127-8.

certainly of Group I. The possibility that a specimen was found in the Severn at Buildwas is quite uncertain, though the evidence for it is here recorded.

The number of dug-outs reported from the county seems very small when the nature of our northern plain is considered, with its numerous meres and peat-mosses: the latter, though now for the most part drained, must have formed wide, shallow lakes until comparatively recent times, on which primitive folk might sail or paddle their oaken craft while fishing or hunting water-fowl.⁴ The absence of any boats from the Wealdmoors region is especially noteworthy, and it seems not unlikely that specimens found here and elsewhere have passed unobserved and unrecorded.

I.—THE ELLESMORE REGION.

THE ELLESMORE PUNT.

Parish Boundary of Ellesmere and Cockshutt. 6" O.S. Shropshire XIII, S.E.; Lat. $52^{\circ} 52' 26''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 50' 45''$.
Ellesmere Museum.

Published References: Miss C. Eyton, *Geology of North Shropshire*, 1869, p. 81. Date given as 1866. Quoted in *Geology of Wem*, 1925, p. 81.

Shrops. Arch. Trans., G. Luff, 1888, XI, pp. 216-7; date given as 1872: R. Lloyd Kenyon, 1892, 2nd. Series, IV, p. 280. Hence *Vic. Co. Hist.* I, pp. 198, 203.

Shrops. and Montgom. Post, 7th March, 1891; letter from Mrs. Mary Haycocks.

Shrops. N. & Q., 21st. August, 1896; letter from Rev. J. W. Moore to Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, written in 1886.

Antiq. Journ., Dr. C. Fox, 1926, VI, pp. 133, 142, 149.

In 1864, during extensive draining operations which are said to have lowered the waters of Crosemere 6-10 ft., a deep drain was cut along the parish boundary of Ellesmere and Cockshutt through the northern end of the large peat moor known as Whattall Moss, the property of Earl Brownlow. In ancient times this probably formed the northern arm of a great post-glacial lake, of which Crosemere to the south and Sweat Mere to the south-east are the remaining nuclei.

4. Cf. Sketch Map, fig. 5. page

At a depth of about 6 ft. a dug-out canoe (Fig. 1) was discovered buried in the peat and enmeshed in the roots of a large birch tree, which had grown through both its ends. It was quite soft when found, but hardened on exposure. Great care was taken in unravelling the roots and in extricating the boat : two drainers guarded it night and day and protected it from the sun with green boughs. Many people are said to have visited it, one of whom, Mrs. Mary Haycocks, described her recollections in the *Shropshire & Montgomeryshire Post*, 7th March, 1891 : a copy of her letter is preserved with the boat in Ellesmere Museum.

The craft lay across the line of the drain, so the banks had to be cut out on either side in order to raise it. I visited the site with Dr. Cyril Fox in August, 1926, and found the position still clearly defined on the Ellesmere side of the boundary, where an oblong cutting remains below the general level of the bank, midway along a wet channel, some 3 ft. wide, which runs S.W.—N.E. into the main drain flowing to Sweat Mere : the opposite bank has been levelled up.

The character of the woodland is here sharply divided by the ditch : on the south (Cockshutt) side is a thin plantation of firs, their needles forming a carpet several inches thick. Dr. Fox observed that as these belong to an upland rather than a marsh growth, and the ground appears to rise very slightly above the surrounding peat flats, there may have been a natural island in the mere, on the shores of which the boat was moored. On the north (Ellesmere) side the trees are mainly birch and the ground is covered with sphagnum moss, cross-leaved heath and ferns ; here was obviously marsh land.

When the dug-out had been excavated, it was removed to Cremorne Gardens, Ellesmere, whence it was rescued by Mr. Brownlow R.C. Tower, of Ellesmere House, and placed in a glass case in the small museum in the Town Hall.⁵

It is an admirably finished example of the trough-like or punt type of boat, with squared sides and ends and a flat bottom :

5. The various descriptions, dates and measurements hitherto published are somewhat confusing, as none of them tally precisely, but the statements here given, after considerable enquiries, are believed to be accurate. The site was incorrectly marked on the 6-inch Ordnance Map, but the exact place of discovery was known locally and was ascertained by measurement, in 1925, by Mr. Brownlow Tower and Mr. A. A. Thompson ; it is to be inserted on the forthcoming revised sheet.

Dr. Fox describes it as a variant of his Group I, "resembling a canal barge with overhanging counters."⁶ It is 10 ft. 9 ins. long, 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. 2 ins. in height amidships: the sides are straight for a length of 7 ft. 6 ins., thence incurving gently to an approximately straight-ended prow and stern, 1 ft. 3 ins. and 1 ft. 4 ins. wide respectively. The prow (A on Plan) is 1 ft. 10 ins. from ground level, 3 ins. higher than the stern (B), the centre of which is lower than its sides, probably owing to damage by the birch roots, which have injured the wood and left jagged rents in the slopes at both ends. The starboard has warped inward slightly, but the original section was probably truly square. The floor is flat within and without, with clean angles along the sides: internally, it curves up to the ends without any line of division: Dr. Fox's plan of it applies to the base only.⁷ The gunwales are squared off, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide, broadening towards the ends. Tool-marks are scanty, but a few flat diagonal cuts with a clean, straight edge on the port side and near the prow suggest that the boat was made with a straight-bladed tool, probably an iron adze: a stone or bronze implement would give a curved cut. Dr. Fox concludes that it was probably made not later than the Romano-British period,⁸ to which he refers the Kew boat,⁹ which it resembles in general type. The Ellesmere specimen would hold three, or perhaps four people, and was probably punted or paddled in rather shallow water. Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon was informed that a paddle was discovered with it and lost; Mrs. Haycocks stated that nothing was found in it "except an old black bowl, of the same wood as the boat" (? a bale): unfortunately neither statement can be substantiated.

It has been stated¹⁰ that, in addition to this dug-out and the Bagley specimen (*see later*, p. 119), a third and larger prehistoric canoe was found near Ellesmere, but of this nothing is known locally, and it is almost certain that the account of it arose from a confusion of the earlier descriptions.

6, 7. *Op. cit.* p. 133.

8. Roman Coins have been found in Ellesmere—a Claudius in a garden at the foot of the Bowling Green (Town Hall Museum), and a Victorinus in the canal towpath near Beech House: others were reported from Welshampton by Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon (*Transactions*, 2nd Series, XI, 167: *V.C.H.* I, 277.)

9. In London Museum: *op. cit.* p. 133.

10. G. Luff, *Trans.* XI, 216-7, followed by *V.C.H.* I, 198.

The Ellesmere region, thickly covered by Glacial Drift, with extensive peat basins and large meres in the hollows formed between high morainic ridges, has produced a fair number of antiquities ranging over a considerable period. At Stockett, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the site in Whattall Moss, a neck of high ground dividing the northern basin from the lake of Crosemere was entrenched across, a mound thrown up on the western side, and a wet ditch cut to connect the two ancient sheets of water at this point. Excavations carried out in the 90's were described by Mr. Harold Peake, F.S.A.,¹¹ but the date of construction was not established. Mr. Peake tells me that the late Sir A. W. Franks was inclined to refer an iron rod and a bronze fragment found to the Saxon period. The Ordnance Survey marks a "Fort" on the East side of the ditch. Possible pile-dwellings were discovered in 1902 at Pikesend, nearly a mile E.N.E. of the dug-out site,¹² and it is anticipated that the future may reveal other settlements on the margins of our North Shropshire meres, but at present nothing can be proved.

At Petton, some three miles southward, traces of early habitation occur; a stone celt from Petton Farm is in the possession of Mr. Henry Tatton, The Lodge,¹³ who has also two large flakes of grey flint found in the locality and two spindle whorls (period uncertain). A beautiful bronze javelin-head (Class IV) was found in 1825 in the moat at Petton Park.¹⁴ Near the Church is a tumulus, and in the gully to the east of it, at the head of a patch of peaty alluvium, is a possible ancient camping site with a mound of burnt stones.¹⁵

That the district was inhabited, or perhaps traversed by invaders, in the Late Bronze Age is demonstrated by the discovery of four bronze weapons of that period, *viz.* a sword at Val Hill, near Tetchill, socketed celts at 3, Swan Hill, Ellesmere, and on the Hordley glebe land on Bagley Moor (all three in Ellesmere Museum), and a magnificent circular shield, 23 ins. diam., found in 1864 in Baggy Moor, half a mile West of Bagley:

11. *Trans.*, 3rd. S., IX, *Misc.* No. VI, pp. ix-x.

12. *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* XIX (2), pp. 140-2: *Trans.*, 3rd. S., II, 408-9: *V.C.H.* I, 197.

13. *Exhibition of Local Antiquities*, 1898, No. J 10: *Trans.*, 2nd. S., X (Pt. IV), p. 106, and verbal information from Mr. Tatton, 1923.

14. 1898 *Exhibition* No. J 3: *V.C.H.* I, 203. See also *Miscellanea* No. IV.

15. *Geology of Wem*, Geol. Survey, 1925, p. 81.

this cannot now be traced, though it has been fully published¹⁶ and Ellesmere Muesum has a faded photograph of it. Any information as to its present whereabouts would be gratefully received by the writer of this paper.

THE BAGLEY BOAT.

Parish of Hordley.

Published References :—*Shrops. Arch. Trans.* XI. 217; 2nd Series, IV, 280, followed by *Vic. Co. Hist.* I, 202.

Shrops. Notes & Queries, 21st August, 1896, Wm. Phillips, quoting a valuable letter from Rev. J. W. Moore, Rector of Hordley, to Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, written in 1886, in which he described the peat moors of the Perry basin prior to the draining of that river.

Antiq. Journ. VI, 151 (Dr. Fox's list).

About 1872, "a rude boat cut out of solid oak, some 18 or 20 ft. long," was dug up in good condition from a meadow on Bagley Moor on land farmed by the late Mr. Dodd, about half a mile from the spot where the bronze buckler was found. The precise site is unrecorded. It has been stated that "it lay for some time in the garden of the owner of the property, but being exposed to the air it soon rotted away."

Mr. A. A. Thompson, however, tells me that when he was a boy he often stayed with his uncle, Mr. Andrew Price, at Bagley Hall, and heard the true fate of the boat: some youths took it out on a pond in a pit-hole on Mr. Dodd's farm, with the result that it sank and they had a narrow escape from drowning. Whether it was rescued and perished afterwards, he does not know, nor did he ever see it. He has been making exhaustive enquiries in the Bagley neighbourhood, and has found several people who recollect the boat, but not the exact place where it came to light. Mr. Wm. Hayward, now of Baschurch, remembers seeing it lying by the pond near the blacksmith's shop on the road towards Bromley: he describes it as being "black, with square

16. *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* III (2), 200; V. 429; XXXI, 150; *Evans, Ant. Br. Imps.*, 352; *S. A. Trans.* 2nd, S., 279; *V.C.H.* I, 202. Mr. A. A. Thompson has ascertained the precise site of its discovery from the finder, Mr. Joseph Dicken, now of Baschurch: 6-in. O.S. XX N.W.: Lat. $52^{\circ} 50' 22''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 53' 50''$. He recollects that it was found in an upright or sloping position, not flat.

ends." The blacksmith (Mr. Cheshire) told him it had been dug out of another pond on Mr. Dodd's farm. It was finally sunk in the Brick Kiln Pond, two fields east of the chapel that stands on the Bromley road, about 250 yards south of Mr. Dodd's house. Mrs. Smith (née Dodd) also remembers the boat and had been in it several times : she describes it as " very old and rough," about 7-8 ft. long, and would only hold two people. When shown the sketch of the Ellesmere boat (Fig. 1) she said it was exactly like that.

It would therefore appear highly probable that the lost dug-out was of the flat-bottomed square-sided type (Group I), and the express recollection that its ends were square goes far to confirm this. It will be noticed that Mrs. Smith's memory of the size of the boat does not tally with the late Mr. Moore's statement that it was 18-20 ft. long, though he affirms that he had often seen it (*S.N.&Q.*, *vide supra*). No associated finds are mentioned, nor is there any proof that the boat was of the same period as the bronze shield and socketed celt from the same marshy district.

BENTLEY HARBOUR (?).

PARISH OF LOPPINGTON.

6-inch O.S. Shropshire Sheet XXI, N.W. (hitherto unmarked) ;
Lat. $52^{\circ} 50' 45''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 47' 2''$.

In *The Geology of the Country around Wem*, issued by the Geological Survey in 1925, Mr. R. W. Pocock, B.Sc., writes (p. 81) of a discovery that he made in the course of his survey :—

" Between Burlton and Noneley, peat or peaty alluvium occupies a large space in the low ground drained by Sleap Brook. About 200 yds. south-east of Bentley, near Noneley, at the northern end of a large peat-flat, a curious embankment encloses a small area of the flat. This may be a prehistoric work constructed, when the peat-flat was still a lake, for the sheltering of canoes such as that mentioned above " (i.e. from Whattall Moss).

Mr. Pocock kindly showed me the site on the 6-inch map, and on 21st August, 1926, I visited it with Dr. Cyril Fox.

It consists of a low bank of dark grey, gritty soil running in a very flat curve from a narrow entrance (? a modern cut) close to the rising ground at its northern end to a point, 25 yds. from the hedge that marks the limit on the peat deposit on the further side. The causeway has spread considerably and rises

only 2 ft. above the surrounding peat-flat : it is about 8 yds. wide and turf-covered, the rest of the field being overgrown with reeds and marsh vegetation. From the back of the enclosure a half-crescent of low ground, which would have formed a serviceable creek, extends into the field on the south.

Mr. Pocock suggests that the enclosed area might be trenched in the hope that dug-out canoes may be found embedded in the peat ; this suggestion ought to be carried out under competent supervision.

He told me that a quern was found recently on the surface near the southern edge of Bentley farmyard and was presented to Shrewsbury Museum. The site is certainly not that of a mill-pond : only a farm drain descends to it.

II. OTHER SALOPIAN DUG-OUTS.

THE KNOCKIN CANOE.

Parish of Knockin. Shrewsbury School Museum.

6" O.S. Shropshire Sheet XXVI, N.E. : Lat. $52^{\circ} 47' 37''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 59' 15''$.

Published References :—*S. N. & Q.*, Aug. 21, 1896. *Bye-gones*, 1907, Aug. 28, Oct. 23. *V.C.H. I*, 202. *Antiq. Journ.* VI, 142, 151.

Some time prior to 1890, a dug-out Canoe was unearthed by workmen employed in deepening the channel of a stream in the village of Knockin, a few miles from the western boundary of Shropshire, on the property of the Earl of Bradford. In 1891 the Clerk of the Estate pointed out the site to Mr. John Higginson, M.R.C.V.S., who kindly showed it to me recently, and to him I am indebted for most of the following details and for the loan of the photograph of the boat (Fig. 2), taken outside Shrewsbury Museum.

The craft lay about 10 feet deep in the Fish Pond Meadow,¹ a field adjoining the south side of the Shrewsbury-Bala road opposite the mound of Knockin Castle.² It was close to the brook which formerly fed the castle moat and still flows between

1. The pool from which this meadow derived its name may have formed the southern defence of the Castle, as at Brockhurst, Church Stretton, but there are now no surface signs of its extent.

2. *Victoria County History, Shropshire*, Vol. I., p. 396, with plan.

the mount and the churchyard north of the road, then, passing under a bridge, forms the western edge of the meadow in question. From the bridge it runs towards the south-east, then turns due south for some 80 yards before resuming a south-easterly course. It was on the east side of this straight channel that the boat came to light, facing the garden of Knockin smithy between the damson tree that lies across the brook beside a plank bridge and an alder on the east bank some 20 yards to the south, beyond which a small portion of the stream has been fenced round on the western side for watering cattle. The late Mr. George Griffiths, of Baschurch, brother of the estate agent at the time of the discovery, informed Prebendary T. Auden, F.S.A., that the canoe was found "in the bed of the watering place near Knockin Castle."³

The boat was taken to the Estate Office and lay outside it for some years: Mr. Higginson saw it in this position in 1891. On 15th May, 1896, it was presented to Shrewsbury Museum by Lord Newport, and was placed in the basement there because it was too long to be carried upstairs. The late Mr. William Phillips reported it in *Shropshire Notes & Queries* on August 21st, of the same year, with a statement that it had been kept in a stackyard and used for chopping wood before it was rescued by Mr. Edward Griffiths. Certainly there are axe-like marks along one side, where the flange has been hacked away, but Mr. Higginson believes this was done by the spades of the drainers. In 1925, it was arranged that the boat should be lent to the Museum of Shrewsbury School, where space has been provided for its proper exhibition and preservation.

The dug-out is of oak, and has broken in two pieces where the floor is thinnest: it is in poor condition, though the wood has been treated and it now seems in no danger of further decay. In 1896 it was reported as 16 ft. long, but its present length is only 14 ft: the average-breadth is 28 ins., expanding (or warped) to 30 ins. across the gunwales in the part where the break occurred. The floor is undulating and of uneven thickness (maximum 6 ins. near the stern) and has warped considerably: the base was probably flat when first made. The sides, now hopelessly damaged, seem to have been cut almost vertically,

3. "Bye-gones," 28 Aug., 1907, and *V.C.H. I.*, p. 202. A further enquiry in "Bye-gones," 23 Oct., 1907, elicited no reply.

with a slight outward splay and curved angles in the stern portion, growing square towards the prow : the greatest height remaining is 9 ins., so the craft was presumably shallow. Where perfect amidships, the gunwales taper to a narrow edge. The ends of the boat are battered and decayed, but the parallel sides of the longer portion suggest a squarish stern, while the bow end tapers on the remaining side and was probably pointed.

Features hitherto unnoticed came to light when we examined the remains in the Museum basement, and these can be clearly seen in its present position (Fig. 3). 6 ft. 4½ ins. from the stern and not quite in the centre of the floor was an oval hole (2 x 1 ins., internal measurements) bored right through the bottom (here 5 ins. thick), perhaps for the insertion of a mast : the interior is smooth. On either side, 9 and 7 ins. from it, were small holes, roughly circular and penetrating only 3 ins. into the floor : these may have supported stays for the mast. Their filling proves them to be original and not recent borings : it consisted of sandy earth and little grey stones, demonstrating that the soil in which the boat lay was of the sandy nature of the district and not peat. One hole is level with the larger perforation, the other is set 3 ins. forward. At the base of each side, behind the mast hole, is a diagonal boring, the use of which is problematical. These holes could not have been used as rowlocks : that on the starboard penetrates below the floor level and its top is worn smooth as if by the action of a rope : it is 2 ins. wide by 1 inch high and penetrates through 3 ins. of wood : the hole to port is also oval, 2 x 1½ ins., and has been bored from the inside outwards just above floor level : its upper part is fairly smooth. The perforations were probably worked with a gouge. A circular hole seems to have been bored intentionally 1 ft. along the starboard and pierces 3 ins. horizontally into the side of the floor : it contained fragments of charcoal, and the edges of the boat show many signs of charring, as if fire had been used to aid in its construction.

Mr. Higginson is convinced that no boat could have sailed over the shallow pool which once covered the Fish Pond Meadow : it could only have been punted. There would be no large lake here, as the ground in the vicinity rises well above flood level except in the basin drained by this stream and by the brook which flows down the east side of the field to join it at the foot

of the meadow. The *Cnwc* (Welsh "bump, knoll"), a broad, low mound on which the castle was erected, must have risen from marshy ground and may have formed a refuge in flood time, but there is a higher ridge to the south-east running from the Quabs to Knockin Hall. The little streams are tributary to the Weir Brook, which flows down through Kinnerley to the Severn : the last two miles of its course lie through marshes which would form part of a great prehistoric morass. It is not incredible that during one of the sudden tremendous floods to which the river is liable even at the present day a party sailing down the Severn may have beaten a retreat inland and taken refuge at Knockin.

Nothing was found with the boat to suggest the period to which it belonged, nor is there anything to prove that it was not merely employed on the Fish Pond of the L'Estranges' Castle, though the great depth at which it is recorded to have been found⁴ renders this improbable.

With the exception of this dug-out, the immediate district has hitherto furnished nothing that might be referred to pre-Norman days, but the entrenchments on the Breidden Hills are visible from the site, and Llanymynech Hill, with its destroyed megaliths, its traces of Roman mining and other ancient evidences, rises 4 miles to the west, while bronze implements found at Wilcot, Ruyton Moss and West Felton were probably conveyed by ways leading from the Severn to the Oswestry Hills which passed about two miles to the east of Knockin.

THE MARTON DUG-OUT.

Parish of Chirbury.

Shrewsbury Museum.

(Marton-in-Chirbury ecclesiastical).

6" O.S. Shropshire Sheet, XLVII, N.W. : Lat. $52^{\circ} 37' 11''$;
Long. $3^{\circ} 2' 28''$.

Published References :—*Shrops. Arch. Trans.*, 3rd. Series, IX,
vi ; X, i (Misc.) *Bye-gones*, May 5, 1909 ; Mar. 2, 1910.
Antiq. Jo. VI, 142, 151.

In the middle of June, 1908, a "cut" was being cleared out at the west end of a pasture field and marsh on the Manor House Farm, Marton, which is known as "The Ghisleys" and

4. "More than 10 ft. below the surface." *S.N. & Q.* 21. Aug., 1896.

extends down to the northern margin of Marton Pool. (See Sketch Map, Fig. 5). The watercourse (5 ft. wide in winter) starts near the paling where a footpath from the Shrewsbury-Montgomery road crosses beside a willow on the edge of slightly higher ground : thence the channel runs S.W. some 40 yards, then due south for about 50 yds. to empty into Marton Pool. Its boundary is marked off by a single strand of barb-wire on each bank, supported by rough stakes at wide intervals. At a point 30 paces along this fence, and west of the 6th stake on the east bank before reaching the angle, a broad piece of wood was found sticking out into the wet ditch. This had previously been hacked away year by year when work was in progress : it was square at the projecting end when first noticed by Messrs. Gwilt and Richard Evans : the latter estimates that a foot had been cut off it before the drainers perceived that the sides stood upright from a flat floor, which made them suspect something out of the ordinary. Then the late Mr. E. J. Edmunds, the owner of the property, heard of the discovery, recognised that an ancient boat had been found, and ordered that it should be carefully dug all round and exposed before removal. It lay N.N.W.-S.S.E., the southern part buried quite a yard deep in black mud ; the surface and parts of it were soft. Inside it was a big rough stone, which was lifted out and thrown away ; this was not shaped at all, and was probably used to moor the boat near the shore of the old lake, which here ran into a bay, as now further to the south.

The dug-out was seen in position by Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., on Sept. 24th, and he took the late Prebendary T. Auden, F.S.A., to inspect it on Oct. 15th, when the photograph here published (Fig. 4) was taken.¹ Having been carefully raised from its bed, the boat was placed on the grass to dry, very little attempt being made to clean it. Mr. Edmunds agreed to present it to Shrewsbury Museum, and, on November 10th, Sir Offley saw it safely despatched thither on a lorry. After "doctoring," it was placed below the Prehistoric Case in the Archæological Room, where it remains in a fair state of preservation ; but no full report of it was ever published, and the exact site of its discovery remained unrecorded.

1. My thanks are due to Miss H. M. Auden, F.R.Hist.S., for this photograph and another view taken from the opposite end.

The present account is largely due to the kindness of Sir Offley Wakeman, who, on 10th February, 1926, motored me to the place and arranged for Mr. Richard Evans, the finder, to come and point out the actual spot. There was still a very slight depression in the ground which showed where the boat was raised. Just west of it are big willow trees : the ditch still contains water, in which withies and rushes grow.

About 30 yds. east of the site, a steep bank rises to a level area of about an acre in extent, and it would appear that this, which now forms the middle part of the field, must once have been an island elevated some 6 ft. above the peaty margin of the lake (Fig. 5). In summer it stands out as a patch of bright green grass rising from the quieter colouring of the surrounding marsh-growth : it extends into the wet pasture adjoining, but is completely isolated from the higher ground. There are no surface signs of artificial construction, nor is there anything to suggest a connection with The Mount, on the west side of the Pool near Marton village (Class E, *V.C.H. I*, 391.) The boat was probably used both to carry on communications with the mainland across a strip of shallow water, and for fishing and fowling on the lake : Marton Pool has a great reputation among fishermen. Old Marton is said to lie at the bottom on the Pool, and "if you row out on to the middle of the water on Christmas Eve, you will hear the bells ringing below." Is this a memory of the time when the island was inhabited ?

Marton Pool lies in the valley between the Long Mountain and the Corndon and Stapeley ranges : it forms the watershed between the Rea and the lower Camlad basins, and till the draining of the Rea Valley (temp. George II.) was of far greater extent than now : it is said the "black" ground continues from it almost to Minsterley. During the great floods of 1924-5, therefore, it was remarkable to see the whole lowland refilled with water, suggesting the primitive aspect of the valley.

No other prehistoric objects are recorded from the vicinity, nor is there anything to prove the period when the dug-out was in use : it is the only specimen recorded south of the Severn in Shropshire.

The boat (Fig. 6), at present 11 ft. 6 ins. in length, is parallel-sided and flat-bottomed, with straight sides slightly inclined outwards : originally of uniform width, it has shrunk in the

middle and at the damaged extremity, where the wood is thin (1-2 ins.) The end remaining, which curves up nearly a foot from ground level, is rounded in form, the raised sides approaching the top, where the wood is convex and jagged. 2 ft. 6 ins. from this end a transverse rib or seat, 6½ ins. wide and 7 ins. thick, has kept the boat expanded to its original width of 2 ft. 6 ins. : behind it on one side (FD) part of the floor is broken through. The height of the sides is 8 ins. at the seat, 6½ ins. in the middle on one side and 5 ins. on the other, decreasing towards the foot : they are considerably damaged.

BOAT (?) FROM BUILDWAS.

Parish of Buildwas. Lost.
6" O.S. Shropshire Sheet XLIII, S.W.: Lat. $52^{\circ} 38' 10''$;
Long. $2^{\circ} 31' 29''$.

Published References :—*Gent. Mag.* 1795 (Nov. 5), Pt. II, p. 1050 : *Gent. Mag. Library*, Archaeology, Pt. I, p. 39.

A possible dug-out or raft found in the Severn at Buildwas is described in a manuscript book, written early in the last century by Mr. Walter M. Moseley, and now in the possession of his great-grandson, Major H. R. Moseley, at Buildwas Abbey. It is entitled :—

" SOME ACCOUNT OF AN ANCIENT BRASS WEAPON,
discovered, in the year 1795, At Buildwas, in Shropshire : And
now in the possession of W. M. Moseley."

Mr. Moseley describes the destruction by flood of the former bridge over the Severn at Buildwas and the decision to erect a new one, of iron, 20 or 30 yards higher up the river.

" In the summer of 1795, excavations were made in the banks to receive the stone abutments.¹ The persons employed began their operations on the South side the river, and had proceeded to a considerable depth in removing the earth when they discovered a large piece of oak timber, containing 75 feet, and near to it, a brass sword. In a few days afterwards, they also found, at a little distance a Celt."

The bronze sword (Type F) and socketed celt (2 parallel ribs on faces) are illustrated in the M.S., and they, together with a looped palstave (labelled as from the same place) and two others without history, are carefully preserved by Major Moseley, but no further description of the timber is given and its actual association with the bronze implements is not clearly established : its fate and true nature cannot now be ascertained.

1. These foundations are still in use, though a steel bridge was constructed in 1905 to replace the erection of 1795.

It seemed wise, however, to place its discovery on record, as it seems never to have been published locally, and because these and other finds, taken in their relation to the distribution of Bronze Age objects in the district, go far to prove that Buildwas, at the mouth of the Ironbridge Gorge, was an important station on the Severn Valley trade-way, and a ferry linking the Wrekin and Wenlock regions may well have been in existence.

III. NOTES ON DUG-OUTS FOUND IN CHESHIRE.

BADDILEY MERE, NEAR NANTWICH.

In a shelter at the back of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, is an exceptionally interesting dug-out found in Baddiley Mere on 1st September, 1911, during pumping operations carried out by the Nantwich Urban District Council. A full account of the discovery, with a photograph of the boat and a map of the site, was published by the Chester Archaeological Society.¹

Following a very dry summer, which had lowered the level of the pool considerably, the prow of this boat was found protruding from the peaty bottom : its stern was buried 6 ft. under wet sand and peat. It was extracted with care and was subsequently presented to the Museum by the owner of the property, Mrs. Macdonald of Betley Hall. A paddle, 4 ft. long, with an 18-inch blade, 1-1½ ins. in thickness, was discovered a short distance from the boat and is now in the Museum. A pelvis of *bos longifrons* was also found, but its association with the boat is not made clear.

The dug-out is 18 ft. long, with a maximum width of 3 ft. and depth of 1 ft. 8 ins., the sides being 1 inch broad at the gunwale and 1½ ins. at the bottom. Though pointed at both ends, it has close affinities with Group I (Ellesmere and Astbury) in its flat bottom and floor and high square sides : these are strengthened by three broad transverse bars of thicker wood (6 ins. wide, 2 ins. thick down the sides decreasing to 1 inch at the gunwale) that have been left at distances of a few feet : the whole structure is hewn out of a single oak trunk, the angles being clean cut. The starboard side is damaged. One end of the boat is 1¾ ins. broader than the other ; the prow has a central

1. *Journal of the Architectural, Archaeological and Historic Society of Chester & North Wales*, New Series, Vol. 18, pp. 204-212 and frontispiece.

hole (2½ ins. diameter), probably for a mooring rope. As in the Ellesmere punt, the overhanging counters meet the base at a well-defined angle, unlike the curving profile of an analogous canoe from Glastonbury, which also has a square section.²

Professor Boyd-Dawkins concluded that the Baddiley boat was made with a metal tool, of bronze or iron, and that rust in a nail hole in a piece of wood found with it probably indicates a date in the Iron Age. The Glastonbury boat is contemporary with the famous lake-dwellings, and was probably in use about 100 B.C.

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE.

Another dug-out was found early in the 19th century in a peat bog below Cholmondeley Castle, some 4 miles W.N.W. of Baddiley. The *Chester Chronicle* of 11th June, 1819 described it as 11 ft. long, 30 ins. broad, and hollowed out of the trunk of a single tree, its shape being not unlike that of an Indian canoe. The late Wm. Shone³ remarks that it appears to have been of the same type as the Warrington dug-outs (Group IV Spoon shaped), but on what evidence is doubtful. Its fate is unknown.

CISS GREEN FARM, ASTBURY.

Another dug-out of rectangular type (Fig. 7) was found by Mr. Charles Ball, in a shallow brook on his farm at Ciss Green, in the parish of Astbury, near Congleton, on 15th Sept. 1923.⁴ This stream had cut through a moraine and drained a glacial lake: the margins and successive heights of the lake are well marked (area about 20 acres). The boat was in the gravelly bed of the stream and lay across the cutting: the stern part was destroyed some 50 years earlier, when a few feet of masonry had been sunk in the stream to support a plank bridge, but it is believed that the length was not much greater than at present. The remainder was carefully uncovered and was found to be in excellent preservation. It has been deposited on loan in Manchester Museum by the Congleton Town Council.

2. Group III B. (pointed both ends)—in Subdivision I, tapering from amidships towards either end. Fox, *op. cit.*, Fig. 7.

3. *Prehistoric Man in Cheshire*, 1911, p. 88.

4. Report in the *Congleton Chronicle*, 6th Oct., 1923, by Mr. Ernest Hitchens, B.Sc., who had kindly furnished the above particulars of the site and history of the find: a short notice appeared in the *Daily Mail*, 7th Oct., 1923.

The present length is 11 ft. $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins., width 1 ft. 8 ins. across the gunwales, 1 ft. 4 ins. inner measurement; the maximum height of the sides is 1 ft. 4 ins. from the base; the average internal height from the floor is 8 ins. Two holes in the sides have been suggested as rowlocks, but Mr. Hitchens is of the opinion that they are merely knot-holes. Dr. Fox classifies this boat as Group I C.⁵ Like the Ellesmere specimen, its body is a box-like structure with straight, parallel sides and a square cross-section: the stern was probably square, but that end is sawn off irregularly and the sides are broken further in. The remaining end is very curious; it rises to a broad flat extension with a square termination 1 ft. 5 ins. wide; the sides of the boat stop and are shaped off 2 ft. 8 ins. from this end, and a broad transverse ridge has here been left across the platform, recalling the (?) seat in the Marton dug-out. The floor curves up to the prow and decreases from a thickness of 4 ins. to 2 ins. at the end. It is demonstrated⁶ that the beak on dug-outs is a Lancashire characteristic which penetrated southwards, and this appears to be a related type.

Bronze and stone implements and perforated stone axe-hammers found in and northward from the Astbury region seem to indicate early traffic lines between it and the ancient port of Warrington through the Alderley Edge and Macclesfield district; a southward extension probably went *via* Audley and Market Drayton to the Wrekin and Severn Valley way, which it would reach at Buildwas.

No other craft of the form under consideration has hitherto been reported from Cheshire, but a paddle found 3 ft. deep in marshy ground in Tytherington Fields, near Macclesfield,⁷ probably belonged to a lost dug-out. It should be added that at least four boats have been unearthed in the Warrington area,⁸ but these belong to the typical spoon-shaped Lancashire Group IV, with curving bottoms.

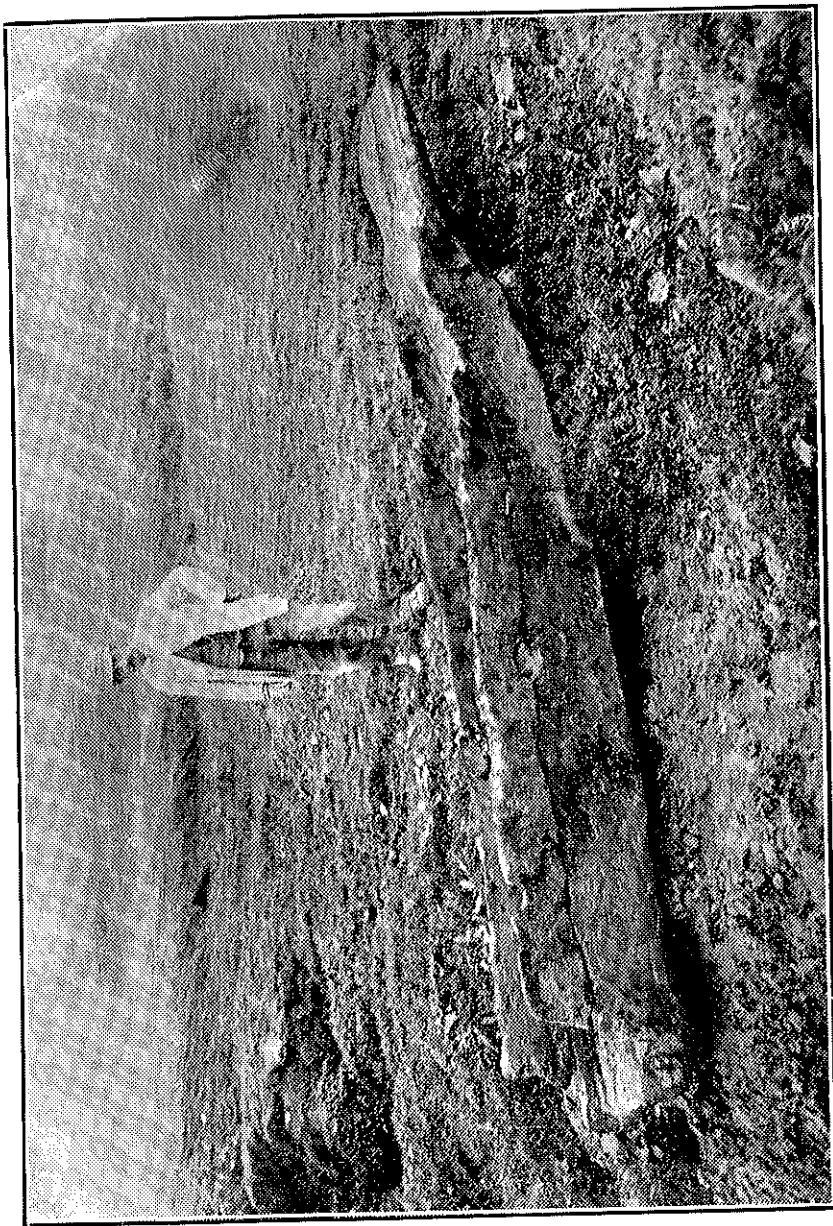
5. Fox, *op. cit.*, Fig. 4, pp. 133-4, 141n, 142, 147.

6. Fox, *op. cit.*, p. 142.

7. Shone, *op. cit.*, p. 85 and Fig. 39.

8. Shone, p. 88 and Fig. 40; Fox, p. 139, Fig. 9.

Block kindly lent by the "Congleton Chronicle."
Photograph by E. Hitchens, E.Sc.
Fig. 7. Dug-out from Ciss Green, Astbury, Cheshire.





IV. DUG-OUT CANOE FROM OAKLEY PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE, ON THE SHROPSHIRE BORDER.

Parish of Mucklestone. Owner, C. Dennis, Esq., Oakley Park, Market Drayton.

6" O.S. Staffs. XXII, Shropshire IX, S.E.; Lat. $52^{\circ} 55' 36''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 26' 56''$.

When this paper was nearing completion, the report came to hand of another dug-out (Fig. 8) of the Ellesmere-Astbury type found in the bed of the Tern on the Staffordshire side where it forms the county boundary, had been known to be in the river for about 50 years. It has been published by Mr. T. Pape, F.S.A. (Chairman of the History Section of the North Staffordshire Field Club), in the "*Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel*" of 23rd October, 1926, from which the following extracts are taken, with the kind consent of the Author and the Proprietors, to whom we are indebted also for the loan of the blocks from Mr. Pape's photographs. In his very interesting article, which deals with the antiquities of Mucklestone parish, Mr. Pape writes:—

" Last July my attention was directed by Mr. R. Nicholls to a primitive dug-out canoe, that was taken out of the river Tern as long as four years ago. It may seem strange that a discovery of this character has so far received practically no notice, but the people on the Oakley estate thought the canoe might be a very early trough or water-carrier, as the hollowed-out oak trunk gives very little indication of its original use.... (Reference is made to the closely-related Astbury canoe and to Dr. Fox's paper. This is the only recorded example from Staffordshire.)

" Permission to view and photograph the primitive canoe was readily granted by Mr. Cyril Dennis, of Oakley Park; and one of his men, Mr. Jones, who had helped to get the boat out of the stream, acted as guide when Mr. Nicholls and I went over to Norton-in-Hales, the nearest station to Oakley.... After passing along the main street of the village a small by-road to the left leads down to the river Tern where Norton Forge used to be. Across the small bridge we pass from Shropshire into Staffordshire and immediately we are in Oakley Park, through which there is no public right of way. It is nearly a mile from this point to the bank of the stream where the dug-out canoe lies.

" Four years' neglect has not done so much damage as one might expect, but the primitive boat is getting overgrown with nettles and other weeds¹. Still, it is surprising how tough the hollowed-out oak trunk remains. Much of the bark, worn and scored, still shows on the outer sides, and the wood is not rotten. The dug-out has a square cross-section, and it is parallel-sided. One end is shaped upwards from inside

1. The boat has since been taken under cover. It was kindly shown by Mrs. Dennis to the members of our Roman Roads Committee, 13th May, 1927, and was reported on by Mr. H. E. Forrest in *Shropshire Notes and Queries*, on May 20th.

and is roughly finished, while the other end is broken. The extreme length on top is about 10 feet. The width between the parallel sides is about 21 inches, and the outside width is 29 ins.; that is, each side roughly measures 4 ins. in thickness. In the centre the outside depth of the canoe is 22½ ins., and inside 11½ ins., so that the thickness of the floor of the boat is rather more than 11 ins. Because the ends are incomplete, there is not absolute proof that this wooden structure is a primitive canoe. It is the right shape certainly, and one end slants upwards in a similar manner to the Astbury canoe. But in addition to these points we notice two well-defined holes have been drilled in the sides, evidently for wooden pins, which have disappeared in the course of time. Through one side there is an irregular hole caused by the breaking away of a large knot. A similar cause, no doubt, accounts for a large hole right through the floor of the dug-out near the prow. We carefully tilted up the canoe on one side to examine the underneath part, and photographs were taken.

“ In the centuries that have elapsed since the canoe was fashioned the course of the Tern has altered very much. At the point where the canoe was found, the stream now flows close to a steep wooded slope leading to Betton, in Shropshire. From the present bed of the stream to the slope leading up to Oakley Hall, in Staffordshire, the level and marshy ground is perhaps 50 yards wide, which shows how much the river has shifted its course since first some primitive Briton fished in the Tern.”

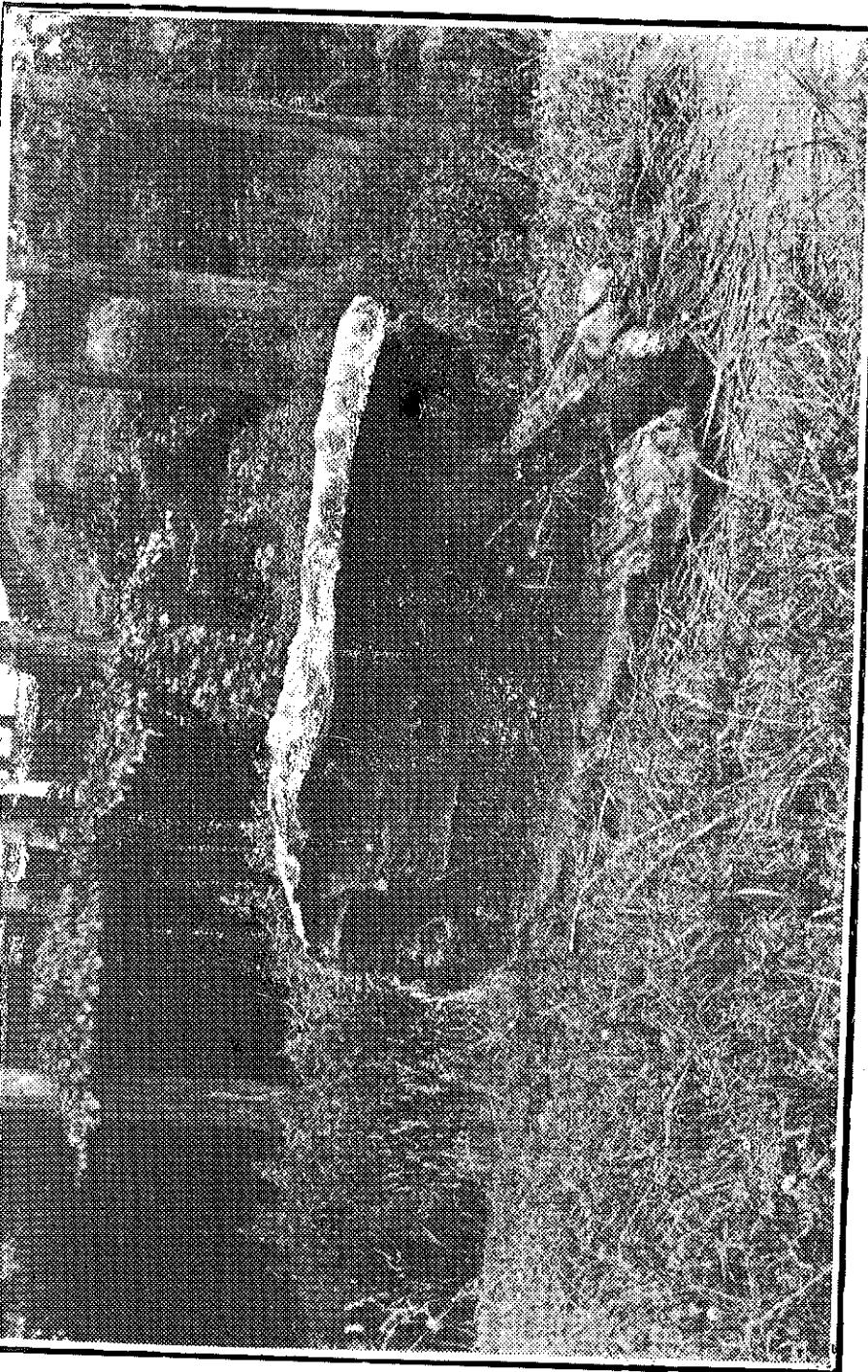
Here, then, we have yet another link along our suggested Buildwas-Astbury prehistoric traffic route (*vide supra*, p. 130), and again we find a Group I dug-out in a neighbourhood that was traversed in the Late Bronze Age.² There is, of course, nothing to prove the date of the boat, but the coincidence seems worth noting.

The name “ Leominche-street,” applied in the old Enclosures Acts to the way from Shipford (now Shifford’s Bridge, originally the Sheep-ford) a mile to the south, as well as those of “ Little Manchester ” and “ Arbour Farm,” about a mile N.E. of the site, suggest a Roman road (or roads) passing through the parish towards Chesterton,³ but definite finds are needed to establish it.

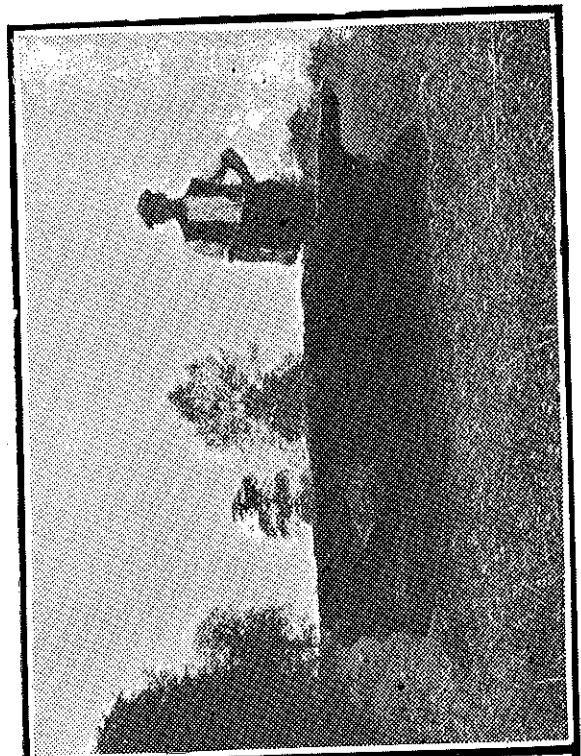
“ The Devil’s Ring and Finger,” or “ Whirl Stones ” (Fig. 10) two great stones on Arbour Farm (one with a large bevelled

2. A beautiful socketed celt (length 98 mm.), with circular lip and wide cutting edge (51 mm.), having 3 raised ribs on the faces terminating in pellets, was found in draining, some 3 ft. deep, in 1913, on land belonging to Broomhall Grange Farm, but on the Shropshire side of the Tern between Hinsley Mill and Shifford’s Bridge (The site is now marked on the 6" O.S. Shropshire XVI N.W.) The celt is in the possession of Miss E. D. Twemlow, at Peatswood.

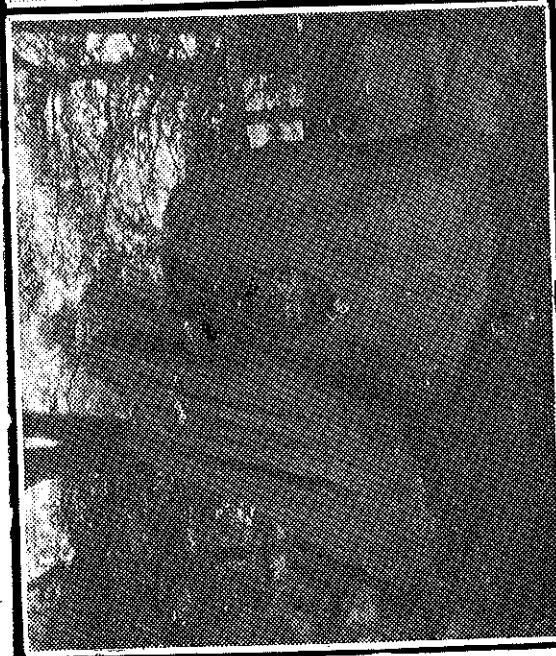
3. See Mr. Pape’s article above quoted, and Rev. T. Barns, *Trans. N. Staffs. Field Club*, 1908-9, Vol. XLIII, 133.



OAKLEY PARK DUG-OUT CANOE LYING ON STAFFORDSHIRE BANK OF RIVER TERN.
Print by "Staffordshire Sentinel," Photograph by T. Page, F.S.A.



DUG-OUT CANOE FOUND IN RIVER TERN
OAKLEY PARK, MUCCLESTONE.



THE DEVIL'S RING AND FINGER,
MUCCLESTONE, STAFFS.

Blocks by "Staffordshire Sentinel." Photographs by T. Pape, F.S.A.

hole through the centre), and "The Bradling Stone"⁴ at Norton-in-Hales are probably survivals from the period when megalithic monuments were erected, and their occurrence in this district is remarkable. Whether they denote influences spreading from the Peak southward by way of the "Bridestones" (near Congleton) or bear witness to a very early connection between that region and the megalithic areas of Wales and Southern England through what is now Shropshire is an important problem, but outside the scope of the present paper.

4. *Op. cit.* and Miss C.S. Burne, *Shropshire Folk-Lore*, p. 319.

NOTE.—The large photograph (Fig. 8) depicts the dug-out lying in Oakley Park on the Staffordshire bank of the river Tern, which flows between it and the wooded slope in the background leading up to Betton in Shropshire. The boat has been raised on its side to show the interior (foreshortened). The stern part is on the right, badly broken. A large knot-hole near the prow shows more distinctly in the smaller photograph (Fig. 9). Both ends would appear to have been square. (Information from Mr. T. Pape.)

THREE SEPULCHRAL STONES DISCOVERED AT
WROXETER IN 1752. AN ADDRESS BY DR. JOHN
WARD, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY
IN 1755.
WITH INTRODUCTION BY J. A. MORRIS.

A manuscript copy of this address once the property of E. Harwood, A.M.¹ has recently come into the possession of the Library of Shrewsbury School, and with permission is now printed in these *Transactions*. It was published in Vol. XLIX of the *Philosophical Transactions*. The Stones are illustrated and described in Hartshorne's *Salopia Antiqua*, pages 120—122. They are also described in Wright's *Uriconium*, pages 356—358, and are now to be seen on the staircase in the Shrewsbury Museum, formerly in the Library of the Schools, where they were deposited shortly after they were discovered. The reading of the inscriptions varies slightly in all three authorities, and Dr. Ward's observations add interest to his account of their discovery.

J. A. MORRIS.

AN ACCOUNT OF FOUR ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS, CUT UPON THREE LARGE STONES FOUND IN A PLOUGHED FIELD NEAR WROXETER IN SHROPSHIRE IN THE YEAR 1752 WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THEM BY JOHN WARD RHET. PROF. GRESH. AND V.P.R.S.

(Read May 15th, 1755.) Before I attempted to offer my Thoughts upon these Inscriptions I judged it necessary to get the best information in my power, with regard to the Place and manner, in which the Stones that contained them, were first discovered together with some other circumstances which attended them at that time. For this purpose I applied myself to the Revd. Mr. William Adams, Minister of St. Chad in Shrewsbury, by whose means the Draughts of these Inscriptions were communicated to this Society. And that Gentleman was so obliging as to procure

1. Edward Harwood to whom the MS. belonged, entered Shrewsbury Schools in 1746, and matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1757. He occurs Vicar of Sutton, Shropshire, in 1775, and died 18 April 1782.

for me a very particular account concerning them, in a letter from the Revd. Mr. Robt. Cartwright, Vicar of Wroxeter, the substance of which is as follows :

The Stones were found in a field near a mile from Wroxeter formerly a Roman Station called Utricium² in the months of September and October 1752.

The first of them was discovered by Mr. John Dias the owner of the field whose plough struck against it as he was at work. It lay with the face downward, about two hundred yards from the Foundation of the old Walls on the North East side, towards Watling street road.

The inscription upon this stone was first taken notice of by Mr. Cartwright himself, and the report of it soon after engaged some Gentlemen from Shrewsbury and particularly GODOLPHIN EDWARDS, ESQR. both to go and view it, and make a further search: when by spitting the ground the other two were discovered, not far from the first, in the like situation. The first and last lay separate from their bases, which, being taken up, several broken pieces of Urns and dust of a greyish colour were found wth. them wch. seemed to have the appearance of ashes. They are now all removed, to an old Chancel in WROXETER CHURCH in order to be erected there against the Wall.

This account appears so full and distinct that I shall now go on to give a short Description of the Stones, wth. the reading of their several Inscriptions in the order they are placed in the Table: and then add some further Observations as well wth. regard to the Stones themselves as the Inscriptions upon them.

NUMBER I is by the Scale Six feet eight inches high and about two feet three inches wide above the base. It has a pediment top, wth. a pine apple rising from the middle of the Cornice, on each side of wch. is a lion and in the area of the Pediment a kind of Rose. The Inscription wch. is cut in the plane of the Stone may be thus read—CAIUS MANNIUS, CAII FILIUS, POLLIA TRIBU, SECUNDUS POLLENTINUS MILES LEGIONIS VICESSIMÆ ANNORUM LII STIPENDIORUM XXXI BENEFICIARIUS LEGATI PRINCIPALIS, HIC SITUS EST.

2. In the year 1701 a Roman Sudatory was discovered at this place, a Draught whereof wth. some account of it, was published in the Philosophical Transactions Num.306. wch. seems to have escaped the Observation of Horsley. Brit. Rom. P.41°

NUMBER II contains two Inscriptions and is in height two feet seven Inches and abt. a third by two feet four Inches and two thirds in breadth. It is not flat as the former but gently convex crosways, the lower part being divided into three pannels on the two first of wch. are the Inscriptions, but the other seems never to have had any upon it. The upper part is ornamented wth. a Pediment in the area of wch. are the remains of a face wth. curled locks and two snakes under it: and on the cornice two figures like Dolphins. The first Inscription may be read thus *DIIS MANIBUS, PLACIDA ANNORUM LV CURAM AGENTE CONJUGE ANNORUM XXX.* and the other in this manner *DIIS MANIBUS DEUCCUS ANNORUM XV CURAM AGENTE PATRE.*

NUMBER III is six feet eleven inches high and abt. two feet broad above the base. It has also a Pediment at the top the area of wch. is filled with a large Flower. The 'Inscription it exhibits may be read in the following manner:—*MARCUS PETRONIUS, LUCII FILIUS, MENENIA TRIBU, VIXIT ANNOS XXXVIII MILES LEGIONIS XIII GENIMÆ MILITAVIT ANNOS XVIII SIGNIFER FUIT, HIC SEPULTUS EST.*

As these readings of the several Inscriptions appear in general very plain and obvious: I shall now proceed to make a few observations partly on the Ornaments of the Stones and partly on some particular circumstances relating to the Inscriptions themselves And I. As to the Ornaments on number I. we meet wth. the Pine apple upon several Urns published by MONTFAUCON³ and others and seems to have been cut on some funeral monuments in Horsley tho' now it is generally pretty much defaced. The Rose likewise is very common on such occasions. Horsley has also given us a sepulchral Monument, wth. a lion placed on each side of the fastigium⁴. With regard to the Inscription the name Secundus stands here for the Cognomen, wch. at first was a Prænomen, denoting the Second son as Primus did the first and Tertius the third. But afterwards it was made a Cognomen; and what was before the Cognomen became hereditary and served to distinguish different branches

3. Tom v plate 28, 33, 38, and 62.

4. Cumberl. xxxix Mr. Cartwright in his Letter observes that the Tongues of the Lions cut upon this stone hang out of their Mouths below their under jaws, wch. has been omitted in the draught here given of them.

of the same family as I have formerly shewn elsewhere⁵. The next word Pollentinus, comes from Pollentia the place of his birth. But as there were anciently three Roman Cities of that name it is uncertain wch. might be intended. He is called **MILES LEGIONIS VICESSIMÆ**, wch. was one of those Legions as HORSLEY observes⁶ that came over into Brittain in the reign of Claudius. But in all the Brittish Inscriptions hitherto published, where the reading is certain the titles **valens Victrix**, denoted by the initial Letters **V.V** are added to the name of this Legion⁷ and how they came to be omitted here unless thro' neglect of the workmen, may be difficult to apprehend. For to imagine this Inscription was made before the legion received those titles would be mere conjecture without any authority to support it. The last line but one has been read **beneficiarius legionis præfecti**: and we find indeed the title **præfectus legionis** in some of Gruter's inscriptions, but this seems not to have been introduced till pretty late, when each legion had its **legatus** who is sometimes also called **præfectus**⁸. But if that was to be taken here for the genuine reading it would bring this Inscription too low for the form of the letters wch. seems very well to agree wth. the times of the higher empire. I have given therefore another reading of it above wch. was proposed by a learned friend namely **BENEFICIARIUS LEGATI PRINCIPALIS** since in one of Gruter's⁹ inscriptions we meet wth. **principalis beneficiarius tribuni** written in words at length.

II. As to NUMBER II. the human face wth. two snakes under it might probably be designed to represent **HECATE** a name given to **DIANA** as a Deity of the infernal regions. A Figure somewhat like this but wth. the snakes above the head was placed over the Gate of the City Ephesus a draught of wch. is published by Mr. Chishull¹⁰ indeed the trigla or mullet is said by mythologists to have been consecrated to Hecate¹¹ but there is no accounting for all the different fancies of Sculptors. In Horseley

5. Philos. Trans. N.476. Pag.357.

6. Pag.83.

7. See Brit. Rom. Northum. LXXVIII Chesh. I and Somers III. where the reading is uncertain.

8. See Mont. Tom. IV. p.13. Suppl. Tom. 5. p.92

9. Pag.DLI.3.

10. Antiq. Asiat. Par. alter pag.1.

11. See Voss De idolatr. L.II. c 29. p.167.

we find two Dolphins placed in a contrary attitude wth. their heads upwards one on each side of a human figure and a pine apple over it¹² and as Garlands were a common ornament of such monuments, one hangs across each panel of this stone above the inscriptions.

In the first of these Inscriptions the form of the Expression CONJUX TRIGINTA ANNORUM, is what I do not remember to have met wth. elsewhere and the point on each side the letter r after the abbreviated word CON, must I presume be ascribed to an error of the workman. And likewise in the second inscription the division of the word DEVC. CVS, by a point in the middle : the omitting the letter A in the abbreviated word AG. for Agente and afterwards interlining it : and the imperfect letter R for P. in the word patre may best be accounted for in that way. The third pannel might be left vacant in order to insert some other Inscription afterwards : and the lower part of the stone is now wanting below the Inscriptions—

III. In number III the ornamental part of the stone has nothing in it that requires observation. And as to the Inscription the abbreviated work VIC may doubtless stand for vicsit the letter X being resolved into CS. And so we find the word vicsit for vixit written at length in HORSLEY¹³. But the name of the legion here mentioned which, is called quarta decima gemina may seem to be attended wth. no small difficulty. The stone happens to be cracked quite thro' just across the numeral figures, wch. express the number of the legion but in such a manner as no ways to obscure or deface them. Now we learn from Tacitus, that four Roman legions were sent into Brittain in the reign of the emperor Claudius two of these were the twentieth and fourteenth both wch. are mentioned in these inscriptions and the former of them remained here, the greatest part of the time at least that the Romans continued in possession of the Island. But the latter was ordered hence by Nero then sent back by Vitellius and being recalled again at the beginning of Vespasian's reign does not appear to have returned any more " And that happening (as Horsley observes) before the opportunity of humour of erecting inscriptions obtained it is not to " be wondered at that we do not find this fourteenth legion

12. Durham IV.

13. Cumberl.

" mentioned in any inscription."¹⁴ However this Wroxeter stone gives us both the name of that legion and an additional title of gemina subjoin'd to it: the origin of wch. title seems to have been owing to Pompey who had as Cæsar says among his other legions of Roman Citizens unam ex Silicia veteranam quam factam ex duabus gemellam appellavit¹⁵ That there was a legion wch. bore the title of quarta decima gemina is evident from several of Gruter's inscriptions: but they all relate to foreign countries and not one of them to Brittain. It is mention'd also by Dion as being in his time that is under the Reign of Severus station'd in Pannonia¹⁶. But it appears likewise from Cæsar that he himself had the legio quartadecima wth. him in Spain not long after the commencement of the civil war¹⁷ before the title gemella was introduced by Pompey, and therefore had the title gemina been given to the fourteenth legion, either before or while it was in Brittain, it can scarce be supposed that Tacitus who so often mentions and extolls that legion for its great services done here should entirely have omitted it especially as he gives that title to the legio tertia decima¹⁸ Sr. Henry Saville indeed reckons the legio quarta decima among those of Galba and ascribed to it the title of gemina¹⁹ But he produced no other authority for it than the passage before mentioned from Dion who there speaks of this legion as having that title in his own time without any intimation when it first received it. Besides that it did not receive the title of gemina during its residence in Brittain seems further evident from hence that we find no other legion here at that time with wch. it could have been incorporated. For the other three wch. continued longer among us namely the legio secunda Augusta legio nona, et legio vicesima valens victrix remained distinct afterwards and are all particularly mentioned by those different names.

I shall only observe further that as there are two legionary soldiers named in this and the first inscription mention is there made of the tribe to wch. each of them belonged as Roman Citizens. Whereas in Horsley we have the Monuments of three

14. P.80.

15. B.C.Lib.III.cap.3

16. L.IV. page 564 edit. Leunclav.

17. B.C.Lib.I cap.44.

18. Hist. Lib.III. cap.7.

19. Translation of Tacitus sub.fin.p.218.

Soldiers of the legio secunda Augusta without any mention of their tribes²⁰ There is indeed at Bath an Inscription of another soldier said to have belonged to the legio secunda adjutrix whose tribe is there expressed. But as the legion does not appear to have ever been in Brittain he may be supposed to have come hither for his health for whc. reason it might be thought proper to mention that circumstance. And perhaps the most probable way of accounting for the same thing in relation to the persons nominated in the first and last of these inscriptions now under consideration, may be to suppose the character here given of the Former as beneficiarius legati principalis might occasion that regard being paid to his memory in this funeral monument. And the latter might come over on some particular occasion not here mentioned while the legio quarta decima gemina to whc. he belonged was stationed elsewhere: But several Gentlemen in that neighbourhood designing shortly as I am informed to renew their search in and near the place where these Inscriptions were found, it is to be hoped that some further light may be by that means gained for the clearing up these difficulties.

20. Scotl. XXXIII. Monum. I Midd.I.

THE EARLIEST BOOK OF THE DRAPERS'
COMPANY, SHREWSBURY.

(Continued from 4th Series, Volume X, page 208).

The first 252 pages of this Book have been transcribed and printed *in extenso* in the *Transactions*; and also the "Names of the Brethren of the Fraternity" from its Foundation temp. Edward IV. (pages 364 to 367), and "the rent of assise" belonging to the Fraternity, made in 1532 (pages 389 to 404). The portions of the Volume not as yet transcribed are the records of the meetings of the Fraternity from the year 1569 to 1607, and the abstracts of Apprenticeship Indentures (pages 253 to 365, and 369 to 388). It is not proposed at the present time to transcribe and print these pages in the *Transactions*.

But we have extracted from the unprinted pages all the Admissions to the Guild of Apprentices who have served their apprenticeship. These admissions give not only the names of those admitted, but also the names, addresses and occupations of their fathers, and the name of the draper to whom each was apprenticed. They range from 1572 to 1607, and will be useful for genealogical purposes. The newly admitted draper usually paid on admission a fine of 13s. 4d., and 2d. for wine. But sometimes the fines were higher, 40s. or as much as £5 or £10. A list of Apprentices indentured to drapers, from 13 Elizabeth to 7 James, follows; and this also gives the name and address of the father, and of the master.

W.G.D.F.

ADMISSIONS TO THE GUILD OF DRAPERS.

1572, 13 Eliz. March 31.

John Capper, son of Richard, and apprentice of Rich. Capper, of Salop, draper.

William Jenkes, son of Richard, late of le Haye, deceased, and apprentice of Robert Allen and Thomas Chorlton.

John Foxe, son of Nicholas of Wroxetor, and apprentice of Thomas Chorleton.

Richard Dawes, son of John, of Salop, gent., and apprentice of Thomas Donne and Thomas Chorleton.

John Barnes, son of Richard, and apprentice of Thomas Burnell.

Michael Chambres, son of Richard, merchant, and apprentice of William Tenche.

Thomas Gawen, son of John, late of Salop, laborer, and apprentice of Robert Bromley.

John Owen, son of Richard, mercer, and apprentice of Thomas Mountgomery.

Richard Nicholas, son of Nicholas ap John, weyuer.

Thomas Bagley, son of Roger late of Utkeynton, and apprentice of Richard Whitefoot.

John Perche, son of ——, and apprentice of George Leigh.

[Each paid for fine 14s. 8d.]

1572, 13 Eliz April 19.

Thomas Pope, son of Roger, and apprentice of same Roger.

Thomas Beynon, son of Robert, and apprentice of William Jones.

William Hearinge, son of Richard, late of Coventry. Fine £10.

Thomas Studley, son of Thomas, corvisor, deceased.
Fine 26s. 8d.

William Ireland, son of Thomas, mercer. Fine 26s. 8d.

Thomas Makeworth, son of Arthur of Brace Meole, gent.
Fine 26s. 8d.

Edward Owen, son of Ric. ap Ho'll ap Owen, mercer, deceased.
Fine 26s. 8d.

Richard Owen, of Salop, senior, mercer. Fine 26s. 8d.

Richard ap Ho'll, of Salop, mercer. Fine 26s. 8d.

1573, 15 Eliz. March 26.

William Luter, son of Roger, and apprentice of John Lewys.

Humfrey Beynes, son of Hugh, deceased, and apprentice of Tho. Burnell.

Richard Deckes, son of Richard, deceased, and apprentice of Hugh Beynes.

Richard Tegyn, son of Philip, corvesor, and apprentice of Wm. Halywell.

Andrew Lewys, son of Lewis ap Jevan, and apprentice of
Geo. Prowde.

1573, 15 Eliz. Oct. 29.
Edmund Barckley, son of William of Cressage, gent., and
apprentice of David Lloyd.

Richard Bysshopp, son of John of Harecote in parish of
Storsdor, and apprentice of Thomas Donne.

1576, 16 Eliz. Nov. 4.
John Phillipps, son of Lawrence, deceased. Fine £10.

1575, 17 Eliz. April 7.
William Morrys, son of Morrys Cadwalader of Mountgomery.
Fine £10.

1576, 18 Eliz. April 3.
Ranulph Purcell, son of Richard, late master of the mistery.
Richard Owen, son of Richard, gent., and apprentice of
Wm. Jones.

1576, 18 Eliz. Aug. 16.
William Kinge, son of William, late of Byrmycham, co.
Warwick, fuller, and apprentice of David Lloyd.

John Tenche, son of Richard, and apprentice of William
Tenche.

John Walker, son of John, glover, and apprentice of Nicholas
Prowde.

1577, 19 Eliz. April 20.
John Phellipps, son of Lawrence, of Salop, draper. Fine £10.

1577, 19 Eliz. August 3.
David Salter, son of John, of Hales, gent.

1578, 20 Eliz. Sept. 9
John Hunte, son of Thomas, late of Goldston yo., deceased,
and apprentice of David Lloyd.

John Newton, son of Thomas, of Stepulton, husbandman,
and apprentice of Thomas Asheley.

1579, 21 Eliz. April, 23.
William Weale, one of the baylieffs of Salop. Fine £10.
John Baker of Salop, thelder. Fine £5.
John Coton, son of Roger of Whitechurche, and apprentice
to Wm. Hearinge.

Edward Phellipps, son of John of Cockeshutte, and apprentice to Wm. Harries.

Richard Jones, son of Geffrey Jones, and his apprentice.

1580, 22 Eliz. Jan. 13.

Willm. Harries, son of John, late of Norton, gent., and apprentice to William Halywell, draper. Fine 15s.

1581, 23 Eliz. March 30.

Michell ap Ric., son of Ric. ap Ric., late of La Weyre, and apprentice to Thomas Asheley.

Robert Stevyns, son of George, late of Mynsterley, and apprentice of Nicholas Prowde.

Humfry Newton, son of James of Ryton, and apprentice of Thomas Baggley.

Thomas Nicholas, son of Nicholas ap John, weyuer, and apprentice of Richard Owen.

1582, 24 Eliz. Dec. 28.

Thomas Whitefutt, son of Richard, and apprentice of Wm. Jones.

Thomas Cheshire, son of Henry of Wellington, yoman, and apprentice of Thomas Chorleton.

1583, 25 Eliz. Aug. 15.

Richard Cherewell, son of Roger, and apprentice of John Barnes.

1583, 25 Eliz. Nov. 22.

Roger Harries, son of William, late of Whettall, and apprentice to Mr. John Perche.

Edward Hosier, son of John of Woodcotte, gent., and apprentice of Tho. Beynyon.

Richard Betton, son of Rd., gent., and apprentice of Edward Berckley.

John Smyth, son of Oliver, of Mountgomery, and apprentice of Tho. Beynyon.

John ap Ric., apprentice of Thomas Asheley.

1583, 25 Eliz. Oct. 11.

John Beynes, son of Hugh of Salop, draper, deceased.

1584, 26 Eliz. Jan. 2.

Thomas Robyns, son of William, and apprentice of Wm. Jones.

1585, 27 Eliz. Febr. 11.

John Dawes, son of Thomas, late of Salop, draper, and apprentice of David Lloyd.

Robert Pope, son of Thomas of Salop, draper, and apprentice of John Browne.

1585, 27 Eliz. April 15.

Arthur Harries, son of John of Cruckton, yoman, and apprentice of George Prowde.

Francis Tenche, son of Richard, late of Wheaton Aston, deceased, and apprentice of John Tenche.

1587, 29 Eliz. April 20.

Roland Langley, son of Thomas of Broseley, yoman, deceased, and apprentice of David Lloyd.

Stephen Crosse, son of Richard, late of Salop, corvisor. deceased, and apprentice of Nicholas Prowde.

Richard Prowde, son of Nicholas and his apprentice.

1588, 30 Eliz. Febr. 15.

Robert Beynyon, son of Thomas Beynyon, late of Salop, tanner, and lately apprentice of Thomas Beynyon of Salop, draper, deceased, Fine £10, and the said Robert to marry Anne Beynyon widow, his late master's wife.

John Nicolls, son of Thomas, late of Asteley, and apprentice of Thomas Burnell.

1589, 31 Eliz. April 3.

Roland Jenkes, son of Ric. of Aston nere Mainstone, yoman, and apprentice to Thomas Chorleton, draper.

Abraham Baker, son of Roger, and apprentice of Will. Kinge. Richard Bucknall, son of Roger of foriet', and apprentice of John browne.

Lancelot Ortu, son of Thomas late of Holt co. Denbigh, and apprentice of David lloyd.

1590, 32 Eliz. Sept. 22.

Myles Puller, son of gillan, and apprentice of John Foxe.

William Mountgomery, apprentice with Richard Beinon.

Edward Wightman, son of John late of Repinton co. Derby, and apprentice of John barnes.

Richard Jones, son of William of Salop, draper, and apprentice of Robert Stevins.

Nicolas Leighton, son of Ric. of la Cotes, and apprentice of Edmunde Barckley.

1591, 33 Eliz. April 8.

Willm. Jenkes, apprentice of Thomas Chorlton.

Nicolas Niccolas Mayden, servante and apprentice to Thomas Burnell.

Hugh Harries, son of Roger, and apprentice to David Draper.
John Peace, servant to Thomas Studley.

Robert Chorleton, son of the said T. Chorleton.

Thomas Halls, servant to Edward Owen.

John Eynes, late servant to the said Edward Owen.

1591, 33 Eliz. April 23.

Richard Hunter, son of Thomas late of Goldston, and apprentice of William Jones.

1592, 34 Eliz. April 20.

John Twyford, late apprentice to Thomas Robynson. Fine 40s.

John Halywell, son of William, late of Salop, draper, deceased.
Fine 40s.

1592, 34 Eliz. Sept. 22.

John Byston, son of Richard, late of Salop, draper.

Thomas Jones, son of William, late of Salop, draper.

1593, 35 Eliz. April 19.

Arthur Kynaston, son of Thomas of Ryton, gent., and apprentice with Mr. Mychell Chamber.

1593, 35 Eliz. Oct. 25.

Francis Coole, son of Hughe Coole of Prece, and apprentice of Tho. Asheley.

1596, 36 Eliz. August 2.

John Salter, apprentice to David Lloyd, gent.

Richard Wynne, apprentice to Richard Owen deceased.

1595, 37 Eliz. April 24.

Richard Pershowse, son of John, and apprentice with John Benes.

1597, 39 Eliz. January 5.

William Spurstowe, son of Thomas, sherman, and apprentice with Edward Owen.

Richard Salter, son of William, and apprentice with Wm. King.

1597, 40 Eliz. March 2.

Roger Marshall, Thomas Ollen, William Leighton, and
William Roweley.

John Browne, s. of John Browne, deceased.

1599, 41 Eliz. October 4.

Walter Sokcett, late apprentice with Thomas Asheley.

1600, 42 Eliz. January 3.

Richard Benion, son of Thomas deceased, draper, and
apprentice with John Garbet:

1600, 42 Eliz. May 20.

George Wright, servant to John Hunt. Fine 40s.

Richard Prowde, apprentice with said John Hunt. Fine 40s.

Edmund Wele, apprentice with Abram Baker. Fine 40s.

1601, 43 Eliz. April 16.

John Studley, son of Thomas Stodley draper.

Robert Peers, son of Robert, wyuer

William Langley, son of Thomas, apprentice with Roland
Lanyley.

George Benet, apprentice with Richard Jones, hath not
served so dutifully as he ought to have done, fined 13s. 4d.,
2d. for wine, and 10s. more.

1602, 44 Eliz. July 7.

Leonard Goh.

Richard Howlle, apprentice with Nicolas Maryden.

1602, 45 Eliz. Nov. 19.

Nathaniell Owen, son of Edward Owen, and prentice with
his father.

Howell Vayham, apprentice with Robert Stephens.

1604, 2 James, April 25.

Tho. Luter the younger, apprentice with Hughe Harries.

1604, 2 James, June 14.

Richard Owen, apprentice with Robert Pope.

1605, 3 James, April 4.

Robert Lewes, son of Andrew Lewes.

Nicholas Waring, son of Richard Waring.

1605, 3 James, April 23.

Leonard Hinks, son of Richard, of Nonyley, and apprentice
with John Browne, draper.

1605, 3 James, August 18.

Nicholas Clerk, son of John Clerk, butcher, and apprentice to Edward Owen, gent.

1606, 4 James, May 24.

John Bromhall, son of John, apprentice to Richard Prowd thelder.

1606, 4 James, Jan. 3.

Richard Newall, apprentice with John Garbit.

Thomas Wikested, apprentice with Thomas Jones.

George Stirroes, upon his petition in writing.

1607, 4 James, March 19.

Edward Whitcom, son of Wm. Whitcome, gent.

1607, 5 James, April 9.

Richard Powell, apprentice to John Smyth.

Wm. Hurst the younger, son of Wm. Hurst thelder, but apprentice with Edward Owen.

1607, 5 James, May 4.

Thomas Smyth. Fine 13s. 4d., and 2od. for wine.

APPRENTICES ENROLLED.

At the end of the Book, pages 369 to 388, is a list of "Prentises enroaled." Their names and dates of Indentures are as follows:—

TEMPORE ROGERI HARRIS, CLERICI.

13 Eliz. Robert Parker, son of Ralph of Wenlock Magna, to Robert Bromley, draper.

" Thomas Sowthall, son of John, to Robert Bromley.

" Richard Owen, son of Richard, of Salop, gent., to Wm. Jones.

14 Eliz. Mathew ap Richard, son of Richard ap Ric. de Preston, to Tho. Asheley.

" Wm. ap Morrys, son of Maurice ap Cadwalader de Montgomery, to Wm. Lowe.

" Roland Jenks, son of Richard, of Aston deceased, to Wm. Lowe.

" John Newton, son of Thomas of Stepulton, to Tho. Asheley.

15 Eliz. Richard Shackshaft, son of Wm. of Grafton, to Richard Tegyn, and 20 Eliz. to Tho. Studley.

14 Eliz. William Harries, son of John of Stockton, to Wm. Halywell.

15 Eliz. Gabriel Lyster, son of Rd. of Broughton, gent., to Wm. Tenche.

16 Eliz. Humphrey Newton, son of James of Ryton, to Tho. Bagley.

," David Salter, son of John of Edgemonde ,gent., deceased, to John Browne.

," Richard Cherewell, son of Roger of Salop, to John Barnes.

17 Eliz. John ap John ap Richard, son of John ap Richard of Salop, baker, to Tho. Asheley.

," Rd. Pooler, son of Gilbert, of Osbaston, yoman, to Tho. Burnell.

," John Walker, son of John, of Coleham, glover, to Nicholas Prowde.

," John Smyth, son of Oliver Smyth als. Mathews of Mountgomery, to Tho. Beynon.

14 Eliz. Edward Phillipps, son of John of Welsh Hampton, to Wm. Harries.

12 Eliz. Humfrey Onneslowe, son of Edward Onneslowe, esq., to Tho. Burnell.

12 Eliz. John Betton, son of Richard of Salop, gent., to Richard Owen.

16 Eliz. John Heaton, son of Galfrid of Byllings co. Lancaster, to Edw. Owen.

19 Eliz. John Hunt, son of Thomas of Goldston, deceased, to David Lloyd.

20 Eliz. Robert Harrys, son of Thomas of Salop, sherman, deceased, to Wm. Halywell.

19 Eliz. Tho. Talbott, son of William of Shuffnall parke, esq., deceased, to Edw. Owen.

21 Eliz. John Gardyner, son of Ric. Gardyner of Salop, draper, to his father.

17 Eliz. Roger Marshall, son of Ric. of Salop, sherman, to Michaell Chambers.

22 Eliz. Tho. and John Nicolls, sons of Tho. of Asteley, deceased, to Tho. Burnell.

17 Eliz. Edward Hosier, son of John of Woodcott, gent., to Tho. Beynyon.

22 Eliz. Thomas Robyns of Albright lye, yoman, to Wm. Jones.

," Richard Betton, son of Richard of Salop, gent., to Edmund Baiteley.

23 Eliz. Peter Wisebeck, son of Wm. of Salop, joiner, to Wm. Harries.

25 Eliz. Rebert Beynyon, son of Thomas of Salop, tanner, to Tho. Beynyon.

," Abraham Baker, son of Roger of Salop, deceased, to Wm. Kinge.

24 Eliz. Stephen Crosse, son of Richard of Salop, corvisor, deceased to Nich. Prowde.

," Francis Wilks, son of Humfrey of Stretton, husbandman, to Wm. Hearinge.

," Nicholas Mayden, son of Roger of Cludley in p. of Wrokardyn, yoman, deceased, to Tho. Burnell.

26 Eliz. John Twyford, son of Robert of Mylford, gent., to Tho. Whitefut.

28 Eliz. John Garbett jun., son of John of Nether penne, co. Stafford, yoman, to Tho. Beynyon.

TEMPORE JOH'IS BISTON, CLER.

37 Eliz. John Medlicot, son of Wm. of Castle forriet, tiler, to Tho. Jones.

," Richard Prowde, son of George of Salop, draper, deceased, to John Hunt.

," John Studley, son of Thomas of Salop, draper, to Tho. Studley his father.

38 Eliz. Edward Roffe, son of John, citizen and cloth-worker of London, to Tho. Robines.

," Nicholas Waring, son of Richard, of Salop, gent., to Richard Hunt.

39 Eliz. William Hawks, son of Edmond, of Leicester, whilwright, to John Hunt.

," Francis Dood, son of Richard, of Harnage, yoman, to Wm. Jones.

," John Brombill, son of John, of Netley, yoman, to Wm. Jones.

40 Eliz. Wm. Langley, son of Tho. of Swyney in p. of
Brosley, yoman, to Roland Langley.

" Wm. Symons, son of Arthur of Pulley, to Roland
Langley.

" Tho. Wiksted, son of Richard of Nantwich, yoman,
to Tho. Jones.

" Hugh Bickerton, son of John, of Marbury, co.
Chester, yoman, to Tho. Wolley.

" Tho. Edwards, son of John, of Castle foriet, to
Tho. Hill.

41 Eliz. Wm. Whitcome, son of Wm. of Berwik, gen., to
Wm. Leighton.

" Rd. Browne, son of Rd. of parva Nesse, yoman, to
Tho. Hill.

39 Eliz. Edmund Weale, son of Wm. of Salop, gen., to
Abraham Baker.

42 Eliz. Richard Owen, son of Rd. of Salop, deceased, to
Robert Pope.

" Francis Netheway, son of Rd. of Norton, gen., to
Edmund Barkley.

41 Eliz. Wm. Warter, son of Roger of Salop, to Rd. Hunt.

42 Eliz. Tho. Knyghte, son of Thomas, of Bewdley, co.
Worcester, to John Nicolls.

" Rd. Owen, son of Rd. of Salop deceased, to Robt.
Pope.

" Robert Badyley, son of Rd. of Gomley, co. Lester,
yoman, to Rd. Hunt.

43 Eliz. George Russell, son of Wm. of Berwike, yoman, to
Tho. Jones.

" Thomas Pope, son of Roger, of Salop, esq., to
Tho. Charlton.

44 Eliz. Edward Taylor, son of Richard of Salop, m'ster,
to John Nicolls.

37 Eliz. Richard Howle, son of Thomas of Hinstoke, to
Nicholas Mayden.

44 Eliz. Andrew Beacall, son of Richard of Salop, to
Nicholas Mayden.

40 Eliz. George Perche, son of John of Salop, mercator, to
his father.

45 Eliz. Daniolt Lewes, son of Thomas of Salop, yoman, to Robt. Stephens.

1 James. Richard Lea, son of Richard of Whitchurche, to Tho. Olley, vintner.

44 Eliz. Repington Lathrop, son of Thomas, of Yocksall, co. Stafford, to Hugh Harryes.

3 James Nathaniell Lewes, son of Richard of Salop, draper, to Rich. Prowde.

" Valentine Wike, son of Wm. of Shifnole, gen., to John Hunt.

4 James Tho. Ashe, son of Ric. of Marten, yoman, to John Benes.

" Wm. Bagley, son of Tho. of Wigley, deceased, to John Nicoclls.

" Wm. Corfield, son of Tho. of Westwale, yoman, to Tho. Hill.

6 James Edward Gennoe, son of John of Salop, glover, to Wm. Jones.

4 James Edward Wolley of Dranton uppon Syvearne, gen., to Wm. Jones.

3 James Richard Cooke jun., son of Richard of Dilhorne, co. Stafford, cler., to Tho. Luter.

TEMPORE THOM' HILL, CLERICI FRATERNITATIS.

5 James Edward Bathurst, son of Launcellott of London, grosor, to Nath. Owen.

" John Gardener, son of Thomas, of Salop, tinctoris, to Walter Sockett.

" Thomas Turfoote, son of Thomas of London, to Rowland Langley.

6 James John Lowe, son of John, of Lichfeilde, mercer, deceased, to John Nycols.

7 James Thomas Sherer, son of William of Meoyle Brace, yomen deceased, to Richard Prowd.

MISCELLANEA.

[Under this heading the Editors will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to recent discoveries in the County, or other matters of archaeological or historical interest. Communications are invited, and should be addressed to the Editors, c/o Mr. A. E. Cooper (Asst. Sec.), 42, St. John's Hill, Shrewsbury].

I.

THE SO-CALLED SEAL OF THE BRIDGNORTH GREY FRIARS.

In my article on the Grey Friars of Bridgnorth, I discussed, on p. 52 of the present volume, the question of the proper attribution of the seal stated by *Dukes* to be attached to a deed of 1337, and bearing the legend S. CONVENT. FRM. ORDIS. PREDICATOR[VM]. BRVGEN. After giving my opinion that the seal is unquestionably genuine, and recognizing the improbability, amounting practically to impossibility, of a house of Franciscan friars using a seal with the distinctively Dominican title of 'predicatores,' I was driven to the conclusion that it really belonged to the Dominicans of Bruges in Flanders, but that *Dukes*, having seen the seal, or an impression of it, had not unnaturally taken it to belong to Bridgnorth, and by an error in reading his notes at a later period, believed it to be attached to the document of 1337, as well as the smaller seal which he mentions first, and which we have no reason to doubt was so attached.

Since I completed my article, I took the opportunity of asking my elder son, who was over in Belgium this summer, to enquire at Bruges, if any specimen of the seal of the Dominican Friary of that city was to be found; and he reports that he has come across an example attached to a deed of 1472, which though slightly broken, leaves no doubt of its identity with the larger seal described by *Dukes*. We may therefore dismiss from our minds all idea of the seal being connected with Bridgnorth.

But the matter does not quite end there ; for there is reason to suppose that the matrix of this Dominican seal is, or was lately in existence in this county. There are at least three collections of gutta-percha impressions, mostly taken from extant matrices of seals connected with the county of Salop ; one in the Museum at Shrewsbury, another in the Corporation offices at Much Wenlock, and the third in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of London. These collections comprise precisely the same impressions, are identically mounted on sheets of cardboard, with descriptions on the back in the same handwriting, that of the late Mr. Ready of the British Museum ; and all contained the Bruges Dominican seal, as we must now call it. There seems to be little doubt therefore, that Mr. Ready was shown the matrix in Shropshire, and that he accepted it as a Bridgnorth seal, since it was probably so described to him. It seems unlikely that it should have been deliberately destroyed since the middle of the last century, and a durable material like "latten," of which it was probably made, will last practically for ever ; so that we may hope that it still exists somewhere ; *but where is it now?* I wish that all our readers would have a hunt through any collection of "curiosities," either of their own or of their friends, to which they may have access, and see whether it cannot be found ; for apart from the interest of its pseudo-connection with Shropshire, it is quite a good example of the seal-engraver's art of the early fourteenth century.

W. G. CLARK-MAXWELL, F.S.A.

II.

INQUISITION POST MORTEM ON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM GREENOWES, OF EUDON BURNELL AND OLDBURY.

(See *Transactions*, 4th Ser. X. 263).

It is difficult to see why this Inquisition was held, for the deceased person was not a Tenant *in capite*. It is however of interest as throwing light on the Manor of Oldbury. It confirms my view (*Trans.*, 4th Ser. iii. 5) that "Adberry" in the list of Oswestry Tenures (not later than 1615) is Oldbury, and that Walter Acton held the Manor under the Earl of Suffolk at that date. Moreover among the Particulars as to the estates of Sir Edward Acton, for which he compounded in 1647, mention is made of a Rent "in Oldbury" of £20 7s. 10d. per annum, and also of a "Chief Rent in Oldbury" of £1 16s. od. per annum. There seems therefore to be some mistake in *Blakeway's* statement that the Manor was in the hands of Robert Smallbroke in 1634,

when he sold it to Charles Cornwallis (Bodl. MS. 11.). An abstract of the Inquisition is as follows:—

Inquisition taken at Newport 26 March 14 Chas. I. before the King's Escheator etc. by the oaths of 15 Jurors (named), who stated that William Greanowse before his death was seized in his demesne as of fee of and in 2 Messuages, 2 Cottages, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 40 acres of pasture in Oldburie and Westwood, held of Walter Acton Esq. as of his Manor of Rownde Acton, by fealty, suit of court and a yearly rent of 6d., worth yearly 10s. Thus being seized the said William Greanowse on 16 May 1637 at Oldburie made his will, and bequeathed a moiety of the said premises to his wife Elizabeth for life, and the other moiety, with reversion of the first, to his younger son Richard and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue contingent remainder to his eldest son William, his daughter Jane, and the heirs of their bodies, etc. He died 20 January last past at Ewdon, whereupon the said Elizabeth and Richard entered upon the premises. William Greanowse is his son and next heir, aged 17 years 24 December 1637.

The remainder appears to have taken effect, for Humphrey Greenowes, son of William the elder son, was of Westwood in 1684, at which time his brother-in-law John Perton was living there. Westwood was purchased by Sir Whitmore Acton in 1718, and Westwood "New House" was built in 1726 as a Dower-house of the Acton family. The old Farm-house was subsequently known as "the Day House." It may be noted that the name of "Thomas Butcher of Westwood" occurs in the list of "Disclaimers" at the Herald's Visitation of 1623, son probably of Richard Butcher of Westwood, who was buried at Oldbury in 1600. Whether the Butcher's were tenants of Greenowes or previous owners I do not know.

R. C. PURTON.

III.

SHROPSHIRE BRIEFS IN THE REGISTERS OF EDLINGHAM, CO. NORTHUMBERLAND.

The following is a list of the Shropshire Briefs which occur in the registers of this ancient parish:—

1661. "given towards the maintenence (?) of divers poore people of greate Drayton in ye countie of Salop by the parishioners of Edlingham the 4th of August 1661 the some of 2s. 6d." Was it plague, or flood, or drought, that troubled the poor

of Great Drayton? And how was the modest "some of 2s. 6d." conveyed to them from this moorland Congregation?

			£ s. d.
1734.	Monford Church.	Aug. 25th.	0:0:10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1735.	Norton Church.	March 7th.	0:0:9
1738.	Longdon Church.	March 18th.	0:1:0
1740.	Stirchley Church.	September 21st.	0:1:1
1741.	Waters Upton Church		0:1:5
	Much Wenlock Church.	Jany. 24th.	0:0:9
1742.	Drayton.	October 4th.	0:3:3
	Middle Church.	August 22nd.	0:0:7
	Whittington Church.	May 30th.	0:2:0
1743.	Mellverley.	February 5th.	0:1:0
	Sutton.	November 13th.	0:1:0
1744.	Barrow.		
1745.	Battlefield Church.	January 19th.	0:0:9
1746.	Rodington Church.		
	Meole Brace Church.	January 18th.	0:0:7

EDWARD J. TAYLEUR, F.S.A.

Edlingham Vicarage.

IV.

BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD FROM PETTON.

Among the many treasures in the possession of the late Mrs. Ellis Cunliffe at Petton Park was a remarkably beautiful bronze spear-head found in Petton Moat when it was cleaned out in 1825. It is a perfect specimen of the Class IV type¹, 160 mm. in length, with an elegant leaf-shaped blade, bevelled edges and point, and loops half-way down the socket: it is of thin, light metal, dull golden in colour with vestiges of black patina (suggesting burial in peat): the edges are sharp and almost undamaged: it weighs 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

Mr. Harold J. E. Peake, F.S.A., states that "it may safely be said to date from a time prior to the introduction of the leaf-shaped sword (Type E.) into this country, though probably by no great period of time; spear-heads of this type might well, in fact, have been still in use when the Sword-Folk landed. Several such spear-heads have been found in Cheshire, two of them in the Frodsham Marshes during the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal. It may turn out that their distribution was mainly in the western counties, though some specimens have been found as far east as East Anglia." A note in the

¹. Greenwell and Parker Brewis, "The Evolution of the Bronze Spear-head in Britain," *Archaeologia*, LXI, 439-472.

Antiquaries Journal, October 1926², referring to a similar lance-head, found in association with bronze loops, an amber bead and coils of bronze wire, at Park Brow, in Sussex, suggests that the type is of Irish origin, and spread to England and Scotland about the middle of the Bronze Age. In Shropshire, another specimen was found in the ruins of the Red Castle, Hawkstone, probably in a hoard containing palstaves and socketed celts, but its history is indefinite. Blades which seem to belong to the same type have come to light near the Day House, Cherrington³, and at Castle Bryn Amlwg⁴.

The Petton Lance-head was lent to the Exhibition of Local Antiquities in 1898⁵, and was recorded in the *Victoria County History*, I, 203. I made a drawing of it for the Bronze Age Index of the British Association in 1923. In the sale held at Petton Park in October, 1926, it was saved for Shropshire by the Rev. Walter Peppercorn, Vicar of Cockshutt and Petton, who has most generously presented it to Shrewsbury Museum, where it forms the sole example of the type and is a most valuable asset to the collection. Our Chairman, Mr. T. E. Pickering, has kindly provided the photograph of the weapon.

LILY F. CHITTY.

2. *Antig. Journ.*, VI, 445.

3. *Shrops. Arch. Trans.* 4th Series, X (1925), Misc. V, pp. vii-viii.

4. In the Powysland Museum, Welshpool. See below Misc. No. V.

5. *S. A. T.* X, Pt. IV, 2nd Series, p. 105, No. J3. Other antiquities from Petton are referred to in my paper on the Ellesmere Dug-out in the present volume, p. 118.

V.

BRONZE IMPLEMENTS FOUND NEAR CASTLE BRYN
AMLWG, BETTWS-Y-CRWYN.

The ridgeway that runs along the mountains south of Clunbury and Clun by way of Redwood Lane, Rock Hill and the Black Mountain, is clearly marked as a highway of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age by the distribution of flint implements, arrow-heads and flakes along the earlier part of its course in this region.¹ From the flint-using settlement on Rock Hill² westward over Spoad Hill and by Bettws-y-Crwyn its line seems indisputable, but records of finds are at present lacking, and the main track by which it mounted up to join the Kerry Hill ridgeway requires investigation.

It is noteworthy that the Clun district is bare of bronze implements, though many of the flints are of Bronze Age form

1. I hope shortly to publish the evidence afforded by the large collection in Clunbury School.

2. G. Luff, *Transactions XI* (1888), pp. 212-214.

and technique: finds in the vicinity of Castle Bryn Amlwg, however, suggest that, during the Bronze Age, traffic crossed the Black Mountain west of the Grey Stones and turned down to the ford near the castle site opposite Rhyther Oak: thence it might rise up the hill past Shenton's Tumulus and the stone circle near it before turning westward into Wales, or would perhaps more probably follow a track over the Bryn above the Nant Rhyd-y-Fedw.

Most unfortunately, the exact sites of discovery of two bronze implements "found at Castle Amlwg" were never recorded: in 1874, the Earl of Powis presented to the Powysland Museum, Welshpool, a flat celt with a broad edge (No. 3), 4½ ins. long, and the blade portion of a small spear-head (No. 4), probably of the Class IV. type with loops near the base of the (now missing) socket. As the flat celt is typical of the Early Bronze Age, and the spear-head belongs to the end of the Middle or beginning of the Late Bronze Age, it is not likely that they were found in association.

Another puzzling find given that year by the same donor is described in the old catalogue³, p. xlvi, as

9. A brass ornament, with 2 pendants, a third being wanted, — being portion of horse trapping of the 15th century. The above was found with other articles at Castle Bryn Amlwg, near Rhyddur Oak, in Bettws parish, on land the property of Mr. John Lloyd, of Rhyd y Cwm.

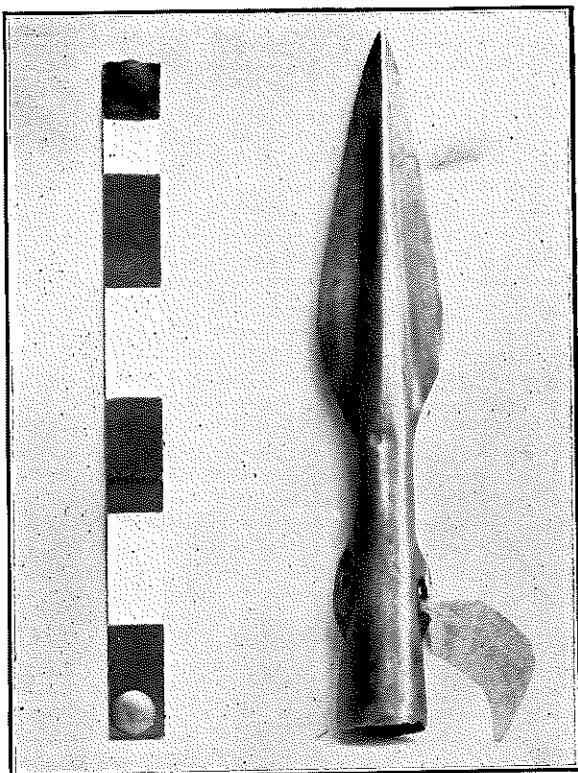
This was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries on 18th June, 1874, and was similarly described⁴ except that the metal is said to be *bronze* and the site "near a place named Rhyddwr Vale allotted under Riltws Hills Inclosure," which suggests that the find was made during the reclamation of old common land. The new catalogue of the Powysland Museum, p. 17, records a bronze horse trapping (without further particulars), in Table Case C, under "Iron and Bronze Age." When I visited the Museum, the object could not be found; a photograph of the Carreghofa horse-bit fills its place.

Now, however, a far more satisfactory piece of evidence has come to hand in the form of a beautiful bronze looped palstave from the same region, with its history complete, in the possession of Dr. T. W. Graves, of Bucknell.⁵ It was found, with another, some 70 years ago (i.e. about 1856) by the late William Morgan, of Mountflirt (Nant y Pathly), when digging holes for fencing posts on land owned by the late John Lloyd, of Rhydycwm,

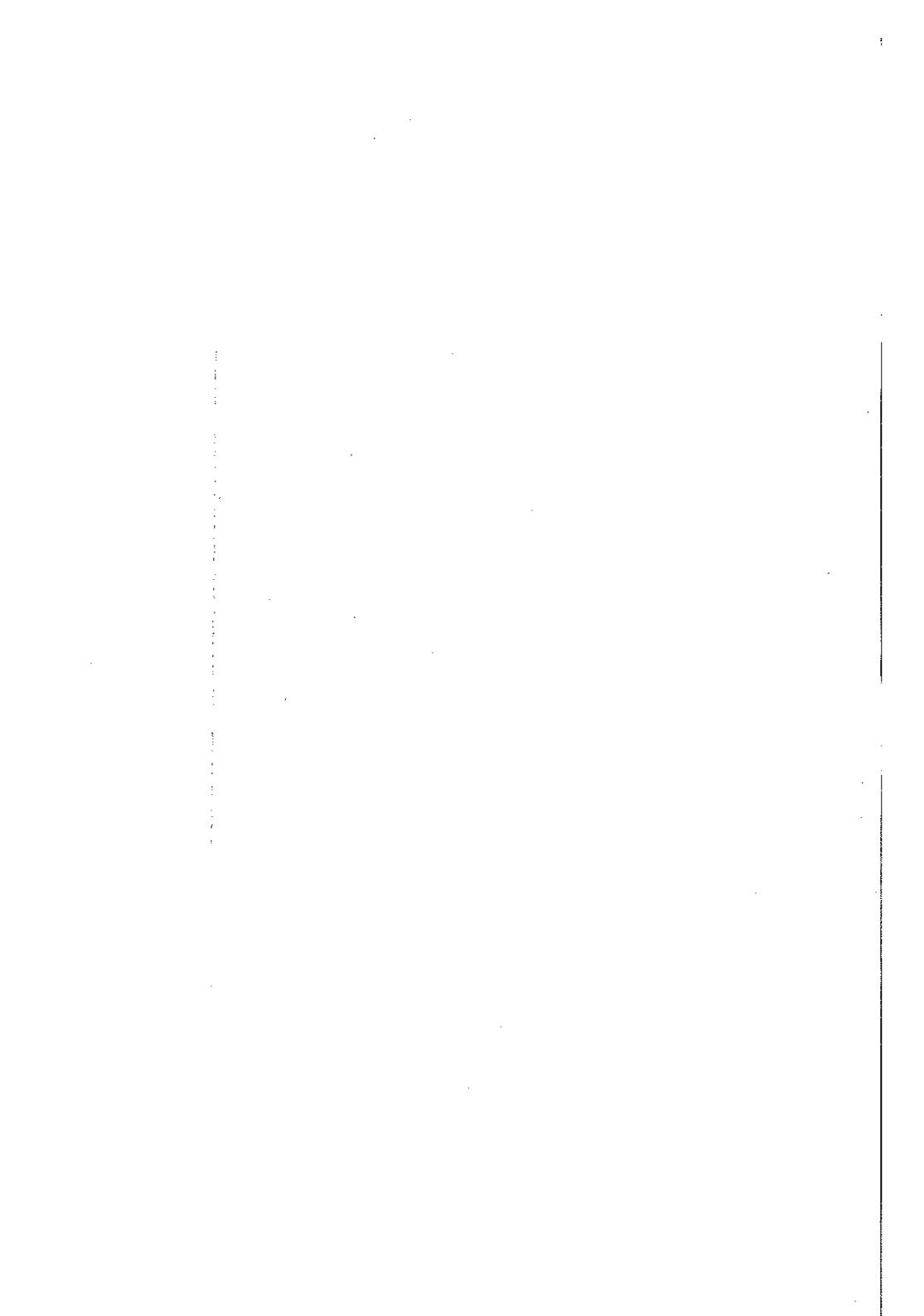
3. Reprinted in *Mont. Colls.* 1874.

4. *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* VI (2), p. 256.

5. My thanks are due to Miss H. M. Auden, F.R.Hist.S., for directing my attention to this implement, and to Dr. Graves for the loan of it with full particulars.



Bronze Spear-head (Class IV.) found in Petton Moat.
(*Shrewsbury Museum*),
(Photograph by R. L. Bartlett, Shrewsbury).



S.E. of Castle Bryn Amlwg on the N.W. edge of the northern arm of Bryn Shop Plantation, a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the Welsh border and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.W. of the ridgeway above referred to. (6" O.S. Shropshire Sheet LXVIII N.W.; Lat. $52^{\circ} 26' 43''$; Long. $3^{\circ} 13' 4''$; Height about 1300 ft.) The soil was sandy loam containing 'firestones.' At the time of the discovery the place was probably open hill: the surrounding country is fairly wooded (Old Red Sandstone).

The other implement found was larger, but its shape is forgotten: it was given to Mr. George Lloyd, brother of the owner of the land, who also lived at Rhydycwm, from whom it may have passed to a sister, or have been "given to some museum."

When visiting patients at Felindre, Rads., Dr. Graves saw this palstave in the cottage of Wm. Morgan, junior (aged 75), son of the finder, and purchased it: all the above information was obtained from the old man. He knows of no other similar finds in the neighbourhood, and can throw no light on those at Welshpool.

Dr. Graves' axe is well-preserved: in the septum above the stop-ridge (the part that would be protected by a forked haft of wood) are remains of a lovely glossy green patina, patches of which occur also below the ridge, where a thong was probably bound round: the loop is worn thin by the strain of the thong that connected it to the shaft. The rest of the surface is mottled greenish and dark brown, with golden metal showing through, especially on the edges. The length is 147 mm.; the cutting edge, 52 mm. wide, is crescentic, recurved and sharp; it shows signs of much re-grinding. On each face is a worn "trident," the midrib asymmetrical and thickening slightly on one face as it descends. The stop-ridge is prominent (31 mm.); the butt is thin (3 mm.) and square; the flanges taper off 1 inch from the top. The weight is $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz. The type belongs to the Middle Bronze Age, probably late in that period, and may be contemporary with the little spear-head. A very similar palstave from the Rhagatt property, near Corwen, is in Whitchurch Museum, Salop.

If the second implement found at Bryn Shop could be traced, or the precise site of other prehistoric remains from the district recorded, valuable evidence might be added.

Kelly's Directory under "Bettws-y-Crwyn", has a seemingly wild statement that "on the Curny Bank a great number of Saxon, Danish and Roman relics have been found," but I can discover no records to corroborate this or to show the true nature of the finds.

VI.

TIN SCABBARD-END FOUND ON WATLING STREET
NEAR ALL STRETTON.

About the beginning of this century, the late Mr. John G. Dyke, District Surveyor of Roads, discovered a curious broken scabbard-end when cutting a drain across Watling Street at the foot of Caradoc, near All Stretton. He left a careful description of the site, and of this his son, Mr. D. O. Dyke, of Shrewsbury, has kindly given me a copy:—

To reach the spot, follow the road from Church Stretton to Cardington as far as the cross roads, where Watling Street intersects it near Botvyle. Proceed due south along Watling Street about 400 yards to the second small stream crossing the lane, which stream descends from the side of Caradoc at or very near its highest point.

Prior to the construction of the drain this little stream had crossed the road on the surface and the soil had probably never before been disturbed. From this description, and after visiting the site, it has been possible to mark the spot on the 6-inch O.S. Sheet Shropshire LVI N.W. (Lat. $52^{\circ} 33' 24''$; Long. $2^{\circ} 47' 4''$; Height below 600-ft. line).

Mr. J. G. Dyke concluded that his find was Roman, but he seems never to have obtained expert opinion about it. He gave it to Shrewsbury Museum about 1902: the Donations Book omits the date, but records the find as "A Scabbard End found in a gutter on the lower side of Watling Street, opposite the middle of Caradoc, Church Stretton."

The only published record I can find is in Prebendary Auden's list in the *Victoria County History*, Shropshire, Vol. I, p. 202: "Bronze Scabbard-end in Shrewsbury Museum, found at the foot of Caradoc."

On 15th May, 1924, it was exhibited at a Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of London at Burlington House. It was then thought to be of lead, and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that it was mediæval, or possibly Roman, but, in any case was probably only a makeshift welded on to the broken point of a scabbard.

I have failed to find any similar object of precisely analogous form. The remaining portion was 78 mm. long, with a flat oval section (maximum width remaining 42 mm. in diameter, 15 mm. breadth, 1-2 mm. thick); the sides descend at an angle of 85° , then, 20 mm. from the point, slope in a broad V to a rounded tip. It was badly broken, friable and in poor condition: the rough pale grey surface was coated with light brown soil.

Subsequently, it was sent for analysis to Professor C. O. Bannister, M.Eng., A.R.S.M., Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Liverpool, who made a careful examination and found

it to consist of practically pure tin : the following is his report :—

This is an extremely interesting specimen, because objects of pure tin of ancient origin are so very rare, in spite of the fact that many such objects must have been made and used in past ages. The chief reason for this scarcity is the fact that tin is liable to disintegrate owing to the fact that it is unstable even at ordinary temperatures, and that, with a lowering of temperature near to or below Zero, the change known as "tin pest" or "tin plague" occurs, resulting in the final disintegration of the specimen. The object under examination is also interesting from the fact that it is covered with a product of corrosion, an examination of which is of value, as indicating the mode of corrosion of tin.

The analysis of the metal in this specimen is as follows :—

Tin	99.98
Copper	Trace

This shows remarkably pure metal, and its preservation during the ages must be due to a peculiar and happy set of conditions which ensured its never reaching a temperature low enough to allow the commencement of tin pest.

A further report was made by Professor Bannister to the Institute of Metals, on 11th March, 1926, and is published in their *Journal*, Vol. XXXV, (No. I, 1926) pp. 71-4, entitled "Note on the Corrosion of an Ancient Tin Specimen," with the illustration here reproduced by kind permission of the Institute. We are much indebted to Professor Bannister for his analysis of this and of other implements in the Museum.

LILY F. CHITTY.



Broken Tin Scabbard-end, found in gutter on South side of Watling Street, near All Stretton, by the late Mr. J. G. Dyke.
(Shrewsbury Museum.)

This illustration is reproduced by kind permission of the Institute of Metals.

VII.

THE EARLIEST BOOK OF THE DRAPERS' COMPANY.

The following miscellaneous entries from the earliest book may be of interest. They give the names of three Masters of the Drapers' Company, and some notes as to new building, and letting the Hall, and some admissions to the Fraternity.
1569, 11 Eliz. April 28.

Richard Pursell, gent., elected Master. [He was re-elected every two years, and served until 1586].

The Bayleiff to paye and give to Mr. Ashton towards the setting forth of the play at Whitsontide £5.

1570, 12 Eliz. August 19.

Agreed at the request of Thomas Owen, gent., that Ric. Owen his brother be admitted a combrother, and that his Fyne be £10, in conson of his great paynes and diligence in parliament, touching the business of the mystery.

1571, 13 Eliz. March 20.

Richard Owen, thelder, William Ireland (brother of Robert Ireland thonger), Thomas Makeworth, and Richard ap Howell, admitted combrethren.

1572, 13 Eliz. April 19.

A Suit at Hereford, 8 November 13 Elizabeth, between the Shermen and the Drapers.

Mich. Term, 21 Eliz. Oct. 12.

Suit between Sir Henry Knevett, Knight, and the Drapers.

1580, 22 Eliz. July 7.

Agreed that John Dawes, burgess and alderman of Salop shall erect and build the entre unto the new hall and certain chambers over the same.

1582, 23 and 24 Eliz. June 1.

Agreed that Mr. Doctor Bowkley shall have a lease of the Drapers halle and the parcell of new byldyng thereunto annexed.

1586, 29 Eliz. March 29. Mr. William Tench, gent. elected Master. [He was twice re-elected, and served until 1591.]

1591, 33 Eliz. April 8.

Thomas Chorlton elected Master. [He was several times re-elected, and was still in office in 1607].

1579, 40 Eliz. Jan. 18.

Agreed that the Drapers' Hall be let to Willm. Bright, batcheler of deveniti, so long as he shall remayne Publice p'cher for this towne, at the yerely rent of fower markes.

VIII.

LOCAL BEQUESTS IN THE WILL OF JOHN JONES OF
LONDON AND HAMPTON-ON-THAMES, MIDDLESEX,
1692.

John Jones of London and Hampton-on-Thames Esquire, by will and codicil dated 21 Oct. 1691 and 26 March 1692 respectively, proved in P.C.C. 22 Nov. 1692 (206 Fane), left numerous charitable bequests, and gave his executors power to dispose of the overplus of his personal estate in still further charity. He was a wealthy man and there is a formidable list of gifts in the Chancery records at the Public Record Office, several of the items relating to Salop.

There are two relating to St. Chad's, one of which leaves ten pounds to the Rector (*sic*) and preacher of the parish, and the other a hundred pounds to the poor of "Chads where I was borne in Shrewsbury"; which gives definite evidence of his birthplace.

Another gift was to Shrewsbury School. In the list of Benefactors, under the year 1700, "John Jones of London, Esq., formerly a scholar of these schools," occurs as giving £50. ("History of Shrewsbury School," 1889, page 177.) The following is an extract from the Will: "Item I giue to the free schole in Salop and to the Library there the sum of fifty pounds, to buy such books as the sd Library shall need, to the sd value, to be directed and appointed by the schoole masters of the sd free schooles for the time being." And from the codicil: "Item I giue to the free schole in Salop as a stock for the vse of the said schole the som of One hundred pounds to be ordered and disposed of [by] the Maior of the towne of Salop with the advice of the scholemasters of the sd free schole." As a matter of fact an account submitted to the Court of Chancery in 1702 (P.R.O., C.7,614/3) shows that £150 was allotted to the School by the executors.

The Will itself has, in regard to Shrewsbury as a whole, only two other items. One gives his lands and tenements in Shrewsbury to his sister and heir-at-law, Mrs. Martha Farian; the other is a money bequest of £1000 to his nephew and niece, Richard and Margaret Alkin, who were or had been, it is clear, connected with the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury. However, we have another source of information concerning the disposal of the estate. This is an account delivered into Chancery in 1702 by the executors (Nathaniel Lacy, William Greenehill and Thomas Nicoll) at the suit of Edward Hughes, vicar of St. Martin's, co. Salop, who thought himself injured by his exclusion

from the following list of vicarages which were aided from the funds at the disposal of the executors.

The account is of sums already paid, and is given on oath :

“ pd for Lands to augmt Grinsell [Grinshill] in Salop	200	00	0
pd for Lands to augmt Bicton in Salop	250	00	0
pd Towards the Augmentacon of Newport ditto	200	00	0
pd for Lands to augmt St Julians Salop	250	00	0
pd for Lands to Augmt Ford in Salop	300	00	0”

Altogether John Jones died worth some twenty thousand pounds in personal estate alone, and there are bequests or allotments by his executors to Oxford and Cambridge Colleges, to Christ's Hospital, St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's, Bethlehem and Bridewell, and to three debtors' prisons.

As yet there is no definite information that this notable man lived in Shrewsbury or St. Chad's for any length of time, and we have no details of his connection with any particular family of Jones.

I am indebted for the following notes to the kindness of Mr. J. A. Morris of The Priory, Shrewsbury :

1. A Captain Jones, late of London, is mentioned in *Owen and Blakeway's History of Shrewsbury* (ii, 432) as having left money for augmenting several small benefices in and near Shrewsbury, and the St. Julian's gift was used in part to buy a tenement in Loppington for the minister.

2. The Registers of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, record the burial of Mrs. Martha Farrian, widow, on December 5th 1692, and of her husband Richard, a cooper, on August 9th 1676.

3. The same Registers record the birth of two sons to Richard Alkin or Alkins and Margaret his wife in 1677 and 1684.

4. John Alkin, son of Richard and Margaret, left the interest of £20 to the poor of St. Chad's. This bequest cannot now be traced.

It may be added that John Jones also left an estate to the Free School at Hampton, which causes him to rank as its chief benefactor ; and it would be of special interest to this School, which is now of considerable size, if the Arms stamped in red wax on his will could be identified. They consist of four quarters—1. A chevron engrailed between three boars' heads erased. 2. A plain chevron between three boars' heads couped. 3. Ermine, a bendlet sinister, over all a lion rampant. 4. A lion rampant within a bordure. The Crest is a boar proper. The Arms in the third quarter are attributed in *Burke's General Armoury* to Jones of Foy, co. Hereford, descended from the

Rev. William Jones who married c. 1690 Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of the Rev. George Abrahall of Foye.

The Testator, who is frequently described as "Captain," was a grocer by occupation, though there is no evidence of his following this trade. He died at St. Bartholomew the Exchange, London, and was there buried. (Sentence on Will, and Parish Accounts.)

B. GARSIDE.

44, Oldfield Road, Hampton-on-Thames, Middlesex.

IX.

LORD CLIVE'S STATUE.

Lord Clive "A heaven born General who, without experience, surpassed all the Officers of his day." (Lord Chatham.)

I very much appreciate the kind reference Sir Offley Wakeman made in *Miscellanea* Vol. X, page *i.*, concerning the little I was able to do towards the above statue. Had it not been for his constant advice and consideration from the time of its inception, until the time when action on my part passed to more important and worthy hands, I should not have been able to have carried on as I did from 1903—1907. I feel, however, that it is necessary that an error of date should be corrected, and that the events that led up to the carrying out of my suggestion should be summarised. I had always taken a great interest in those Shropshire men who added to England's glory. My opportunity came, when I was elected Mayor of the County town, to try and impress upon others in the County the debt we owed to these men. On 15 Nov. 1902, the Shropshire Imperial Yeomanry, who had returned from South Africa, were entertained at Luncheon in the Music Hall, Shrewsbury. The Lord-Lieutenant, the Earl of Powis, was in the chair and I, as Chief Magistrate, sat next to him. Towards the end of the proceedings, I asked him if I might say a few words. According to the report in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, I spoke as follows—"He wondered how many of those men who came back in the 'Plassey' thought how the ship got its name. A Shropshire man concluded his victories by capturing Plassey, which gave them the greatest possession the Kingdom ever had—India."

Shortly afterwards I had a second opportunity. On the 1st of January 1903, I gave a luncheon to the Corporation, Officials, Magistrates, and others. Towards the end of my speech on Municipal and other matters I am (see *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, of next day)—reported to have said—"As far as he knew there was no statue, except the one in Shrewsbury, to that greatest of Shropshire men, Lord Clive, the man who won India for the nation, and he should certainly do all he could to push forward to a successful conclusion the suggestion that a statue should be erected to Lord Clive in London. (Applause.) He

hoped that would be done at any rate before the year 1907, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Plassey, by which Lord Clive won for our country the Indian Empire." (Loud applause).

When I spoke the above words, I was unaware (as was the vast majority of Englishmen) that there was a statue to Clive in the India Office, showing him in uniform of the period, as also another, at the same place, in which he appears in the costume of a Roman soldier. These are illustrated in the *Daily Graphic* of 3rd May, 1907. *The Times* of the 2nd of Jany., referred to my words, and it is from these two dates that the Statue of Clive—at that time—became possible. I am well aware that Sir William Forwood wrote to the same paper in 1907, drawing attention, after his visit to India, of the fact that there was no statue to Clive there. I did not know, at that time Sir William was descended through the family, on the female side, of Peploe of Moreton Say. I wrote to Sir Offley Wakeman objecting to a Lancashire man pushing forward what we, as Shropshire people, had tried to push for over four years. Lord Powis, as a descendant of Lord Clive, naturally felt that he could not start publicly the idea of a statue. From 1903-7 I had a large number of offers of help, and in the latter year when Lord Curzen had given his name, and great interest, to the object in view, a letter under the names of Sir Offley Wakeman, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Sir (then Mr.) J. Bowen Jones, Chairman of the Salop County Council, and myself, appeared in the newspapers pressing Shropshire people to help; also a number of circular letters were sent out. There were various reasons why the statue project was delayed. The late Earl Roberts reported that His late Majesty, King Edward VII. thought it would not be successful owing to the distance of time. When Lord Curzon issued his appeal 1907, then all was changed. To shew what a truly considerate and generous-minded man he was, I cannot do better than give his letter to me, dated from The Priory, Reigate, 18th April, 1907.

" Dear Sir,

After issuing my formal appeal for the Clive Memorial yesterday, I received a letter from Sir O. Wakeman informing me of the initiative in the matter that you so patriotically assumed some years ago. I was not aware of this, as I was serving in India at the time.

I write a line therefore to acknowledge your priority, and to express a hope that we may have your assistance in obtaining subscriptions in the County and neighbourhood upon which Robert Clive conferred fame. I only wish I had seen your appeal in 1903 for I would have taken it up in India.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Curzon.

."

In order to celebrate in some way the 150th anniversary of Plassey, I arranged with the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Mr. Alderman Corbett) that he should invite the Corporation to go with him to St. Chad's on Sunday, 23rd June. This he agreed to, and I persuaded Mr. Moss, the Headmaster of Shrewsbury School, to preach the Sermon. As it was not advisable to bring the battle into prominence in such a place, I suggested that "he should refer especially to the duties of citizens of the Empire, and especially to the unselfishness of Clive and the indebtedness of this Country to him for much of our prosperity."

In conclusion I think it right to give honour to the late Mr. William Litt, the father of Mr. William Litt of Shrewsbury. *The Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 14 February 1868, when noting his death, stated that he was the first publicly to suggest the propriety of erecting the statue to Clive, which was placed in the Market Square, Shrewsbury, in 1866. I intend to put together all the letters, cuttings, etc., that I have concerning years 1903-1908, and to send them to the Reference Library, at the Free Library, Shrewsbury.

HERBERT SOUTHAM,
Colonel R.G.A. (T.F.) retired, V.D., F.S.A.

X.

DEED OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN HAUGHMOND ABBEY
AND WOMBRIDGE PRIORY.

The following deed is translated from the Latin original, and is of the 13th century. Wombridge Priory quit-claimed their interest in land in Grinshill to Haughmond Abbey, in exchange for the mill of Cheswardine.

Know [all men] present and to come that This is an Agreement made between the Abbot and convent of Haghemond of the one part and the Prior and convent of Wombruge of the other part: Namely that the same Prior and convent of Wombruge have granted and quit-claimed for themselves and their successors for ever to the Canons of Haghemond all the right and claim which they have had or can have in three half-virgates of land in Grenesh'1 which Robert de Franketon held by hereditary right of the the same canons of Wombruge Rendering to them annually three shillings for all service. And in exchange for this rent, the same Abbot and convent of Haghemond have granted and quit-claimed for themselves and for their successors for ever to the said Prior and canons of Wombruge All the right and claim which they have had or can have in the Mill of Cheswordin: Whence they were accustomed to receive annually three shillings from the said canons. And that this grant and quit-claim may obtain the strength of perpetual firmness, by

the present chyrograph each convent has confirmed this agreement for ever, its seal being affixed. Witness God and the Chapter of each convent.

[Seal of green wax $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, a full length figure vested holding a sword in the right hand. Legend: + SIGILLI: SANTI: LEONARDI: DE: WOMBRUGE.]

W. G. D. FLETCHER, F.S.A.

XI.

THE WILL OF THOMAS BANASTER, 1473.

In the name of God so to be the xijij day of the moneth of Ap'ill in the yer of our lord god m^l.cccc.Lxxiij, I Thomas Banastr late of Hadnall in gode mynd hath made my testament & my laste will in this man^r. I bequeathe my soule to allmygti God omnipotent & to our lady Vrgen sent mary & to all the holy company of heaven, & my body to be buried in the churche of Baschurch. Also y bequeuth vj torches & xij Tapres to usen aboute my body in the day of my sepultur. Also y leve a C^s. to a p'ste to be delyu'ed to syng for my soule in the said churche of Baschurche for my fader soule my modur soule my two wyfes soules & all cristen soules. Also y leve xij^s & iiiij^d to the repa'con of the said church. Also to the vicar of the said church too gownes one for some' & another for wynt' for to rememb' me in his p'res. Item y ordean & will that John Jukys or els such as myn execut' will assigne togedur & raseve all my hole Rent, & hit to pay to myn executures, & hit to dispose aft' ther pleasur to the savacion of my soule. Also y bequeuth all my landes & pastures w^t their appurtenance w^tin the metys & bondes of Shetton, to phelip kinaston & Alys their heires & assignes for ev'mor to the chefe lord of the fee s'vic' & costom, ffor the laudabull kepyng of myn heldest son Thomas Banastr time of his life. Residue of my good y geve & lave to phelipp Kenaston & Ales his wife my datur for ther gret costes & charges & s'vic done unto me & myn in my gret necessite. Also y ordean Phelipp Kenaston & (sic) to be myn executooers to ordaen & dispose all my will above writen to worship & salvacon of my soule. This witness: Mathou Bron Vicar of Baschurch, Will'm Brokys our lady p'ste, Ric. Bodiley, Ric. Twyford, John Wike, & many others. Geven at Walford the yere & day above said: (*Qu. a different ink*) p'ut in quad'm carta p'fat' ph'o & Alic' inde confect' plenius app'et cuius dat' est ap^d Shetton die ven' prox' post f'm sc'i math' i a^o r. r. E. iiiij^{ti} xij^o

This Will was copied by the late Mr. William Phillips for publication in the *Transactions*, but its insertion has been unavoidably delayed.

W. G. D. FLETCHER, F.S.A.

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