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INDEX.

	PAGE
The Members of Parliament for Wenlock. By Henry T. Weyman	297
The Manor of Ruyton-xi-Towns. By R. Lloyd Kenyon.	
Township of Felton	359
Township of Haughton	381
Township of Rednal	387
Township of Sutton	397
Township of Tedsmere	403
Miscellanea :	
XIII. Excavations at Wenlock Priory	407
XIV. Supposed Lake Dwellings at Pike's End	408
XV. The Will of Henry Bishop, Vicar of Moreton Corbet, A.D. 1539	409
General Index to Vol. II.	413

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Tithe Map of Shotatton Township	123
Tithe Map of Eardiston Township	131

The Council respectfully solicit contributions of Papers, specially Parochial Histories, for future volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society.

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The MS. Indexes to the Names of Persons and Places that are mentioned in the First Series of the *Transactions* (Vol. I. to XI.) have been bound in five volumes, and are deposited at the Shrewsbury Free Library, where they can be seen at any time by Members.

THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR WENLOCK.

BY HENRY T. WEYMAN.

THE Borough of Wenlock (usually styled Much Wenlock, to distinguish it from Little Wenlock), acquired its right to Parliamentary representation under a Charter of Edward IV., which was dated the 29th November, 1468, and was expressed to have been given "at the request of our well beloved and trusty Counsellor Sir John Wenlock, Knight, Lord Wenlock, and calling to mind the acceptable services which our well beloved and faithful the liege men and residents in the Town of Wenlock have performed to us towards our obtaining our rights to the Crown of England which for some time had been withholden from our Ancestors." The Charter then proceeded—"We have granted and by these presents do grant to the men and residents aforesaid that the same Town shall be a free Borough incorporate for ever in deed and in name of "one Bailiff the Burgesses and Commonalty of the same Borough and that they the Burgesses shall be called and named the Burgesses of the Borough of Wenlock." The clause of the Charter under which the right of Parliamentary representation was conferred is as follows:—

"Also we have granted to the same Burgesses their heirs and successors that they their heirs and successors for ever may elect and shall elect out of themselves or others one Burgess for the Borough aforesaid to come to the Parliaments of us and our heirs and that the same Burgess so elected to come to Parliament shall be admitted and received in the parliaments of us and our heirs and shall be incorporated in the same parliament like as other Burgesses of any other Borough of our Kingdom of

England and that the same Burgesses of the Town aforesaid or their successors shall not contribute or be held to contribute nor shall be compelled to the expense of Knights for the County of Salop hereafter happening to come to the parliaments aforesaid in any manner."

The *History of Boroughs*, 1794, which speaks so disrespectfully of Wenlock, as to call it "an ill built dirty little place called Muck Wenlock by way of derision," says that this "insignificant borough" was the first that ever sent Members to Parliament by virtue of a Charter from the Crown. This was probably based on a mis-conception of a passage in Mr. Browne Willis's well known book *Notitia Parliamentaria* (to which further allusion will be made), but from whatever source it comes, the statement is unquestionably a mistake; as, to go no further afield, there is a similar clause in almost identical words in the Charter of the Borough of Ludlow, which is dated the 7th December, 1461, and is therefore 7 years earlier than the Wenlock Charter.

There is, however, one essential difference between the two Charters, the Ludlow Charter giving two members to that Borough, whereas the present Charter empowers Wenlock to return only one Member. This possibly explains the mistaken view which the author of the *History of Boroughs* and other authorities took of the statement in *Notitia Parliamentaria*. Mr. Browne Willis in his first volume (p. 42) says:—"Wenlock Magna was impriviledged by King Edward IV. by Charter dated Nov. 29, 1478,¹ to send one Burgess to Parliament, which is the first precedent I meet with inserted in the Charter of any Borough;" and in the 3rd vol., p. xi.: "In the Charter is a clause requiring only one Burgess to be sent to Parliament, which is the first mention of any such precedent in any Borough Charter." These two statements probably refer to the *Single Member* being a new departure and not, as has been copied in all later authorities, to the fact that Wenlock was the first Borough on which Parliamentary representation was conferred by Charter.

¹ Mr. Willis is in error as to the date, which should be 1468.

Although the Charter conferred on Wenlock the right of returning one Member only, the Borough soon obtained in some way or other the privilege of returning two Members, but the writer has been unable to ascertain the authority for the change. Browne Willis upon this point says:—"How this borough came to send two members I have not seen, though it is plain it did in Henry the VIII.'s time." The editor of the translation of the Wenlock Charters in 1820 adds this note:—"Henry VIII. in his contention with Pope Clement VII. and in support of his Crown permitted the return of two Members." Neither of these writers is, however, correct as to the double representation having commenced in the reign of Henry VIII., and it is needless to add that the later writer is incorrect as to the cause of the alteration, for we find that two members (John Colyns and Philip Spence) were returned in the reign of Henry the VII., namely in 1491. The change may have taken place even earlier, as there is no record of the returns to the Parliaments of 1482 to 1491.

The Borough of Wenlock is confined by the original Charter "to the parish of the Holy Trinity of Wenlock," and is not to extend to "any other towns or hamlets which are not of the parish aforesaid." The parish of Holy Trinity, Wenlock, at that time certainly included the following townships:—

- Township or Manor of Wenlock,
- Township of Atterley or Walton,
- Township of Presthope,
- Township of Wigwig and part of Harley.
- Township of Wyke and Bradeley,
- Township of Bourton,
- Township of Callaughton.

The translator of the Charter in 1820 says that "an erroneous opinion had been entertained that the parish of Holy Trinity extended to other places, the idea probably originating from there having been properties in those places which belonged to the Monastery of Wenlock." Mr. Eyton, however, in his invaluable *Antiquities of Shropshire*, proves conclusively that the ancient parish of the Holy Trinity included Broseley, Willey, Linley, Acton Round, Monk

Hopton, Shipton, Hughley, Barrow, Posenall, and Benthall, as well as the modern parish of Much Wenlock and the townships mentioned above.

The Parliamentary Borough (at a later date, if not always) also included Beckbury, Badger, Deuxhill, Ditton Priors, Eaton, Madeley, Little Wenlock, and part of Stoke St. Milborough. Thus composed, the Borough of Wenlock, although spoken of so disparagingly by many authorities was actually the largest in area of all the English Boroughs, being more than 35 square miles in extent, and the population in 1837 was 17,435, increasing to 20,143 in 1881. Comprising as it did so many agricultural parishes, the old Borough was more akin to a modern County division than the old conception of a Borough, and seems to have been altogether an anomaly. Notwithstanding the great area, there were only 60 voters in 1792, who had increased to 285 (actually voting) in 1820, while in 1832 no less than 635 voted out of a total electorate of 691. In 1885, when Wenlock disappeared out of existence as a Parliamentary Borough, the electorate numbered 3,312.

A second Charter (which styles Wenlock "a great old and populous village") was granted to the borough in the 7th year of Charles I. (19 December, 1631). This, however, only confirms in the main the old Charter, and contains no allusion to the Parliamentary representation.

The record of the Wenlock Members of Parliament is, unfortunately, not complete, and it is feared that it cannot be made so. Like most other constituencies its Roll of Members for all the Parliaments of Richard III. and Henry VII. (except that of 1491), and for the first 20 years of Henry the VIII's reign, is a blank; but from 1541 down to 1885 the list is complete. Although Wenlock enjoyed Parliamentary representation for 417 years, there were among the members less men of great eminence than in most of the other Shropshire Boroughs, though several of the Members have been by no means undistinguished. The principal amongst those who have attained high positions in one department or other of national life are probably Sir George Blount, a distinguished soldier and a member of the great Council of the Marches of Wales, Sir George Bromley, Chief

Justice of Chester, Reginald Corbet, one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, William Pierpoint (wise William), one of the chief men of the Commonwealth, and Isaac Hawkins Browne, the great wit and friend of Dr. Johnson. Wenlock has been more faithful to Shropshire men than most of the other boroughs of the county, and many of the old county families are represented in the list of members. Chiefly, however, the Borough has bestowed its favours on the two great families which have for centuries been most closely linked up with its fortunes, those of Forester and Lawley, the present representative of the latter family taking his title in the peerage from the old Borough, though, alas, he has parted with most of his possessions in its neighbourhood. No fewer than 12 of the Forester family are numbered amongst the Wenlock Members, ranging from the year 1529, when John Foster (or Forester), who obtained the privilege of wearing his hat in his Sovereign's presence, first represented the Borough, down to the year 1885, when Wenlock ceased to exist as a Parliamentary unit, at which time a Forester was still one of the members. During the last 207 years of the Parliamentary Borough's existence, a Forester was absent from the representation only 15 years, while for the last 100 years, viz., from 1785—1885, one of the family was never missing from the list of Members. Surely an unique record. In addition to the 12 Foresters, Wenlock numbered amongst its representatives several connected by marriage with the Foresters, in addition to five of the Weld family, which has become merged in the Foresters, the present Lord Forester (Cecil Theodore Weld-Forester), who was one of the last Wenlock Members, being the representative of the united families of Weld and Forester. Individual members of the Forester family have represented the Borough for long periods, Sir William Forester being Member in no less than 14 Parliaments, while the Willey Squire sat for 25 years, and the first Lord Forester for 29 years—periods far exceeded by General Forester, who was Member from 1828 to 1874, a continuous period of 46 years, during the latter part of which he was the Father of the House of Commons.

The great rival of the Foresters was the family of Lawley, whose head became possessed of Wenlock Abbey at the

Reformation, and of whom, no less than eleven were Members for the Borough, though, notwithstanding repeated efforts, no Lawley has, with one exception, sat for Wenlock since 1685. A glance at the list of Members will shew that most of the great Shropshire families were represented in its Parliamentary Roll; as will be seen from the following:—

5	Lacons		Bromley
			Cornwal
			Cressett
3	{ Bridgmans		Corbet
	{ Whitmores		Childe
		1 each of	Foxe
			Herbert
			Leighton
2	{ Eytons		Lee
	{ Blounts		Littleton
	{ Newports		Smallman
	{ Woolriches		
	{ Briggs		

A truly representative list of old Salopians.

Wenlock has had less than the ordinary number of contested elections, and fewer petitions than most other boroughs. The first recorded contest was in 1710, when two of the Lawley family were defeated, and with the exception of 1722, when again a Lawley was unsuccessful, there was no further fight until 1820, when again, after a lapse of well nigh 100 years, a Lawley fought and was worsted. No more memorable contest, probably, ever took place in Wenlock than that of 1874, when the great rival families of Forester and Lawley met to contest the Borough which had so often owed allegiance to both, the present Lords Forester and Wenlock being the candidates, and once again the purple of the Foresters triumphed over the light blue of the Lawleys, after the stiffest fight which the old town had ever seen, the numbers at the close of the poll being:—

C. T. W. Forester (Conservative)	...	1720
Hon. B. Lawley (Liberal)	...	1401

In 1885, Wenlock shared the fate of other small boroughs, and ceased to return Members, being merged, partly in the Ludlow, partly in the Wellington divisions of Shropshire.

The writer, who has been able, with few exceptions, to

identify the Members, has endeavoured to give a short memoir of each, though in many instances the details are necessarily scanty. He has made free use of many papers which have appeared in these *Transactions*, especially of those on the Records and Registers of Wenlock, and of the able paper on the Forester Family by the late Canon Bridgeman, and he also wishes to express his obligation to the publications on Wenlock and its neighbourhood by our Shropshire Antiquarian, Mr. John Randall. The writer further desires to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of the Town Clerk of Much Wenlock in allowing him access to the Borough Muniments, and giving him much valuable information.

The following is the list of the Members, with the dates of their elections.

1472, September 17. (1) WILLIAM CLERKE.

(1) WILLIAM CLERKE of Wenlock, who was the first Member of Parliament for the Borough, was also one of the first Burgesses elected under the Charter of Edward IV. in 1468, and his name follows immediately after that of the first Bailiff, John Lawley, being described in the records as "armiger." Mr. Clerke was certainly a man of considerable position, and one who interested and distinguished himself in national as well as local politics. He was a steady adherent of the Yorkist cause, and apparently had his reward. On the 6th May, 1463, a grant for life was made to "the King's servitor William Clerke of Wenlock Esquire of the office of Keeper of the King's Castle of Bridgnorth alias the office of Constable of the said Castle from the 6 May 1st Edw. IV. receiving 6d. daily from the fee farm of Bridgnorth and the Mills of Pendeleston in the County of Salop." Mr. Clerke evidently continued his adherence to Richard III., and became a man of considerable consequence, as he was of sufficient importance to be included by name in the Act of Attainder of 1 Henry VII. for having assembled on 21 August, 1485, in the County of Leicester (no doubt at the Battle of Bosworth, a battle fraught with such important consequences to the Kingdom) with Richard III. and others in arms against the King. He was attainted of high treason,

and his goods and lands were forfeited. Mr. Clerke appears to have got his attainder reversed, as on St. Thomas's Day, 5 Henry VII. (1489), he was elected Bailiff of Much Wenlock, an office which he again held in 1502. Mr. Clerke was M.P. for Bridgnorth in 1477-8.

1478, January 1st. (2) THOMAS CAMBRAY.

(2) THOMAS CAMBRAY is extremely difficult of identification. He was, probably, one of the family of Cambray of Stretton in the Dale, of which came Watkin Cambray, whose daughter and heiress Matilda was married to John Leighton of Leighton, and whose arms (argent 3 boars' heads couped close sable) appear in the banner of Sir Thomas Leighton, who entered France in 1513. The same arms also appear in the arms of the Wolriches of Dudmaston, which may give a further clue to the reason of Thomas Cambray representing Wenlock. The Cambrays seems to have been also seated at Woollaston under Wenlock Edge. No Cambray pedigree appears in the Shropshire Visitation, and no member of the family bearing the name of Thomas appears anywhere except in this Parliamentary return. In the pedigree book of the Chambre Family, now in the possession of the present representative of the family (E. G. C. Vaughan, Esq.), there is only one Thomas Chambre. He was Sheriff of Norfolk in 1447, and may have been the Wenlock Member, but there is no mention of the fact in the pedigree.

1482-3, January

1483-4, January

1485, November

1487, November

} No returns for these Parliaments
are available.

1491, October 17. (3) JOHN COLYNS AND (4) PHILIP SPENCE.

The writer has failed to establish the identity of either of these Members who sat in the only Parliament of Henry VII., of which the names have been recovered. The Members at this date would probably be local men, but these names do not appear in the Wenlock Records. John Colyns may have been one of the family of Collins of Brockton, and it is very likely that Philip Spence was one

of the Shropshire family of Spencer of Whitton, though the pedigree in the Visitation of 1623 does not disclose any Philip. A careful search through the wills at Somerset House, and through the Inq. post mortem has failed to throw light upon the identity of these Members.

1495, October 14.	} No returns for these Parliaments can be found.
1496-7, Jan. 16.	
1509-10, Jan. 21.	
1511-12, Feb. 4.	
1514-5, Feb. 5.	
1523, April 11.	

1529, November 3. (5) JOHN FOSTER AND
(6) EDWARD HALL.

(5) JOHN FOSTER, the first of the long line of Fosters or Foresters, who represented Wenlock in Parliament, was the son and heir of John Foster of Watling Street (who was alive in 1506), and Isabella, daughter of Wm. Lyster of Rowton. Mr. Foster became in some way attached to the Court of Henry VIII., was a Yeoman of the Guard, and, as Mr. Blakeway in the *Sheriffs of Shropshire* suggests, was probably the Yeoman of the Chamber of the same name who was in attendance on the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Under a grant, which is still preserved at Willey, he obtained the privilege of wearing his hat even in the presence of his sovereign. The grant runs thus:—"Forasmuch as we be credibly informed that our trusty and well beloved John Foster of Wellington in the County of Salop Gentleman for certain diseases and infirmities which he had in his head cannot without great danger and jeopardy be discovered of the same we by these presents license, &c., &c."

Mr. Foster, who lived at Easthope, married Joyce, daughter and heiress of Philip Upton of Upton and Oteley, who brought to her husband considerable estates. They had a large family, eleven sons and four daughters, the direct line being carried through William, the third son, whose lineal descendant is the present Lord Forester. Canon Bridgeman in his admirable paper on the Family of Forester, which appeared in the 3rd vol. of the *Transactions* (2nd Series),

thinks that John Foster lived till the 13th March, 1591, which would make him a very old man. Though this is not quite accurate, it is not far from the fact, as the Inquisition post mortem (taken at Shrewsbury in the 28th Elizabeth) shows that he died on the 13th March, 1586. This Inquisition states that the Member had large possessions, being seized (amongst other property) of the Manor of Wellington 2 messuages, 14 cottages, water and wind mills in Wellington and Watling Street, 3 messuages, &c., in Arleston, lands in Huntingdon, Little Wenlock, Farneley, Hodnett, and Netley, and cottages in Shiffnall. It was found by the Inquisition that John Foster's next heir was his consanguineus Francis Foster, namely "son and heir of William Foster, deceased, son and heir of John Foster," who was of the age of 19 years at his grandfather's death.

(6) EDWARD HALL, who was born in the parish of St. Mildred, London, was the son of John Hall of Northall, Shropshire. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1517-8. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, of which he became Autumn Reader in 1534, and double Lent Reader in 1540. In 1532 Edward Hall was at the request of Henry VIII. elected Common Serjeant of London, an office which he held until 1535, when he was appointed Secondary of the Bread Street Compter, and afterwards (about 1540) became one of the Judges of the Sheriffs Court. Mr. Hall is principally known to posterity as the author of the Chronicle entitled "The Union of the noble families of Lancaster and York," a work specially valuable as the evidence of a contemporary writer, though it is said to be too eulogistic of the King. Mr. Hall died in 1540, and was buried in the Church of St. Benet, Sherehog, London.

1536, June 8 }
1539, April 28 } The returns to these Parliaments are lost.

1540, December 20. (7) WILLIAM BLOUNT AND
(8) REGINALD CORBETT.

(7) WILLIAM BLOUNT, described as Gentleman in the return, was the 3rd son of Sir John Blount of Kinlet, and the younger brother of Sir George Blount (No. 19 below).

(8) REGINALD CORBET, described as of Moreton Corbet, Stoke, and the City of London, was the 3rd son of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon. He was called to the bar at the Middle Temple, of which he became Reader in 1551, and was raised to the degree of Serjeant-at-law on the 19th April, 1559. Mr. Corbet was one of the Council of the Marches of Wales, 1558, and was one of the Justices of the Anglesea, Carnarvon, and Merioneth Circuit from that year to the next, when he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, an office which he held until his death. Mr. Corbet was Recorder of Shrewsbury up to 1559, and represented that town in the Parliaments of 1547, 1553, and 1555. He was married on the 23rd October, 1546, to Alice, daughter of John Gatewood of Adderley and Stoke, and by this marriage obtained those estates as well as the rest of his wife's share in the large property of her uncle, Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Corbet died in 1566, and was buried at Stoke-upon-Tern, the Church there containing a very fine alabaster monument to his memory. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in the same year.

1544, December 23. (9) RICHARD CORNEWALL AND
(10) RICHARD LAWLEY.

(9) RICHARD CORNWALL, Baron of Burford, was the son of Sir Thomas Cornwall, Knt., Baron of Burford, and Ann, daughter of Sir Richard Corbet of Moreton. This Member was Sheriff of Shropshire on no less than 3 occasions, but Mr. Blakeway has unfortunately omitted any memoir of him. Mr. Cornewall married Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Wogan, Knt., by whom he had a son, Edmond the "Strong Baron" of Burford. In 1513, the King granted to Mr. Cornewall the Manor of Condovery, up to that time the property of Francis Lord Lovel, attainted of treason, but in 1545 he was called upon to shew by what right he claimed the Court of the Hundred of Overs. Richard Cornewall died on the 14th June, 1569, and an Inq. post mortem was held at Ludlow on the 4th August, in the same year. Unfortunately, the end of every line of this Inquisition

is missing, but it is interesting as shewing the devolution of the Barony of Burford, and so far as it is decipherable reads thus :—"A certain Richard Cornewall was seised of Manor of Burford and so seised in 15 Henry VI. granted said Manor to Edmund Cornewall and others and to heirs of s^d Edmund Cornewall and Elizabeth lately his wife and in case of default of heirs of s^d Edmund and Elizabeth manor to revert to s^d Richard and his heir. Edmund and Elizabeth had a son Thomas Cornewall Esquire to whom it descended as son and heir of s^d Edmund Cornewall. He entered upon it and died and Manor descended to Edmund as son and heir of Thomas Cornewall Esquire. After whose death it descended to a certain Thomas Cornewall Knight as son and heir of the said Edmund son of Thomas and after his death it descended to Richard Cornewall." This Inquisition, the end of which is not decipherable, except a part which states that the heir was 33 years of age, succinctly describes the fortunes of the Barony of Burford from 1436 to 1569.

(10) RICHARD LAWLEY of Spoonhill was the son and heir of John Lawley of Wenlock, first Bailiff of the Borough, and Mary, daughter of Thomas Cressett. This Member's chief claim to distinction is that he was chosen captain of the Shropshire forces sent to defend Haddington in 1547 after the battle of Pinkey, and led his forces to Scotland. The Bailiffs' Accounts for Shrewsbury contain this entry :—"Spent upon Richard Lawley Esquire assigned to be Captain for leading the armed men towards Scotland." In 1554 Mr. Lawley was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Lord President of the Marches to enquire into the lands belonging to the Chantry of the Virgin Mary within the Church of Wenlock. The M.P. married Barbara, daughter and heiress of Edmund Rugeley, by whom he had (with other children) a son Francis Lawley, who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1578. Richard Lawley died in June, 1569, and was buried at Much Wenlock.

1557, November. (11) RICHARD LAWLEY, AND

(12) THOMAS LAWLEY.

(11) (See No. 10 above).

(12) THOMAS LAWLEY was the second son of John Lawley and his wife Mary, daughter of Thomas Cresset, and was therefore brother of his fellow-member Richard Lawley. He was sworn in as a Burgess of Wenlock on the 14th Sept., 38 Henry VIII. (1546), was elected Bailiff of the Borough on the 2nd October following, and was re-elected to the same office in 1550. Mr. Lawley, who was a Merchant of the Staple of Calais, married (probably in 1547) Beatrice, daughter of Griffin Hinton of Hinton, and widow of William Constantine. Upon the christening of their son Richard at Wenlock on the 4th February 1556, he is alluded to as his mother's 17th child. Mr. Lawley is said in the Wenlock Register "to dwell within the site of Wenlock Abbey" (the Monastery of St. Milburga), which he purchased in 1545 from Augustine, Physician to Cardinal Wolsey, and for which he did homage in the same year, while in the next year he and his future wife (then Beatrice Constantine, widow), did homage for the same. The M.P. died in 1559, and the following extract relating to his burial is taken from Sir Thomas Botelar's Register of Wenlock:—"1559, April 4. Here was buried within the Chancell of our Blessed Ladye adjoyning unto the syde of the p'close of the Quere the bodye of Thomas Lawley Esquyre who died at Hinton Hall in Whitchurch parishe and was brought in a horse litter here." His widow Beatrice was buried at Wenlock on the 18th July, 1570. Mr. Lawley's will was proved in 1559 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. An Inq. was held at Bridgnorth after the death of Thomas Lawley before Thomas Ridley, Escheator, wherein it was found that he was seised of the whole house and site of the Priory of Wenlock, which was fully described, and that his heir was his son Thomas Lawley, who was 11 years of age at the Feast of St. Michael last before the death of his father.

1552-3, February 18. (13) JOHN HERBERT AND
(14) THOMAS LAWLEY.

(13) JOHN HERBERT of Buildwas was the second son of Sir Richard Herbert of Montgomery, the great Steward of the Lordships and Marches of North Wales, East Wales and Cardiganshire. The Member married Jane, daughter of Sir

Lewis Orwell, Knight, and relict (or rather mistress) of Edward Gray, Lord Powys, to whom the site of Buildwas Abbey, with the Bell Tower and Church, had passed in 1537, which would account for Mr. Herberts's residence at Buildwas. Mr. Herbert sat in 1554 as one of the Commissioners to enquire into the lands "belonging to the Chantry or service of our Blessed Lady within the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity of Much Wenlock." In 1574, Queen Elizabeth granted 2 acres of land, called the Church Yard, at Leominster, with a tenement and garden in Burgess-street (all property belonging to the suppressed Priory of Leominster), to John Herbert and his heirs. Mr. Herbert was M.P. for Romney in 1555, probably owing to the influence of his wife's family, who belonged to Kent. A search for a will or an Inq. post-mortem has been fruitless.

(14) THOMAS LAWLEY. (See No. 12 above).

1553, September 29. (15) RICHARD LEE AND
(16) ROBERT EYTON.

(15) RICHARD LEE of Langley was the eldest son of Thomas Lee of Langley, and his wife Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet. The M.P., who was Bailiff of Wenlock in 1543, married Eleanor, daughter of Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley, by whom he had a son, Humphréy, who was created a Baronet by King James in 1620. Mr. Lee was "particular receiver of the Monastery of Wenlock" after the dissolution of the Monasteries. He was buried in Acton Burnell Church, where a slab affixed to the wall records the date of his death as follows:—"Hic jacet corpus Ricardi Legh armigeri qui obiit 27 die Maii anno dni 1591." His widow, Eleanor, was also buried at Acton Burnell on the 15th December, 1596.

(16) ROBERT EYTON, who was the eldest son and heir of Thomas Eyton of Eyton (No. 30 below), and Elizabeth (wrongly, but generally, styled Alice), daughter of William Charlton of Apley, was born about 1532, and was therefore just 21 upon his election for Wenlock. He married Anne, daughter of James Leveson, the marriage settlement being dated the 29th September, 1546, and the trustees being

Walter Wrottesley, William Charlton, Richard Leveson, and John Scrymshawe. After Mr. Eyton's death, an Inq. was held at Shrewsbury on the 14th January, 1606, when it was found that he was seised at his death of the Manor of Eyton super le Wildmoor, and that by a settlement dated the 6th November, 1602, he enfeoffed Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, Sir Francis Newport, Thomas Charlton, Robert Pope, William Eyton and Robert Charlton, with 16 messuages, &c in Brockton for the use of Elizabeth, his then wife. It was further found that on the 21st May, 1604, at Eyton, he made his last will, and left his property as follows:—"I bequeath unto Richard Eyton, my son, all my Manors, &c., for life, except my wife's jointure," &c. "And I do straightly charge and require my said son, upon my blessing, that he admit of all these exceptions." Remainder to his brother, William Eyton, for his life, "and after him to my nephew, Philip Eyton, son of my brother, Thomas Eyton, deceased, and to the heirs male of the said Philip. If my son Richard do not observe my wishes, my bequest to him to be utterly void, and all my Manors to go to my brother William, and I do bequeath unto him only 10s. as his child's part." The jurors also found that Robert Eyton published his will, and died afterwards, and that Richard Eyton his son, entered on the premises for his life. Richard died s.p., and the estates reverted to Philip Eyton.

1553-4, March 21. (17) THOMAS FORSTER AND
(18) EDWARD LACON.

(17) THOMAS FOSTER or FORSTER, who is described in the return as "Thomas Forster of Arliscotte withine the libertyes of Moche Wenlocke, Esquyre," was the fourth son of John Foster of Watling Street, M.P. for Wenlock in 1529 (see No. 5 above), and Joyce, daughter of Philip Upton. In 34 Henry VIII., a Thomas Foster and Elizabeth, his wife, are to account in the Exchequer for the temporalities of the old Abbey of St. Peter at Shrewsbury, and this Thomas Forster appears quite as likely to have been the Member of Wenlock, as the Thomas Forster of Evelith, with whom he is identified by Owen and Blakeway, as there seems no proof of the latter having been married. The Member is

stated in the Visitation to have been married, and in the Foster pedigree, to have had issue, but the writer has been unable to ascertain any further particulars.

(18) EDWARD LACON, who is described in the return as "Edward Lacon of Woodelands, in the libertyes of Much Wenlocke, Gent.," is not easy to identify with any certainty. He was probably the second son of Sir Thomas Lacon of Willey and Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet, and brother of Richard Lacon, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1540. If so, he was the ancestor of the Lacons of West Coppice.

1554, November 7. (19) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT AND
(20) JOHN EVANS.

(19) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT was the eldest son of Sir John Blount of Kinlet 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. 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 only one child, 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 those of 1544 and 1547. He died in 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 (for some reason which is unexplained) away from

his daughter to his nephew Rowland Lacon (No. 26 below) who was the son of his sister Agnes. There is still at Kinlet a portrait of Sir George taken in 1546.

(20) JOHN EVANS was also M.P. for Shrewsbury 1547 to 1552, for Leominster March to May, 1554, and for Denbigh in 1555, sitting only for Wenlock in this short Parliament of November, 1554-5. His will, in which he is described as of Shrewsbury, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1565. Little is known of this member.

1555, Sept. 29. (21) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT AND
(22) THOMAS RIDLEY.

(21) See No. 19 above.

(22) THOMAS RIDLEY of The Boulde and of Willey is a member whom it is not easy to identify with certainty, though it is possible to ascertain beyond doubt a good many particulars of him. There were two families of Ridley in Shropshire at this time: one of Bouldon, the other of Broughton and Alkington, as one member of each family was buried at Wenlock about this time, namely Reginald Ridley of Alkington on the 19th August, 1575, and Richard Ridley of Bouldon on the 3rd January, 1592, to whose memory a brass in Wenlock Church still bears testimony. It is not easy to directly connect the member with either of these. Thomas Ridley the M.P., who is described as "armiger" in the Parliamentary return, and who was Escheator of the County in 1558, was elected as Bailiff of Wenlock on St. Thomas's Day in one of the years of Philip and Mary (1554-8), and seems to have been also Bailiff in 1554 and 1560. He married Agnes, daughter of Sir John Blount of Kinlet, and widow of Richard Lacon of Willey, who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1540, and died in 1541, being buried at Arley. Thomas Ridley appears to have gone to live with his wife at Willey, as the register of Sir Thomas Botelar, Vicar of Wenlock, contains the following entry:—"21st November, 1554. Here was buried out of Willey George, a sucking child, the son of Mr. Thomas Ridley, Bailiff of the Franchise and liberties of this Borough of Much Wenlock," and again in 1556 Mr. Ridley is also described as of Willey. The same register contains a curious

entry of the entertainment of Dr. Heath, Lord President of the Court of the Marches, and Justice Townshend, by the burgesses of Wenlock on the 16th July, 1554, at which "the silver plate whereof they drank was borrowed for the time of Mrs. Agnes the wife of Mr. Thomas Ridley, sometime wife of Mr. Richard Lakyn of Willey." There is a further entry under the date of 1560, May 26, which is as follows:—
 "The same day the said John Bill, Serjeant, had a Love Ale gedred by Mrs. Agnes Ridley wife of the said Thomas Ridley, Bailiff of the franchises and liberties of Wenlock £10." Mr. Ridley was buried at Stottesden on the 1st September, 1580. His will dated the 12th April, 1580, and proved at Hereford, mentions his wife Agnes, his daughter Cicely Jervesse, and also Alice, Margaret, and Agnes, the three daughters of his brother William.

1557-8, January 4. (23) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT AND
 (24) GEORGE BROMLEY.

(23) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT. (See No. 19 above).

(24) SIR GEORGE BROMLEY of Hallon, was the elder son 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 he became, like his father, Reader, and of which he was Treasurer of the Inn from 1562-71. Though Sir George did not rise to so great fame as his younger brother Thomas, who became Lord Chancellor of England, still, he attained to an eminent place in the legal profession. He was for some years (at all events, from 1572 to 1580) Attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster, was from 1567—1580 Justice of the three Shires of North Wales and ex-officio became one of the Council of the Marches. In 1580 he was appointed Chief Justice of Chester (retaining that office till his death), and was knighted on the 3rd June, 1580, at Nonsuch, Surrey. Sir George was Recorder of Shrewsbury from 1582—1588, was High Sheriff of the County in 1552, M.P. for Shropshire, 1571 to 1583, and was Custos Rotulorum of the County. He married Jane, daughter of John Wannerton of Hallon, and by this marriage acquired the Hallon Estates, in the Parish of

Worfield. Sir George had 10 children, of whom one Sir Edward carried on the 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 2nd March, 1588, a splendid monument being erected in Worfield Church, bearing 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, departed this life the 2nd of March, 1588, aged 63."

1558-9, January 16. (25) GEORGE BROMLEY AND
(26) ROWLAND LACON.

(25) GEORGE BROMLEY. (See No. 24 supra).

(26) ROWLAND LACON of Willey, was the eldest son of Richard Lacon of Willey and of Agnes, daughter of Sir John Blount, and was nephew of Sir George Blount (No. 19 above), who devised to him in 1581 the Kinlet and other estates in preference to his own daughter. Mr. Lacon, who was one of an old Roman Catholic family, was Bailiff of Wenlock in 1560, and Sheriff of Shropshire in 1571. He married Eleanor, daughter of William Rigges of Stragglethorpe, Lincolnshire, by whom he had with other children, a son, Sir Francis Lacon, who succeeded him at Willey. Rowland Lacon died at the latter end of the year 1608, and his will dated the 2nd November in that year was proved on the 9th February, 1609. In this will he mentions his wife (to whom he leaves "the jewel, which I usually wear about my neck"); his son, Sir Francis, and the latter's children, Magdalen, Mary and Rowland, and his own son Thomas. From the Inq. post-mortem held at Bridgnorth 7 James I., it appears that the Manor of Willey and the advowson of the Parish Church there, and the Manors of Chelmarsh, Boulde, Gretton, Harley (with the Rectory and advowson), Kenley (with the advowson), Smethcott, Wrickton, and Broseley, belonged to Rowland Lacon at his death.

1562, December. (27) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT AND
(28) CHARLES FOXE.

(27) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT. (See No. 19 supra).

(28) CHARLES FOXE of Bromfield was the well-known Secretary of the Marches of Wales, whom the present writer has already described as M.P. for Ludlow, in the *Transactions*, 2nd Series, vol. vii., p. 10 (1895), as Recorder of that Borough in vol. xi., p. 316 (1899), and more fully in the paper on the Foxe family in vol. xii., pp. 137-140 (1900), so that any further description is unnecessary.

1571, April. (29) WILLIAM LACON AND
(30) THOMAS EYTON.

These names have been taken from Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*, and do not appear in the official lists, no returns having been found. There is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the names.

(29) WILLIAM LACON was the second son of Richard Lacon of Willey, who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1540, and of Agnes, daughter of Sir John Blount, and brother, therefore, of Rowland Lacon (No. 26 above). He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1567, and became Gentleman Usher to Queen Elizabeth. The Member married Anne Helwis of London, and had one son, Rowland.

(30) THOMAS EYTON of Eyton on the Wildmoors was the eldest son of Thomas Eyton, described in the Visitation as of Wigmore. Both the Shropshire Visitation and Mr. Blakeway state that this was the M.P. for Wenlock, but he must have been an old man when he was returned for this Parliament, as his son Robert Eyton was M.P. for the Borough 18 years earlier, i.e., in 1553. Mr. Eyton, who was one of the Commission appointed to enquire into the property of the Chantry of the Virgin, within the Parish Church of Wenlock, was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1567. He married Elizabeth (wrongly called Alice), daughter of William Charlton of Apley, and sister of Thomas Charlton, who was Sheriff in the earlier part of the same year, and probably died in office. Thomas Eyton died on the 17th January, 1581-2. An Inq. post-mortem was taken at

Wellington on the 13th March in the same year, by which it was found that he was at his death seized of the Manor of Eyton, &c., that his wife Elizabeth was in "full life" at Eyton, and that Robert Eyton was his son and heir, and was aged 50 and upwards at his father's death.

1572, April 23. (31) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT AND
(32) THOMAS LAWLEY.

(31) SIR GEORGE BLOUNT. (See No. 19 above).

(32) THOMAS LAWLEY, who was born on the 29th Sept., 1547, was the eldest son of Thomas Lawley, M.P., 1547 (No. 12), and his wife Beatrice Hinton. He entered Shrewsbury School in 1562, was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1567, and attained to considerable eminence in the profession, probably, in part, owing to the influence of a brother Salopian, Lord Chancellor Bromley, of whom he was a great protégé. In 1598 he obtained a grant, with reversion to his son Edward, of the office of Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown in the Counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan, and the town of Haverfordwest. In 1571, general livery was given to Mr. Lawley of the house and site of the late Priory of Wenlock, probably on his mother's death. In 1600, Queen Elizabeth granted to him and his brother Robert (No. 36 below), the Manor of Wenlock in fee. In 1613, Mr. Lawley had the King's license to make a settlement of his estate, probably on the marriage of his son Edward Lawley (No. 47 below). He was Bailiff of Wenlock in 1588 and 1594, and in the former year was a contributor of £25 to the Spanish Armada Defence Fund. Mr. Lawley married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Newport of Ercall (and widow of Francis Lawley), who was buried at Wenlock on the 16th January, 1608. He is said to have been knighted, but his name does not appear in any of the lists of Knights. Mr. Lawley, who died on the 22nd February, 1621, and was buried at Gnosall, is recorded to have been a keen and clear sighted man, gifted with great perseverance, and to have also been "as honest as he was clever."

1584, November 12. } (33) THOMAS LAWLEY AND
 1586, October 7. } (34) WILLIAM BAYNHAM.

(33) THOMAS LAWLEY. (See No. 32 above).

(34) WILLIAM BAYNHAM of Westbury, Gloucestershire, was the son of John Baynham of Westbury and his wife Anne, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir David Matthew, whose other daughter was married to Richard Horde, the Recorder of Wenlock in 1540, hence, no doubt, Mr. Baynham's connection with the Borough, of which there is no trace of his ever having been admitted a Burgess, though he represented it in no fewer than five Parliaments. He was Receiver of the County of Salop, and in that capacity the petition of the inhabitants of Oswestry on the 6th July, 1595, that their Churches which were in decay might be repaired, was referred to him. Mr. Baynham died on the 5th Nov., 1597, in London, and administration of his estate was granted to his widow Martha and to his son Edmund, M.P. for Bishop's Castle, and one of the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot.

1588, November 5th. (35) WILLIAM BAYNHAM AND
 (36) ROBERT LAWLEY.

(35) WILLIAM BAYNHAM. (See No. 34 above).

(36) ROBERT LAWLEY was the second son of Thomas Lawley (No. 12 above), and brother of Thomas Lawley (No. 32 above). He was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1562. Robert Lawley was for some reason joined in 1600 with his elder brother Thomas in the grant from the Crown of the Manor of Wenlock.

1592-3, February. (37) WILLIAM BAYNHAM AND
 (38) SIR JOHN POOLE OR POLE, KNT.

(37) WILLIAM BAYNHAM. (See No. 34 above).

(38) SIR JOHN POOLE or POLE, Knight (so styled alternatively in the return), affords probably the greatest difficulty in identification of all the Members for Wenlock. It would not have been thought difficult to trace one who was a Knight so late as 1593, but all efforts have failed to elucidate the mystery of this Member's identity. He is styled Knight in the Blue Books, but in Willis's *Parliamentaria Notitia* he is described as Esquire. If this were correct, it would have

been easy to assume that he was John Poole of Poole Hall, Cheshire, who married Susannah, daughter of Sir Edward Felton, and died on the 13th Dec., 1613, or his eldest son, also John Poole, who married Mary, daughter of Sir Rowland Stanley, and died on the 28th July, 1601, but the official return must be taken as correct. The only Knight of that period bearing a similar name was Sir John Poley of Wrongey, who died in 1638, and whose aunt Ann Poley married William Wolrich, but he does not appear to have been knighted until 1598. Mr. Duncomb Pink (the best authority on Knights and Members) does not think that the M.P. can have been another Sir John Poley, who was knighted at Bergem op Zoom for his services against the Spaniards in 1588, and who was slain in Flanders in July, 1594, as he was not in England in 1593. This member affords an unsolved problem.

1597, Sept. 15. (39) WILLIAM BAYNHAM AND
(40) WILLIAM LACON.

(39) WILLIAM BAYNHAM. (See No. 34 above).

(40) WILLIAM LACON may have been the same person as the M.P. in 1571 (No. 29 above), which is scarcely probable, or he may have been, as is more probable, William Lacon of Limebrooke, the second son of Edward Lacon of Thonglands and his wife Elizabeth Acton, in which case he married Margaret, daughter of Richard Frene of Kidderminster. The family records do not enable us to solve the difficulty.

1597, November 11th. (41) THOMAS FANSHAWE
vice William Baynham, deceased.

(41) THOMAS FANSHAWE (born about 1530) was the eldest son of John Fanshawe of Fanshawe Gate, Derbyshire. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple. Mr. Fanshawe succeeded his uncle Henry Fanshawe as Remembrancer of the Exchequer in 1568. In 1570 he was placed at the head of a Commission of Enquiry into the estates of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, and acted for many years as an Ecclesiastical Commissioner. In 1576 the Member purchased Ware Park, Hertfordshire, where he afterwards

resided, and he also became possessed of large estates in that county and in Essex and Middlesex. He was twice married and left numerous children, several of whom obtained positions under the Crown. Mr. Fanshawe was one of the Trustees in 1582 of the marriage settlement of Sir Rowland Heyward, Lord Mayor of London, by which the Manor of Cardington and other estates in Shropshire were dealt with, hence perhaps the member's association with Wenlock, which is otherwise not easy to account for. Mr. Fanshawe, who died on the 19th February, 1600-1, and was buried at Ware, was the author of several works, chiefly connected with his office. He was M.P. for Rye 1571, and for Arundel from 1572 to 1592.

1601, October 11. (42) JOHN BRETT AND

(43) WILLIAM LEIGHTON, JUNR.

(42) JOHN BRETT was the son of Robert Brett, a Merchant Taylor, settled in London, and was himself settled at Edmon-ton. The origin of his connection with Wenlock is not clear, but he probably held some office in the Court of the Marches, as in 1595 he and Richard Wright obtained a conveyance of the Council House at Shrewsbury, Mr. Wright being then Serjeant-at-Arms in that Court. Mr. Brett was a man of wide spreading influence and wealth, and in 1599 he purchased the Manor of Romney for £7,300. He obtained the honour of knighthood at some time between 1599 and 1607, as in Letters Patent granting him estates in Bedfordshire in the latter year the grant is made to Sir John Brett, Knight, and Lady Margaret his wife. Sir John was buried at St. Augustine's, London, on the 3rd February, 1620.

(43) WILLIAM LEIGHTON, Junr., was the eldest son of William Leighton of Plaish (the well-known Chief Justice of North Wales and one of the Council of the Marches, whose splendid monument remains in Cardington Church), and of his first wife Isabella, daughter of Thomas Onslow. The member was educated at Shrewsbury School, which he entered in 1578, and was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1580. He was prominent as a Courtier, was one of the King's Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, and was knighted on the Coronation of James I. on the 23rd July, 1603. Sir

William married Winifred, daughter of Sir Simon Harcourt, by whom he had one son and two daughters. He is said to have been an excellent musician, and was the author of various poems, the principal being "Virtue Triumphant, or a lively description of the four cardinal virtues," an eulogy of James I., which was published in 1603, and probably led to the member's knighthood. Sir William afterwards got into serious difficulties, as having been sued for debt in 1608, he was in 1610 outlawed and afterwards imprisoned. He appears to have been still in prison in 1613, when his work "The tears and lamentations of a sorrowful soul" was published. In the dedicatory epistle Sir William writes of himself in the following mournful strain:—"I have had a woful large and long experience of imprisonment, troubles, crosses, sickness, and afflictions, and have past even the alphabet of calamities; to make good use of them and to lenifie my grief I composed these swanlike songs." He appears to have handed on his burden of troubles to his only son Harcourt Leighton, as we find the latter outlawed in 1633-4. The date of Sir William's death has not been discovered, and a careful search has failed to bring to light any will or Inq. post mortem.

1603-4, March 6. (44) ROBERT LAWLEY AND
(45) GEORGE LAWLEY.

(44) ROBERT LAWLEY. (See No. 36 above).

(45) GEORGE LAWLEY was either the second son of Francis Lawley of Spoonhill (who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1578) and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Newport, or the third son of Thomas Lawley, who was M.P. for Wenlock in 1547 (No. 12 above), but almost certainly the former. If so, he was born in 1579, was admitted to Shrewsbury School as "generosi filius" on the 9th October, 1593, and matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, on the 27th February, 1595-6, "aged 16." He took his degree of B.A. on the 3rd December, 1599, and that of B.C.L. on the 17th December, 1608. The doubt as to his identity is caused by the fact that in the year following his election for Wenlock, a reversionary grant of the office of Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown in the Counties of

Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, and the town of Haverfordwest, was made to George Lawley, Senior, and Junior, so that both were then living. On the 24th March, 1608, the Member obtained a demise for 21 years of lands at Broncroft forfeited through the recusancy of John Lutley. He died s.p. before 1623. The doubt as to the identity of the Member, seems in great measure, dissolved by the will proved in 1610 of the other George Lawley, who was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1562, and was a Fellow of All Souls. In this will he desires to be buried in some convenient place in the bodie of the Church of All Souls, and he states that "he knows his chiefest riches in this world to have been in a small library of books." In giving a part of this library, he continues thus:—"Imprimis the eternal and sacred love I bear unto the College of All Souls, where I have had my breeding these many years liberally and worthy of such a Founder, and am now likely to have my resting place, hath caused me to give these few books unto the library thereof—'Opera Dantis Cum Commentariis,' 'Opera Livii Cum Comment,' 'Idea Medicinæ Philosophicæ,' 'Francisci Comuni Comment Juris Civilis.'" As in 1610 he had been long living at All Souls, it is scarcely likely that the testator was the Member for Wenlock, and further, he mentions—"My most tried friend and kinsman George Lawley." The will of George Lawley, the Member, is not to be found either at Hereford or in London.

1614, (46) ROWLAND LACON AND
(47) EDWARD LAWLEY.

(46) ROWLAND LACON was the eldest son and heir of Sir Francis Lacon (Sheriff of Shropshire in 1612), and of Jane, daughter of Anthony Viscount Montagu, and succeeded his father in the Kinlet Estates. Mr. Lacon, who espoused the Royal cause in the Civil War, signed the "Engagement and resolution of the principal men of Shropshire," and is said to have suffered much in the service of his Sovereign; his composition, however, was but small, being only £66. The Member married Mary (christened at Sidbury, 1597, April 17th), daughter of Sir Robert Purslow of Sidbury (Sheriff 1609),

and had one child only, Anne, who married Sir William Childe, a Master in Chancery, and carried to him the Kinlet estates, which are still in the family. Mr. Lacon died on the 7th September, 1657, and was buried at Kinlet.

(47) EDWARD LAWLEY, the eldest son of Thomas Lawley (No. 32 above) and of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Newport, was born on the 5th January, 1585-6, and was baptised at Acton Round. He matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, on the 11th May, 1604, being described as of Wenlock, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in November, 1605, being then described as late of Lyons Inn. Mr. Lawley, who was admitted a Burgess of Wenlock in 1603, was Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown for South Wales, and was knighted on the 9th November, 1619. Sir Edward, who married Susan, daughter of Thomas and Susan Fisher, at St. Margaret's Church, Lothbury, London, by whom he had one child only, a daughter, died in 1623 in the parish of St. Giles in the Fields. By his will, dated the 22nd May, 1623, he left £6 a year to his uncle, John Lawley of Spoonhill, and appointed his wife, Walter Acton and Robert Thorne, executors. By the Inq. post-mortem held at Shrewsbury, it was found that Sir Edward died seized of the Manor of Wenlock, and that his daughter Ursula, aged 9 years and 4 months, was his next heir.

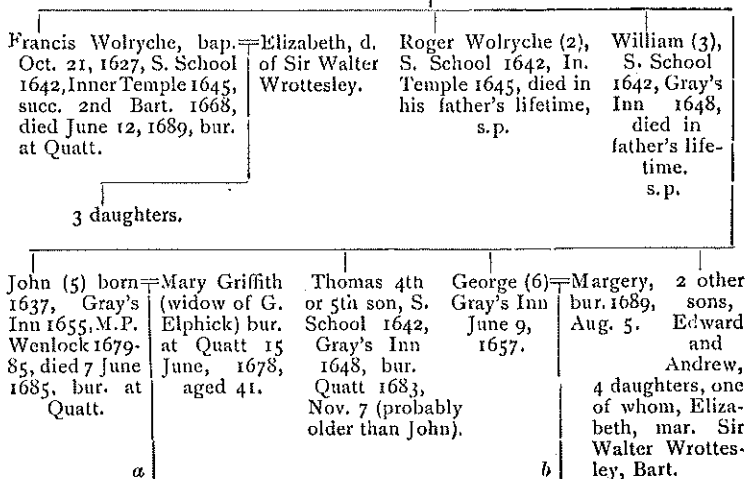
1620-1, January 2. (48) SIR EDWARD LAWLEY AND
(49) THOMAS WOLRYCHE.

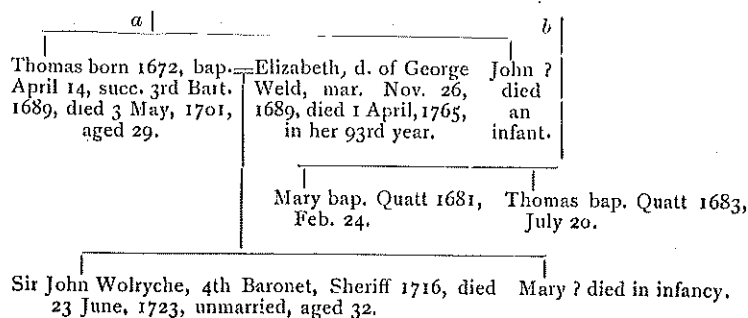
(48) SIR EDWARD LAWLEY. (See No. 47 above).

(49) THOMAS WOLRYCHE, the eldest son of Francis Wolryche of Dudmaston, Salop, was baptised at Worfield on the 27th March, 1598. After passing through Cambridge the member was admitted to the Inner Temple in November, 1614. He represented Wenlock in three Parliaments, was knighted on the 22nd July, 1641, and was created a Baronet on the 2nd August in the same year. Being a strong supporter of the Royal cause, Sir Thomas was made a Captain of the Trained Bands in the King's Army on the breaking out of the Civil War, and was in 1642 Governor of Bridgnorth Castle. He suffered severely for his adherence to his Sovereign, having to compound for his estates in the

sum of £730 14s., and the epitaph on his monument states that his estates were twice sequestered, and that he was more than once thrown into prison. Sir Thomas married at Pitchford on the 4th May, 1625, Ursula, daughter of Thomas Oteley of Pitchford, by whom he had a large family, eight sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom, afterwards Sir Francis, had three children only, all daughters, but he becoming insane, was passed over in the succession of the family estates. Sir Thomas died on the 4th July, 1668, and was buried in Quatt Church, where the monument erected to his memory has a remarkable epitaph, which after speaking of "the lofty majesty of his person" and stating that "to his skill in heraldry he added the more solid uses of history and mathematics" concludes thus: "Our Ulric was summoned to the Assembly of the Saints on the feast of St. Ulric July 4, 1668." The succession of the Baronetcy is so generally mis-stated that a pedigree (correct so far as it goes) is appended, as it may assist the future historian of Shropshire. It has been compiled from materials supplied by the present representative of the family, Mr. Wolryche Whitmore, to whom the writer is much indebted for valuable information.

Sir Thomas Wolryche bap. at Worfield, = Ursula, d. of Thomas Oteley of
March 27, 1598, created Baronet Aug. 4, Pitchford, mar. May 4, 1625.
1641, died July 4, 1668.





1623-4, January. (50) THOMAS WOLRYCHE AND
(51) HENRY MYTTON.

(50) THOMAS WOLRYCHE. (See No. 49 supra).

(51) HENRY MYTTON was the son of Edward Mytton of Shipton and Eleanor, daughter of Robert Wigfall of Worcester. He was admitted a Burgess of Wenlock in 1623, and was elected both Bailiff of the Borough and one of its Members of Parliament in the same year. He was again Bailiff in 1640. Mr. Mytton, who is described as "de privato cubiculo domini Regis," was twice married; first, to Mary, daughter of Cristopher Dighton of Worcester, who was buried at Shipton on the 17th September, 1640, and secondly, to Susannah (surname unknown), who was buried at the same place on the 27th March, 1659. The Member had several children by the first wife; but only one, a son, who died in infancy, by his second marriage. Mr. Mytton was buried at Shipton on the 10th September, 1663.

1625, May 2. (52) THOMAS WOLRYCHE AND
(53) THOMAS LAWLEY.

(52) See No. 49 above.

(53) THOMAS LAWLEY of Spoonhill, was the 3rd son, but ultimate heir of Richard Lawley of Spoonhill, his two elder brothers, Richard and George, both dying without issue. Mr. Lawley was admitted a Burgess of Much Wenlock on the 7th April, 1625, being described as "nuper de London nunc de Spoonhill armig." He was created a Baronet by Charles I. on the 6th August, 1641. Sir Thomas married Ann, daughter and co-heiress of John Manning of Hackney,

by whom he had, with other issue, a son, who succeeded him in the Baronetcy, and was M.P. for Wenlock from 1658—1661.

1625-6, January 25. (54) THOMAS LAWLEY AND
(55) FRANCIS SMALMAN.

(54) See No. 53 above.

(55) FRANCIS SMALMAN of Wilderhope, who was born on the 29th September, 1595, and was baptized at Wenlock on the 5th October, 1595, was the eldest son of Stephen Smalman of Wilderhope, and Jane (daughter of Francis Lawley of Spoonhill), to whom he was married at Acton Round on the 7th December, 1592. He must not be confounded with Francis Smalman of Kinnersley, Herefordshire, who was M.P. for Leominster from 1620—1622, and died at Kinnersley on the 7th September, 1633, aged 68. The Member for Wenlock married at Wenlock on the 30th October, 1623, Abigail, daughter of Hugh Morris of Llorian, Denbighshire, by whom he had, with three other sons and three daughters, an eldest son Thomas Smalman, who succeeded him at Wilderhope. Francis Smalman was buried at Rushbury on the 13th May, 1639. He made his will, dated the 7th March, 1638 (proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 8th July, 1639), and thereby directed that if he died near London, his body should be buried in the Temple Church, near the corpse of his grandfather Thomas Smalman, Esq., who was buried there; but if he died at his house at Wilderhope, then in the Chancel of Rushbury Church, near to his ancestors there. He left his estates to his eldest son Thomas in tail male, with remainder to his other sons successively; his plate, linen, &c., to his wife Abigail; legacies of £100 to each of his three younger sons; £500 to his eldest daughter Anne, at 22 or marriage; £250 to his daughter Joyce, at the same time, and his books to his eldest son Thomas, "hoping he will apply himself to virtuous learning and the study of the common laws of this realm." The will contained several small legacies, including one of 20s. to the poor of Rushbury, to be paid by the Rector and Overseers. The Inq. post-mortem was taken at Shrewsbury on the 20th September, 1639, before Robert

Sandford, when it was found that the deceased Francis Smalman was seised in fee of the Wilderhope property, "which premises were held of the heirs of Rich^d Harnage, Esq., deceased, in socage by way of fealty only, and were worth 10s.," that he was also seised of "le Nether Stanway," that a settlement was made (dated 1627, December 6th), by which the said F. Smalman was at his death seised for life of the said premises, remainder to his wife Abigail for life, remainder to Thomas Smalman his son and heir in tail male. It was also found that he was seised of a messuage and lands at Neenton, of a messuage in Mill Street, Ludlow, and a rent-charge of 25s. on property at Thongland, that he died on the 10th May then last past, that his wife Abigail was living at Wilderhope, and that Thomas Smalman was his son and heir, and was at his father's death, aged 14 years 6 months and 23 days.¹

1627-8, March 4. (56) THOMAS LAWLEY AND
(57) GEORGE BRIDGEMAN.

(56) See No. 53 above.

(57) GEORGE BRIDGEMAN was the eldest son of Sir John Bridgeman, Chief Justice of Chester and Vice-President of the Court of the Marches, who was Recorder of Wenlock at the time of his son's election as Member, an office which he resigned on account of infirmity in 1636. The Member, who was born in 1606, was admitted as a Burgess of Wenlock in 1627, doubtless so as to qualify him for election. Mr. Bridgeman married in 1631 Heavingham, daughter of Sir James Pytts of Kyre, and upon his marriage went to reside at Nympsfield, in the County of Gloucester an estate which was then settled upon him. He died at Cirencester, and was buried in the Abbey there on the 20th March, 1642-3.

1639-40, March. (58) THOMAS LITTLETON AND
(59) RICHARD CRESSETT.

(58) THOMAS LITTLETON, who was born in 1620, was the eldest son of Sir Adam Littleton of Stoke St. Milborough (who was at this time Recorder of the Borough of Wenlock),

¹ The writer is indebted for these particulars of Mr. Smalman to the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher.

and succeeded his father as 2nd baronet in 1647. The member was a faithful adherent of the Royalist cause in the Civil War, and suffered accordingly, being disabled from sitting in the House of Commons in May, 1646, and having to compound for his estates in the sum of £307, then having "£180 per annum settled." Sir Thomas seems to have received substantial consolation at the Restoration, and is not overlooked in *Flagellum Parliamentarium* (that tract which is so bitter an attack on the Court party in the Long Parliament), where he is said to have got "a commissionership of the Navy worth £1,500 a year." The member was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1636, and was called to the Bar in 1642. He was appointed one of the Commissioners for the Navy Treasurership in Nov., 1668, at a salary of £1,250 a year, was Treasurer of the Navy in 1670, and was one of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of England from February, 1679-80, to his death in 1681. An anonymous paper, *The Alarum*, published in 1669, after Sir Thomas's appointment to an official position, says of him: "He was an angry man against the Court until silenced by a good place, and is now content that everything should be let alone, having got what he grumbled for." Sir Thomas married his cousin Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Littleton (afterwards Lord Littleton of Munslow, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal), the license for which marriage was dated the 6th October, 1637, and stated the age of the bridegroom to be 17, that of the bride 12. The issue of this marriage was a son, who became the Speaker of the House of Commons. Sir Thomas, who represented East Grinstead in 1679 and Yarmouth in 1681, until his death, died on the 14th April, 1681, and was buried at North Ockenden.

(59) RICHARD CRESSETT was the eldest son of Edward Cressett of Upton Cressett, and was baptised at that place on the 28th March, 1608. He does not appear to have been educated at Shrewsbury School, as his brothers were, but he matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, on the 16th May, 1623. The member's father was a strong Royalist, but he himself appears to have been very lukewarm in the cause and to have ultimately veered round to the Parliamentary

party. He married Jane, daughter of George Huxley, by whom he had two sons and three daughters, and who died on the 6th Sept., 1640, aged only 29. Her memory is perpetuated in Upton Cressett Church by a very fine Brass, which is fully described in Mr. Stephenson's valuable paper on Shropshire Brasses in the Shrop. Arch. *Transactions*, vii., 2nd Series, 433. Mr. Cressett was himself buried at Upton Cressett on the 16th April, 1677.

1640, October 26 (Long Parliament).

(60) THOMAS LITTLETON AND (61) WILLIAM
PIERPOINT.

(60) See 58 above.

(61) WILLIAM PIERPOINT, properly PIERREPOINT, the second son of the first Earl of Kingston, was born in 1607. He married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and the heiress of Sir Thomas Harris of Tong Castle, and in that way obtained the Tong estates. Mr. Pierrepoint was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1638, and having been returned as M.P. for Wenlock in 1640, after unsuccessfully contesting Shropshire in the same year, jumped at once into a position of great influence, and was described as "one of the wisest Counselors and most excellent speakers in the House." He was appointed one of the Committee of Public Safety on the 4th July, 1642, and was one of the heads of the peace party during the early stages of the war. Being wishful to retire from public life, he on the 8th Nov., 1643, asked the House of Commons for leave to go beyond the seas, but the House gave him a friendly denial, "being desirous of his assistance, being a gentleman of great wisdom and integrity." In April, 1643, the member was appointed one of the Committee for the Association of the Counties of Warwick, Stafford, and Salop, and in February, 1644, he became one of the Committee of both Kingdoms. He was also one of the Committee appointed to treat with the King at Oxford, while on the 1st December, 1648, Mr. Pierrepoint received the thanks of the House for his services. The member for Wenlock was one of Oliver Cromwell's most trusted friends, and he entertained the Protector at his house at Thoresby on the

march from Scotland to Worcester, but he refused a seat in Cromwell's House of Lords. Mr. Pierrepont was elected to the Council of State on the 23rd February, 1660, and espoused warmly the Royal cause at the Restoration, then being M.P. for the County of Nottingham. He acted with such prudence and foresight throughout the troubled period that he earned the title of "Wise William," by which he is generally known. Mr. Pierrepont obtained in March, 1647, a grant of £7,467, being the fine inflicted on his brother Henry, Marquis of Dorchester, for his adherence to the King, but in the old tract "The Mystery of the Good old Cause," which deals so severely with the Parliamentary adherents, he is said to have secured £7,000 and all the Earl of Kingston's estate (being sequestered) worth £10,000." He died in the summer of 1678, his son and three of his grandsons becoming successively Earls of Kingston, and three of his daughters becoming respectively Duchess of Newcastle, Viscountess Halifax, and Countess of Clare. Mr. Pierrepont made his will on the 2nd July, 1677, being then described as of Lincolns Inn Fields; and thereby after bequests to his three daughters, his brother Gervaise Pierrepont, and his brother-in-law Sir John Evelyn, he gave "the College, Rectory, Glebe lands and Tithes in the parish of Tong, in the County of Salop," to his son Gervaise Pierrepont, who was afterwards Duke of Kingston. This will was proved in London on the 17th August, 1678.

1646, May. (62) SIR HUMPHREY BRIGGS, vice
Thomas Littleton disabled.

(62) SIR HUMPHREY BRIGGS of Ernstrey Park, who was the eldest son of Sir Moreton Briggs, first Baronet, and Chrysogona, daughter of Edward Gray of Buildwas, was born about 1611. He was knighted in his father's lifetime, succeeded his father in the baronetcy, and was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1666. Sir Humphrey was four times married, and had a son and heir of the same name by his second wife Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Sir Richard Wilbraham of Woodhey, Cheshire. He died in May, 1691, aged 80, and was buried at Shifnal.

1653, 1654 and 1656.

No writs were issued to or Members returned by the Borough of Wenlock for these Parliaments.

1658-9, January. } (63) SIR FRANCIS LAWLEY AND
1660, April 21. } (64) THOMAS WHITMORE.

(63) SIR FRANCIS LAWLEY was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Lawley, Bart., of Spoonhill (No. 53 above), and succeeded his father in the baronetcy. He sat for Wenlock in the two short Parliaments of 1658-9 and 1660, and then became one of the Members for Shropshire in the Parliament of 1661-1678. Sir Francis was Controller of the Customs from 1677-1679, and succeeded Sir Gilbert Talbot as Master of the Jewel House in August, 1695. He married Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Whitmore of Apley, and dying in October, 1696, aged 66, was succeeded in the baronetcy and estates by his son Sir Thomas Lawley, 3rd Baronet (No. 71 below).

(64) THOMAS WHITMORE of Ludstone, the eldest son of John Whitmore, of the same place, and his wife Frances, daughter of Wm. Billingsley of Astley, Salop, was born on the 12th February, 1598-9. He matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford, on the 21st February, 1616-17, was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1626, and became a Bencher of that Inn in 1648. Mr. Whitmore was admitted a Burgess of Wenlock in 1658, and upon his re-election as M.P. in 1660, he was described as "Recorder of Wenlock." He married Anne, daughter of Thomas Corbet of Longnor, but had no issue. This Thomas Whitmore must not be confounded with either, i., Sir Thomas Whitmore (son of Sir Wm. Whitmore), who was created a Baronet in his father's lifetime on the 28th June, 1641, and was buried at Stockton on the 18th May, 1653, or II., Sir Thomas Whitmore, who was made a K.B. on the Coronation of King Charles II., in 1661, was M.P. for Bridgnorth from 1661-1681, and who married Frances, daughter of Sir Wm. Brooke, Bart. The Member for Wenlock was assessed on the 19th June, 1646, in the sum of £300, by the Committee for Compounding, so that he evidently took the Royal side in the Civil War. On the 30th October, 1646, his fine was respited, and on the

27th November he was discharged for £60 paid, the debts set out in particulars being deducted. On the 3rd April, 1648, the Salop Commissioners were ordered to examine witnesses touching his delinquency, the result of which does not appear. Mr. Whitmore was buried at Claverley in 1677, his widow being buried at the same place in 1678. Mr. Whitmore made a will, dated the 7th December, 1676, by which he left £5 "to the poor of the Parish of Claverley, where I was born," gave 20/- in gold to purchase rings to Sir William Whitmore, Bart., Sir Thos. Whitmore, K.B., William Whitmore, Esquire, Sarah Whitmore, widow, mentioned William Whitmore, his late brother, then deceased, his brother George Whitmore, his sister Mary Whitmore, his nephew William Whitmore of Shipley, Gent., and "my well deserving n'ee Mrs. Margaret Whitmore, wife of my nephew John Whitmore." The will contained the following curious clause, which it will be well to give in full :—

"I give to my Loveing (and most worthy to be beloved) wife my nephew John Whitmore to make her a sonne of And to be the staffe of her old age And I enjoyne him to be as dutyfull to her as if shee were his owne mother And for her maintenance I give unto her the use of her now Lodging Chamber with the two Standing Bedds & furniture thereof for the use of her & her maidservants during her life Allsoe I give unto her & her maidservants during her life reasonable & fitting diet washing wringing & all other necessary meanes of livelyhood to be provided for her & them att my howse att Ludston & I give unto her £24 per annum during her life for the buying of her cloathes & payment of her maidservants wages And in case my said wife shall have just cause to dislike with her dyete & usage at my house then I do appoint unto my executor to pay unto my said wife £50 per annum And I do order that such of my wife's friends & relatives as shall from time to time come to visit my said wife either in sickness or in health & their servants & horses shall be entertained at my house at Ludstone by my executor as they have been entertained by me."

The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 22nd June, 1677.

1661, April 4. (65) SIR THOMAS LITTLETON, BART.,
AND (66) GEORGE WELD.

(65) SIR THOMAS LITTLETON (See No. 58 above).

(66) GEORGE WELD, who was Member for Wenlock in this Parliament, was the fourth son of Sir John Weld of Arnolds, and Frances, daughter of Sir William Whitmore, who purchased Apley. The Member married Bridget Trimblethorpe, and died in 1696.

1678-9, February 18. (67) SIR JOHN WELD AND
(68) WILLIAM FORESTER.

(67) SIR JOHN WELD of Willey, was the third son of Sir John Weld, who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1642, and Town Clerk of London, and who purchased Willey from the Lacons. Sir John Weld followed his father's example in espousing the Royalist cause, and had to compound for his estates in the sum of £757. With his father he was taken prisoner by the Parliamentarians on their capture of Shrewsbury on the 22nd February, 1645. Sir John, who was knighted at Shrewsbury on the 22nd September, 1642, married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir George Whitmore, Knight, Alderman of London, by whom he had issue, his eldest son being George Weld, who was M.P. for Wenlock, 1685—1700 (No. 72 below). Sir John Weld was buried at Willey on the 4th August, 1681.

(68) WILLIAM FORESTER (described in the return as of Watling Street) was the son of Francis Forester, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1652, and was born at Dothill Park, on the 10th December, 1655. He represented Wenlock in no less than 14 different Parliaments, was member for 33 years, and with the exception of the Parliament of 1685-7 sat continuously from 1678-9 to 1715, when his son succeeded him in the seat, a great record in those days. Mr. Forester, who was a student of Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his degree of M.A. per literas Regias in 1675, resided at Watling Street, Dothill Park, and Apley Castle. He was one of the Clerks of the Green Cloth, and was made a Knight of the Bath in August, 1689. Previously, however, to this he had fallen into disgrace with the Government, as in 1683 50 muskets and pike heads were discovered in his oven, and a consider-

able quantity of gunpowder was found buried on his property, and he was strongly suspected of being deeply implicated in Lord William Russell's conspiracy. Blakeway says that fine woods near the Wrekin were on this occasion sacrificed to provide the necessary funds to extricate Mr. Forester (as he then was) from his difficulties. In May, 1695, Sir William fought a duel with Col. Beaumont, occasioned by some words in the Parliament House, when the member was disarmed by his opponent. In August, 1703, he was appointed by Queen Anne as Commissioner to the Hague to wait on the Archduke Charles on his journey to England, and was, doubtless, one of the foremost men at Court. Sir William married Lady Mary Cecil, third daughter of the third Earl of Salisbury, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. He died in February, 1717-8, and was buried at Wellington.

1679, August 27. } (69) WILLIAM FORESTER AND
1680-1, February 18. } (70) JOHN WOLRYCHE.

(69) See No. 68 above.

(70) JOHN WOLRYCHE (described in the return as of Dudmaston) was the fifth son of Sir Thomas Wolryche, Bart. (No. 49 above). He does not seem to have been at Shrewsbury School, as most of his brothers were, but he took his degree of B.A. at Oxford (from Christ's College, Cambridge) in 1656-7, and that of D.C.L. on the 20th December, 1670. Mr. Wolryche, who was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1661, married Mary, daughter of Matthew Griffith, D.D. (Chaplain to Charles I.), and widow of George Elphick, a celebrated musician, and who was buried at Quatt Church (where there is a fine monument to her memory) on the 13th June, 1678. The member had contested Bridgnorth in March, 1678-9, but was defeated by Sir William Whitmore and Sir Thomas Whitmore, against whose return he afterwards lodged a petition on the ground of undue practices on the part of the Bailiffs. Mr. Wolryche was buried at Quatt on the 7th June, 1685. Upon the death, on the 12th June, 1689, of the member's eldest brother Sir Francis Wolryche without male issue, the baronetcy devolved on the member's eldest son Thomas, who married Elizabeth Weld, and had one son, afterwards Sir John Wolryche, who was drowned

in the River Severn on the 25th June, 1723, when the Baronetcy became extinct.

1685, March 31. (71) THOMAS LAWLEY AND
(72) GEORGE WELD.

(71) THOMAS LAWLEY of Spoonhill was the eldest son of Sir Francis Lawley, Bart. (No. 63 supra), whom he succeeded as third Baronet in October, 1696. He married twice; first, Rebecca, second daughter of Sir Humphrey Winch, Bart.; and secondly, Mrs. Perkins, having a son Francis by his first wife. The member represented Wenlock in this Parliament, but is said to have failed at the two next elections, though we have unfortunately no record of the polls. Sir Thomas died in September, 1729.

(72) GEORGE WELD of Willey was the eldest son of Sir John Weld of Willey, and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1643. He matriculated at Ball. Coll., Oxford, on the 9th December, 1653, and took his degree of B.A. in February, 1654-5. Mr. Weld was Lieutenant of Sir John Robinson's regiment of foot, and was Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower in 1663. There is a record in October, 1670, of a petition by Mr. Weld for payment for exercising the office of Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower during Sir John Robinson's Mayoralty, which was referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury "to gratify him in some way, the King remembering his loyalty and the good services of his relations and compassionating the straits of his present condition." A warrant was issued on the 16th November following for the payment to Mr. Weld of £800 for the above services, because he had been Lieutenant, but "had been dismissed from all his employments." The tract *Flagellum Parliamentarium* referring to this payment says: "George Weld is taken into pay under the Bribe Master, and has already had £800." The member married Mary, daughter of Sir Peter Pindar, by whom (with other children) he had a son George, who succeeded his father in the representation of Wenlock, and another son Thomas, who was also M.P. for the Borough. Mr. Weld died on the 14th September, 1701, and was buried on the 17th September at Willey.

1688-9, January 14.	} (73) SIR WILLIAM FORESTER AND (74) GEORGE WELD.
1689-90, March 13.	
1695, October 3.	
1698, July 29.	
1700-1, January 8.	

1701, November 27.	} (75) SIR WILLIAM FORESTER AND (76) GEORGE WELD.
1702, July 22.	
1705, May 12.	

(75) See 68 *supra*.

(76) GEORGE WELD was the son and heir of George Weld of Willey (No. 72 above). He married Margaret, daughter of Richard Lug, by whom he had issue, and who died on the 26th December, 1719, aged 33. Mr. Weld, who was Sheriff of Shropshire in the year 1746, died in July, 1748, and was buried at Willey.

1708, May 11. (77) SIR WILLIAM FORESTER AND
(78) THOMAS WELD.

(77) See No. 68 above.

(78) THOMAS WELD was the third son of George Weld (No. 72 above) and his wife Mary Pindar, and was born in the year 1678. He matriculated at Ch. Ch., Oxford, on the 10th December, 1695. The member was a Lieut-Col. in the Army, and served in many campaigns under the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders and elsewhere. Col. Weld succeeded to the Dudmaston estates under the will of his sister Elizabeth, who obtained these estates by her marriage with Sir Thomas Wolryche, and the death in 1723 of their only son. The member died on the 9th September, 1774, at Dudmaston, at the great age of 97, and was buried at Quatt, where there is a slab to his memory with the following inscription, which, after speaking of his campaigns, continues:—"He here retired soon after to live with his sister, Lady Weld, at Dudmaston, where his polite and cheerful conversation procured him the love and esteem of an extensive acquaintance and his beneficence, the good wishes and prayers of all the poor of the neighbourhood."

1710, Oct. 10. (79) SIR WILLIAM FORESTER AND
(80) GEORGE WELD.

There was an election petition by Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., and Richard Lawley against the return of these members on the ground of bribery and other undue practices, and a further petition by burgesses residing and inhabiting within the Borough of Wenlock complaining of the same return, but no result is recorded, so that, doubtless, the return was held good.

(79) See 68 above. (80) See 76 above.

1713, Sept. 2. SIR WILLIAM FORESTER.
(81) WILLIAM WHITMORE.

(81) WILLIAM WHITMORE of Apley (born about 1682) was the son of Richard Whitmore of Slaughter, in the County of Gloucester, and Ann, daughter of Sir John Weld, and matriculated at Ch. Church, Oxford, on the 16th April, 1698. He was also elected in this same Parliament for Bridgnorth, for which he elected to sit, and he represented that Borough in the Parliaments of 1705—1708, 1713, 1714-15, and 1721-2, and in fact, sat continuously till his death. Mr. Whitmore is described in the Shropshire Visitation as a Bart., but this is clearly an error, as in all the official returns he is styled an Esquire, and in the return of his successor in the representation of Bridgnorth, the return describes the member as elected "vice William Whitmore, Esquire, deceased." Mr. Whitmore, who succeeded to the Apley estates on the death of Sir William Whitmore, second Bart., in 1699, married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Pope of Woolstaston, by whom he had (with other children) a son Sir Thomas Whitmore, Knt., who succeeded him. The M.P. died on the 24th May, 1725.

1713-14, March 17 (82) RICHARD NEWPORT, vice William Whitmore, who elected to serve for Bridgnorth.

(82) HON. RICHARD NEWPORT was the second son of the second Earl of Bradford. He died unmarried on 3rd December, 1716, in the 30th year of his age, and was buried at Wroxeter.

1714-15, Feb. 1. (83) WILLIAM FORESTER AND

(84) THOMAS NEWPORT.

(83) WILLIAM FORESTER of Dothill Park, born in 1690, was the eldest son of Sir William Forester, K.B. (No. 68 above), and succeeded to the estates on his father's death. He married in 1714 Catherine, only child and heiress of William Brooke of Clerkenwell, London, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, both the sons being afterwards M.P.'s for this good old Borough of Wenlock. Mr. Forester died on the 12th November, 1758, and was buried at Wellington.

(84) HON. THOMAS NEWPORT born in 1654, was the second son of the first Earl of Bradford, matriculated at Ch. Ch., Oxford, in 1672, was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1678, and took his M.A. degree in 1681. He was M.P. for Ludlow from 1695 to 1700, and for Winchelsea in the Parliament of 1700-1. Mr. Newport was a Commissioner of Customs with a salary of £1,000 a year from 1699 to 1711, a Lord of the Treasury with a salary of £1,600 a year from 1715—1718, was made a Privy Councillor on the 30th March, 1717, and was a Teller of the Exchequer from March, 1718, till his death. Mr. Newport was raised to the peerage with the title of Lord Torrington in June, 1716. The member, who was seated at Brigstock Park, Northants, was thrice married, but left no issue, and on his death his title became extinct. He died on the 27th May, 1719, in the 65th year of his age, and was buried at Wroxeter. According to Narcissus Luttrell's diary the member succeeded on the death of his uncle, the Hon. Andrew Newport, to his large estates and £40,000 in money. Lord Torrington, who was a connoisseur in Art and left a magnificent collection of pictures, was a great benefactor of the Hospital at Preston on the Wild Moors, which was erected under the will of his sister, Lady Herbert, and there is a portrait of his Lordship in the Hospital Hall.

1715, Nov. 5. HON. THOMAS NEWPORT re-elected
after appointment as a Lord of the Treasury.

1716, July 13. (85) SIR HUMPHREY BRIGGS, vice
Hon. T. Newport raised to the peerage.

(85) SIR HUMPHREY BRIGGS of Haughton, the fourth Baronet and the third in succession of the same name, was the eldest son of Sir Humphrey Briggs of Ernstrey Park, who died on the 31st January, 1699, aged 49. The M.P. was born in 1670, matriculated at Wadham Coll., Oxford, on the 2nd July, 1687, and was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in the same year. Sir Humphrey was M.P. for the County of Salop from 1700—1701, and sat for Bridgnorth from 1702 to 1710. He died unmarried on the 8th December, 1734, aged 64, and was succeeded by his brother Sir Hugh Briggs.

1722, March 27. (86) SIR HUMPHREY BRIGGS AND
(87) SAMUEL EDWARDS.

A petition against the return of these members was lodged on the 19th October, 1722, by Sir Thomas Lawley, Bart., and Edward Cresset, complaining of indirect and corrupt practices, but no result is recorded.

(86) See 85 above.

(87) SAMUEL EDWARDS of Frodesley and West Coppice, was the son of John Edwards of Pentre, Montgomeryshire, and purchased the Frodesley estate. He was a man of considerable standing, being one of the Deputy Tellers of the Exchequer and the Keeper of Windsor Great Park, with a salary of £500 a year. Mr. Edwards, who was twice married, first to Rebecca Godolphin, and secondly in Sept., 1722, to Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Lyster of Rowton, by whom he had two sons, died on the 12th June, 1738.

1727, Aug. 28. (88) SAMUEL EDWARDS AND
(89) JOHN SAMBROOKE.

(88) See 87 above.

(89) JOHN SAMBROOKE was the third son of Sir Jeremy Sambrooke, Knight, of Bushill, Middlesex, a London Merchant, by his wife Judith, second daughter of Nicholas Vanacker of Erith, Kent. Mr. Sambrooke, who was M.P. for Dunwich 1726-7, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Forester, Knight (No. 68 above), hence, no doubt, his connection with Wenlock. Mr. Sambrooke was a Gentleman of the Privy

Chamber to George I., and is described in a contemporary list of Members as a Turkey Merchant. Mr. Sambrooke died without issue at Bath on the 19th May, 1734, his widow surviving him many years, and dying on the 6th February, 1763. The member's two elder brothers, Sir Samuel and Sir Jeremy, inherited in succession the Baronetcy held by their uncle, but the title became extinct on the death without issue of Sir Jeremy in 1754.

1734, April 27. (90) SAMUEL EDWARDS AND
(91) WILLIAM FORESTER.

(90) See 87 above.

(91) See 83 above.

1738-9, Feb. 14. (92) BROOKE FORESTER vice
Samuel Edwards, deceased.

(92) BROOKE FORESTER of Dothill and Willey (born on the 7th Feb., 1716-17), was the eldest son of his fellow M.P. William Forester (No. 83 above). The member was twice married; firstly, on the 4th May, 1734, at Willey, to Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of George Weld of Willey (No. 76 above), by whom he had four sons, and who was buried at Willey on the 20th March, 1753; and secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Barnston of Chester, by whom he had only one child, a daughter. Mr. Forester seems to have gone to live at Willey after his father-in-law's death, when his wife brought those estates to the Forester family. Mr. Forester died at Dothill on the 19th January, 1771, and was buried at Wellington.

1741, May 5. (93) BROOKE FORESTER AND
(94) SIR BRYAN BROUGHTON.

(93) See 92 above.

(94) SIR BRYAN BROUGHTON, afterwards Sir Bryan Broughton Delves, was the only son of Sir Bryan Broughton, Bart., of Broughton, and was born in January, 1718-19. He married on the 27th May, 1738, Mary, daughter of William Forester of Willey (No. 83 above), "a lady with upwards of £20,000," and it was, no doubt, to this marriage that the member owed his representation of Wenlock. Sir Bryan

Broughton inherited the estates of his maternal grandfather Sir Thomas Delves, and assumed the surname of Delves in compliance with the terms of his grandfather's will. Sir Bryan was appointed Deputy Ranger of Needwood Forest in 1739, and succeeded his father in the Baronetcy and estates. He did not, however, live long to enjoy them, as he died on the 11th August, 1744, at the early age of 25, and was succeeded by his son, another Sir Bryan.

1744, December 7. (95) ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE
vice Sir B. B. Delves, deceased.

(95) ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE was born on the 21st January, 1705, at Burton-on-Trent, of which parish his father was Vicar, and was one of the most distinguished of the Wenlock Members. He was educated at Lichfield and Westminster, and having obtained a scholarship went in 1721 to Trinity Coll., Cambridge, where he in due course took his degree. In 1727, Mr. Browne entered Lincoln's Inn, where he was called to the Bar. He was returned for Wenlock as a Whig through the Forester influence, which was then predominant. Mr. Browne was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was a man of great talents and varied accomplishments. His principal literary work was the poem of "*De animi immortalitate*," which attracted great attention at the time, but perhaps even greater stir was made by his parody, "*A Pipe of Tobacco*," which was published in 1754. Dr. Johnson says of the Member for Wenlock that "though he was one of the greatest wits in England, when he got into Parliament he never opened his mouth." Boswell in his account of the journey to the Hebrides records that Dr. Johnson told him after supper that Mr. Browne drank freely for 30 years, and that he wrote his great poem on the Soul in some of the last of these years. The member married on the 10th February, 1734, the daughter of Dr. Trimnell, Archdeacon of Leicester, by whom he had a son of the same name as himself, who was M.P. for Bridgnorth in 1784. Mr. Browne himself died in London of consumption, after a lingering illness, on the 14th February, 1760.

1747, June 29. (96) BROOKE FORESTER AND
(97) ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE.

(96) See 92 above. (97) See 95 above.

1754, April 19. (98) WILLIAM FORESTER AND
(99) BROOKE FORESTER.

(98) See 83 above. (99) See 92 above.

1758, December 8. (100) GEORGE FORESTER
vice William Forester, deceased.

(100) GEORGE FORESTER the well-known Squire of Willey, who had for his colleague in the representation of the Borough his father Brooke Forester (No. 92 above)—thus repeating the Wenlock precedent of 1738, when his father and grandfather were the two members—was born on the 21st December, 1735, and was baptized at Willey. Mr. Forester did not in any especial manner distinguish himself as a statesman, but he will never be forgotten in Shropshire as a thorough sportsman and a fine old English gentleman. The Squire and his whipper in Tom Moody were, and are, household words in this county and far beyond it, and the former needs little further description here. Mr. Forester is said by some authorities to have been defeated by Mr. Whitmore in the Wenlock election of 1780, but this is incorrect, as the former was not a candidate. He was in Parliament a thorough supporter of Mr. Pitt, and was in part, at any rate, instrumental in obtaining the sanction of the House to the first Iron bridge. Mr. Forester, who was Major of, and raised at his own expense, The Wenlock Loyal Volunteers, a corps which was disbanded in 1802, also filled for many years the office of Chief Magistrate and Justice of Wenlock, upon his retirement from which he presented to the Borough their handsome silver mace. The Squire died, regretted by all, rich and poor alike, on the 13th July, 1811, at Willey, in the 76th year of his age, never having been married. He was buried at his own request in the dusk of evening in the family vault at Willey Church, where a marble tablet was placed to his memory by the first Lord Forester (to whom he left the Willey estates), with

the following inscription: "To the memory of my late Cousin and Benefactor George Forester, Esquire, Willey Park, May 10, 1821."

1761, March 28. (101) BROOKE FORESTER AND
(102) CECIL FORESTER.

(101) See 92 above.

(102) CECIL FORESTER of Ross Hall, Shropshire, who was born in 1721, was the younger son of William Forester, M.P., 1715 (No. 83 above), and the brother of his fellow Member Brooke Forester. He was appointed Major in Col. Murray's Regiment of Foot on the 24th February, 1747-8, and was Lieutenant-Col. of the 11th Foot from the 24th January, 1752, to May, 1760, when he seems to have left the army. Col. Forester married Ann, daughter and heiress of Robert Townshend of Christleton, Cheshire (Recorder of Chester), by whom he had 5 sons and 2 daughters, the eldest son becoming the 1st Lord Forester. Col. Forester died at Ross Hall on the 22nd August, 1774.

1768, March 18. } (103) GEORGE FORESTER (Tory),
1774, Oct. 10. } AND (104) SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN
 } (Tory).

(103) GEORGE FORESTER (see 100 above).

(104) SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN, BARONET, in whose descendant the sole representation of the great Newport family vested, was the elder son of Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Great Lever, Lancashire, and of Anne Newport, daughter of the second Lord Bradford. Sir Henry, who was the fifth baronet, was M.P. for Ludlow from 1741 to 1768, and represented Wenlock from the latter year up to the 13th August, 1794, when he was created first Baron Bradford of the Bridgeman family. Sir Henry, upon whom the degree of L.L.D. was conferred at Cambridge in 1769, was Clerk Controller of the Board of Green Cloth (the value of which appointment was £1,000 per year) from 1761—1764. Upon the death, in 1762, of the last Earl of Bradford of the Newport family, the Weston estates devolved upon Sir Henry, who also received the very large accumulation of personal property of the last Earl. He married on the 12th July, 1755,

Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. John Simpson, by whom he had several sons, one, Orlando, succeeding his father in the Barony, and being afterwards raised to the dignity of Earl of Bradford, and another being M.P. for Wenlock at the same time as his father in 1784-5. Lord Bradford died on the 5th June, 1800.

1780, September 13. (105) SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN (Tory), AND (106) THOMAS WHITMORE (Tory).

(105) See 104 above.

(106) THOMAS WHITMORE of Apley and Wolstaston, was the son of Charles Whitmore of Southampton (who died in 1770), and was grandson of William Whitmore, who was elected M.P. in 1713 (No. 81). The Member, who was Major of the 9th Foot Regiment, was like his grandfather, also returned for Bridgnorth, and also like his grandfather elected to sit for Bridgnorth in preference to Much Wenlock, sitting for that borough from this time until his death. Major Whitmore married firstly his cousin Mary (who died in 1776), co-heiress of her father, Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B., and on his father-in-law's death on the 15th April, 1773, he succeeded to the Apley Estates. Major Whitmore, who married secondly Mary, daughter of Thomas Foley, was drowned in a well in the garden at Apley on the 17th April, 1795.

1780, December 9. (107) GEORGE FORESTER (Tory), vice Whitmore, who elected to serve for Bridgnorth.

(107) GEORGE FORESTER (see 100 above).

1784, April 7. (108) SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN (Tory), AND (109) JOHN BRIDGEMAN (Tory).

(108) See 104 above.

(109) JOHN BRIDGEMAN (as his name was, when elected for Bridgnorth, but who was afterwards John Bridgeman Simpson), was the third son of his fellow Member Sir Henry Bridgeman, first Baron Bradford (No. 104 above). He was born on the 13th May, 1763, and in May, 1785, he assumed by Act of Parliament the surname and arms of Simpson, upon succeeding to his maternal grandfather's

estate. Mr. Bridgeman Simpson, who resided at Babworth Hall, Notts, was twice married; firstly, in 1784, to Henrietta Frances, only daughter of Sir Thomas Worsley, by whom he had three children. His wife dying in 1791 he married in 1793 Grace, daughter of Samuel Estwicke, by whom he had 13 children. He died on the 5th June, 1850.

1785, August 9. (110) GEORGE FORESTER (Tory),
vice John Bridgeman Simpson, who accepted the
Chiltern Hundreds.

(110) See 100 above.

The following is the account of this election in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 1785, August 16th:—"We hear from Much Wenlock, that at the general sessions of the peace held for that town and its liberties, at the Guildhall on Wednesday last, George Forester, of Willey, in this county, Esquire, was put in nomination by Thomas Mytton, of Shipton, Esq^r, as a proper person to represent that borough in parliament, in the room of Mr. Simpson, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, which nomination was seconded by the Reverend Mr. Stephens, and unanimously approved."

1790, June 22. (111) SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN (Tory),
AND (112) CECIL FORESTER (Tory).

Though this election was uncontested, the proceedings are interesting, as they shew the mutually affectionate terms on which Wenlock parted with the Willey Squire as its Member. Upon the dissolution of the previous Parliament, Mr. Forester issued the following address to his constituents:—

"Having served you upwards of 30 years in Parliament and during that period met with every support from you that man could wish for, I should deem it a matter of the greatest discredit to myself & injustice to you were I to attempt to continue your Member one moment beyond that time in which I could render you my best services. I therefore most frankly confess to you that I feel myself now very unequal to the duty of a Member in Parliament by an impossibility to bear the fatigues attendant on that important

business, consequently I beg leave to retire from any further public service."

The Willey Squire having retired, his cousin Mr. Cecil Forester was elected in his place; but the burgesses did not allow their old Member's retirement to pass unnoticed, and passed the following resolutions, which, like Mr. Forester's reply, speak for themselves:—

LIBERTY OF WENLOCK.

"At a Common and Burgess Hall held the 22nd day of June, in the year of our Lord 1790, in the Guildhall in Much Wenlock, in and for the Borough of Wenlock and the liberties of the same, for the purpose of electing Members to represent the said Borough in Parliament, pursuant to public notice for that purpose given,

"Resolved unanimously,

"1st, That the conduct of our late worthy Representative George Forester, Esq. for the space of 30 years, during which he has represented the said Borough in Parliament, has been highly becoming the important office he hath filled, the integrity of his behaviour in the exalted station of a senator; the uprightness and impartiality of his conduct both as a Member and Magistrate of this very populous and extensive Franchise; the readiness with which he hath at all times come forward when called upon to support our rights both in Church and State, upon every question which concerned this great trading country in general, and the more immediate interest of our Franchise in particular; demands from us those unfeigned expressions of approbation and esteem, which hearts like ours, replete with gratitude for past services, are always ready to shew.

"2d, That we cannot, but with the utmost regret, lament the loss which we are likely to sustain by our late worthy Member, M^r Forester, declining to offer his services to represent us in the ensuing Parliament; a loss, which we should much more sensibly feel, were our hopes not revived by the prospect of a branch of that family whose name is dear to us all, filling the place resigned to him by his worthy relation

"3d, That it is the unanimous opinion of the Bailiff, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough of Wenlock, in this Common hall assembled, that we do, in the most distinguished manner we are able, shew the high sense we entertain of the many and valuable services we have received at the hands of our late Member, M^r Forester; our perfect approbation of his conduct during the space of 30 years which he hath represented us in Parliament; and our humble request that he will condescend to accept these our unfeigned thanks for the same.

"4th, That the thanks of this Common Hall be likewise given to our other Representative, Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart., as a token of our perfect approbation of his conduct as one of our Members.

"5th, That these resolutions be signed by the Town Clerk and by him transmitted to Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart., and George Forester, Esq., and that the same be recorded amongst the proceedings of the said Borough, and published three times in the London papers and *Shrewsbury Chronicle*.

"MYTTON, TOWN CLERK."

"To the Bailiff, and Burgesses of the Franchise of Wenlock, lately in Common Hall assembled (on the 22nd of June past) at that place.

"M^r Bailiff and Gentlemen,

"Having heard the foregoing Resolutions read over to me and my late worthy Colleague, in open Court, and knowing when they were to appear in this paper, I take the earliest opportunity to meet them with my most cordial best acknowledgments, for the high honour done me, by so very distinguished, so very honourable a mark of your regard and affection; a matter which, at the same time that it points out to future Members the direct road to your certain approbation, confers on me, not only the highest honour imaginable, but enables me further, thus early to say to you, that I now, and ever shall, very sensibly feel the effects of our much admired, affectionate farewell. I acknowledge myself ever indebted, to the very utmost, for the most fair, the most candid, hearing that man could possibly wish for, accompanied at the close of it, by the most truly honourable

discharge that any member of the British Senate ever can boast of. Complete and impartial justice will ever grace your decision; a monument of fame for me in these liberties will ever live on the records of Wenlock for posterity's perusal. I must confess to you, I felt severely during the suspension betwixt my request and your reply; it was an awful moment, and one never by me to be forgotten: honour for ever, or a stain indelible, on the journals of your Court, never could permit me to exist one minute in the mild zone of calm indifference. I felt, indeed; but, Gentlemen, as freedom and independence had been always my motto, uniformity my shield, and conscious innocence my faithful guardian and protector, I felt for honour, but never swerved for guilt. A stern, though I hope no more than manly resolution, prepossessed my whole frame at the very instant it was wanted, and that heart then proved brave to me, which ever had before proved just to you.

"With every gratitude, with every affectionate regard imaginable, I return you my last and my most sincere thanks, for every honour done me from my first to my latest services; and, be assured Mr Bailiff and Gentlemen, I go into the peaceful shade of retirement; fully convinced that I am amply rewarded for a long and faithful service, of 30 years existence.

"I remain, Gentlemen,

"With the most profound respect, regard, and
utmost diffidence,

"Your faithful, obedient, and very much
obliged humble servant.

"Willely, June 26.

"GEORGE FORESTER."

It is curious in these days to read that "an elegant entertainment was given on the return of Sir Henry Bridgeman and Cecil Forester Esq."

(111) See 104 above.

(112) CECIL FORESTER (Tory), the eldest son of Col. Cecil Forester (No. 102 above) was baptized at St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, on the 7th April, 1767. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, on the 24 October, 1785. Mr. Forester, who was seated at Ross Hall, acquired the Willely

estates under the will of his cousin George Forester (the Willey Squire) in July, 1811, and thereupon by the King's permission assumed the prefix surname of Weld. The member was celebrated as a sportsman, and it is of him that Nimrod says:—"He was generally allowed to have combined the knowledge of the powers & capabilities of a horse with judgment in availing himself of them beyond any other man of his or the present day. As a rider to hounds through an entire season, he has never been excelled, and that is saying much." Mr. Meynell used to say of Mr. Forester "First out of cover comes Cecil Forester, then the fox, and then my hounds." The Member was created Baron Forester on the 17th July, 1821, upon the occasion of the visit to him at Ross Hall of his Sovereign George IV., with whose personal friendship he was honoured in an especial degree. He married on the 16th June, 1800, Lady Katherine Mary Manners, the second daughter of the fourth Duke of Rutland, by whom he had six sons and five daughters, the former of whom were celebrated as sportsmen, the latter for their wit and beauty. Lord Forester died in London on the 23rd May, 1828, and was brought to the Tontine at Ironbridge, where his body lay in state. He was afterwards removed to Willey, where he was buried in the family vault, in the presence, it is said, of 10,000 spectators. His Lordship was succeeded in the Barony by three of his sons successively, as second, third, and fourth Lord Forester.

1794, September 9. (113) JOHN SIMPSON (Tory), vice
Sir Henry Bridgeman, called to the Upper
House as Baron Bradford.

(113) See 109 above.

1796, May 30.	}	(114) JOHN SIMPSON (Tory) AND
1802, July 8.		(115) CECIL FORESTER (Tory).
1806, November 4.		
1807, May 8.		(114) See 109 above. (115) See 112
1812, October 8.		above.
1818, June 20.		

1820, March 9. (116) FRANCIS FORESTER (Tory),
AND (117) WILLIAM LACON CHILDE (Tory).

This seems to have been the first contested election for 98 years and again, as in the last two contests, a Lawley was defeated. The following was the result of the poll which lasted three days, and at which 285 voted :—

Francis Forester (Tory)...	...	...	215
W. L. Childe (Tory) ...	...	...	182
Paul Beilby Lawley (Whig)	...	...	102

(116) FRANCIS FORESTER of Somerby, was the third son of Col. Cecil Forester (No. 102 above), and was born on the 19th August, 1774. He was Major of the 15th Hussars and the Royal Horse Guards (Blue). Major Forester married on the 22nd July, 1813, Lady Louisa Catherine Barbara Vane, eldest daughter of the first Duke of Cleveland, by whom he had one son and two daughters. He died on the 21st October, 1861.

(117) WILLIAM LACON CHILDE, Tory (described in the return as of Wrockwardine), the son of William Childe and Annabel his wife (daughter of Sir Charlton Leighton), was born and baptized on the 3rd January, 1786, at Kinlet. He was educated at Harrow (having entered the school in 1798, and having amongst his schoolfellows there Lord Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Byron) and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated on the 21st October, 1803. Mr. Childe, who served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1828 was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of that county and of Worcestershire. He was a good public speaker, and moved the address in the House of Commons in 1826, and took a very leading position in the business as well as in the social affairs of Shropshire and his own neighbourhood. Mr. Childe while still M.P. for Wenlock, became a candidate for the representation of the county in 1822, on the death of Sir John Powell, but withdrew his candidature. The following was an invitation issued on the occasion, and as an illustration of "other times other manners" is interesting :—"The friends of Mr. Childe in the neighbourhood of Oswestry are requested to meet at the Cross, Oswestry, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 o'clock on Thursday morning with a leaf of laurel in

their hats to proceed together to Pradoe to breakfast." Mr. Childe married on the 13th August, 1807, Harriet, youngest daughter of William Cludde of Orleton, by whom he had several children, amongst whom were William Lacon Childe, who succeeded him at Kinlet, the Rev. Edward Baldwyn Childe of Kyre Park (Vicar of Cleobury Mortimer), and Charles Orlando Childe Pemberton of Millichope. The Member died on the 12th December, 1880, in his 95th year, and was buried at Kinlet.

1826, June 10. (118) JOHN GEORGE WELD
FORESTER (Tory), AND (119) PAUL BEILBY
THOMPSON (Whig).

(118) JOHN GEORGE WELD FORESTER was the eldest son of Cecil, first Lord Forester (No. 112 above), and was born in London on the 9th August, 1801. King George IV., when Prince of Wales, was his godfather. Mr. Forester was educated at Westminster and at Christ Church, Oxford. He inherited all the sporting tendencies of his family, and was scarcely less renowned as a sportsman than his father or his cousin, the Willey Squire. For 27 years he was Master of the Belvoir hounds, and as a recognition of his tact and skill, and of the splendid sport which he always showed, the Hunt seized the occasion of his marriage to present him with a silver statuette, which is still one of the treasured heirlooms of Willey. Mr. Forester considerably increased the value of his landed estates, and much benefited the neighbourhood in which he lived by the support given by him to the construction of the Severn Valley Railway, which has so greatly opened out the resources of the district. He was a strong Conservative in politics, a keen agriculturist, and second to none as a judge of horse or hound. The Member succeeded to the peerage as second Baron Forester on his father's death on the 23rd May, 1828, and was on the 8th September, 1841, appointed Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and a Privy Councillor. He married on the 10th June, 1856, the widow of the last Viscount Melbourne, by whom he had one son only, who died an infant, and no other issue. Lord Forester died on the 10th October, 1874, at Willey, and was succeeded by his brother, George Cecil

Weld Forester, who had also followed him as M.P. for Wenlock.

(119) PAUL BEILBY THOMPSON of Escrick, Yorkshire, who as Paul Beilby Lawley unsuccessfully contested Wenlock at the previous election in 1820, was the third and youngest son of Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., of Spoonhill, and his wife Jane only daughter and heiress of Beilby Thompson of Escrick. He was born on the 1st July, 1784, and married on the 10th May, 1817, the Hon. Caroline Neville, daughter of Lord Braybrooke, by whom he had four sons and a daughter. Mr. Lawley assumed in September, 1820, the name and arms of Thompson, resuming the surname of Lawley in 1839. Mr. Thompson, who was a prominent politician in the Reform agitation, represented the East Riding of Yorkshire from 1833 to 1837, and for his services to the Whig party was created Baron Wenlock on the 13th May, 1839. He was Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding, and in 1851 he succeeded to the baronetcy and Shropshire estates of his brother, Sir Francis Lawley. Lord Wenlock died on the 9th May, 1852.

1828, June 17. (120) GEORGE CECIL WELD FORESTER (Tory), vice J. G. W. Forester a Peer.

1830, Feb. 20. Do. re-elected on appointment as Groom of the Bedchamber.

(120) GEORGE CECIL WELD FORESTER, who represented Wenlock without break for over 46 years, and became the Father of the House of Commons, was the second son of the first Lord Forester (No. 112 above), and was born in London on the 10th May, 1807. He was educated at Westminster School, entered the Army in 1824 as Cornet of the Royal Horse Guards, and gradually rose to the command of the Regiment in 1853, became Lieut.-General in 1871, and was placed on the retired list as General in October, 1877. The member was Groom of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria in 1830, was Controller of the Household from February to December, 1852, and also from February, 1858, to July, 1859, and was made a Privy Councillor on the 27th February, 1852. General Forester was married on the 8th November, 1862, to the Hon. Mary Jervis, third daughter of the second

Viscount St. Vincent, and widow of Mr. Dyce Sombre, but had no issue. He became third Lord Forester on the death of his elder brother on the 10th October, 1874. Lord Forester died at his residence in Carlton Gardens, London, on the 14th February, 1886, and was buried in the family vault at Willey.

1830, July 30. (121) GEORGE CECIL WELD FORESTER (Tory), AND (122) PAUL BEILBY THOMPSON (Whig).

1831, April 29. Do. do.
(121) See 120 above. (122) See 119 above.

1832, Dec. 12. (123) GEORGE CECIL WELD FORESTER (C.), AND (124) JAMES MILNES GASKELL (C.)

There was a contest at this election, when 635 out of 691 voters polled, and the numbers were as follows:—

Forester (C.) ...	...	...	448
Gaskell (C.) ...	...	...	330
Matthew Brydges (L.) ...	...	...	308

(123) G. C. WELD FORESTER. See 120 above.

(124) JAMES MILNES GASKELL born on the 10th October, 1810, was the only son of Benjamin Gaskell of Thornes House, Wakefield, Yorkshire. He was educated at Eton, where he numbered amongst his friends the late W. E. Gladstone, Sir Francis Doyle, Arthur Hallam, G. A. Selwyn, and many others, who in one way or other have since earned high distinction. Whilst at Eton Mr. Gaskell received frequent visits from George Canning, whose friendship he won and for whom he had always the greatest admiration. After leaving Eton, Mr. Gaskell went to Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated on the 17th January, 1829. In 1834 he lived in Tilney Street, Park Lane, and it was at this house, at which Mr. Gladstone was a frequent caller, that the latter first met Miss Catherine Glynne, who afterwards became his wife. Mr. Gladstone speaking in 1898 of James Milnes Gaskell called him "that rare and most precious character, an enthusiast," and said of him when at

Oxford :—" This youth had a political faculty which probably suffered in the end from an absorbing and exclusive predominance in mind and life, such as to check his general development of mental character, but which in its precocious ripeness secured for him not the notice only but what might almost be called the close friendship of Mr. Canning, that great commanding luminary of the Twenties." Mr. Gaskell was first returned as M.P. for Much Wenlock on the 12th December, 1832, and represented the Borough continuously from that day until the General Election of 1868, when he retired from Parliament. He was a Lord of the Treasury in the administration of Sir Robert Peel from the 6th September, 1841, until March, 1846, when he retired. He purchased the Wenlock Abbey Estate from his cousin by marriage, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., in 1857, and then began that judicious restoration which has preserved so much of the old Abbey from ruin, and which has made of the Prior's House, now occupied by his heir, Mr. C. G. Milnes Gaskell, one of the most beautiful residences in Shropshire. Mr. Gaskell married in May, 1832, Mary, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Charles Watkin Williams Wynn of Llangedwyn, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. He died on the 5th February, 1873, and was buried at Much Wenlock.

1835, Jan. 7. (125) G. C. WELD FORESTER (C.), AND
(126) J. M. GASKELL (C.)

There was again a contest, the result being :—

Forester (C.) ...	...	...	519
Gaskell (C.) ...	...	...	422
Sir W. Somerville (L.)...	...	...	323

(125) See 120 above. (126) See 124 above.

1837, July 24. } (127) G. C. WELD FORESTER (C.),
1841, June 28. } AND (128) J. M. GASKELL (C.)

(127) See 120 above. (128) See 124 above.

1841, Sept. 14. J. M. GASKELL on appointment as Lord
of the Treasury.

1847, July 28. (129) G. C. WELD FORESTER AND
(130) J. M. GASKELL.

1852, March 3. G. C. WELD FORESTER after appointment as Controller of Household.

(129) See 120 above. (130) See 124 above.

1852, July 6. } (131) G. C. WELD FORESTER AND
1857, March 27. } (132) J. M. GASKELL.

1858, March 3. G. C. WELD FORESTER on appointment as Controller of Household.

(131) See 120 above. (132) See 124 above.

1859, April 29. } (133) G. C. WELD FORESTER (C.),
1865, July 11. } AND (134) J. M. GASKELL (C.)

1868, November 16. (133) G. C. WELD FORESTER AND
(135) ALEXANDER HARGREAVES BROWN (L.)

(133) See 120 above. (134) See 124 above.

(135) ALEXANDER HARGREAVES BROWN (described in the return as of Richmond Hill, Liverpool), of Broome Hall, Holmwood, Surrey, third son of the late Alexander Brown of Beilby Grange, Yorkshire, was born on the 11th April, 1844, was educated privately, and was a Cornet in the 5th Dragoon Guards from 1864 to 1866. On his retirement from the regular forces, Mr. Brown joined the Volunteers, and became Hon. Col. of the 1st Lancashire Rifles, obtaining the Volunteer decoration. The Member was a member of the well-known shipping firm of Brown, Shipley and Co., and was placed on the Board of the London Scottish American Trust. Mr. Brown, who is a J.P. for Lancashire, sat as a Gladstonian Liberal for Wenlock from 1868 to 1880, and continued in the same faith as M.P. for the Wellington division of the County of Salop from 1880 up to the Home Rule split in 1886, when he became a Liberal Unionist, and as such he still remains the much respected Member of the Wellington division.

1874, February 7. (136) G. C. W. FORESTER AND
(137) A. H. BROWN.

(136) See 120 above.

(137) See 135 above.

There was a contest again at this election, the result of which was as follows :—

Forester (C.)	...	...	...	1708
Brown (L.)	...	...	...	1570
G. C. M. Gaskell (C.)	...	...	...	840

1874, November 16. CECIL THEODORE WELD FORESTER (Con.), vice George Cecil Weld Forester, called to Upper House as Lord Forester.

This election was the great Homeric battle between the representatives of the families which throughout the Parliamentary history of Wenlock had been most intimately connected with the borough, the Foresters and the Lawleys. The candidates were Mr. C. T. Weld Forester and the Hon. Beilby Lawley, who have since become the heads of their respective families, and are now Lord Forester and Lord Wenlock. Once again the Forester triumphed after a great struggle, the result of the poll being :—

Mr. C. T. Weld Forester	...	...	1720
Hon. Beilby Lawley	...	...	1401

(138) CECIL THEODORE WELD FORESTER, the eldest son of the Hon. and Rev. Canon Orlando Watkin Forester (afterwards fourth Lord Forester), was born on the 3rd August, 1842. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, and was a Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards. Mr. Forester, who, as a Conservative, represented Wenlock up to 1885, when the Borough ceased to exist as a Parliamentary unit, married in December, 1866, Emma Georgina, daughter of Sir W. W. Dixie, Bart., and has issue. Mr. Forester succeeded to the peerage as fifth Lord Forester on his father's death in 1894. Fortunately for Wenlock, Lord Forester has always taken an active share in public affairs, is a Member of the Shropshire County Council, a D.L. for the County, and has for two years filled the office of Mayor of the Borough which he and so many

members of his family have long and faithfully represented in the Council of the nation.

1880, April 2. (139) A. H. BROWN AND
(140) CECIL THEODORE WELD FORESTER.

(139) see 135 above.

(140) see 138 above.

There was again a contest at this election, when Mr. Ralph Augustus Benson of Lutwyche, the London Stipendiary Magistrate (whose early death was so deeply regretted), tried as a Conservative to wrest the second seat from Mr. Brown, but failed to do so. The poll was declared as follows:—

Forester (C.)	...	...	...	2058
Brown (L.)	...	...	...	1358
Benson (C.)	...	...	...	1013

INDEX TO MEMBERS.

	Page		Page
Baynham, Wm., 1584-97	318	Clerke, William, 1472	303
Blount, Wm., 1540	306	Colyns, John, 1491	304
Blount, Sir George, 1554-8,		Corbet, Reginald, 1540	307
1562, 72	312	Cornwall, Richard, 1544	307
Brett, John, 1601	320	Cressett, Richard, 1640	328
Bridgeman, George, 1627-8	327		
Do. Sir Henry,		Delves, Sir B. Broughton	
1768-94	343	1741-4	340
Do. John, 1784-5,		Edwards, Samuel, 1722-38	339
1794-1820	344	Evans, John, 1554	313
Briggs, Sir Humphrey,		Eyton, Robert, 1553	310
1646	330	Eyton, Thomas, 1571	316
Do. do.			
1716-27	339	Fanshawe, Thomas, 1597	319
Bromley, George, 1558-9	314	Forester, Brooke, 1738-67	340
Broughton, Sir Bryan, 1741	340	Do. Cecil, 1761	343
Browne, Isaac H., 1744-54	341	Do. C. T. Weld, 1874-	
Brown, A. H., 1858-80	354	80	356
		Do. Cecil Weld, 1790,	
Cambray, Thomas, 1478	304	1820	348
Childe, Wm. Lacon, 1820	350		

	Page		Page
Forester, Francis, 1820	350	Lawley, Thomas, 1685	335
Do. George, 1758, 68-		Lee, Richard, 1553	310
80, 80-5	342	Leighton, William, 1601	320
Do. George Cecil		Littleton, Sir Thos., 1640	
Weld, 1828-74	352	& 1661	327
Do. John George		Mytton, Henry, 1623-4	325
Weld, 1826	351	Newport, Richard, 1713	337
Do. William, 1678-85		Do. Thomas, 1714-6	338
1688-1714	333	Pierpoint, William, 1640	329
Do. William, 1715,		Poole, Sir John, 1592-3	318
1734, 1754	338	Ridley, Thomas, 1555	313
Foster, John, 1529	305	Sambrooke, John, 1727—	
Do. Thomas, 1554	311	1734	339
Foxe, Charles, 1562	316	Simpson, John Bridgeman,	
Gaskell, Jas. Milnes, 1832-		1784, 94—1820	344
1868	353	Smalman, Francis, 1625	326
Hall, Edward, 1529	306	Spence, Philip, 1491	304
Herbert, John, 1552-3	309	Thompson, P. Beilby,	
Lacon, Edward, 1554	312	1826-32	352
Do. Rowland, 1558-9	315	Weld, George, 1661	333
Do. Rowland, 1614	322	Do. do. 1685-1701	335
Do. William, 1571	316	Do. do. 1701-1713	336
Do. do. 1597	319	Do. Sir John, 1678-9	333
Lawley, Edward, 1614 & 20	323	Do. Thomas, 1708	336
Do. Sir Francis, 1658-		Wolryche, John, 1679-85	334
61	331	Do. Thomas, 1620-5	323
Do. George, 1603-4	321	Whitmore, Thos., 1658-60	331
Do. Rich., 1544 & 7	308	Do. Thomas, 1780	344
Do. Robert, 1588 and		Do. William, 1713	337
1603	318		
Do. Thomas, 1547 & 52	309		
Do. Thomas, 1572-86	317		
Do. Thomas, 1625-8	325		

TOWNSHIP OF FELTON.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

WE have seen¹ that Felton was probably colonised by Anglo-Saxons in very early times, and was the head of a Saxon Manor; and we have traced the history of that Manor until it was given by William fitz Alan to John le Strange in the reign of King Stephen, and absorbed in the Manor of the Eleven Towns about 1155. We have seen that Hugh le Strange held it under John, and that the representatives of Hugh's co-heiresses had the patronage of Felton Church, which was attached to the Manor of Felton, so that no doubt as long as the John le Stranges held the Manor of Ruyton they recognised the representatives of Hugh le Strange as Lords of the Manor of Felton under them. Hugh le Strange and his family no doubt owned the Manor House, and very likely lived there. He was dead by 1240, and had been succeeded by co-heiresses. But about 1301 the Earl of Arundel bought out John le Strange, and became Lord of the Manor of Ruyton, and therefore over-Lord of the Manor of Felton, in his place. In 1305 the three representatives of the co-heiresses of Hugh le Strange presented to the living of West Felton. In 1310 there was another vacancy, and one of the three, Hugh fitz Philip, presented alone. He had most likely bought out the other two, and acquired therefore the whole of Hugh le Strange's rights to the Manor of Felton. He was also Lord of the Manor of Aston, but he is described as of Felton, and very likely lived in the Manor House. He died some time between 1314 and 1325,² and was very likely dead in 1322, when for the first time the Earl of Arundel asserted that he, and not Fitz Philip, was patron of Felton Church, and proceeded to appoint Richard de

¹ "Domesday Manors of Ruyton, Wikey and Felton," and "West Felton Church," in *Shrop. Arch. Transaction* for 1900 and 1897.

² Eytton, xi., 2.

Downton to be Rector, though Thomas de Cheyne, who had been appointed by Fitz Philip in 1310, was still in possession. Hugh fitz Philip's son still had property in the Manor, so the family property had not escheated or been forfeited, and the Earl's claim must have been based on the contention that Felton Manor had ceased to exist, and that its manorial rights, including the advowson of the Church, had passed to the Lord of the united Manor of Ruyton, or the Eleven Towns. The Archdeacon and the Bishop decided in favour of the Earl, but Cheyne kept the living in spite of them all. In 1332, Richard de Downton brought an action in the Ruyton Manor Court against Stephen of Felton, one of the patrons of 1305, and John fitz Philip, son of Hugh; the nature and result of the action are not stated, but he died in 1340 without having got the living. In 1325 and 1333, John fitz Philip mortgaged land in Aston to Haughmond Abbey; in 1326 he conveyed to the Abbey some land in Hisland, and in 1333 some in Haughton, reserving in the latter case a leasehold interest for his brother Richard. But in 1340 the Earl made another appointment to the living, and either then or soon afterwards, his nominee obtained possession, and Fitz Philip seems to have made no further claim to be recognised as Lord of the Manor of Felton. By 1353, John fitz Philip seems to have been dead, and we find from the Court Rolls that in that year Henry fitz Philip took a house and land in Felton from the Earl, and Thomas fitz Philip acted as one of the jurors in the Ruyton Court, and produced there a deed showing his right to take pasturage and turf in the Lord's pasture land in Felton, and next year William de Hampton in like manner produced a deed by which Hugh fitz Philip of West Felton (the addition of "West" appears here for the first time, and is frequent afterwards) granted the same rights to his daughter Margaret, who was William de Hampton's mother. In 1357, Roger, son of Thomas of Ruyton, and Ralph fitz Philip, produced deeds giving them the same rights. The production of these deeds in the Ruyton Court by the Fitz Philips was a clear admission on their part that the manorial rights in Felton were vested in the Earl of Arundel; the steward admitted their validity, and therefore admitted that Hugh fitz Philip, who had

granted them, had been lawful owner of the manorial rights. Again, in 1357, Thomas fitz Philip and Thomas of Greneshull, executed a joint bond, with sureties, to pay £9 6s. 8d. to the Rector of Felton for the year's tithes of the corn of Felton and Twyford, to be paid at the feasts of the Annunciation and of St. John the Baptist. As the Rector had been presented by the Earl, this was another acknowledgement by Fitz Philip of the Earl's manorial right, and henceforth there is no trace of the existence of a Manor of Felton. In 1412 (14 Henry IV.), a Hugh fitz Philip was Chaplain of Felton, and conveyed to Thomas fitz Philip of Felton all his lands and tenements in West Felton, in tail male. He was still Chaplain in 1424 (2 Henry VI.), but, though a priest, he had by this time at least three children. Accordingly, he paid 2s. for license to buy a messuage and half a noke of land in West Felton from Thomas Hewster of Wacfield, in Yorkshire, and Alice his wife, and he settled it on himself for life, with remainder to Thomas his son and the legitimate heirs of his body, in default of them to John, brother of Thomas, and in default to Margaret their sister, and the respective heirs of their body; and in default of all, on his own heirs. The property had belonged to Alice Hewster, who was daughter of John Hampton of Oswestry, and had previously been held by John Newton from William Hampton, Chaplain in West Felton. As we have seen that in Edward III.'s time the Hamptons were connected by marriage with the fitz Philips, this land had very likely been originally Fitz Philip property. We hear nothing of the family after this, and we do not know when the Manor House passed out of their hands. It came eventually to the Lords Craven, Lords of the Manor of Ruyton, and was bought from the 6th Lord Craven, probably about 1777, by the family of the present owner, Mr. T. Frank. Mr. Edward Frank of Felton was Churchwarden in the four years from 1783 to 1786, during which the Church Tower was re-built, and again in 1794, and was overseer in 1796.

In the churchyard, at the west end of the Church, and close to the Manor House moat, are tombstones to John Frank, who died 3rd September, 1817, aged 61; Edward Frank, who died 6th July, 1828, aged 79; Charles Frank,

who died 10th January, 1835, aged 35; Edward Frank, who died 26th October, 1862, aged 77, and Thomas Frank, who died 14th September, 1864 (?), aged 71. Most of these names will be found in the list of Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish. The large pigeon house now used as a cattle shed is the principal monument of the ancient importance of the Manor House.

Not far from the Manor House is Lady Hill Farm. This was built about the time of the Crimean war, and was formerly called Balaclava. The field in which it was built, H 15, is called Lady Hill in the Tithe Award, as is also A 10, and A 9, which adjoins both, is called Lady Oaks. They are respectively 715, 664 and 668 in the Ordnance Map.

Almost adjoining Lady Oaks field, and approached by the lane which runs round it, is J 13 (662 Ordnance), which is called the Parkes in the Award, a name which may indicate common land; and adjoining it on either side, D 28, L 10 and 11 (660 and 602 Ordnance) are called the Ramble in the Award, and marked Cupid's Ramble on the Ordnance Map.

Thomas de Lee and Stephen, son of Thomas of Felton, who presented to the living jointly with Hugh fitz Philip in 1305, probably represented respectively William, son of Alan of Drayton, and Richard of Drayton, who were co-heirs of Hugh le Strange at Berrington in 1255, and may have succeeded also to his property at Felton. Richard's heir, we know, was Thomas of Felton, living in 1292, and Thomas's heir was Stephen of Felton, who, in 1324, took for his life from the Abbot of Haghmon the fishery and mere of Bassmere (Marton Pool), at a rent of 6s. 8d. per annum, and gave the Abbot power to distrain for this rent on Stephen's tenants at Felton, Tedesmere and Weston Lullingfields.¹

In 31 Edward III., William Russell and his wife took a messuage and half virgate of land in Felton, which John of Sonford formerly held, for their lives, and paid the Lord 40s. The wife died almost immediately afterwards, and a heriot of 3s. was paid.

¹ Eyton, x., 78.

The Court Rolls tell us that in 1376 the Lord of the Manor sold 80 cart loads of turf from Felton at 2d. a load, and that next year he received 16s. 2d. for turbary rents from Felton. In 1382, turf from Felton to the value of 12s. 7d. was sold at 3d. a load, that from Haughton at the same time being purchased for 2d. Turf was again sold from Felton in 1390 for 8s. 1d.

In 26 Eliz. the township of Felton presented Leonard Moyle and Richard Kyffin, *alias* Lloyd, for not making their hedges sufficient in the field called Horlock's field, contrary to the penalty; and 15 persons for digging turves on the Lord's common, called the Lyth Wall. Next year the same Richard Kyffin, *alias* Lloyd, was fined 12d. for not making his hedge sufficient between the field called Vrode Meadow field and Horlock's field; and the Rector, Thomas Somerfield, and one Thomas Somerfield Farudall, were fined the same sum for the same offence; four persons were fined 6d. each for keeping their cattle in the Vrow (?) meadow field contrary to the penalty; ten for digging turves on the Lord's waste called Feltons Moore, and four for encroaching a parcel of the waste of the manor and annexing it to the Manor of Sandford, in the place called Feltons Heath.

Of these names Vrode meadow and Horlock's field have disappeared, but they may have been parts of what are called in the Tithe Award the Lord's meadow or the Lord's field, which were, no doubt, the common land of the township; these are A 14, H 16, 17, J 11, L 7, on the Tithe Map (713, 764, 766, 771, and parts of 770 and 773 Ordnance). The common land also, no doubt, included fields connecting and adjoining these, very likely everything on the right hand side of the road from the Church to Woolston, between the side lane, 717 on the Ordnance Map, and the boundary of Woolston township. Two occupation lanes, besides the high road, give access to it, and all three must therefore date from the middle ages. One field in this area, L 6 (part of 777 Ordnance) is called Cross Leasow, very likely from a Lord's cross, or boundary mark, which stood there.

Lyth Wall was, we have seen, another piece of common land; B 1, 2, 3, 4, L 5, N 4, 5, O 11, are called Lythwell, and D 17 Lythwood, in the Tithe Award. They correspond

with 789, 790, 793, 973, 978 to 986 Ordnance, and, like the "Lord's fields," are communicated with by an occupation road and adjoin another township, Sandford. Felton Moor extends from them to Sandford Hall, and is in the township of Sandford.

We shall see immediately that a third piece of land, called the Flaxepolle, is described as being in the field of the vill of Felton, and was, though not common land, ordinarily let out by the Lord among the townsmen. The name Flaxpool is given in the Tithe Award to fields A 4, K 6, 7, 9, 11, L 15 and O 6 (620, 624, 629, 679, 681, 688 Ordnance). A pool between them and the Holyhead-road, just within Twyford township, has no doubt been used for centuries for steeping flax, and has given its name to the land. O 3 and K 8 (675 and 677 Ordnance) adjoin them, and are called Towns End in the Tithe Award, being, no doubt, also let to the "town." These fields, like the other pieces of common land, are approached by two old occupation roads.

In 28 Eliz., George Purslowe, gentleman, was fined 12d. for erecting a fence on the common road leading to Felton Church to the injury of his neighbours.

On 27 October, 1606, the representatives of Felton, of whom Thomas Byll is the first named, presented that Thomas Byll holds of Sir George Yonge, Lord of the Manor, certain burgages and tenements in the township for the rents and services formerly due and customary for them. Perhaps the Steward had been trying to raise the rent. Members of the Byll family frequently appeared on juries, &c., in the Manor Courts. Thomas Byll and Edward Williams are the only freeholders in Felton mentioned in the list of freeholders of 1606 in Shrewsbury Free Library, the former is described as "yeoman," the latter as "gentleman."

The Drapers of Shrewsbury had long been accustomed to meet at the Welsh Bridge every Monday, and go thence in a body, armed, on account of the insecurity of the intervening country, to buy Welsh cloth in Oswestry Market. They had therefore to pass through Felton. But in 1621 they agreed to buy no more cloth in Oswestry, and set up a market for it in Shrewsbury.¹ This must have deprived the Felton people

¹ Price's *History of Oswestry*, p. 45.

of an important matter of interest, of much gossip, and perhaps of some profit.

On July 2nd, 1644, a battle was fought between the Royalist troops under Col. Marrow, who were besieging Oswestry, and the Parliamentary ones under Col. Myddleton, who had come to relieve it. The Royalists marched out from Oswestry, and "took the passage water near to Whittington," about three miles from Oswestry, probably on the Perry, close to Halston, where they lined the hedges with musqueteers. The battle was hotly contested, each side having to retire three times; but at last the Royalists were routed, and were pursued 5 miles on the way towards Shrewsbury to Felton Heath, where the pursuers halted, having taken 200 prisoners, including the eldest son of Lord Newport.¹

On 22 April, 1700, the men of Felton said that Elinor, late wife of Samuel Williams of West Felton, and daughter of John Jones of Tedsmeare, by Joanna his wife, was dead, "but what or what sort of heriot falls to the Lord thereby they do not know." On the same day the jurors presented that Robert Lathrop, gentleman, who held three separate messuages and separate parcels of land belonging to them in the Manor, had died since the October Court; that his best animals were due as heriots to the Lord, and that Robert Lathrop, gentleman, was his son and heir, and ought to pay 4s. 1d. for relief of the land. This is the earliest mention I have found of the connection with Felton of the Lathrops, who owned Felton Hall from this time till the middle of the 19th century. A Robert Lathrop of Atcham, son of Ralph Lathrop of Yoxall and Mary Aston his wife, accepted the King's general pardon for rebellion at Shrewsbury in 1660.²

The last of the family, Robert William Felton Lathropp, succeeded his father Robert in 1785, and married in 1797. He was a Captain in the Manx Fencibles. He married again in 1801, and again in 1806, but as his first wife was alive all the time, he was transported in 1812 for bigamy; never-

¹ Cathrall's *Hist. of Oswestry*, p. 70; Rushworth's *Historical Collections*, v., 745.

² *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1890, p. 149. For notices of the family, see "Felton Church" in *Trans.* for 1897.

theless, in 1827 he married a fourth wife, his first and third wives being still living. He owned the Hall, and 180 acres in the township, but the whole was let to a Mrs. Evans, and he lived in Van Diemen's land till 1849, when he returned to the Hall. He died 2nd November, 1850, leaving three wives surviving him, of whom the last was at the Hall for a short time after his death. The property was sold in lots to various purchasers in 1853, and the house was pulled down. Some of the out-buildings still remain, and the wall along the high road with a bricked up entrance gateway, but they are all falling into very bad repair.

A meadow adjoining the house, B 5b (part of 749), is called Hams Meadow in the Tithe Award, and the other part of (749) H 2, as well as H 3 (753) is Fish Pool. There is a small pond between these, which, perhaps, was formerly larger, and supplied the Hall with fish. H 4 (756) is Shop Croft, and H 6 (part of 812) is Styche field.

What is now called Felton Grange, was formerly called Orange Grove, and belonged to the Bentleys. A Peter Bentley was Churchwarden of Felton in 1746. John Bentley was overseer in 1771, and is described as "gentleman" in a jury list of 1772. In 1837 it belonged to Mrs. Catherine Bentley, and was occupied by Mr. Thomas L. Longueville. It passed to Mrs. Bentley's son, the Rev. Peter George Bentley, who enlarged and improved it, and changed its name to Felton Grange. It was occupied for some time by Col. and Lady Frances Lloyd, and from about 1870 till his death, by the owner, Mr. P. G. Bentley. It was then sold to Mr. Graham Lloyd, to whose family it still belongs.

Felton Mill was built by Mr. John Hollis on a plot of ground bought by him at the sale of Mr. Bentley's property.

At the Quarter Sessions of April, 1749, the dwelling house of Jeremiah Page of Troespan, in the Parish of West Felton, was licensed as a "Dissenters Meeting House." The name Troespan is now lost, and I cannot say in which township it was.

A strip of land containing less than 4 acres, extending from the Weirbrook Lane to past the Pradoc Lodge, and now considered to be in Eardiston township, is described in

a Conveyance of 1822 as being in Felton Parish, and 3 acres of it are called the Butts, and about 3 roods Pinfold Yard. It was no doubt at one time a roadside waste, and Archery Butts may have been set up in it, but it would have been a dangerous place for shooting, and Butt was a common name for a small piece of land anywhere, so that the name, which occurs in most of the townships, does not necessarily indicate the site of Archery Butts. The Pinfold was, no doubt, where there is still a square recess open to the road. Whether in Felton or Eardiston township, it would be chiefly for Felton that either Pinfold or Archery Butts here would be useful, and there was another Pinfold in Eardiston, close to the village. Part of the land opposite the Butts, now attached to Weirbrook College, is called the Hemp Yard in a Conveyance of 1841.

The only public house in Felton township is the Fox and Hounds, called the New Inn in 1837, but said in the Report to Quarter Sessions of 1891 to have been licensed for about 100 years. Formerly there was also the Plough Inn, the black and white cottage on the main road, opposite Mr. Hickson's, but its license was given up before 1819. From this point to the Cross the strip of land immediately adjoining the main road is in Twyford township.

The Milncroft was built later than 1837, on land which had been bought in 1778 by Mr. Robert Lathrop from Lord Craven. It was licensed and called the Lion, but the license was given up when Mr. J. R. Kenyon bought the house in 1858. It and the Mill Loon behind it, called the Malone in the Tithe Award, are said to be named from Mill Lane, the approach from Felton to the Heath Mill, the course of which may be marked by the present footpath from Felton to Weirbrook. The adjoining field, H 7 (part of 812 Ordnance), across which the footpath runs, is called Mill field in the Tithe Award.

In 1793, the Ellesmere Canal Act was passed for making a Canal from the Severn at Shrewsbury to the Mersey at Chester; "and also to make a collateral cut for the navigation of boats, barges, and other vessels, to branch from and out of the said intended canal in Hordley, in the said County of Salop, and to pass through the several parishes, townships,

hamlets, or places of Hordley, Whittington, Francton, Felton Rednall, Sutton, Wootton, Oswestry, Aston, Twyford, Maesbury, Moreton, Crickheath, and Llanymynech, in the said County of Salop, to Llanymynech in the same County." The Company were forbidden to take any house or garden other than a cottage garden for their works, but among many exceptions to this prohibition was "a garden in the township of Sutton in the Parish of Felton belonging to Thomas Hulson and in the occupation of John James." They were forbidden also to divert water which supplied the Perry above the Platt Mill, except flood water. The Canal and the collateral cut were made under this Act; for the latter existing water-courses were used as much as possible, and accordingly it forms the boundary between Rednal Township and the Parishes of Whittington and Oswestry, follows a straight course newly made for it through Sutton and Twyford, but again runs for some distance along the boundary between Felton Township and Oswestry Parish.

The following distinctive field names appear in the Tithe Award for the Township, besides those already mentioned, the numbers with a letter prefixed to them being their numbers on the Tithe Map, those in brackets being from the Ordnance Map:—Hungerhill, C 2, 4, H 10, 11, J 8 (805, 806, 809); and adjoining these Far Leaches, H 8, 9, J 7 (811, 1000). D 26 (716) between Lady Hill and the lane leading to the Lord's Meadows, is "Long Friday." D 8 (797) adjoining Lythwell, is the Gravel Hole field, D 11 (part of 795) is the Commodores, and D 12 and H 13 (723 and 787) are Steven Dale. D 13 (722) is Cae Cam, D 15 (781) is Mere Leasow, and K 15 (271), bordering on the Ellesmere Canal, is Honey Meadow.

We may add here a few particulars to the account given of the Felton clergy under the heading of Felton Church. In 1377 Roger Cheyne, Knight, was the first witness to a deed¹ executed at Sandford by John de Hopton, Knight, conveying three houses and a virgate of land there to one Thomas Eynons of Sandford. As Roger Cheyne, Knight, was Lord of Cheney Longville in 1346,² this adds to the

¹ Copied in Blakeway's MSS.

² Eyton xi., 375.

probability of that family being connected with Felton, and of Thomas de Cheney, Rector 1310 to 1340, being a member of it. He was very likely an uncle of Roger.

In the Court Rolls the Rector's name does not often appear, and he was probably generally non-resident. In this case his place would be taken by a "Chaplain" or Curate, and there was always a Chaplain, who would not necessarily be the same person, to serve the Chantry of our Lady in the Church. In 1357, Richard of Rednal, Chaplain, undertook to pay the Rector 10 marks of silver for the tithes of corn of Rednal township. He was, no doubt, the same who 10 years afterwards became Vicar of Ruyton.

In 6 Richard II. (1382), Richard Bone was fined 4d. for not having paid 30s. 6d. which he owed to Sir Roger, Parson of Felton Church.

We have seen above that William Hampton was Chaplain at Felton, probably in the reign of Richard II.

The charge made in 4 Henry IV. (1402) against two chaplains, William Wiken and John Muridon, of leading an immoral life, has been set out in our account of Old Ruyton township, and we have seen that Wiken was probably Chaplain at Felton. In March, 1390, William Wikey, chaplain, was presented by the townsmen of Felton for committing an assault on John Herdman and drawing blood from him, and was fined 6d. for this, and 4d. more because John's wife properly raised hue and cry upon him, that is, she had to call in the neighbours to protect her husband from the violence of the curate. John Herdman, however, also committed a breach of the peace by forcibly entering the curate's house, and was fined 6d. for this. He was a Felton man, and a quarrelsome fellow; for in 1378 he had been convicted at the suit of the Lord for an affray with weapons against the constable of Ruyton town; so that the assault of which the curate was convicted may not have been without excuse from the conduct of his opponent. In 1394 one John Jacson settled some land in Wikey on William Wikey, Chaplain, during his own life. In 1402 came the charge against the Chaplain of leading an immoral life and bribing the Archdeacon to allow him to continue in it; and in 1417 he pleaded guilty to having taken away a hedge from

the Lord's ground at Felton, and carried off stone from the same, and also some saplings growing there, and he was fined 4s. William Wikey was therefore Chaplain at Felton at least from 1390 to 1417. We have seen that Hugh fitz Philip was also Chaplain here in 1412 and 1424, and that he agreed with William Wikey in rejecting the practice of celibacy.

In 2 Hen. VI. (1424), John ap Jankyn, Chaplain of Felton, assaulted, and was assaulted by John Newton. Hugh fitz Philip was, therefore, Chaplain at first together with William Wikey, and afterwards together with John ap Jankyn. During the whole of his time the Rector was, probably, non-resident, and during several years, at least, of it, he was not even in priest's orders.

An indictment of Thomas Willems, Chaplain, in 4 Henry VI., for inciting to riot has already been quoted. He may or may not have been Chaplain at Felton. In the Court Roll of 21st April, 6 Henry VI. (1428), is the following entry:—"John Hames, Rector of the Church of Felton, comes by Morrys ap Hoell, Chaplain, and Roger ap Richard, his procurators, and takes from the Lord a parcel of pasture land, called Flaxepolle, in the field of the Vill of Felton, at a rent of 3s. a year." This entry gives us the names both of a Rector and a Chaplain otherwise unknown. William Burton was instituted as Rector 18th March, 1428; but, no doubt, this was 1428 old style, when the year ended 25th March, and was, therefore, later than the above entry. In that case John Hames cannot have held the living much longer than a year, for his predecessor only died in 1427. There seems to be no record of Hames' institution in the Diocesan Register, and as he appeared at Ruyton by procurators, he was, probably, not resident at Felton. The "Flaxepolle" was valued at 8s. a year in 17 Richard II.;¹ but, perhaps, the Rector only had a part of it. "Richard ap David, Chaplain of Felton aber," witnessed the will of Humphrey Kynaston, dated 1st May, 1534.² He was, probably, Chaplain of this Felton.

On 27 October, 1606, the representatives of the township of Felton, in the Manor Court at Ruyton, made the

¹ See History of the Manor of Ruyton of the xi Towns, ante.

² Printed in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1898, p. 277.

following presentment about their Rector:—"They present Thomas Somerfyeld, Clerk, that he keeps 17 pigs unringed on the Lord's waste there to the serious injury of his neighbours; also that he by himself & his servants unlawfully broke the common pound in the said township & took & carried off two mares and a gilt pig impounded in the said pound being the property of the said Thomas; also that the said Thomas broke the said pound before paying the forfeitures incurred, on the 9th June in the above year. Lastly they say that Ellenore Somerfield wife of the said Thomas Somerfyeld is a common scold brawler & disturber of the peace among her neighbours to their serious annoyance." The marriage of priests, authorized under Edward VI., had been made illegal by Queen Mary, and though tolerated under Elizabeth, it was not made strictly legal again till the first year of James I. The first experience of the new law in Felton does not seem to have been favourable!

Between April and October, 1700, Daniel Griffiths, Rector of Felton, bought a freehold messuage and separate parcels of land in Felton from Francis Probert, and made a similar purchase from Samuel Williams; the Lord was therefore entitled to a heriot and 4s. 1d. for relief in respect of each.

Between October, 1700, and May, 1701, John Jeffryes sold a freehold messuage and separate free parcels of land belonging to it to John Withers. The best animal of John Jeffryes became due to the Lord as heriot, and John Withers had to pay 4s. 1d. for relief. He was perhaps the father of Joseph Withers, mentioned under Felton Church.

The sun-dial in the Churchyard has engraved on the four sides of the stone on which the plate is fixed • B, • B, C W, . . 48; it was, no doubt, erected by John Bassnett of Sandford and John Bassnett of Rednal, who were Churchwardens in 1748.

The tithes of the whole parish were commuted in 1837 at £1008. As both small and great tithes belonged to the Rector, they were not treated separately. Those on Felton township were commuted for £127 5s. 3d. The Rector had 2ra. or. 6p. of glebe in the township, including the Churchyard and Rectory grounds. He had also 7a. 1r. 15p. in

Sandford, and 11a. 3r. 2ip. in Tedsmore, but the glebe land in Tedsmore has since become the property of Mr. Bulkeley-Owen.

The accounts of the Overseers of Felton parish begin in 1776. The Overseers divided the parish between them in exactly the same way that the Churchwardens did, one receiving and accounting for the money raised from Felton, Twyford, Woolston, and Sandford, which were called the Upper Division; and the other that from Rednal, Haughton, Sutton, and Tedsmere, which were the lower division. In 1776-7 they raised "five whole lewns and a quarter of a lewn" (i.e., loan, the term used for a rate, perhaps as being "lent to the Lord"). The amount so raised was:—

			£	s.	d.
From Felton	...	...	20	1	7½
Twyford	...	...	7	10	11
Woolston	...	...	10	1	10½
Sandford	...	...	9	16	7½
Rednal	...	...	17	1	5½
Haughton	...	...	11	7	10
Tedsmere	...	...	5	8	3
Sutton	...	...	8	7	1½

and there were defaulters to the amount of £1 3s. 3½d. The payments in the Upper Division were as follows:—For moving Mary Roberts and her family from Wykey to Woolston, 5s.; for her house rent, £1 10s.; a load of coal for her, 12s.; and an allowance of 13s. a month. Thomas Evans's lodgings were paid for, at 1s. 6d. a week. Richard Higgins received £1 1s. towards burying his two children. Allowances of 6s., 5s., and 4s. a month respectively were paid to three other men, two of whom also had a load of coal; and 6d. a week to one woman. Besides these allowances, several small sums were paid for "present relief;" £2 1s. was paid for maintaining and relieving the bastard child of one John Edwards; £2 was paid to Paul Briscoe "on account of an apprentice girl;" and three loads of coal were bought, apparently for distribution among people who were not regular recipients of relief. All the coal was bought in June, at 12s. a load, except one load bought in January, for which 15s. had to be paid. The County Rate from this Division

was 16s. per quarter, and was paid to the Chief Constable by the Overseer; in subsequent accounts this 16s. is stated to be as to 12s. 4d. for Woolston and Sandford, which were a single manor, and as to 3s. 8d. for Twyford. The rate for Felton township was evidently paid by the other overseer.

In the other Division, besides payments direct to paupers for relief, and for their rent and coals, were the following:—“For a coffin and shroud for Richard Lloyd, 10s. 6d.; fetching the bier, 1s.; laying him out, 1s.; drink at the burial, 4s.; burial fees, 2s. 6d.; fetching shroud, 1s.; my journey to bury Richard Lloyd, 1s.” Six weeks afterwards the overseer paid “for delivering Richard Lloyd’s widow of a child, 5s.” and she received an allowance for the child afterwards. Other payments were—“For cloaths for the lad with Thomas Lloyd, 10s.; to Mr. Harris the attorney at the Sessions, 10s. 6d.; and a payment every quarter of £2 13s. 4d. for ‘Vagrant Money,’” which was another name for the County Rate. It seems to have been assessed on the manors, so that the Overseer of the division which contained four of the five townships belonging to Ruyton Manor which were in the Parish of Felton, had to pay the County Rate for all five.

Subsequent accounts are much like the first. The principal items of expense were allowances of so much a week for paupers, clothes and maintenance for “base children,” and binding pauper children apprentices. About £4 4s. was generally paid with them, and an outfit of clothes provided. There are also a good many entries of payments for substitutes in the Militia, and of relief given to the families of Militia men or their substitutes. A substitute cost £4 in 1778, but £15 14s. in 1803, after the French war had lasted a long time. By paying for substitutes out of the Poor Rate, the burden was distributed over the whole parish, instead of being cast exclusively on the individual selected by ballot to serve in person; and the militia got a willing instead of an unwilling recruit.

The rates raised were reckoned as so many “loans,” one loan producing a trifle over £17. From 5½ to 8 loans were raised in the year, and were apparently collected all at one time. In 1782, by order of Quarter Sessions a new valuation of the whole parish was made, which is entered in the

Overseers' Account Book, the assessment by "loans" was abolished, and a rate of 1s. in the £ levied, which produced £139 14s. 11d. By far the highest assessment was on W. M. Owen, Esq., who was rated at £597 18s. 6d. Next to him was Mrs. Bickerton of Sandford, £112 19s. 3d. in addition to £1 10s. 4d. for "Mr. Dixon's Churchway," and £20 for the Mill. After this year, the rate was generally 8d. to 10d. per annum.

In 1791 the Parishes of Ruyton and Felton were incorporated with Oswestry and others by a private Act, 31 Geo. III., c. xxiv. A new Workhouse was built for the Incorporation, and from that time the overseers have collected the rates, but have had very little to do with the spending of them, the Incorporation receiving them and administering the whole of the poor relief. There was previously a workhouse belonging to the town, and in one year (1783-4), the Felton overseers entered no accounts in their books for ordinary relief to paupers, but instead put down "to Workhouse, as by Vouchers delivered to Vestry" £94 6s. 0½d. Very likely Felton paupers were received in the Oswestry Workhouse by arrangement.

An Assistant Overseer was first appointed for Felton in 1841, and for Ruyton in 1848, the salaries being respectively £16 and £13 a year. In Felton, Thomas Roberts held the office from 1841 to 1851, and John Morgan, his successor, from 25 March, 1852, to 25 March, 1900, when he resigned. His salary was raised in 1853 to £19 per annum, and was £46 when he resigned. In his first year the rate was 1/3 in the £ for the year, and produced £499 11s. In his last year it was 1/10 in the £, and produced about £950.

When the civil functions of the vestry and churchwardens were transferred to a Parish Council by the Act of 1894, the number of the Parish Councillors for Felton was fixed at 11, and after a poll, the following were elected the first Parish Councillors for the Parish of Felton:—Messrs. T. Cartwright, F. R. Atcherley, J. S. Bickerton, J. Hollis, J. Lloyd, J. Edwards, W. Vaughan, J. Langley, W. Seabury, G. W. Edwards, and W. Watkiss. They elected Mr. Robert Lloyd Kenyon chairman.

OVERSEERS OF WEST FELTON.

The following list is at the beginning of the "Poors Accounts" Book in the custody of the Parish Council.

An account of the several inhabitants of the Parish of West Felton, who served the office of Overseer for the years ending :—

- 1760 Thos. Vaughan of Westfelton, Richd. Davies of Haughton.
- 1761 Mr. Edwd. Davies of Sandford, Charles Edwards of Tedsmere.
- 1762 John Withers of Felton, Richd. Davies of Rednall.
- 1763 Peter Jones of Sandford, John Evans of Haughton.
- 1764 Thos. Lloyd of Felton, Edwd. Davies of Rednall.
- 1765 Saml. Lloyd of Fords, Richd. Jones of Haughton.
- 1766 Richard Lee of Twyford, William Humphries of Tedsmere
- 1767 Robert Edwards of Twyford, Jane Parrock of Sutton.
- 1768 John Hopkins of Woolston, Edward Davies of Haughton.
- 1769 John Jones of Woolston, Francis Bill of Sutton.
- 1770 Peter Jones of Sandford, Richard Evans of Haughton.
- 1771 John Bentley, Senr., of Felton, Paul Briscoe of Haughton.
- 1772 Samuel Lawrence of Sandford, William Winsor of Haughton.
- 1773 Phillip Edwards of Felton, Richard Davies of Rednall.
- 1774 Samuel Gittings of Woolston, Thos. Basnett of Rednall.
- 1775 Willm. Mostyn Owen, Esqr., Rednall, Edwd. Gittings, Woolston.
- 1776 Edward Edwards of Felton, William Humphries of Sutton.
- 1777 Thos. Roberts of Felton, Richd. Davies, Haughton.
- 1778 John Bentley, Junr., of Felton, Andrew Bickley of Haughton.
- 1779 Joseph Bickerton of Sandford, William Sides of Haughton
- 1780 John Morgan of Sandford, Edward Paddock of Sutton.
- 1781 John Vaughan of Felton, Thomas Basnett of Rednall.
- 1782 Roger Clark of Sandford, Jeffrey Chester of Rednall.

- 1783 Samuel Lloyd of Twyford, Thomas Suckley of Tedsmere.
1784 Robert Edwards of Twyford, Charles Betton of Tedsmere.
1785 John Hopkins of Woolston, John Hughes of Tedsmere.
1786 Edward Edwards of Felton, William Jones of Haughton.
1787 Peter Jones of Sandford, John Peacock of Haughton.
1788 Richard Jones of Woolston, Thomas Hurleston of Sutton.
1789 Thomas Bill, Haughton, Samuel Lawrence, Sandford.
1790 William Batterbury, Tedsmere, Richard Allin, Woolston.
1791 Thomas Brookfield, Rednal, and William Sides, Woolston.
1792 Reynold Marsh, Westfelton, William Rogers, Rednal.
1793 William Downs, Twyford, and Thos. Clarkson of Sutton.
1794 Thomas Jones, Felton, and Wm. Jones, Rednall.
1795 John Duckett, Felton, and John Crowther of Haughton.
1796 E. Frank, Felton, and Jo. Humphries of Haughton.
1797 Jo. Bickerton, Sandford, and E. Edwards of Sutton.
1798 John Morgan, Sandford, and John Peacock of Haughton.
1799 John Vaughan, Felton, and Wm. Humphries of Sutton.
1800 Roger Cleark, Sandford, and Thos. Edmunds of Rednall.
1801 John Edwards, Twyford, and Thos. Suckley, Haughton.
1802 John Hopkins of Woolston, and Robert Lloyd of Sutton.
1803 Thomas Rattenbury of Felton, and William Batterby of Sutton.
1804 Saml. Lloyd, Fords, and William Humphreys, Rednal.
1805 Edwd. Edwards, Felton, and Edward Morgan, Rednal.
1806 John Langford, Sandford, — Minshaw, Haughton.
1807 Richd. Jones, Woolston, and John Boodle, Tedsmere.
1808 Samuel Larance of Sandford, Henrey Smith, Tedsmere.
1809 Richard Larance, Twyford, Wm. Vaughan, Sutton.
1810 John Sides, Woolston, for Richard Allen of Woolston, Mr. Hurleston, Sutton.
1811 Samuel Evans, Felton, Richard Mason, Haughton,

- 1812 John Duckett, Felton, Thos. Winsdon, Rednal.
- 1813 David Morris, Twiford, Thos. Peacock, Enbarnes.
- 1814 A. N. Deavenport, Felton, Willm. Edwards, Ha.
- 1815 Jno. Duckett, Felton, Jno. Hughes, Lees, Rednall.
- 1816 Edwd. Frank, Felton, Jno. Gittins, Rednal Mill.
- 1817 Saml. Bickerton, Sandford, Jno. Morris, Haughton.
- 1818 Wm. Owen, Esqr., Woodhouse, Thos. Morgan,
Sandford.
- 1819 Mr. John Vaughan, Felton, Mr. Large, Henbarns.
- 1820 Mr. Daniel Ratcliffe, Sandford, Mr. Jno. Morgan,
Berrywood.
- 1821 Mr. John Edmunds, Bilding, Mr. Edwards, Twyford.
- 1822 Mr. Edward Brookfield, Haughton, Mr. Hopkin (?),
the Higher House.
- 1823 Thos. Barratt, New Inn, and Saml. Edmunds, Rednall.
- 1824 William Powell, W. Felton, and Thos. Windsor,
Henbarns.
- 1825 Mr. John Lloyd, Fords, and Thomas Briscoe, Rednall.
- 1826 Mr. Edwd. Frank, Junr., Felton, and Mr. John Guest,
Bagymore.
- 1827 Mr. Thomas Rattenbury, Felton, and Mr. John
Manford, Junr., Sutton.
- 1828 Mr. Edwd. Edwards, Felton, and Mr. Wm. Humphreys,
Sutton.
- 1829 Mr. John Shingler, Sandford, and Robt. Gittings, Lees.
- 1830 Mr. Richd. Downes, Twyford, and Mr. Minshull,
Haughton.
- 1831 Mr. John Hopkins, Woolston, and Mr. Thos. Haycock,
Rednall.
- 1832 Mrs. Duckett, Widow, Maloon, and Mr. John Steen,
Rednall.
- 1833 Mr. Rd. Williams, Woolston, Mr. T. Mansell, Tedsr.
Farm.
- 1834 Mr. Evan Parry, Walbrook, Mr. Wm. Howell, Tedsr.
Cottage.
- 1835 Mrs. Margt. Evans, Felton, and Mr. Thos. Boodle
Grimpo.
- 1836 Mr. John Duckett, Felton, and David Jones, Hen Barns.
- 1837 Mr. Edwd. Davies, Felton, and Mr. John Vaughan
Haughton.

- 1838 Mr. John Frank, Felton, and Mr. John Thomas, Haughton.
- 1839 Mr. Timothy Sides, Twyford, and Mr William Humphreys for Mr. Hurleston, Sutton.
- 1840 Mr. Saml. Bickerton, Sandford, and Mr. John Leeke, Lees.
- 1841 Willm. Owen, Esq., Woodhouse, and Mr. Edwd. Kent, San.
- 1842 Mr. Edward Humphreys, Berrywood, Mr. J. Beamand, Sandford.
- 1843 G. W. Edwards, Woolston, and John Large, Henbarns.
- 1844 William Manford, Twyford, and Thomas Cartwright, Buildings.
- 1845 John Hopkins, Woolston, and William Humphreys, Haughton.
- 1846 William Edwards, Felton, and Edward Humphreys, Rednal Mill.
- 1847 Mr. William Savin, Fords, and Mr. John Vaughan, Henbarns.
- 1848 Edward Rogers, Felton, and William Meredith, Rednal.
- 1849 Richard Williams, Woolston, and Robert Williams, Lower Lees.
- 1850 Edward Jones, Felton, and Joseph Vaughan, Henbarns.

From this time they are arranged in two columns, as follows:—

Felton Division.

Sutton Division.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1851 Mr. Edward Goff, Sandford. | Mr. John Canton, Tedsmore Cottage. |
| 1852 John Evans, Felton Hall. | Edward Furmston, Grimpo. |
| 1853 Thomas Evans, Felton Lodge. | John Vaughan, Haughton Bld. |
| 1854 Thomas Frank, Felton. | Charles Peacock, Junr., Haughton. |
| 1855 Abraham Hancox, Sandford. | Edward Meredith, Rednall. |
| 1856 G. W. Edwards, Woolston. | John Thomas, Lees, Rednall. |

*Felton Division.**Sutton Division.*

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1857 John Davies, Twyford. | William M. Owen, Esq.,
Woodhouse. |
| 1858 John Dovaston, Nursery. | Robert Large, Henbarns. |
| 1859 John Edward Bickerton, Sandford. | William Walton, the Bishops. |
| 1860 John Allen Whitfield, Woolston. | William Downes, Rednall Mill. |
| 1861 Edward Davies, Lady Hill, Felton. | Edward Kent, Berrywood. |
| 1862 William Edwards, Felton. | William Howell, Sutton. |
| 1863 Thomas Jones, Rowley. | Andrew Thomas, Lower Lees. |
| 1864 Edward Hollis, Felton. | John Gittins, Henparks. |
| 1865 John Mansell, Sandford. | John Large, Henbarns. |
| 1866 John Davies, Twyford. | William Meredith, Rednall. |
| 1867 Thomas Evans, Felton. | Edward Parkes, Sutton. |
| 1868 David Davies, Fords. | Rob. Williams, Haughton. |
| 1869 Thomas Frank, Felton. | Saml. Pritchard, Tedsmore. |
| 1870 John Walton, Twyford. | Robt. Large, Henbarns. |
| 1871 John Peacock, Haughton. | John Hancox, Sandford. |
| 1872 Wm. Parry, Tedsmore. | Wm. Gittins, Twyford. |
| 1873 Jno. E. Bickerton, Sandford. | Jno. Rogers, Haughton. |
| 1874 A. Oliver, Rowley. | Jos. Brookfield, Sutton. |
| 1875 R. Rogers, Woolston. | Thomas Morgan, Sutton. |
| 1876 David Davies, Fords. | Edwd. Meredith, Rednall. |
| 1877 Jno. Edwards, Lady Hill. | Thomas Cartwright, Buildings. |
| 1878 Edward Griffiths, Woolston. | George Cottle, Sutton. |
| 1879 Francis Griffiths, Felton. | David Gittins, The Lees. |
| 1880 Richard Bagley, Felton. | Wm. Hinton, Tedsmore. |
| 1881 Thomas Frank. | Richard Price, Berrywood. |
| 1882 John Rogers, Felton. | Edward Davies, Lees. |
| 1883 John Pearce, Malone. | William Meredith, Rednall. |
| 1884 Allen Roberts, Felton. | Richard Owen, Sutton. |
| 1885 John W. Edwards, Felton. | John Roberts, Sutton. |
| 1886 Roger Gittins, Sandford. | Edward Morgan, Haughton. |

*Felton Division.**Sutton Division.*

1887	David Davies, Fords.	Edward Morgan, Haughton.
1888	Edward Sides, Twyford.	Edwin Wilde, for Sutton Farm.
1889	John Hancox, Sandford.	Robert Large, Henbarns.
1890	John Bather, Twyford.	George Davies, Poolparva.
1891	John Lloyd, Felton.	William Jones, Rednal.
1892	W. H. Vaughan, Cross.	Charles Kent, Sandford.
1893	David Gittins, Lady Hill.	Edward Madeley, Haughton.
1894	J. S. Bickerton, Sandford.	John Hollis, Felton.
1895	J. S. Bickerton, Sandford.	John Edwards, Sutton.
1896	Walter B. W. Vernon, The Court.	William Watkiss, Tedsmore.
1897	Thomas Gittins, Weirbrook.	William Watkiss, Tedsmore.
1898	Thomas Gittins, Weirbrook.	Saml. R. Edwards, Haughton.
1899	William Edwards, Felton.	Saml. R. Edwards, Haughton.
1900	William Edwards, Felton.	Thomas J. Jones, Rednal Mill.
1901	William Hy. Vaughan,	Isaac Hancox, Henbarns.

TOWNSHIP OF HAUGHTON.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

THIS name is always spelt Halghton in the old Court Rolls, and is a common Saxon name, "meaning the "town in the meadows,"¹ a very appropriate name for this place. The earliest recorded transaction here, is that described above, in the account of Felton Church, by which John fitz Philip granted to Haughmond Abbey in 1333 a plot of moor land in Halghton, probably where a field, B 19, 20 (488 Ordnance), is still known as the "Abbot's Moor."

Hem Park must have occupied half, or more than half of the township, to judge by the names still surviving. The whole of the township towards Ruyton, is still called Hen Perk and Hen Barns. C 3 (551 Ordnance), by the railway, is the "Lord's Park;" and the stone quarry on Tedsmore Bank, A 4 (488 Ordnance), is called Clem Parks Quarry, obviously a mistake for Hem Parks, in the conveyance of 1836, by Lord Powis to Mr. Edwards, mentioned in the history of the Manor of Ruyton. The earliest mention of this Park is in the Court Rolls of 1353, but in almost every subsequent Roll there is an account of the money received from it by the bailiff on behalf of the Lord. In 1353, he accounts for "Pannage of the Hem and Bukkeleys, 69^s;" next year there is "Attachiamment of Hem Park, 9^d; Agistment in Hem, 12^d; Pannage of Hem Park with Bockley Wood for this year, 9^s." The great variation in receipts for pannage is difficult to account for, unless the 69s. really included all miscellaneous receipts. Pannage, strictly speaking, was a payment for feeding pigs, which at the time of Domesday was the principal profit an owner made out of his woods. Bukkeleys Wood evidently adjoined Hem Park. It is only mentioned twice again, in 51 Edw.

¹ *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1897, p. 396. In *Salopia Antiqua*, p. 266, it is said to mean "hill town," which certainly does not suit this place.

III., the pasturage of Toddeley, Bucley, and the Bury was sold for 4s.; and in 6 Rich. II., the pannage of Buckeleywode produced 1s. 8d. Two fields on Baggymoor, A 38, 39 (506, 507 Ordnance) are called Morfa Bulkeley in the Tithe Award.

In 38 Edward III., Herbage of Hem Wode for the year produced 3s. 4d.; and the same year the men of Halghton presented "that David de Cuerton huntsman of Sir Walter de Hopton took and killed with two greyhounds and hunting dogs of the said Walter one stag in Hem Park, and that the same David Huntsman after the capture of the said stag stole its body, whereupon the tenants of the township and William Jonesone servant of the park keeper arrested the said David with the greyhounds and hunting dogs and handed them over to the custody of the park keeper." An indictment for poaching in Ruyton and Hem Parks in 50 Edward III. has been quoted under Ruyton Park. Hem Park was therefore a deer park in the reign of Edward III., but there is no mention of deer there later than this reign, and the subsequent entries on the rolls are of the Lord's receipts for wood sold from it and for the pasturage of the tenants' animals there. Thus in 49 Edward III. sale of herbage of Hem Park produced 13s. 3d. In 2 Richard II., Pannage of Hem Park, 3s. 7d., sale of wood blown down there, 11s. 8d.; and in 6 Richard II., underwood sold in Hem Park, 2s. Attachiament of Hem Park is also often put down for a shilling or two, and specified as being "for one pig, two pigs"; "2s. for one sapling," &c. In 17 Richard II. a sale of fence posts in Hem Park produced 3s. 7d., and attachiament (9 oaks, &c.) 3s. 2d. In 1 Henry IV. we get attachiament of the Lord's wastes in Hemme Park and Toddeley 7s. 6d. After this it is not mentioned till 6 Henry VI., when "Richard Phelips takes one place for keeping fowls in Hem Park in a place called Hawthorneshurst for 6 years at 4d. a year," and several other persons do the like. In 6 Henry VII. "the townsmen of Halghton, Teddesmere, Yerdeston, and Wike came to the Court and gave the Lord 6d. to have his protection that no one may put any cattle on the pasture of Hem Park without leave of the said townsmen under penalty of 6s. 8d."; and they did the same thing again, it does not appear why, in the

22nd year of the King. In the latter year the Lord sold wood from Hem Park for 12s.

Hem Park remained the property of the successive Lords of the Manor until the sixth Lord Craven sold it, as well as most of the rest of his property in the Manor, about 1788, to various purchasers. Most of the part now called Hen Barns was bought by Mr. John Henshaw, who died in 1801, leaving it to his nephew Jonathan Nickson, who sold it in 1808 to the Hon. T. Kenyon. Much of the remainder of the park has become the property of Mr. John Oswald of Eardiston, and some belongs to the Tedsmore property. Many of the field names at the time of the sale referred to the Park, such as the Park field, Lawn meadow, Lord's meadow, &c., but most of these names have disappeared now. C 5, 7, 9, 10 (563, 565, 567 Ordnance) are called the Lawn in the Tithe Award. C 12, being the part of 889 Ordnance Map nearest to the present Hen Parks farm, was called in 1808 Glasshouse Bank, and glass and vitrified tiles have often been found there. A hemp yard was attached to the house which stood where there are now two modern cottages, opposite Mrs. Large's farm house.

Towns Wood F 7 (549 Ordnance) was probably a part of the Park let to the township. It is arable now, but was very likely either woodland or surrounded by wood.

The claim made by the Haughton tenants in 27 Edw. III., to rights of pasturage and turbary within the township has been quoted in the history of the Manor of Ruyton. Next year, William of Halghton gave 40s. to the Lord for the marriage of Anchug, daughter of William Bowyn, and custody of her lands till she comes of age, "who holds one messuage & 5½ acres of field in Halghton by military service;" and in 31 Edw. III., he paid 12d. for leave to mortgage a fourth part of a selion of land in exchange for other land.

In 31 Edw. III., John Ball of Rednal gave a bond to pay 100s. to William de Wollerton, Parson of Felton, for the tithes of corn of Teddesmere and Halghton.

In 38 Edw. III., the Lord received 33s. 6d. for wood, &c., sold to the tenants from that part of Baggamore which is in Haughton township. In 50 Edw. III., 21 cart loads of turf

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were sold by the Lord from "Alghton," at 2d. a load, and next year 4s. was received for turbary rents there. In 6 Rich. II., turf sold from Halghton at 2d. a load, produced 2s. 6d. In 26 Eliz., two persons were fined for taking turf.

In 17 Richard II., this township presented that "Eva concubine of Hondekin, properly raised hue and cry upon William Vachan," and the latter was consequently fined 6d. On 12 February, 4 Hen. IV. (1402-3), "John Warwen & Christiana his wife took from the Lord a half noke of land in Halghton, lately held by Janyn Grobbe, which has come into the hands of the Lord by reason of the penury of the said Janyn, who is a mendicant & has no means of paying the rents & dues of the Lord."

In 14 Hen. IV., John of Halghton settled his land on his family, and his trustees were Sir Thomas Wicherley, priest, Vicar of the Parish Church of Baschirche (late Vicar of Ruyton), and Sir John Wicherley, priest, Vicar of the Parish Church of Ruyton. In 5 Henry V., the Jury presented "that the townsmen of Halghton do not keep the common railing¹ there as they ought to keep it." A theft of a number of black cattle from the Longemore in the field of Halghton, in 5 Hen. V., has been mentioned in the history of the Manor; and on 30 March, next year, the tenants of Halghton presented that "the wives of the tenants of Tedesmere entered their moor, called the Longemore, and there wrongfully, and without the leave of the Halghton tenants, mowed their said moor and carried off from it 'sappos et sages,' " i.e., fir branches and sedge, no doubt for burning. The Longemore was, no doubt, part of Baggy-more, several unconnected fields in which are called Long Baggymore in the Tithe Award, B 51, 52, C 21, F 12 (parts of 193, 493, 509 Ordnance).

In 2 Henry VI., Janyn of Halghton took a close of pasture called the Wythemore, in Halghton, with another messuage, &c., to be held for the life of the Countess at 11s. a year, on condition of rebuilding the messuage. Probably the re-

¹ "Cledria," a Welsh word, Spurrell's *Welsh Dictionary*. The Halghton common land was apparently fenced with rails, not like those of most other townships with hedges ("sepes").

building would not be very substantial. The Countess lived for 16 years after this. The name of Wythemore does not seem to exist now. We have seen in the history of the Manor that in 1490 (6 Henry VII.) Humphrey Kynaston had succeeded to Janyn's lands in Haughton. In 1578 (21 Eliz.) John Kynaston of Halghton granted to Richard Kynaston of Halghton some lands in Trewern.¹ William Stevynson occurs as a tenant in Haughton in 1490.

In 27 Elizabeth, Richard Nonyley and another were presented and fined 12d. because each of them "minus juste fugavit Anglice Staffe dryve"—unlawfully drove his cattle from the township of Twyford to the common of Haughton township.

In 28 Elizabeth, Richard Dyos was presented for having by his servants destroyed the hedges of his neighbours in this township.

On 27 May, 4 James I., the three representatives who appeared in the Manor Court for Haughton township confessed that they themselves and two others had severally cut the grass and herbage of a Lord's waste called Baggamore and made it into hay for their own use. Next year, on 17 April, representatives of the township presented that their common pound was out of repair, and that the township was liable to be fined for it.

The Haughton freeholders at this time were John Kynaston and Gabriel Chambers, gentlemen, and John Vaughan and Edward Footeman, yeomen.²

In this township, especially in the part between the village of Haughton and Tedsmore, there are an unusual number of Welsh field names. They seem to be all derived from the physical characteristics of the fields, and not to be connected with their history. Thus we have Coch Leasow=red field, F 5 and C 8 (566 and 571 Ordnance); Cae derw=enclosure of oak, A 26 (part of 437 Ordnance); Ddol Issa and Ddol Ucha=Lower and Upper Dale, A 34 and A 16 (524 and 391 Ordnance); and Codiad yr Haul=rising of the sun, A 47 (844 Ordnance), which is on Tedsmore Bank, facing the sun-

¹ Blakeway MSS.

² "Book of Freeholders," 1606.

rising. Ddol y Saer = artizan's dale, A 27 (511, 512, 513, 514 Ordnance) is the name of a cottage with a little land attached. The cottage now called Pool Parva, A 23 (375 Ordnance) is not given any name in the Tithe Award, but the field attached to it is called Maes y Poplesin.

The Congregational Chapel at Haughton was re-built and enlarged 20 or 30 years ago, but there was a "house, garden, and chapel" on its site in 1837. St. Chad's Church of England Chapel was built subsequently by the Rev. T. M. Bulkeley-Owen, and has been presented by him to the parish.

The tithes of the township were commuted at £163 16s. 4d.

TOWNSHIP OF REDNAL.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

THE name of this township in the Court Rolls is Radenhale, which is evidently Saxon, and may mean the Hall, or stone house, of Raden.¹ An undated deed² contains a quit-claim by Penry ap David ap Dugeyn of Redenel and Wrenow his brother of their interest in the Vill of Rednal to Roger Ympies and his heirs; and the earliest extant Court Roll, A.D. 1332, set out in the history of the Manor of Ruyton, mentions a Richard Impeis in connection with Rednal. The next set out mentions that three persons were fined for a trespass on Baggamore, and the same year Henry the Tailor and Thomas Meyler (the Miller) were each fined 2d. for having their cattle grazing in Rednal Wood, and Henry the Tailor for two pigs, and Tangast, son of Rerid, for two goats in Bury.

Bury is Berry Wood. It has long shrunk into a mere coppice between Woodhouse and the Canal, but gives its name to the farm. The wood is nearly always mentioned in connection with that of Toddeley in Sutton township, and probably adjoined it, covering the whole of Berry Wood farm.

Rednal Wood probably adjoined Berry Wood on the other side, occupying perhaps the present park and grounds of Woodhouse. It was not all covered with timber, for in 28 Edward III. the tenants of Rednal Wood agreed that if any of them should so neglect to mend his hedges that cattle got through and did damage to meadow or cornfield he should be liable to pay a penalty of 6d. to the Lord. Rednal Wood is not mentioned after this, but in 38 Edward III. the Lord received 11s. 2d. for "attachiament of the Park of Radenhale,"

¹ Isaac Taylor, p. 333. Hall may also mean enclosed pasture or meadow ground. *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1897, p. 395. A moneyer named Raedune struck coins for King Edred, A.D. 946-955.

² Blakeway MSS. No. 3, from the Waring Deeds. Jervast of Sonford was a witness to it.

viz., for 5 little pigs, 2 cattle, &c., feeding there. This is the only mention of a park of Rednal, and probably means nothing more than the wood.

In 50 Edward III. a receipt is entered of 4s. for "attachia-ment bosco Fornis," and next year of 5s. 6d. for "wood blown down and sold in bosco Fornis," and 2s. 10d. for "attachia-ments made there." This wood is not mentioned elsewhere, and may have been part of Rednal Wood. Some timber was also sold in this reign from Blakemore for a few shillings. This may have been part of Baggamore, either in Haughton or Rednal.

Baggamore is no longer common, but is still open meadow land. Whatever the name may mean, it was spelt in 1332 as it is spelt now.

The Lord's receipts from all these places are generally put together on the Court Rolls, and were not large. Pannage of Toddeley and the Bury produced 8s. in 27 Edw. III., and next year that of the Bury produced 2s. 8d., while attachia-ments of Rednal Wood amounted to 4s. 7d.; but the total profits of Rednal Wood that year were 47s. 8d. In 38 Edw. III., herbage of Bury produced 2s. 6d., attachia-ments of Radenhale 45s. 6d., of Pevereymore (probably that part of Baggamore which is in Rednal township) 15s. 2d.

Under Richard II., pannage of Todley and the Bury produced 6s. one time, and 2s. 8d. another; and a fowl run in the Bury was given up by William ap David, and taken by Thomas of Hordley, at 4d. a year. In 11 Hen. IV., the pannage of the whole manor produced £1 9s. 10d., and underwood in Ruyton Park and the Bury together produced £1 15s. 10d. Under Henry V. there are no separate particulars. In 6 Henry VI., several fowl runs in the Bury were let for 4d. a year. The few Rolls later than this seem not to mention the Bury, till in 22 Eliz., William Wylson was fined 6d. for inclosing "common land of the free tenants in a certain wood called Byrry Wood, in the town-ship of Rednal," and a number of other persons were fined 4d. or 6d. for over loading the same common, i.e., putting too many cattle upon it. Wylson was fined 12d. next year for continuing his offence. In 26 Eliz., two persons were fined 4d. for "breaking the Lord's soil in a place called

the byrry mosse," and two next year for digging turfs on the Lord's waste in Rednal township, very likely this same Bury Moss; and in the October Courts of 10, 11, 12, and 13 William III., 31, 27, 30, and 27 persons respectively were fined 4d. each for digging turfs on the "Berrey Moore." Among them on two occasions was "Edward Owen, Esqr.," a relation, probably, of John Owen, the then owner of Woodhouse.

In 1332, Hauwys of Rednal was presented "because she has raised a certain assart in Rednal; and the said Hauwys calls Thomas Hercar to his warranty, and the said Thomas made default, wherefore the said cottage is seized into the hands of the Lord; and afterwards she paid a fine for the said cottage;" that is, she enclosed land, saying she had a title to it from Thomas Hercar, but failed to prove it; the cottage which she had built, therefore, became the Lords, being on his land, and she had to pay him an acknowledgment for it.

In 31 Edw. III., the tithes of corn of Rednal were let to the Chaplain, Richard of Rednal, for 10 marks of silver (£6 13s. 4d.).

In 37 Edw. III., the townsmen of Rednal were presented for injuring their neighbours by leaving 13 open gaps in their hedges. They were fined 3d. for each gap, of which half went to the Lord, and half to the township.¹

At the Court of 24 October, 50 Edw. III. (1376), a precept was issued to Roger, son of Thomas of Rednal, and all other the Lord's tenants there who hold at the will of the Lord, that they repair and cause to be built all their ruined houses by the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (24 June), under a penalty of 6s. 8d. This gave them 8 months for the work, and the amount of the penalty shows that the work was not expected to be expensive. The houses were, probably, single rooms, built of wood and mud, and thatched. Such as they were, they were built and repaired by the tenants as a condition of their holding.

Rednal Mill was leased this year to John Baxter for his life, together with the millstream and fishery of the mill pool.

¹ Perhaps this means to the township (Halghton) which was injured.

He was to pay for the mill 80 bushels of mixed corn a year, such as was ground there, and 6s. 8d. a year for the fishery.¹ Next year Thomas of Hordley took the "fishery of the stank of Rednal" for a year, for 1s., which sum is entered in the accounts as received for "Rednal Mill Pool," but it must have been a different pool from the one let with the mill. We know nothing of Rednal Mill before this time. In 14 Henry IV. Richard Millewarde, late miller of Redenhalle Mill, was indicted for having on Palm Sunday in the previous year, at West Felton, in the Lordship of the Eleven Towns, feloniously killed one Thomas Horde with a sword. Millward evidently derived his name from his occupation. He did not appear, and was outlawed. In 2 Henry VI., Thomas Mulleford by leave of the Lord transferred to Hugh Davidson of Ruyton one corn mill which he held in Reddenhall at a rent of 30s. to be paid to the Lord, and 1s. 6d. to the Lord of Hordley yearly, to hold to Hugh and his representatives for all the estate which Thomas had in it. Thomas Bryan and John Bickley become sureties both for the rent and for the keeping of the mill, which stands on the boundary between Rednal and Hordley. On 12 Sept., 5 Henry VI., the Steward and Jury of the Manor Court held an inquest on view of the body of John Tudor of Longemore Marsh, who had been killed by accident on the public road between Rednal Mill and the vill of Rednal, by a cart of Roger Evason's. He died intestate. The Jury valued the cart which did the mischief at 12d., and a young ox belonging to John Tudor at 8s.

The same year the people of Rednal presented that Thamlus, Roger, and William, all "of the Wood," had improperly obstructed the public road towards Perry Bridge, but William gave bail of 12d. to prove that the accusation was untrue. Probably the bridge was by the mill, where it is now. In 13 Henry VI., Hugh Dew, the Lord's miller at Rednal, was fined 12d. for taking excessive tolls. In 22 Elizabeth, Roger Nicholas was fined 6d. "for not making his part of the gate below Rednal Mill." In 1812 Rednal Bridge being ruinous, was rebuilt and widened at the expense of the county. The road over it to Ellesmere was a turnpike

¹ The price of wheat at this time was about 4s. the quarter.—*Chronicon Preciosum*.

road until turnpikes were abolished, about 20 years ago. There was a turnpike gate across the road from the village of Rednal to Woodhouse, close to the pool.

In 6 Richard II., we get a transfer of a cottage and three acres of land in Rednal from father to son ; and Thomas le Lythe is fined 12d. for brewing beer and selling it by false measure, and breaking the assise. In the 13th year there were several assaults in which blood was drawn; a son of Thomas Russell took from the Lord a piece of land in Radenall called Talorney, which Jenkin Hore previously held, to hold by the usual services; and John Gough, a tenant of the Lord at Rednal having died, a calf valued at 5/- was taken by the Lord as heriot, and Jenkin his son relieved the land, and paid nothing for relief. Talorney is mentioned again in 11 Hen. IV. under the name of "the Talorn," John the Potter being presented by the people of Rednal for having enclosed a footpath there, to the injury of his neighbours, and without anyone's leave. The district about the Queen's Head now called Talurney, is in Twyford Township, and some distance from any part of Rednal.

In 17 Richard II., the men of Redenhale presented Thomas of Hordley (whom we have seen as tenant of the Rednal fishery), for obstructing a footpath leading to their vill, and William of the Hays for bringing beer from Salop and breaking the assise. Erdeston made a similar presentment, at the same time, about Thomas Michell. Next year the jury of the Manor found that Rednal Meadow is now worth to be held in severalty 8s. per annum. Probably, like other land in the Manor, it had lately been drained or otherwise improved, and was intended to be let in future to individual tenants instead of being used as a common pasture.

In 4 Hen. IV., John, son of William Ball, took a piece of land in Rednal called Gronwerne. The Tithe Award gives the name Gronwen to two fields, A 160, 161 (321, 322 Ordnance), adjoining the bridle road from Rednal Pool to Grimpo. In 5 Hen. V. the people of Reddenhall presented Richard Handessone for breaking the Lord's cross (i.e., boundary mark), set up by William of the Wode, and David Wright was presented for breaking one set up for Thomas of

the Wode, in the pasture land of his own house; but the representatives of the township concealed the fact that all the tenants had been concerned in breaking another cross, probably set up on their common land, and were therefore presented themselves by the jury, and fined 1s. In the same year Roger of the Wode brought an action against the Chaplain, John Muridon, and next year Thomas of the Wode was murdered, as has been mentioned in the history of the Manor. There is no reason to suppose these people were relations, they were simply tenants in Bury or Rednal Wood.

On 22 May, 2 Hen. VI., the men of Reddenhall presented that John Walle had broken the Lord's cross placed on the boundaries of their township, and that the townsmen of Sutton had incurred a penalty by unlawfully turning their cattle on to the corn fields there.

The murder of Hugh Horde at Erdeshall, in the field of Rednal, has been mentioned in the history of the Manor. The name of this place is lost.

In 13 Henry VI., William Hordley and Roger de Bode were presented by the township of Rednal and fined 12d. each for having allowed their houses to become ruinous for want of repair.

In 6 Henry VII. we hear of hue and cry being raised at Rednal, and that John Bright shut up a public road there and enclosed it by putting palings on it.

In 23 Elizabeth a number of people were fined for not making their hedges sufficient round the field of oats in this township called Carsell field. The fine was in most cases 8d. for each gap. The name is now obsolete.

In 27 Elizabeth the Rednal people presented David ap John, called Tayler, for cutting down young oaks and hazels in land of John Kynaston, gentleman, in the township; and they said that Richard Vaughan, who held a tenement and land by Court Roll, had died, and that therefore the Lord was entitled to his best animal, which was a cow worth 30s., as a heriot.

On 27 May, 4 James I., Edward Mais was presented and fined 4s. 4d. for driving his cattle from the Manor of Whyttington to that of Ruyton to pasture them on the Lord's

waste there called Baggamore, in Rednal township, where he has no right of common; and the township also presented that a certain messuage held by Arthur Ridge by the Court Rolls of the Manor, and now occupied by William Brucfylde, has fallen to ruin for want of repair. At the next Court, 27 October, they made a number of presentments. Jocosa Footeman and John her husband had "made an affray" against Margaret, wife of William ap Edward (John Footeman, junior, was one of the persons making this presentment). David Wyllyams, who held a messuage and land, has died, and his best animal is due to the Lord as a heriot. Edward Davyes is his son and heir of full age, and has alienated the property to Robert Diken, Esquire, so the Lord is entitled to a fine of 2s. (Here we see David Williams's son called Davies, not Williams, following the old practice). Henry Footeman, who held a messuage land and tenements has also died, and his best animal is due to the Lord as a heriot, but has not yet been accounted for. Moreover, a fishery on the Perry belonging to his holding is in disrepair for want of a tenant of the messuage. Three persons have put hemp and flax into the Perry to be watered contrary to the Statute and to the injury of the inhabitants.

In 28 Elizabeth, 1585, George Onslow, gentleman, bought from John Williams and Alice his wife one messuage, one curtilage, one garden, one orchard, 100 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and common pasture for all kinds of animals, in Felton, Knockin, and Oswestry, and he paid £4 6s. 8d. to the Crown for pardon for having bought without license.¹ In 41 Elizabeth he had license on paying 53s. 4d. to convey 2 messuages, 2 curtilages, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 200 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, and common pasture for all animals, in Felton alias West Felton, Knockyn, and Oswestry, to Roger Owen, Esq., and Thomas Owen in fee simple.²

This Roger Owen was, no doubt, of Condover, M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1597, and Sheriff of Shropshire 1604, and

¹ Orig. 4 p., 34 Eliz., rot. 188.

² Orig. 5 p., 41 Eliz., rot. 101.

Thomas was his next brother. They were sons of Judge Owen, who built Condover, died in 1598, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The property they bought was, no doubt, part of the Woodhouse property, and may have been the first property owned by the family in Felton parish. Presumably they bought it on behalf of their second cousin once removed, Robert Owen, the first of the family who is described in the pedigree as of Woodhouse, which is in the township of Rednal. "Richard Owen the elder, Gentleman," whose name, with the date 1592, is still to be seen on Owen's Mansion in High Street, Shrewsbury, was brother of this Judge Owen.

On 1 December, 1608, Robert Owen, gentleman, paid 53s. 4d. for leave to convey 8 messuages, one water mill, 8 gardens, 130 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, 70 acres of pasture, and 26 acres of wood in Felton alias West Felton, to John Buck, gentleman, and Edward Hunt, gentleman, to the use of Robert Owen for his life, remainder to his wife Elizabeth (who, however, did not survive him, she was his second wife, and daughter of Richard Hunt of London) for life, remainder in tail male to his sons by his first wife Suzanne (daughter of Lancelot Bathurst, Alderman of London), remainder in tail male to his sons by any other wife, and failing them to the heirs of his father Edward Owen. Robert Owen probably built Woodhouse. His father and ancestors were of Shrewsbury, and no doubt made their money there, like so many others who acquired property in the country districts round it.

He was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1618, had three wives and 18 children. He was succeeded by his son Edward, born 1602, and he by Robert, High Sheriff in 1667, neither of whom is mentioned as taking any prominent part at the time of the Rebellion. Robert died in 1696, and was succeeded by his only son John, who died 1737, leaving only two daughters, Muriel and Sarah Owen his coheirresses, neither of whom ever married. These ladies made a gift of the property to a very distant cousin, Hugh Owen, M.D., of Shrewsbury, who was not a descendant of the first Robert Owen of Woodhouse. He came to live at Woodhouse during the lifetime of the survivor of the two, Sarah Owen, but was

killed there by a bull, 23 June, 1764, and by his will left the property back to Sarah Owen. She died about 16 months afterwards, having by deed of 14 Aug., 1764, settled it on John Lloyd of Trawscoed, representative of Robert Owen's eldest daughter, and failing him on William Mostyn, representative of the next daughter. John Lloyd died without issue, and William Mostyn succeeded to the property before 1774, and took the name of Owen. He represented Montgomeryshire in three Parliaments, and died in 1795, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William Mostyn Owen, who enjoyed it for about 50 years. His eldest son William succeeded him, and died unmarried in 1868, and was followed by his brother Arthur, born 1813. He was for about 10 years in the Madras Civil Service, and was High Sheriff in 1876. He was devoted to fishing, and was a friend of Charles Darwin and Frank Buckland. He died in February, 1896, and was succeeded by his eldest son Arthur, the present owner of the whole township.¹

An Inquisition enrolled in the Quarter Sessions Order Book for October, 1772, and held on the application of Mr. William Mostyn Owen of Woodhouse, found that no one would be injured by granting him license to enclose a highway from Rednal to Hordley, i.e., from the New Gates, near the Pinfold, in Rednal, to the East side of "Tomkies' meadow," in Rednal, belonging to Mr. Owen, being about 1,507 yards long and 12 yards broad; on condition of his making one beginning near the S.E. corner of Mr. Bassnett's house in Rednal, in "Hall Yards" (A 39), belonging to Mr. Owen, and running through lands of Mr. Owen's, called Bank Leasow (A 134), Bassnett's Wood, Red Meadow (A 130, 139), Lee Lane, the Lees (A 107), Lord's Meadow (A 110, 111), Miller's Croft, and ending near Rednal Mill; and also roads from the new road to some parcels of land in Rednal belonging to Bulkeley Hatchett, Esqr., Robert Lathrop, gent., and Mary Reynolds. The new road would have run from close to Rednal Pool to the Lees farm, and thence to Rednal Mill, but does not seem to have been made.

¹ Burke's *Landed Gentry*; and see note to West Felton Church, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.*, 1897.

In 1777 a Rednal Inclosure Act was passed, 17 Geo. III., C 17, entitled "An Act for dividing and inclosing the Moors Commons or Waste Grounds within the Township of Rednal, in the County of Salop." It stated that there were upwards of 300 acres of such ground, and appointed Commissioners to divide it among those who had rights over it. All manorial rights, except the right to the soil, were reserved to Lord Craven. Mr. William Owen had at that time a lease of the tithes of the township for the life of Mr. Joseph Dixon, the Rector of Felton, at £50 a. year; but as the tithes would be increased by the cultivation of these 300. hitherto waste acres, he was to pay an additional £10 a year to the Rector. The Award to be made under the Act was to be enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace, and then placed in the Parish Chest, but the enrollment is not to be found, nor is the Award in the Parish Chest or in possession of the Parish Council.

The tithes of Rednal Township, which had been let for £50 a year in 1777, were commuted in 1837 at £233 4s. This gives some index to the growth of the prosperity of the inhabitants during those 50 years, and shows also how much better the condition of the clergy is now than it was 140 years ago, notwithstanding the reductions which have taken place during the last quarter of a century.

There are few noticeable field names in the township beyond those already mentioned. The names of the Lees and Paradise are applied in the Tithe Award to some of the fields close to the farm houses now so called. Penycron (A 158, 159), between Gronwen and the road from Haughton to Rednal; the Fach (A 40), adjoining the South entrance to Woodhouse Park; and Penryston (A 44, 50), on each side of the road from Rednal to Queen's Head seem to be the only Welsh names. The two fields between Penryston and the Fach (A 42, 43) are the Butts. A 54 and 56 (313, 314 Ordnance), on each side of the road on the Rednal side of the railway bridge, are called Windmill Bank, but if there was ever a Windmill there, it must be a long time ago. Some of the fields on each side of them, A 51, 52, 58, 173 (149, 312, 320 Ordnance) are called Town's End, and are near the border of the township.

TOWNSHIP OF SUTTON.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

SUTTON possibly means South Town, but it is the most northerly of the eleven towns except Rednal. The name first occurs in the Court Roll of 6 Edward III., where we find no less than three places in the township mentioned; several people are fined for turning out cattle and pigs to graze on the Lynke and in Toddeley, and the townsmen of Sutton present that those of "Twiford except Thomas son of Robert have made a purpresture (encroachment) on the township of Sutton at the Lyngk and the Grynehul."

The name of Todley is dying out, and does not appear in the Tithe Award, though it is marked on the Ordnance Map of the same date, 1837, and is still sometimes applied to some of the land adjoining the Canal, about Nos. 200 to 209 on the Ordnance Map. In the time of Edward III. there was a wood there, of not much value, which probably adjoined Bury Wood. There is a cover there now which often holds a fox. Tod is an old name for a fox. Can Toddeley have meant fox cover? In 28 Edward III. pannage of Toddeley produced 9s., and attachiaments there 3s. 2d.; in 38 Edward III. herbage of Toddeley was let for 3s. 4d.; in 50 and 51 Edward III. wood and pasture there produced a few shillings. Under Richard II. we find attachiamment of Toddley Wood bringing in 13s., 3s. 2d., 1s. 6d.; in 4 Henry IV. wood from Toddeley sold for £3 6s., and pannage produced 1s. 4½d.; in his 11th year the pasturage of Toddeley Wood was let to the tenants of the township for 1s. 8d.

In 5 Henry VI. we get "attachiamment of Toddeley 20d.", and next to it attachiamment of Johneswode and of Willeswode. The last name occurs nowhere else. A receipt of 1s. 4d. from John's Wood and Todley is entered at the end of the "Ministers' Accounts" for 6 to 7 Henry VI. mentioned above, and John's Wood is specified in the license for aliena-

tion obtained by George Yonge in 1600. Perhaps both woods adjoined Todley. In 22 Henry VII. the Lord received 2s. 10d. for wood sold from Todley; and in 23 Elizabeth several persons were fined for lopping trees in Todley Wood, and one for carrying off wood belonging to John Kynaston, gentleman, there. Again in 27 Elizabeth four persons were fined 8d. or 6d. each for stripping boughs off oaks in Tedley Wood, and three were fined 4s. for digging turfs on the Lord's waste called Todley.

The Link appears to include the whole of the land in Sutton Township on the left hand side of the road from the National School to where the road to Sutton farm branches off from that to the Grimpo, A 21, 22, E 5, 11, C 21, 23 (444, 446, 642 Ordnance), are all called Link in the Tithe Award. E 4 and 6 (643, 650 Ordnance) are called Brick Kiln Croft, and no doubt bricks have been made there. At the extreme corner of 642, almost or quite in Twyford Township, there is a public well marked on the Ordnance Map as Lynx. In 2 Hen. VIII., John Bill gave 6d. for the Lord's protection against anyone interfering with his house in *Felton* called Lynk. This may be a very early instance of the name of the ecclesiastical parish being used in civil proceedings instead of that of the civil township or manor.

The Grynehull or Green Hill was, no doubt, in the neighbourhood of the Link, and was perhaps the hill on which Sutton farm stands. We have seen that a Thomas of Greneshull collected the tithes of Felton and Twyford in 30 Edw. III.

In 6 Edw. III., Madoc the Webbe was arraigned for "raising an assart," i.e., making an unlawful enclosure in Sotton. He called Hugh, son of Henry of Teddesmere, to warrant, who produced a deed showing his right to make the enclosure.

In 50 Edw. III., William Bealshawe, acting as attorney for the Lord, let "that parcel of land in Sutton called Lytelhale, situate between the two King's ways leading to Salop and Ruyton;" and in 11 Hen. IV., John Thomason gave the Lord 6d. for license to acquire from George Richardson a parcel of land called Lytelheyl, in the field of Sutton. It would seem from the description that Lytelhale

lay between the Holyhead road and the road from the National School to Eardiston, where the "Stone House" now stands. The large fields in this area, B 4 and 5 (707, 762, 763 Ordnance) are called Maes eiddew and Maes y wen in the Tithe Award, almost the only other Welsh names in the township being Meillionen, which merely means Clover field, B7 (648 Ordnance), adjoining the National School, and Maes yr hedydd, B 14 (part of 852 Ordnance) between them and the Hailstones. A 18, part of 830 Ordnance, adjoining B 14, is Graston Furlong.

In 11 Hen. IV., the people of Sutton presented William Twiford and Marjery of Erdeston for having gaps in their hedges in the winter time, the penalty for which was 2d. Both townships adjoin Sutton, and the objection to the gaps, of course, was, that animals from those townships could trespass on Sutton land.

On 23 February, 14 Hen. IV., Agnes, widow of William Thomkyns of Sutton, applied to the Court for a decision as to her right of dower in her husband's lands and tenements there; but the Court said "that all his hereditary lands and tenements there were of Welsh nature, and that the said Agnes ought not to be dowered in those lands and tenements of Welsh nature, and therefore she remains without dower." Dower in copyhold lands depends entirely on the custom of the manor, but we are not told what lands were "of Welsh nature" by the custom of this manor, nor why there was no dower in them, for the Welsh laws recognise dower in land.

In 5 Hen. V., Richard Handessone and Philip his son were fined 6d. each for "breaking" (perhaps obstructing) the common way to Sutton pasture land. The same Richard was prosecuted at the same time by the Rednal people.

In 2 Henry VI. the townsmen of Sutton prosecuted those of Twiford and of Felton, and also an individual named Dew David, for breaking boundary marks set up on Sutton ground and trespassing there with their animals; and the same year a number of persons paid 6d. to the Lord to have a jury empannelled to ascertain where the common road to Ymaesobre ought to be and of old used to be. That this was a field belonging to Sutton township is shown by a record of

6 October, 22 Elizabeth, that Thomas Kynaston of Sutton was fined 6d. "for keeping his cows unlawfully in a certain common field called the Maes Sbry in the aforesaid township." No such name exists now. Next year Thomas Lyeth was fined 2d. for crossing corn of the inhabitants of Sutton with his cattle.

On 12 September, 5 Henry VI., the men of Sutton prosecuted three persons for tying horses in the autumn fields among the corn of their neighbours contrary to the ordinance on the subject. We have seen that in 6 Henry VII. one David Kynaston held land in Sutton formerly held by Thomas Thamlus; and on 22 May, 23 Elizabeth, a servant of Roger Kynaston was fined for breaking the hedge of Thomas Kynaston of Sutton, and Thomas Kynaston was fined 2d. for crossing corn of Thomas Lyeth with his cattle, and he and Elianora Kynaston were accused, but not fined, for cutting holly in Ruyton Park. Thomas Kynaston, the owner at this time of Ruyton Hall, had a sister named Ellena. These may be the persons referred to.

In the "book of freeholders" of 1606 John Kinaston is the only one given at Sutton. According to the *Heralds' Visitation*, David had a grandson and a great-great grandson of this name.

In this year, 1606, the Butts of Sutton were presented as being out of repair and insufficient; three persons were presented for not making their hedges good against the corn field called the Poole field; two for not making a sufficient gate at the field called the Meadow Pinfold, and four for playing tennis within the manor. A 24 (parts of 396, 398 Ordnance) is called the Butts in the Tithe Award.

The Poole field was, no doubt, the Grimpoole (Grimpo) field, as to which the Tedsmore people had at the previous Court presented three other persons for the like offence, who were fined 10d. each. Probably it was, or included, the large field opposite the Grimpo schoolroom, 408 Ordnance, part of which, A 8, is called Grimpo field in the Tithe Award, and in which, when the Award was made, there was a moss, which may formerly have been a pool. Another part of this field, A 9, was called Asp Leasow. The field adjoins Tedsmore township. Part of Grimpo hamlet is in Sutton, part in

Haughton, and part in Tedsmore. It is always called Grimpool in the Overseers' Accounts of 1780 to 1791.

In 1699 Richard Reignalds inherited land in Sutton and Rednal from his neice, daughter of Edward Reignalds, and sold them to John Reignalds, who paid 4s. 1d. for relief to the Lord, and "did fealty and was admitted tenant thereof by the rod according to the custom of the Manor," i.e., the Steward gave him a rod as a symbol of giving corporeal possession of the land. This symbol is still in common use for transfers of copyhold land.

The "Hailstones," B 15, H 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Ordnance 854, 856 to 860) was the property of Jane Paddock or Parrock, and was settled by her in 1769, after her marriage with Edward Edwards of West Felton, gentleman, on her descendants, from whom it has now passed to the Tedsmore estate. Richard Morgan had been the tenant, but Thomas Jones held it in 1769 and long afterwards, and it is called the Hailstones in the first Overseers' Accounts, 1776.

A Bettisfield Terrier of 1787 includes in the endowment of the Minister "a farm and two houses at Sutton, in the Parish of West Felton, in the holding of William Humphreys at the yearly rent of £60 clear. From this farm a Chiefty of 6s. 8d. is annually paid to the Lord of the Manor, and a heriot at the death of the Incumbent of the living." In 1756 this farm had been held by Thomas Baker at a rent of £40. It was bought for Battlefield living in 1754 by the patron John Corbet, Esq., and the Incumbent, Leonard Hotchkiss, in conjunction with Queen Anne's Bounty; and it was exchanged in 1829 with Mr. William Owen of Woodhouse for a farm at Whixall.¹ Leonard Hotchkiss was Headmaster of Shrewsbury School 1735 to 1754.

The tithes of Sutton were commuted in 1837 at £116 7s. 9d.

The Railway Station is in Sutton township, but there are many Sutton Stations, so it was given the name of Rednal. The first engine passed over the Railway between Shrewsbury and Ruabon on August 5, 1848, passing Rednal about 5 p.m. but the line was formally opened by the running of a free train, starting from Shrewsbury at 9 30 a.m. on October 12th,

¹ Battlefield Register.

1848, remaining half-an-hour at Chester, and returning to Shrewsbury at 3. The day was observed as a public holiday in Shrewsbury, the Corporation walked in procession to the station in the morning, there was a public dinner in the Music Hall at 3, and a ball at the Lion Hotel at 9. On 7 June, 1865, an excursion train from Birkenhead ran off the line near Rednal Station, and nine persons were killed and many more injured.

The following names may be noticed, in addition to those already mentioned :—Cripple Hill, A 7, part of 401 Ordnance; Well Meadow and Snoggs, A 25 and 26, parts of 397 Ordnance, adjoining the Butts; Taudley, D 2, 3, 4, A 31, 32, the small farm opposite the railway station (Ordnance 224, 334, 298, 222, 338); Snab, A. 35, part of Ordnance 303 on the other side of the line adjoining the main road. The house at the corner, where the road from Sutton farm turns to the Grimpo, is called in the Tithe Award, and is still called, the Harp; it was probably once a public house, but had ceased to be so in 1837. The pound adjoined it, and has recently been roofed over and made into a pigstye.

TOWNSHIP OF TEDSMERE.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

THIS is now called Tedsmore, but was always called Tedsmere till quite lately. In the Court Rolls and the oldest Deeds the name is nearly always Teddesmere. It probably means Ted's boundary.¹ It first occurs in a deed of about 1205, by which John le Strange II. "allowed for himself and his heirs that the land of Robert Hert of Teddesmere be quit of Guards Doverant for ever."² Within the next 20 years, William called Hert of Teddismere, bound himself to pay to Haghmond Abbey yearly 12d., in respect of a half virgate "which Jewan Gries holds of the said William's inheritance in Teddismere." The effect of this grant was that henceforth the Herts held this half virgate as tenants to the Abbey.

Soon afterwards, Hugh le Strange sold for 2 marks to Haghmond Abbey half a virgate in Teddesmere, formerly holden by William Hert. John le Strange, who was Hugh's immediate Lord, and Hamo le Strange, witnessed the grant. This was a different half virgate from the former, and about 1226-7 William Abbot of Haghmon and his Convent granted for 2 marks "to William, son of William Hert & of Mabil of Teddismere, a virgate in the vill of Teddismere, viz., half a virgate before held of us by his father & mother, and the other half virgate we bought of Hugh le Strange for 2 marks." He was to pay a rent of 20d. for all services and secular demands, except that on the death of him and his successors, the Abbey was to have a heriot and 20d. for relief, and

¹ Mere stones are boundary stones.—*Salopia Antiqua*, p. 220 Teddings, that is, settlements of the Ted family, are found in six places in England. Isaac Taylor, p. 85.

² "De satellitibus doverantibus," Blakeway MSS. Eyton xi., 3. Guards doverant were, in Eyton's opinion (x., 73), a kind of manorial police; the deed would mean that the land should pay no contribution towards their maintenance.

scutage was also to be paid by the Herts.¹ On 13 Dec., 1298, John le Strange V. confirmed to the Abbey the grant made to it by one of his ancestors of all the land of Ralph Hert which he held in Teddesmere, with all its appurtenances.

William Hert of Teddesmere occurs as witness to a grant on 14 December, 1318,² and was presented in the Manor Court in 1332 for "concealing" the hue and cry against Baret and the others who were hunting unlawfully within the manor.³ In 1357, Ralph Hert pleaded guilty in the same Court to having abstained from resisting and arresting a robber, who was in his house to his knowledge, and was fined 40d., a much larger fine than usual, showing that the offence was a serious one. This is the last we hear of the Herts of Tedsmere, who owned property there, at least from the beginning of the 13th to the latter part of the 14th century. To judge from the last two mentions of them, honesty does not seem to have been their strongest point.

A John Yris of Teddesmere occurs in 1275,⁴ and Stephen of Felton had property here in 1324.⁵

In 31 Edw. III. (1357), Jevan ap Magekyn was accused of digging the Lord's turbary in Teddesmere, and was fined 3d. for not appearing to answer the charge. We have seen under Wikey that Teddesmere claimed a right of common pasture at Wigmarsh, a part of which, now called Bentley's Marsh, is within the township. The plantation there is new since 1837, when the land was called Corsy eithen and Corsy brwyn, gorse bog and rushes bog.

In 6 Richard II., William, son of John the Wolf, relieved land in Tedesmere, but paid nothing for relief. Probably his land had been in the Lord's hands during his minority.

Roger Cheyne, Madok of Knockin, and — ap Griffith, were indicted for hunting with dogs and greyhounds on the Tuesday after Easter, 13 Richard II., in the Warren of the Eleven Towns, in the township of Tedesmere, they did not appear, and were ordered to be arrested.

¹ Eyton xi., 3, and Blakeway MSS., which last I have followed in one or two small particulars instead of Eyton.

² Eyton, xi., 19.

³ See History of the Manor.

⁴ Eyton, x., 284.

⁵ See under Township of Felton.

In the same year, and again in 17 Richard II., John Webbe of Tedsmere, weaver, was fined 6d. for breaking the assise by taking excessive wages. Again, in 11 Hen. IV., they presented William of Foxhale for breaking the assise by brewing and selling ale, and in 2 Hen. VI., Jankyn Bocher, butcher, the same thing, and for taking excessive gain in the sale of beer and meat. It will be noticed that both Webbe and Bocher took their names from their trades, and had probably inherited both.

In 13 Hen. VI., Richard Harper was presented for tying a cow in the corn field of Teddismere.

We have seen that in 6 Hen. VII. a David Kynaston had lately acquired some land in Tedsmere, previously held by Thomas Thamlus.

In 26 Eliz., the Tedsmere people presented John Griffiths for having broken the metes and bounds between his lands and those of William Jones, in the field called the Hyll Field; and William Jones for unlawfully taking growing barley of John Griffiths, in the field called the Hogle Mosse field. The plantation along the road on Tedsmore bank is called the Hill Coppice in the Tithe Award, and Hogle Moss may be the land behind the Hailstone called Harleth Moss in the Tithe Award, A 58, 59 (861 Ordnance).

In 1606, the freeholders of the township were John Jones, John Gof, and Edward Jenes. John Gof dying this year, his best animal became due to Sir George Yonge, Lord of the Manor of Ruyton, as a heriot. Thomas Gof was his son and heir, and of full age. He was afterwards fined 6d. for contempt of court in not appearing in the Ruyton Manor Court when summoned.

The tithes of the township were commuted in 1837 at £63 10s. 6d.

Tedsmore Hall was built by Richard Bulkeley Hatchett of Lee, near Ellesmere (a property which was sold by Mr. Bulkeley Owen about 30 years ago), on land belonging to his wife Martha, which she inherited in 1764 from her brother Hugh Owen, M.D., who is mentioned in the account of Woodhouse. Mr. Hatchett died in 1800, leaving Tedsmore to his second son Hugh, who took the name of Owen, and died unmarried in 1818. His elder brother Bulkeley

Hatchett lived at Ellesmere, and married Mary, daughter of the second son of James Mainwaring of Bromborough, whose wife became ultimately the heiress of Oteley. Bulkeley Hatchett did not die till 1830, but the Tedsmore property went on Hugh Owen's death to Bulkeley Hatchett's son, Thomas Bulkeley, who took the name of Owen, and very much improved the property by enclosing and planting a good deal of land. He died in 1867. His eldest son Bulkeley Hatchett Bulkeley Owen succeeded him, but died the next year without issue, when the property came to his only brother the Rev. Thomas Mainwaring Bulkeley Owen, the present owner of the greater part of the township.

A field near the Grimp, A 52 (458 Ordnance) is called Brick Kiln Croft in the Tithe Award. A 15 (866 Ordnance) is Leech Pool field, from the leeches in the adjoining pool; and the field at the back of the Hall, now thrown into the Park, is the Blossoms. Several fields have Welsh names, derived from their physical characteristics, such as "Twill Glass," green toft; "Cefn y coed" and "Cae coed," timber ridge and timber field; "Bryn y ffynon," well field; but the most interesting names are "Cae Cwrw" and "Bryn y Cwrw," A 53 and 60 (463 and 841 Ordnance), on the left of the road from Tedsmore to Grimp, which mean "Ale field" and "Ale Hill." The names were not given by the present owner, who is not thought to have much liking for the beverage.

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. F. Goyne, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.]

XIII.

EXCAVATIONS AT WENLOCK PRIORY.

Last autumn some excavations were carried out at Wenlock Priory at the expense of the owner, Mr. Milnes Gaskell, and under the direction of the Rev. D. H. S. Cranage. The present ruined church is easily dated, from its architecture, as the work of the 13th, and perhaps the end of the 12th century. But, as the Cluniac Priory was founded by Roger de Montgomery about 1080, it appeared highly probable that a church of that date would be discovered. There was also the chance of finding traces of Leofric's Abbey, founded shortly before the Conquest, and of the still earlier foundation of St. Milburge of the latter part of the 7th century.

The excavations were rewarded with a very fair measure of success. A commencement was made under the central tower, and, on the first day, the foundations were discovered of one of the two walls which supported the pulpitum of the present church—the stone screen which terminated the quire at the west end. More interesting still was the great semi-circular apse which formed the east end of Roger de Montgomery's presbytery. Half of this was traced, and part of the smaller apse which terminated the south quire aisle. There is, doubtless, a similar projection on the north side. The size showed that the breadth of the earlier church, at its east end, was the same as that of the present building, though the length was much less. It is clear also, from several signs, that the present church was built round the older one in the usual mediæval manner, the worship not being disturbed till the last moment.

Under the central tower, some remarkable and puzzling foundations were discovered, at a lower level than those just mentioned. They appeared to be those of a small early church, about 38ft. by 28ft., the form being oblong with a small eastern apse, segmental inside and square outside. The work was very rough, and further excavation would be necessary to elucidate several puzzling points.

It was naturally hoped that St. Milburge's church had been traced, and the form agrees very fairly with that of contemporary buildings. Nothing was found which could, with much probability, be assigned to Leofric's period.

No trace could be discovered of the base of the Norman shrine of St. Milburge. We know that Roger's church was so far finished in 1101 that the relics of the saint were translated to a spot in front of the high altar on May 26th of that year. Probably all trace of the shrine was removed, when the new shrine was erected in the greatly enlarged presbytery a hundred years later.

A very graceful sepulchral slab was found, dating from the end of the 13th or the beginning of the 14th century. It was lying buried on its face near the east end of the nave. It is now placed in the library, east of the cloister, and is carefully covered with matting during the winter. A great many human remains were dug up, but only one undisturbed skeleton: it was that of a very big man, who was interred just inside the great Norman apse; it was buried again in the same spot. Outside the apse, in the very centre, was a roughly shaped grave of stones, with a place for the head let into the wall; there was no skeleton.

This note is only a brief *ad interim* report. A fuller account should be written when, as is hoped, the excavations are resumed.

D. H. S. CRANAGE, F.S.A.

XIV.

SUPPOSED LAKE DWELLINGS AT PIKE'S END.

Owing to notices sent to the local newspapers and to the Society of Antiquaries of London, some attention has been paid during the past six months to a number of small mounds covering a low-lying meadow at the base of Pike's End, in the parish of Lyneal-cum-Colemere. This meadow is the property of Earl Brownlow, and his tenant, Mr. Jones, noticed last winter that the mounds on it were of clay, though the soil is peat, and further that these mounds displayed an approach to symmetry in their arrangement, sixteen of them being disposed in two rows at the foot of the slope, and a third row of only six lying between these two. The diameter of the mounds also varied but little, being in the first and second rows just about 12ft., and in the third a trifle less. Lastly, the mounds were for the most part about ten yards apart, and a foot in height.

Much of the clay has been removed by Mr. Jones, and the sites of several of the mounds have been dug into in the presence of members of our Archæological Society, and others, and in particular, before Dr. Robert Munro of Edinburgh, the well-known writer of *Scottish Lake Dwellings* and other works of the same character. Ashes, much bark of fir and birch, a root showing

marks of fire, and a log or two of black oak, constitute up to the present time all the discoveries that have been made in the two feet or thereabouts of peaty soil, which are all that the very boggy nature of the ground permits the spade to deal with. It is, therefore, uncertain at present whether the remains are those of lake dwellings, notwithstanding that at Whettall Moss, only half a mile distant as the crow flies, the ancient canoe, which is now preserved at Ellesmere, was found in 1872. There is no doubt, however, that the mounds at Pike's End have been artificially constructed. Dr. Munro, who was chairman of the British Association Committee for the excavation of the lake village at Glastonbury, has pointed out that the relics of human industry there found were intercalated between layers of clay, while at Pike's End there is only one such layer. Still the presumption is that the mounds at Pike's End were intended to be the sites of habitable huts.

GILBERT H. F. VANE, F.S.A.

XV.

THE WILL OF HENRY BISHOP, VICAR OF MORETON CORBET, A.D. 1539.

Henry Byschope is mentioned by James Janyns, Clerk, in his will printed on page 295. I am now able to give a copy of the former's will made from the original at Lichfield, by my friend, Mr. John Beacall. The two wills were made in the same year, 1539, the present one on May 18th, witnessed July 30th, and that of Janyns on the last day of December. Lady Elizabeth Corbet, mentioned in the present will, was the wife of Sir Robert Corbett, of Moreton Corbet, who filled the office of High Sheriff of Shropshire in 1507, she was the daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon, co. Derby, and was for 50 years a widow, living to see 233 descendants of her own body, and left behind her the character of an amiable and virtuous lady. She died May 29th, 1563, and was buried at Moreton Corbet. In the latter part of her life she resided in Shrewsbury, and was known as "Old Lady Corbet of Shrewsbury."

Henry Byschope appoints this Lady and Sir William Corvesor, Vicar of Staunton, his executrix and executor; perhaps we have the reason for his appointing the latter in the fact of his being the brother, or near relative, of Thomas Corvesor, the last Abbot of Haughmond, in whom, with the Canons, was vested the presentation of the livings of Stanton and Moreton. It was on September 9th of this same year, 1539, that Thomas Corvesor and his ten canons surrendered to the King's Commissioners the Abbey and its property; the Abbot received a pension of £40 per annum for life.

Henry Bychope's will presents us with several literary puzzles. I have ventured to suggest explanations of some of the words, but the others I must leave to the superior skill of the reader.

In dei nomine Amen xvij die maii Anno D'ni M.D. xxxix I hary byshop vycar off Morton Corbet sycke off body and hole yn mynd make my testament and this my last wyll in man' and forme following/ fyrst I bequethe my sole to all myghty god my body to be buryd yn the churche off morton Itm I bequethe to Elsabethe Ryckestad my kynswoma' won pott won pan' Itm I bequethe to Anne Byshoppe my brodurs dowghter on' [one] pott on' pan and a brandart [an iron tripod on which a kettle is placed] and a chaffing dyshe ij sylu' [silver] sponys & a broche Itm to Rychard massye on' butte¹ of barly whad' Y lyve [whether I live] or dye. Itm to Ryc' maynard on baren cow Itm to the chappell off byshoppe offley² won bullocke or ells a heyffyr Itm to hugh besford a lyttyll grey mare Itm I make and ordeyne my executors yn the way off charyte desyry'g my lady Elsabethe corbett & s'r wylyya' coruesr vycar off stawnton³ to whose dyscrecyo' my body buryd my funeral costs dyschardgd my detts payd I giue and bequethe all the rest off my goods so that they bestowe the' to ye ples'r [pleasure] off god & weylthe to my sowle. hiis testibus hu'frido Jan'ys hu'frido nycolas & Rogero baly xxx^o July.

The inventorye off the goods off S^r hary byshoppe late uycar off morton Corbett

In primis yn redy money	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{os}	iiij ^d
It'm detts owyng unto hym	...	...	...	...	xx ^{os}	ix ^d
It'm xj sylu' [silver] sponys	...	...	...	...	xiiij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm a mas'r	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{os}	...
It'm h's [his] gownes	...	...	...	...	viiij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm h's cou' letts [coverlets = bed covers]	...	...	...	...	...	xvj ^d
It'm ij fflax' shets & ij peyre off ca'vas [canvas]	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm old matteres	...	...	...	...	...	xviiij ^d
It'm a pelow a pelows bere [pillow-case] & a bolstyr	...	...	...	...	...	xij ^d
It'm a pettycote & a bare ma'tyll [mantle]	...	...	...	...	xij ^{os}	ij ^d
It'm a peyre off shoyes [shoes] & a peyre off pyso's	...	...	...	...	...	viiij ^d
It'm bedstocks [?] & boords	...	...	...	...	...	xvj ^d
It'm a peyre off rossett [reddish-brown] hose	...	...	...	...	...	vj ^d
It'm iij coffers & a koobert [cupbord]	...	...	...	...	ij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm waxe candylls	...	...	...	...	...	j ^d

HOWSHOLD STUFFE.

It'm ij p'ongs [prongs] ij potts ij chaffyng dishes	...	xiiij ^s	viiij ^d
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¹ A but is "a space of ploughed land containing a certain number of furrows determined by the character of the soil." (Miss Jackson's *Shrop. Word-Book*).

² In Staffordshire, 3 miles west of Eccleshall.

³ Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath is in the adjoining parish to Moreton Corbet.

It'm a broche [a spit] a peyre off coberts & a bra'dyrne [brandiron, A.S. <i>brand-isen</i> , an iron to support brands of wood, an andiron]	ij ^{os}	
It'm a frrying pan a possenett [small pot]	xvj ^d	
It'm a chaffyng dysshe & iij basses	ij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm ij broches & a grydyrne [gridiron]		x ^d
It'm pewt' [pewter] vessell	ij ^{os}	
It'm a bra'dert & a barell w th v'ges [verjuice]		viiij ^d
It'm ij p'ongs		
It'm iij sykells ij bylls and a hatched		viiij ^d
It'm a cl'nsy'g syve [cleansing sieve] a whytt [?] a bowke & a barell		vj ^d
It'm a churne & a chese cratche		j ^d
It'm flaxe		iiij ^d
It'm a bowke w th a c'ten trene dysshes [wooden dishes] It'm a coppesoll [iron of a plough] xiiij haroz tynes [spikes of a harrow] & ij scythes		ij ^d
It'm a axe... ..		xij ^d
It'm the hallffe portnys ¹ w th iij or iiij od ^r boks		ij ^d
It'm a peyre off p'ysos an a ca'dyll iron		xiiij ^d
It'm a worthing hoke a st'kelett [strikelett, ? a form of the word strickle, an instrument to strike grain to a level with the measure] a tubbe		ij ^d
It'm a peyre off knyves		iiij ^d
It'm iij stolys [stooles]		iiij ^d
It'm ij cankeryd [carrodded] knyves		viiij ^d
It'm a closse bowke [close bucket] a pycher and a yerthyn po' [pot]		ij ^d
It'm a flet [vat, a vessel to hold liquid]		xij ^d
It'm v barells and a trozhe [trough]		xx ^d
It'm plozhe yrnys [plough irons] & the whels [wheeles] It'm a weyne		vj ^d
It'm a bagg & whete y'yn [iron]	iiij ^{os}	xii ^d

CORNE.

It'm iij stryke off barly	ij ^{os}	vij ^d	ob.
It'm xvi stryke off rye	xij ^{os}		
It'm xxix stryke off malt	xix ^{os}	iiij ^d	
It'm corne vppon the grovnd			
It'm gresse [grass] yn the fflyds and medows			
It'm teythe hey			

CATELL.

It'm iij oxen	i ^{os}	v ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm iij kyne wythe ther calffs		liij ^{os}	viiij ^d

¹ Portons=portuary, i.e., a breviary; a book containing the daily service of the Roman Catholic Church; hallffe=half, applies to those of the morning and evening services.

It'm a baren cowe & a bullocke	xx ^{os}	
It'm a heyffer & a bullocke calff .. .	vj ^{os}	
It'm a sowe & vij pygges .. .	iiij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm ix swyne	x ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm xix shyppe	xviiij ^{os}	
It'm xiiij lambys	xiiij ^{os}	
It'm	xiiij ^{os}	viiij ^d
It'm ij capons xv dygges [ducks] iiij henys and yong chykenys	iiij ^{os}	v ^d
It'm a mare	ij ^{os}	
It'm a ryffe mare		
It'm a ryffe colt		xij ^d
It'm a lytle nagge .. .	iiij ^{os}	iiij ^d
S'm' tot'	xvi ^{li}	x ^{os} viij ^d

[On back—Inventer Byshoppe.]

Act Book 2, 1535—1540, p. 66.

Apud lich. xxx^o July (1539).

Test' henrici bushop rector' de morton corbet p. ven'abilem D'am
Elizabeth' Corbett et D'um Will'm corviz' vicar' de stonten
exec' jurat'.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

GENERAL INDEX TO VOL. II.

(COMPILED BY R. E. DAVIES.)

A

Accounts, Statement of, xxvi
Annual Excursion, ix
" Meeting, v

ARMS:

Beysin, 150 Mowddwy, 149
Burgh, 149 Mytton, 149
Clopton, 149 Pride, 149
Corbet, 149 Tour, 149
Grey, 150

AUDEN, REV. T., M.A., F.S.A.,
Two Royal Paramours, 248

B

BEACALL, WILLIAM,
Discoveries at Uriconium, 163
Bigamist, remarkable, 365
Bishop, Henry, Will of, William
Phillips, 409
Bonnet, Wearing in Royal Presence,
Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, 151, 292
Bridgeman, Sir Orlando, Sequestration
Papers of, Rev. Ernest R. O.
Bridgeman, and Charles G. O.
Bridgeman, I
Bridgeman, (see Families)
BRIDGEMAN, REV. ERNEST R. O. }
BRIDGEMAN, CHARLES G. O. }
Sequestration Papers of Sir Orlando
Bridgeman, I
Buddicom, R. A., appointed Hon.
Curator of Geology, xvi

C

CALVERT, E., LL.D.,
Discoveries at Uriconium, 163
Castle Tump, near Tenbury (but in
Shropshire), 162
Church Bells, H. B. Walters, 165
Clun, x
Clunbury, x
Coins and Tokens, R. Lloyd Kenyon,
157
CRANAGE, REV. D. H. S., M.A., F.S.A.
Excavations at Wenlock Priory, 407

D

Domesday, 158
DRINKWATER, REV. C. H., M.A.,
Domesday, unidentified places in, 158

Glossary of Obsolete Words: a
Correction, 293
Shrewsbury Gild Merchant and other
Rolls of the Fourteenth Century, 65

E

Eardiston, Township of, 131

F

FAMILIES:

Baynham, 318 Lacon, 312, 313,
Berrington, 275 316, 319, 322
Bickerton, 294 Lathrop, 365
Blount, 306, 312 Lawley, 301, 307,
Brett, 320 308, 309, 317,
Bridgeman, 10, 318, 321, 323,
327, 343, 344 325, 331, 335
Briggs, 330, 339 Lee, 310
Bromley, 314 Leighton, 320
Broughton Littleton, 327
(Delves), 340 Longenolte, 277
Brown, 355 Mytton, 147, 274,
Browne, 341 325
Cambray, 304 Newport, 337,
Childe, 231, 350 338
Clerke, 303 Owen, 393
Corbet, 307 Pierpoint, 329
Cornewall, 307 Pontesbury, 281
Cressett, 328 Poole, or Pole,
Edwards, 339 318
Evans, 313 Portam, 271
Eyton, 310, 316 Ridley, 313
Fanshawe, 319 Sambrooke, 339
Forster, or Scriven, 280
Forester, 351, Shotton, 278
301, 305, 311, Smalman, 326
333, 338, 340, Thompson, 352
342, 343, 348, Thornes, 109, 128,
350, 351, 352, 279
356 Tour, 270
Foxe, 316 Weld, 175, 333,
Gaskell, 353 335, 336*
Geffery, 279 Whitmore, 175,
Gough, 294 331, 337, 344
Grafton, 283, Wolryche, 175,
286 323, 334
Hall, 306 Wytheford, 272
Herbert, 309 Yonge, 108, 127
Kenyon, 141

* An asterisk denotes that the name occurs repeatedly on the page.

Felton, Township of, 359
 Field-names, 112, 115, 118, 119, 120,
 122, 124, 129, 132, 133, 134, 135,
 136, 362, 363, 366, 367, 368, 382,
 383, 385, 391, 395, 396, 398, 400,
 402, 405, 406
 FLETCHER, REV. W. G. D., M.A.,
 F.S.A.,
 On Wearing the Bonnet in the
 Royal Presence, 151, 292
 Shropshire Wills at Lambeth Palace,
 268
 Folk-Lore, 115, 121, 126, 287

G

Glossary of Obsolete Words, 293
 GOUGH, ARTHUR V.,
 The Grand-children of Richard
 Gough of Newton-on-the-hill, 294
 Gough, Richard, Grand-children of, 294
 Grey, Lord Thomas, capture of,
 William Phillips, 143

H

Hanny, misprinted Harry, 244, line 15
 Haughmond Abbey, 123, 125, 126, 132,
 133, 295, 360, 381, 493
 Haughton, Township of, 381

I

INCUMBENTS :
 Alveley, 190
 Badger, 192
 Baschurch, 384
 Battlefield, 401
 Bridgnorth, 197
 Burwarton, 227
 Clebury Mortimer, 227
 Kinlet, 231, 232
 Madeley, 240
 Moreton Corbet, 409
 Neen Savage, 233
 Ness, 108
 Quatt, 174
 Ruyton, 384
 Wenlock, Much, 242
 West Felton, 108, 119, 359, 361,
 363, 368, 392, 396
 Wheathill, 227
 Index, General, to Vol. II., 413

J

Janyns, James, Will of, William
 Phillips, 295
 Jeffries, Judge, house at Wem, Hon.
 and Rev. Gilbert H. F. Vane, 291

K

KENYON, R. LLOYD,
 Local Coins and Tokens lately
 acquired by the Shrewsbury
 Museum, 157
 Manor of Ruyton-xi-towns :—
 Township of Eardiston, 131
 " Felton, 359
 " Haughton, 381
 " Rednal, 387
 " Shelvock, 107
 " Shotatton, 123
 " Sutton, 397
 " Tedsmere, 403
 " Wilkey, 117
 Knighthood, Fees for, in 1642 (also in
 1896), 160

L

Lake Dwellings, supposed, Hon. and
 Rev Gilbert H. F. Vane, 408
 Lydbury North, xi

M

Members, List of, xix
 Minutes of Council Meetings, xiii
 MORRIS, JOSEPH, the late,
 Provosts and Bailiffs of Shrewsbury
 (continued), 269

N

NORTON, REV. F. C.,
 List of Shropshire Wills at Somerset
 House, 1641—1660 (concluded)
 255

O.

Officers of the Society, xviii.
 Otley Fees for Knighthood, William
 Phillips, 160

P.

PEDIGREES :
 Geflery, 279 Shotton, 278
 Grafton, 284 Tour, 270
 Mutton, 274 Wolryche, 324
 Portam, or Wytheford, 272
 Yate, 271
 PHILLIPS, WILLIAM, F.L.S.,
 Capture of Lord Thomas Grey in
 Shropshire, 143
 Castle Tump, near Tenbury, 162
 Fees for Knighthood in 1642 (also in
 1896), 160
 Recovery of a long lost Shrewsbury
 MS., 161
 Some recently discovered remains on
 the site of Uriconium, 163

Will of Henry Bishop, Vicar of
Moreton Corbet, A.D. 1539, 409
Will of James Janyns, Clerk, of
Moreton Corbet, A.D. 1539, 295
Pike's End, Lyncal-cum-Colemere, 408
Plowden, xi.

R.

Rednal, Township of, 387
Rook and Sparrow Hawk, Fight
between, G. Williams-Freeman, 292
Royal Paramours, 248
Royal Presence, Wearing the Bonnet
in, 151, 292
Ruyton-xi-Towns, Manor of, 107, 117,
123, 131, 359, 381, 387, 397, 403

S.

Sequestration Papers of Sir Orlando
Bridgeman: Rev. Ernest R. O.
Bridgeman and Charles G. O.
Bridgeman, i

Shelvock, Township of, 107
Shotatton, Township of, 123

SHREWSBURY:

Abbey, 118
Coins and Tokens, 157
Gild Merchant, 65
MS., Long Lost, 161
Museum, 157, 162
Provosts and Bailiffs, 269
1329 Hugh le Dunfowe
John de Weston
1330 John Reyner
Thomas Colle, Jun.
1331 The same
1332 John de Opton
Reginald Perle
1333 John de Opton
John le Walsh
1334 John Reyner
John le Walsh
1335 John de Weston
Thomas Ive
1336 The same
1337 John Stury
John de la Tour
1339 John Stury
Thomas Colle, Jun.
1340 The same
1341 John de Upton
Reginald Perle
1342 The same
1343 John Stury
John le Walsh
1344 John Stury
William le Skinner
1345 John de Upton
John de Foriet
1346 William Lychefeld
William Pride

1347 Thomas Gamel
Richard de Weston
1348 Reginald Perle
John de la Tour
1349 John Stury
William Withiford
1350 William de Smethcote
Robert de Upton
1351 John Stury
William le Parmenter
1352 John de Foriate
Thomas de Mutton
1353 Thomas Gamel
William de Smethcote
1354 Reginald Perle
Roger de la Yate
John Stury
1355 William de Biriton
1356 John Stury
Thomas Glus
1357 John Stury
William de Biriton
1358 The same
1359 John Stury
William le Skynner
1360 The same
1361 Roger de la Yate
Thomas de Mutton
1362 John Stury
William de Longenolre
1363 William de Biriton
John de Shotton
1364 Robert de Thornes
William de Longenolre
1365 John Stury
Richard Russell
1366 John Stury
Thomas de Biriton
1367 Reginald Perle
John de Shotton
1368 William de Longenolre
Thomas le Skinner
1369 John Geffery
William de Biriton
1370 John Stury
John de Shotton
1371 Reginald le Scriven
Richard de Beorton
1372 Thomas de Byrton
Roger atte Yate
1373 John Stury
Reginald de Mutton
1374 Richard de Pontisberie
John Geffrey
1375 William de Wythesforde
Roger de Foriate
1376 Reginald de Mutton
Thomas Pride
1377 William de Longnore
John Geffry

- 1378 William de Biriton
James le Dyer
1379 Richard de Beorton
William de Weston
1380 William de Biriton
Thomas Pride
1381 Thomas le Skinner
Richard Russell
1382 William de Biriton
Hugh le Donfowe
1383 Thomas Skynner
Thomas Pride
1384 William de Biriton
Reginald de Mutton
1385 William de Biriton
Hugh Wygan
1386 John Gefrey
Reginald de Mutton
1387 Richard Stury
William de Byrton
1388 Robert de Thornes
Hugh Wygan
1389 Hugh Dunfowe
James le Dyer
1390 Reginald de Mutton
Robert de Grafton
- SHROPSHIRE :
Church Bells, 165
(See Index of Parishes, page 247)
Lord Thomas Grey, capture of, 143
Place-Names, 158
Wills, 1313—1644, 268
" 1641—1660, 255
Societies in communication, xxv
SOUTHAM, HERBERT, R. H., F.S.A.,
Castle Tump, near Tenbury, 162
Remains on site of Uriconium, 163
Sutton, Township of, 397

T.

- Tedsmere, Township of, 403 f
Townships in Manor of Ruyton :
Eardiston, 131 Shotatton, 123
Felton, 359 Sutton, 397
Haughton, 381 Tedsmere, 403
Rednal, 387 Wikey, 117
Shelvock, 107
Tumulus, near Tenbury, 162

U.

- Uriconium, recently discovered remains, 163

V.

- VANE, HON. AND REV. GILBERT, H. F.,
M.A., F.S.A.,
The Castle of Wem, 287
Judge Jeffryes's house at Wem, 291
Supposed Lake Dwellings at Pike's
End, 408

W.

- WALTERS, H. B., M.A., F.S.A.,
The Church Bells of Shropshire, 165
Wem Castle, Hon. and Rev. Gilbert
H. F. Vane, 287
Wem, Judge Jeffryes's House, Hon.
and Rev. Gilbert H. F. Vane, 291
Wenlock, Members of Parliament for,
Henry T. Weyman, 297 (see Index
to Members, 357)
Wenlock Priory, Excavations at, Rev.
D. H. S. Cranage, 407
WEYMAN, HENRY T.,
The Members of Parliament for
Wenlock, 297
Wikey, Township of, 117
WILLIAMS-FREEMAN, G.,
Fight between Rook and Sparrow
Hawk, 292
WILLS :
Bishop, Henry, 409
Blount, Sir George, 312
Corbet, Reginald, 307
Donfowe, Hugh le, 283
Evans, John, M.P., 313
Eyton, Robert, 311
Janyns, James, 295
Lacon, Rowland, 315
Lawley, Edward, 323
" George, 322
" Thomas, 309
Pierpoint, William, 330
Ridley, Thomas, 314
Smalman, Francis, 326
Thornes, Francis, 113
Whitmore, Thomas, 332
At Lambeth Palace, 268
" Somerset House, 255

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CONTENTS of 3rd Series, Vol. II.

	Page
The Sequestration Papers of Sir Orlando Bridgeman. Edited by the Rev. ERNEST R. O. BRIDGEMAN, and CHARLES G. O. BRIDGEMAN	I
Shrewsbury Gild Merchant and other Rolls of the 14th century Transcribed and Edited by the Rev. C. H. DRINKWATER, M.A.	65
The Manor of Ruyton-xi-Towns. By R. LLOYD KENYON.	
Township of Shelvock	107
Township of Wikey	117
Township of Shotatton	123
Township of Eardiston	131
The Capture of Lord Thomas Grey in Shropshire. By WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.	143
On wearing the Bonnet in the Royal Presence. By the Rev. W. G. D. FLETCHER, M.A., F.S.A.	151
The Church Bells of Shropshire, Part I. By H. B. WALTERS, M.A., F.S.A.	165
Two Royal Paramours. By Rev. T. AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A.	248
A List of Shropshire Wills at Somerset House, London, from 1641 to 1660 (<i>concluded</i>)	255
Shropshire Wills at Lambeth Palace	268
The Provosts and Bailiffs of Shrewsbury. By the late JOSEPH MORRIS (<i>continued</i>)	269
The Castle of Wem. By the Hon. and Rev. GILBERT H. F. VANE, M.A., F.S.A.	287
The Members of Parliament for Wenlock. By HENRY T. WEYMAN	297
The Manor of Ruyton-xi-Towns. By R. LLOYD KENYON	
Township of Felton	359
Township of Haughton... ..	381
Township of Rednal	387
Township of Sutton	397
Township of Tedsmere... ..	403

MISCELLANEA:

	Page
I. Local Coins and Tokens lately acquired by the Shrewsbury Museum	157
II. Unidentified Places in Domesday	158
III. Fees for Knighthood in 1642 (also in 1896)	160
IV. Recovery of a long lost Shrewsbury MS.	161
V. Castle Tump, near Tenbury	162
VI. Some recently discovered remains on the site of Uriconium	163
VII. Judge Jeffries' House at Wem	291
VIII. On wearing the Bonnet in the Royal Presence	292
IX. Fight between Rook and Sparrow-Hawk	292
X. Glossary of Obsolete Words: a Correction	293
XI. The Grand-Children of Richard Gough, of Newton-on-the-Hill	294
XII. Will of James Janyns, Clerk, of Moreton Corbet, A.D. 1539	295
XIII. Excavations at Wenlock Priory	407
XIV. Supposed Lake Dwellings at Pike's End	408
XV. Will of Henry Bishop, Vicar of Moreton Corbet, A.D. 1539	409
General Index to Vol. II.	413

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Portrait of Sir Orlando Bridgeman	I
Facsimile Signature of Sir Orlando Bridgeman	24, 35
Tithe Map of Shelvock Township	107
Tithe Map of Wikey Township	117
Tithe Map of Shotatton Township	123
Tithe Map of Eardiston Township	131
Arms of Mytton	143
Facsimile Signature of King Henry VIII.	152
Plan of Castle Tump, Tenbury	162
Views of Castle Tump, Tenbury	163
Plan of Excavations at Uriconium	164
Figures of Bell Borders, &c.	174, 177, 191, 196, 216
Bell Borders and Letters, &c. Plates I. to VII.	247

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Right Rev. Bishop Allen, one of the Vice-Presidents, took the Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society, held in the lower room of the Music Hall, Shrewsbury, on Thursday afternoon, May 29th, 1902. The meeting was of a purely business character, differing in this respect from the last annual meeting, when, in addition to the routine work, there was an interesting lecture by Dr. Bridge, of Chester Cathedral on "Pepys and his Music, with special reference to Recorders." In the absence of anything of the kind this year, the Council arranged visits to some of the antiquities of the town at the close of the Meeting. Supporting Bishop Allen were the Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., Chairman of the Council, the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Mr. S. Meeson Morris), the Ven. Archdeacon Maude, the Rev. the Hon. G. H. F. Vane, F.S.A., Captain Dickin, Captain Maddocks, Major Herbert Scutham, F.S.A., Captain Williams-Freeman, the Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon, the Hon Mrs. Bulkeley-Owen, Mrs. Roche (Clungunford), Mr. R. E. Davies, Dr. Gepp, Alderman and Mrs. Scoltock Hughes, Miss Downward (The Castle), the Rev. W. G. Clark-Maxwell, F.S.A. (Clunbury), Mr. G. Woolley, Miss Hope Edwards, Miss Blanche Smythe, and Mr. Francis Goynes, Secretary.

The Chairman, in beginning the business of the Meeting, humorously remarked that he at first thought the honour of presiding was accompanied by his being expected to give an address on some local archæological matter, and he chose that of the Town Walls of Shrewsbury. The materials for such an address, however, he found to be very scanty, and so he was delighted to find that his duty was to be simply that of sitting in the chair and proposing certain items of business. (Laughter.)

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Rev. T. Auden read the Report and Statement of Accounts. The Report was as follows:—

The past year may be regarded in several respects with satisfaction. The accounts show a more favourable balance than has been the case for many years, and it is matter of congratulation that this has arisen partly from the number of new members who have joined the Society during the year. On the other hand, however the Society has to lament an unusual number of deaths. Mr. James Cock, Mr. T. Thornes, Mr. F. R. B. Walton, Mr. John Corbett, of Droitwich, Mr. Humphrey Sandford, and Mr. Stanley Leighton have all passed away. Of

these Mr. Sandford had occupied an important position in connection both with the borough of Shrewsbury and the County for an unusual number of years, and during the whole of his long life had taken a warm interest in their past history. The greatest loss, however, not only to this Society, but to archaeology generally, has been the death of Mr. Stanley Leighton, who had filled the office of Vice-President from its foundation, and had frequently made valuable contributions to the pages of the *Transactions*. In the words of a resolution unanimously passed by the Council when his death occurred: "In spite of absorbing interests in other directions he had attained the foremost rank among the antiquaries of Shropshire, and his lamented death leaves a void in this as in other respects which it will be very difficult to fill." It will be seen from the accounts that the Council have had to spend a considerable sum in the repair of the fences of Uriconium, which had become dilapidated. They had hoped it would have been possible this year to renew the systematic exploration of the site, but after correspondence with Lord Barnard and the Society of Antiquaries they had been forced to the conclusion that the matter must wait a while longer. Excavations at Wenlock Priory have revealed the foundations of at least one earlier church on the same site; and traces of a lake dwelling have been discovered near Ellesmere. It is hoped that further investigation will, in each of these cases, lead to important results. Two new honorary curators of the museum have been appointed by the Council: Mr. R. Ll. Kenyon has taken the place of the late Dr. Parry as curator of coins, and Mr. R. A. Buddicom that of Dr. Callaway, who has resigned the charge of the geological specimens on account of his removal from the neighbourhood. The *Transactions* have, it is believed, maintained their interest. A new feature has been introduced in the form of an Index to each volume as it is completed; it is hoped that this will materially add to their usefulness for purposes of reference. The forthcoming volume will contain the first instalment of an account of the bells of the county, from the pen of Mr. H. B. Walters, F.S.A., of the British Museum, who has devoted himself to the subject for several years past. One other topic may be alluded to, though the event is at present comparatively distant. Next year is the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Shrewsbury. The Council venture to hope that when the time draws nearer the inhabitants of Shrewsbury and the county will be ready to join in a suitable commemoration of that important and interesting historical event.—Signed on behalf of the Council, THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A., Chairman.

The Financial Statement showed that the income of the Society amounted to £246, and there was a balance in hand of £28 10s. 3d. against £5 19s. 5d. last year.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

The Rev. T. AUDEN seconded the motion, and asked that he might be allowed to congratulate Bishop Allen on his appearance amongst them in the new capacity of Vice-President. (Cheers.) Bishop Allen had been a member of the Council for a very considerable number of years—in fact, he thought the Bishop was a member before he was, "And I," said Mr. Auden, "am getting to be rather an antediluvian" (Laughter.) They were, he continued, very glad to have Bishop Allen amongst them as Vice-President taking the chair on that occasion. Continuing, Mr. Auden said he wished to say a word in regard to Wroxeter. They had had that year, and partly in the year before, to spend nearly £20 on the fences, which had become very dilapidated. They were now in a sound condition. They had hoped to have done something this year with the excavations there; but they found that it was abso-

lutely necessary that they should wait a little longer, because the Society of Antiquaries had the exploration of Silchester on their hands, and that was not so near completion as they hoped it would be by this time. About their finances, the balance in hand was a more satisfactory one than they had had for a long time. He could not remember a time when they had a balance of £20—"Oh, oh," and laughter)—but they must not go away with the idea that they did not want new Members, because if they looked on the other side of the account they would see an unusually large amount for the sale of the *Transactions*—a sum of £22. They therefore, hoped that the large increase of Members last year would continue. Referring to the proposed celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Shrewsbury, he said the Council had had it very earnestly in their minds to do what they could in the matter; and they were already in hopes that it would be possible to arrange for the performance by a very good London Company of one or more of Shakespeare's plays which were associated with the event. (Cheers.) Things, however, were not in shape yet; and he only mentioned it that they might have it in mind between now and then, and so have as interesting a commemoration as possible. (Hear, hear.) All interested in archaeology would be glad of the opportunity of reviving their knowledge of a very important historical event, and he thought the people of the town and neighbourhood should co-operate in the matter—because, putting it on no higher ground, it would be a good thing for the town commercially: it should be known that Shrewsbury was not only a very interesting place in itself, but that it had connected with it a very great number of historical associations. (Cheers.)

The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

The Rev. the Hon. G. H. F. VANE moved the election of Viscount Boyne as a Vice President. Viscount Boyne, he said, was not only a large landowner in the County, but was also the possessor of that interesting place in Shropshire, Abdon Burf, and he was the patron of various Churches of interest. Viscount Boyne, too, resided on his Durham estates in one of the most interesting restored mediæval buildings which it had been his (Mr. Vane's) pleasure to see.

The Rev. W. G. CLARK MAXWELL seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE COUNCIL.

The Ven Archdeacon MAUDE moved, and Mr. G. WOOLLEY seconded the motion, which was carried, that the Council be—The Rev. T. Auden, Dr. Calvert, the Rev. W. G. Clark-Maxwell, the Rev. D. H. S. Cranage, the Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Mr. Charles Fortey, Mr. S. M. Morris, Mr. E

Cresswell Peele, the Rev. A. Thursby-Pelham, Mr. William Phillips, Mr. Herbert Southam, the Hon. and Rev. G. H. F. Vane, Mr. H. T. Weyman, and Captain G. Williams-Freeman.

On the motion of the MAYOR OF SHREWSBURY, seconded by Mr. R. LLOYD KENVON, the best thanks of the Society were given Dr. Calvert, the Auditor, and he was re-elected.

Captain WILLIAMS-FREEMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Bishop Allen for presiding. Though his lordship's visits to Shrewsbury were not as frequent as they were in days gone by, still they saw by his presence that day that his interest in the Society was not lost. (Cheers.) That day for their Annual Meeting was interesting to Shropshire, because it was on May 29th, in a Shropshire oak, that King Charles II. hid himself. (Laughter.) He was also reminded that it was a day interesting to Shrewsbury people, as it was the festival of Corpus Christi, on which day for so many centuries the historic procession of the Trades' Guilds of the Borough took place. It was the hope of the Council that the day would come when Shrewsbury would revive that procession of the Trades Guilds (Cheers)

The Rev. C. H. DRINKWATER seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, thanked the Rev. T. Auden for his kind words, and spoke of the pleasure with which he was present, and the interest he took in the Society.

This ended the Meeting, and the Members afterwards paid a visit to some of the antiquities of the town. First, a halt was made in the crypt of Old St. Chad's Church, where the Rev. T. Auden pointed out the more interesting features that remain among the ruins of the place. As showing the early date at which a Church existed there, some pillars of Saxon work were pointed out, and Mr. Auden said it was possible that a Church stood there in the seventh century. The party went into the fragment that remains standing of the old Church, and were interested in the old hatchments, the pulpit, the tablets, and other features of the building. Among the tablets is one to the memory of the Rev. Job Orton, the biographer of Dr. Doddridge, whose remains lie in the Churchyard. Mr. Orton was minister of the Unitarian Church in High Street, on the walls of which there is a tablet to his memory. After leaving the Church, the party proceeded, under the guidance of the Rev. T. Auden, to the remains of the Franciscan and Augustine Friaries. Their next visit was to the walls on the north side of the town, of which they explored various remnants at the back of Pride Hill, under the guidance of Mr. R. E. Davies. It was intended to include the Dominican Friary and St. Mary's Water Gate, through which the Parliamentary soldiers surprised the town. Time, however, did not permit, and the perambulation closed at Meadow Place, when the party were quite ready to enjoy the tea kindly provided for them by Mr. Herbert Southam, F.S.A., at the Crown Hotel.

In connexion with the Statement as to Uriconium made at the Annual Meeting, it should be mentioned that the following letter had been previously addressed to the local Newspapers by the wish of the Council :—

THE EXCAVATION OF URICONIUM.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me, through the medium of your columns, to answer a question which has been frequently asked lately as to the recommencement of the systematic excavation of Uriconium (Wroxeter). Those interested will remember that some two years ago it was found desirable to suspend the movement at the end of the first season of digging. It was hoped that it would have been possible to recommence operations during the summer of this year, and the Council of the Shropshire Archæological Society have recently been in communication with the Society of Antiquaries and others with this object. It will not be forgotten that the Society of Antiquaries have been engaged for a considerable number of years in the systematic exploration of Calleva (Silchester), and it was hoped that by this time the work there would have been so near completion as to liberate both funds and experts for Uriconium. This, however, has proved not to be the case, and the Council of the London Society, who can hold out no promise of help till this is the case, advise that no effort should be made at present to recommence the work. Lord Barnard, to whom, it will be remembered, the greater part of the site belongs, and who takes the deepest interest in the matter, is of the same opinion; and so the Council of the Shropshire Society have reluctantly come to the conclusion that work on any considerable scale must be further postponed for some time. They propose, however, to do what is possible to improve their present area, so as more adequately to protect the objects which have been uncovered, and make them more interesting to those who visit them without much previous knowledge of Roman remains. It is believed that all will agree with the Council in the feeling that a delay, even of some duration, is far better than attempting such a great work with inadequate funds and inadequate expert help—Yours very truly,

THOMAS AUDEN, F.S.A.,

Chairman of the Council of the Shropshire Archæological Society.
February 4th, 1902.

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

The Annual Excursion of the Society took place on Tuesday, July 15th, 1902, the district chosen being the neighbourhood of Clun. The party consisted of the Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A. (Chairman of the Council) and Mrs. Auden, Rev. J. R. Burton (Bitterley) and Mrs. Burton, Rev. A. Thursby-Pelham, Rev. W. Marshall (High Ercall) and friend, Rev. Dr. Moriarty, Misses H. and A. Downward, Miss Patchett, Miss Jeffreys, Miss Smythe, Dr. Calvert, Rev. F. S. Edwards, Mr. G. J. Rowland (Wolverhampton), Mr. H. R. H. Southam, F.S.A., Mr. T. Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, and Miss Roberts, Dr. M. Gepp and Miss Gepp, Mr. W. Allen and Miss Allen (Benthall), Mr. S. G. Jones, Mr. J. Nurse and Mrs. Nurse, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Goyne (Secretary).

Arriving at Craven Arms a little before eleven o'clock the party entered the carriages which were in readiness at the station, and

drove to Clunbury Church. Here they were met by the Vicar (the Rev. W. G. Clark-Maxwell, F.S.A.) who, by a skilfully-arranged diagram, showed how the Church had grown from a little Norman edifice closely resembling the Heath Chapel, to its present form. One of its principal features now is a fine 15th century roof, but the doorway leading into the tower, the font, and an oak chest are also noticeable among other details. It is remarkable also as one of the few Churches dedicated to St. Swithin. Passing from the Church under the guidance of Mrs. Clark-Maxwell, the party were delighted with the old-world vicarage garden, made all the more charming in the noonday heat by a display of cool drinkables under the trees. Time however was pressing, and so, bidding a hasty farewell, the party re-entered the carriages and went on to Clun. Here they proceeded first over the bridge—which a local proverb declares must be passed before anyone can become wise—to the Church. The bridge in question, whatever its power to sharpen the wits of those who cross it, is in itself a noteworthy structure, dating back to the 14th century or possibly earlier. Arrived at the Church, its principal features were pointed out by the Rev. Alfred M. Auden. It is dedicated to St. George, and originally had no fewer than seven chapelries under it, the advowson being for several centuries vested in Wenlock Priory, to which it was given by Isabel de Say. Its main features are late Norman, but there is a possible trace of earlier work in the tower. It has a roof which dates from the same period as that of Clunbury, with a curious canopy at the east end, and the woodwork of the west doorway is noticeable. Tradition says that in the days of Border warfare, any unlucky Welshman who was caught in the neighbourhood was flayed, and his skin was nailed to the door in question. The next object of interest was the Castle. The ruins are not extensive, only a small portion of the keep remaining, but its history has many points of interest. These were alluded to by the Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., who described the position which Clun had always occupied in Border warfare, as one race after another was driven westward. The surrounding hills had witnessed conflicts in which Britons, Romans, Saxons, and Normans had, one after another, taken part, and the site on which they stood had probably had on it a stronghold of some sort, almost from Neolithic times. At Domesday the manor of Clun was held by Picot de Say, under Earl Roger, having previously been a possession of Edric Silvaticus, whose name figures in Shropshire Folk Lore as well as history. It passed through the Fitzalans to the Earls of Arundel, now represented by the Duke of Norfolk, who has recently repurchased the site of the castle after an alienation of many generations. From the castle the party proceeded to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, founded in 1614, by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, who was also the founder of a similar institution at Castle Rising. The Almshouses, ranged round the grassy court, the old dining hall, and the Chapel were all visited in turn, under the guidance of

the Rev. Alfred M. Auden, and then once more Members resumed their places in the carriages and continued their journey to Lydbury North, passing through Walcot Park by the kind permission of the Earl of Powis. A few more adventurous spirits, defying the heat, walked over the hills, visiting on the way the fine British Camp known as Bury Ditches.

Lydbury North Church is at present undergoing restoration at the hands of Mr. Micklethwaite, the Architect to Westminster Abbey. In the absence of the Vicar, its principal features were explained by the Rev. T. Auden. Beginning with the legend of St. Ethelbert and his murder by King Offa, he explained how the large manor of Lydbury, and the advowson of the Church, was given in Saxon times to the see of Hereford by Egwin Shakehead in gratitude for his cure at St. Ethelbert's shrine. In Domesday the Church was mentioned as having several priests attached to it. The nave, Chancel, and lower portion of the tower are of late Norman work, with Decorated and Perpendicular additions. The north transept, which forms the Plowden Chapel, contains the stone altar *in situ* and the lower steps of the stairs to the rood loft. The rood screen also remains, having above it the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, placed there in 1615, an unusual arrangement, which, it is hoped, may be preserved. The 17th century pewing of the nave is of great interest. In the Plowden Chapel is also an iron frame, probably dating from the 17th century, and used for fencing round a grave after an interment had taken place. The south transept is known as the Walcot Chapel, and was apparently rebuilt with a chamber over it in the century just mentioned. The tower is chiefly remarkable for the number of buttresses, which, at different periods, have been erected to support it, but in spite of them all its present condition appears far from safe.

The *pièce de resistance* of the excursion came last, in the form of a visit to Plowden Hall, where the party received a most cordial welcome from Mr. Plowden and Lady Mary. The house is not, in itself, so large as many others in the County, but it has undergone comparatively few changes since it was erected more than three centuries ago, and as to the treasures it contains, it is sufficient to say that they are such as only grow and accumulate when a family has enjoyed unbroken continuity of succession through many generations. Family portraits, from Judge Plowden downwards, in every variety of costume, and in many cases the work of great Artists; Church and other embroidery of beautiful workmanship, some of it going back to the 17th century, or earlier; old tapestry, and a thousand and one personal relics of distinguished members of the family—all these claimed in turn the attention of Members under the kind guidance of their host—not forgetting the secret chamber, which Plowden contains in common with Pitchford and Boscobel. While one contingent of the party enjoyed the multitudinous treasures of the house, the other enjoyed the hospitality

of tea, which was extremely welcome. But there were trains to be caught for the return home, and the time to re-enter the carriages came all too soon. Before leaving however, the Rev. T. Auden, on behalf of the party, expressed to Mr. Plowden and Lady Mary their deep sense of the kindness they had shown them. It was much to possess such treasures; it was something more to be willing to share their enjoyment with others who took an interest in them. And so the drive was continued to Craven Arms, and the party dispersed homewards full of reminiscences of a pleasant and instructive expedition.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

October 9th, 1901—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

Capt. Williams-Freeman laid on the table the amended plan of the site of the remains of the Tumulus at Fitz.

Capt. Williams-Freeman was requested to make enquiry as to the nature of the permission, if any, given by Lord Berwick to excavate at Uriconium, on the portion of the site belonging to him.

A letter was read from Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon accepting the office of Hon. Curator of the Coins and Medals in the Shrewsbury Museum.

A list of the Society's *Transactions*, now in stock, was laid before the meeting. It was decided to supply members with a complete set of the 1st Series for 5½ guineas, and the 2nd Series for 6 guineas, or both sets together for 10 guineas. Any member of the Society requiring one part to complete his set, to have it free; non-members requiring parts for the same purpose, to be charged 5s. a part.

The Chairman reported that he had received a subscription of £2 2s. to the Illustration Fund from Mr. Herbert R. H. Southam

[In the afternoon, Mr. H. A. Doubleday, editor of the *Victoria County Histories*, held an informal meeting with the Members of the Council, at which he explained various details of that publication, with special reference to Shropshire.]

November 14th, 1901—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

Capt. Williams-Freeman laid on the table a tracing showing the portions of Uriconium that belong to Lord Barnard and Lord Berwick respectively, and reported that so far as he could gather, no excavations had been made.

Mr. Herbert Southam reported that he, in the company of Mr. Phillips and Dr. Calvert, had inspected a cutting made by Lord Barnard's agent at Uriconium, for the purpose of making a drain, and laid on the table a plan showing the track, as also some broken ware found in the trench.

Miss Hope-Edwardes, of Dorrington Grove, was elected a member of the Society.

A letter was read from Mr. H. T. Weyman, advising the issuing of a circular letter, with the view of obtaining more members. The Secretary was requested to inform Mr. Weyman of what had been done for this purpose in the past.

December 11th, 1901—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The Chairman read a letter he had written to the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries respecting the proposed renewal of excavations at Uriconium.

The Rev. C. H. Drinkwater reported that he had inspected the Wem Court Rolls, and promised a fuller report for a future meeting.

The following new members were elected :—
 W. Allen, Esq., Benthall, Broseley.
 Mrs. Anderson, The Red House, Much Wenlock.
 Sir W. M. Honyman, Bart., M.A., J.P., Coton Hall, Whitchurch.
 Mrs. Instone, Walton Grange, Much Wenlock.
 Rev. A. E. Lloyd Kenyon, M.A., The Vicarage, Clun.
 T. Maddocks, Esq., B.A., J.P., Woodlands, Wem.
 Nicholas Robinson, Esq., J.P., Frankton Grange, Ellesmere.
 Mrs. Roche, Clungunford Hall, Aston-on-Clun.
 E. M. Webster, Esq., Hill Cote, Ironbridge.

January 8th, 1902 — Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The following new members were elected :—
 Wm. Anstice, Esq., Madeley Wood Hall, Ironbridge.
 Rt. Hon. Viscount Boyne, Brancepeth Castle, Durham.
 F. Bibby, Esq., D.L., J.P., Hardwicke Grange, Shrewsbury.
 Rev. George William Corbet, B.A., Upton Magna Rectory.
 Capt. Dickin, J.P., Loppington House, Wem
 M. Gepp, Esq., Thorneycroft House, Shrewsbury.
 Dr. K. B. J. Vickers, Engleton House, Wellington.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, in reply to the Chairman's enquiries as to the proposed excavations at Uriconium, as follows :—

British Museum,
 30 December, 1901.

Dear Mr. Auden,—

I did not answer your letter of the 29th November because I first wished to bring it before the Council.

This I did at their meeting this month, and was instructed to say that the Council regret that, in their judgment, it would be unwise to begin operations at Uriconium, under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries, for some few years to come.

The excavations at Silchester proceed but slowly and with so limited a research fund as the Society of Antiquaries has at its command, it would be wanting in prudence to embark upon another undertaking of the same magnitude as that of Silchester.

While, therefore, my Council feel fully as much interested in the proposed excavations at Uriconium, they feel that they cannot take up the work at present.

There is another question involved in the matter, viz., that of the working committee. The distance from London to Uriconium is very different from that to Silchester, and it would be necessary that the actual workers should be upon the spot. When the time comes, however, the question will have to be thrashed out.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a better prospect.

Yours very truly,
 C. H. READ.

A letter was read from Lieut -Colonel Chinner Corfield, saying that he had an interesting Deed of Elizabeth's reign, and asking if the Editorial Committee would like to have it to copy for the *Transactions*.

The Rev. C. H. Drinkwater undertook to copy the Deed.

Rev. D. H. S. Cranage laid on the table a plan of Wenlock Abbey, showing the Saxon and Norman work he had found when excavating last year.

It was suggested that the Society should obtain photographs of all old plans and views of the town of Shrewsbury.

Special Meeting, January 29th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

W. H. Foster, Esq., D.L., J.P., of Apley Park, Bridgnorth, was elected a member of the Society.

The letter of the Hon. Sec. of the Society of Antiquaries having been again read by the Chairman, and the Council being of opinion that it was inadvisable to postpone the work at Uriconium longer than was absolutely necessary, it was resolved that the Council are prepared, if required, to take the necessary steps to give themselves a legal status to enter into agreements.

It was stated that the cost of forming the members of the Council into a Limited Liability Company would probably be about ten pounds.

February 3rd, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

Lord Barnard had arranged to attend this meeting, but the Chairman had received the following letter from him :—

Dear Mr. Auden,—

1st February, 1902.

A very bad cold compelled me to ask the Doctor's advice before starting for Shropshire this morning, and as the result, I have had to give up my visit.

I have seen Mr. St. John Hope, and have, after careful consideration, come to the conclusion that, for the present, excavation at Uriconium must be given up.

The two almost insuperable obstacles for the moment are that (1) for some years there will be no expert available to conduct and superintend the operations, and (2) labour cannot be obtained except at great expense.

I think the question should be kept alive by being mentioned by the Society every year, and perhaps discussed, and I have no doubt that the day will come when the work will proceed.

The Rector of Wem agrees with me.

I am, very faithfully yours,

BARNARD.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted :—That in view of the opinion expressed by the Society of Antiquaries and by Lord Barnard, it is not desirable to take steps at present to re-commence the systematic excavation of Uriconium, but at the

same time every effort should be made to keep the matter before the minds of the public, with a view to action as soon as circumstances permit.

Mr. Herbert Southam brought before the notice of the Council the question of the Commemoration of the Battle of Shrewsbury next year. The matter was discussed, and the following resolution was passed :—That it is desirable to have a Special Commemoration of the Battle of Shrewsbury in the Summer of 1903.

March 12th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

Several matters were discussed, but no formal resolution was passed ; and there is nothing of importance to report here.

April 9th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. R. A. Buddicom was appointed Hon. Curator of Geology, in the place of Dr. Callaway, who had resigned the Curatorship.

The best thanks of the Council were given to Dr. Callaway for his past services.

It was reported that the site of the supposed lake dwelling near Ellesmere had been fenced in, and everything was being done to protect the site properly.

The arrangements for the Quincentenary Commemoration of the Battle of Shrewsbury were left in the hands of Capt. Williams-Freeman and Mr. Herbert Southam.

May 14th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The Rev. W. Marshall, B.A., High Erccall, Wellington, Salop, was elected a member of the Society.

The Annual Excursion was fixed for the middle of July, the locality to be the Bishop's Castle district.

June 11th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The Rev. H. J. Wilcox, Cockshutt Vicarage, Ellesmere, was elected a member of the Society.

The Rev. D. H. S. Cranage called attention to the restoration that was now being carried on at Claverley Church, and gave an account of the points of interest that had been brought to light in connection with the work.

The question of the condition of the fabric, and the need of attention to, the Shrewsbury Free Library and Museum Buildings, was discussed, and the hope expressed that the Corporation would take up the matter with as little delay as possible.

July 9th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The Council decided to give a donation of £2 2s. to the fund for protecting Melverley Church from the encroachments of the River Vyrnwy.

The Rev. Edward Collett, M.A., Rector of Hughley, was elected a member of the Society.

September 10th, 1902—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The Chairman reported that Mr. T. R. Horton had undertaken to see to the cleaning of Langley Chapel, which was now in a very dirty state.

It was resolved that the Secretary write to Messrs. Woodall, Minshall, Thomas & Co. asking for their explanation as to the delay in issuing Part II. of the current year's volume of the *Transactions*, which was due to members on June 1st, and that they be requested to issue the Parts in future on the days that they are due to the members.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL

AND

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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Statement of Accounts for the Year 1901.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance in hands of Bankers, January 1st, 1901	..	5	19	5
„ Members' Subscriptions .. ..	..	187	18	0
„ Sale of <i>Transactions</i> .. ..	..	22	0	6
„ Sale of <i>Guide to Uriconium</i> .. ..	..	12	17	6
„ Admission Fees to Dr. Bridge's Lecture .. ..	..	5	9	0

SPECIAL FUND FOR ILLUSTRATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
" Balance in hands of Bankers, Jan. 1st, 1901	10	0	0
" H. R. H. Southam, Esq., Donation	2	2	0
	12	2	0

EXPENDITURE.

By Messrs. Woodall, Minshall, Thomas, and Co., for printing <i>Transactions</i>	£	s.	d.
" Messrs. Adnitt and Naunton	114	0	0
" Grant to Author of Shropshire Church Bells	32	9	1
" Secretary's Salary	10	0	0
" Wroxeter, Rents, Rates, Tithe, Repairs to Fences, &c.	5	0	0
" Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Postage Stamps and Carriage of Parcels, as Editor	14	18	6
" Postage Stamps, General Correspondence, Calling Meetings, Collecting Subscriptions, &c.	1	0	0
" Posting <i>Transactions</i> to Members and Carriage of Parcels	3	5	0
" Commission	6	2	1
" 51 Wood Blocks of Shropshire Arms	9	8	0
" Expenses connected with Annual General Meeting	3	0	0
" R. E. Davies' Fee for Indexing Vol. I., 3rd Series of the <i>Transactions</i>	11	16	6
" Subscriptions to Congress of Archæological Societies	2	10	0
" Subscriptions to National Trust for Places of Historic Interest	1	0	0
" Index to Archæological Papers for 1899 and 1900	1	1	0
" Balance in hands of Bankers, December 31st, 1901—	4	6	0
General Account	16	8	3
Special Fund for Illustrations	12	2	0
	28	10	3

XXVI.

£246 6 5

£246 6 5

May 27th, 1902. Examined and found correct.
(Signed) E. CALVERT,
Auditor.

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All Donations will be duly acknowledged.

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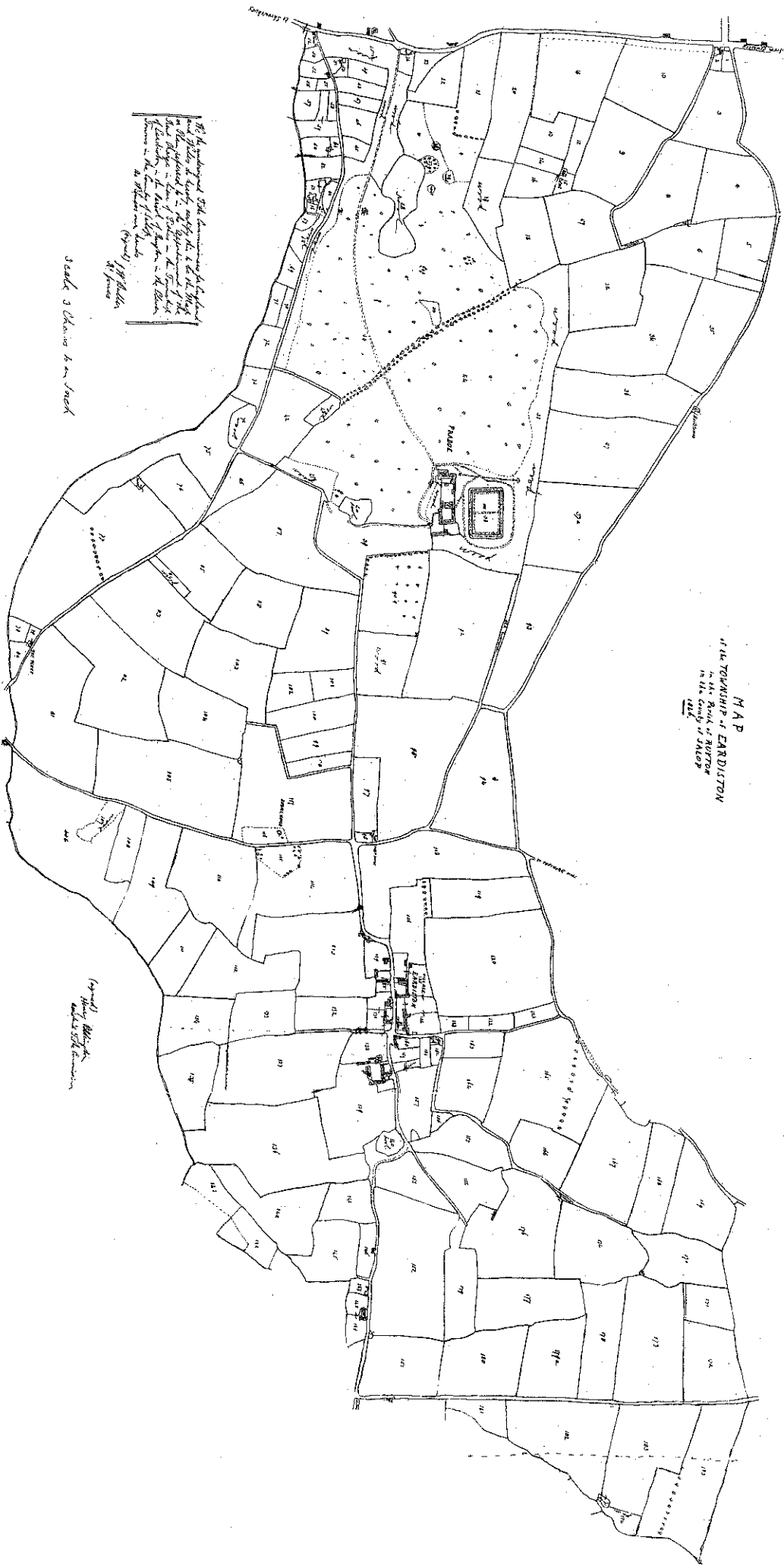
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MAP
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARDINGTON
in the Range of TOWNSHIP
15 N. E. 10 E.

Scale 3 chains to an inch

1871
The Township of Cardington
in the Range of TOWNSHIP
15 N. E. 10 E.
has been divided into
lots of 10 acres each
except in the center of the
township where the lots
are of 20 acres each
(except 100 blocks
of 40 acres)

(except 100 blocks
of 40 acres)