

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1

No. 1

1947

Price 3s.

Occasional Notes

ONE of the most important tasks of the Society is the preservation of records as well as examining and noting them. It is a matter of gratification, therefore, that already the Society has been instrumental in getting the old deeds of "The Swan," Leatherhead, deposited by the owners at the County Record Office, where they will be available for inspection and record by all interested. From a preliminary inspection it is clear that they contain much of deep interest to this Society.

The Society is indebted to Mr. John H. Harvey for a photograph of a tomb at Ossory, Kilkenny, Eire, alleged to be that of Richard de Lederede, who was Bishop of Ossory from 1317 to 1360. Mr. Harvey writes: "... There is a brief 'life' of De Lederede in Wm. Carrigan's *Hist. and Antiq. of the Diocese of Ossory* but nothing else appears to be known of his origin. It would be interesting if his antecedents at Leatherhead could be traced..." It will be a pleasing task for some member to try this. Was he a connection of Robert de Lederede who is said to have built in 1358 the Chapel on the site now occupied by the "Old Rising Sun"?

In view of the projected development by the Urban District Council of Bookham Grove, built by Admiral Broderick in 1750, the Society has endeavoured to secure photographic records of its most interesting features. Among these are the horse water wheel and the dovecote. As regards the latter, Mr. Hanscomb said, in the course of a lecture to members at Polesden Lacey in May, 1947: "In the midst of the stables and outbuildings [of Bookham Grove] is a hexagonal building, a well-designed brick and tile dove or pigeon house, a feature of houses of this period and indeed throughout the Manorial system; and with a social significance out of all proportion to its size. Somehow the soft cooing of pigeons in country scenes and mingled with other rural sounds may make us think of the peasant as happy and contented in the long sunny days with time nearly standing still. But the sight of the Lord of the Manor's pigeon house stirred the peasant in a very different way and must have almost aroused hatred in his heart. For no one but the Lord was privileged to keep pigeons. The tenants were under severe penalties not to touch the birds and, powerless to prevent it, had to watch them feed off the corn in the common fields. This was no light matter as such pigeon houses frequently housed hundreds of birds, and there were few, if any, Manors without one at least. And so the Lords of the Manors supplied their tables at the expense of their serfs and tenants."

The Society has approached the District Council with a view to the preservation of this interesting reminder of earlier social conditions.

It may not be generally known that the Priory, Church Street, Leatherhead, was formerly called the Link House. By a deed of 1815 it is known that it was so-called at that date, and also in 1750. Mr. Bengier writes: "It is said that the name of the house was changed at the instigation of Rev. Dallaway, a former vicar, who concocted a pretty story about its connection with monks; but it is more likely that the name Link House has a reference to service in providing a link before the altar."

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1947-1948

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ORIGINS OF THE SOCIETY

BY the happy accident of the existence of the English Channel our country is richly endowed in its store of archives, and in our era, which has witnessed the recent destruction of many heritages from the past, the national value of our records is receiving belated recognition.

From the study of surviving archives historians of to-day are able to build up a living picture of the "how" and the "why" and the "when" of ancient corporations—such as the Guilds. The historian of the future may wish to have access to records which will illuminate the origin of the Local History Societies of our century. One of our Society's objects is the preservation of records: thus, it is appropriate that in these first pages an account should be given of the origin of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, 5th June, 1946, a suggestion was put to their Committee¹ that the publication of a full authentic, and illustrated History of Leatherhead and District would stimulate interest in the local buildings and countryside; and, as a corollary, would contribute towards their protection. It was clear that, before such a work could be produced, it would be necessary to find a team willing to devote time to study existing evidence, to search for fresh data, and to record photographically and by documentation all old buildings and objects of interest within the district—in other words, to make a study of local history.

The Committee of the Protection Society found itself unable to undertake an additional task of this magnitude, but gave a promise of support, provided the project matured on sound lines. Considerable help was in fact given by the Protection Society and their Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. B. Bengier, and an advertisement appeared in the *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser* of 30th June, 1946 inviting those interested in local history to communicate with the acting organizer. The 30 replies received justified proceeding with the project, particularly as Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., was one of the first to promise his help.

In the majority of cases personal contact was made with those who had replied, and in September, 1946 a "generative" or Provisional Committee was formed (Captain Lowther, and Messrs. F. B. Bengier, R. F. Dalton, S. E. D. Fortescue, S. N. Grimes, W. Owen Groom, J. H. Harvey, A. T. Ruby, M.B.E., and S. G. Blaxland Stubbs, M.B.E.) chosen so that all the 5 parishes in the district were represented.

The Provisional Committee met on 16th October, 1946, when a Sub-Committee (Messrs. Grimes, Ruby and Stubbs) was formed to prepare a draft constitution. At the second meeting of the Provisional Committee on 5th November the *Leatherhead and District Local History Society* was formally constituted. With the adoption of the rules and the fixing of the date for the inaugural meeting the Provisional Committee completed its task and dissolved.

At the above meetings of the infant Society Mr. Blaxland Stubbs acted as Chairman, and it was largely due to his energetic and skilful piloting that an immense amount of detailed work was carried through in so short a time.

Mr. A. T. Ruby undertook the Hon. Secretaryship of both the Provisional Committee and the Sub-Committee, a happy augury of his subsequent all-embracing labours as Hon. Secretary, to which the Society owes so much.

Between 5th June and the date of the inaugural meeting on 27th November contact was made with the following bodies sharing kindred interests:

The National Register of Archives.
(The Registrar, Lieut.-Col. C. E. G. Malet, O.B.E.,
addressed the Inaugural Meeting.)

Historical Manuscripts Commission.
The Surrey Records Society.
The National Council of Social Service.
The Berks. Local History Record.

The Leatherhead Urban District Council.
The Surrey Archaeological Society.
The Lincolnshire Local History Society.
The Buildings Record.
The Council for the Promotion of Field
Studies.

The acting organizer also greatly benefited by drawing on the experience of Major W. North Coates, M.C., (Lincoln Local History Society), Dr. J. F. Nichols, F.S.A. (Hon. Director, British Archaeological Association), C. B. Willcox, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., (Local History Recording Scheme), and Miss D. L. Powell of the Westminster Abbey Archives. Warm tribute is due to Mr. John H. Harvey, who—though unable to continue on the Committee—was indefatigable in providing technical information and advice.

An endeavour was also made to bring the local schools within the orbit of the Society's activities; preliminary interviews with principals of many local schools foreshadowed a possible development in this direction. In every case real interest was shown, and only the current difficulties (foremost, the crowded time-table due to the exigencies of examinations) hindered an early result in this fertile field. The writer wishes to thank all those, members of the original Provisional Committee and others, whose early enthusiasm and continuing support made possible the realisation of an idea.

¹[By Mr. R. F. Dalton—Editor]

R. F. DALTON.

Secretarial Notes

IT is natural that this, the first record of the Society's activities has to relate the foundation of the Society and the organization and initiation of its work rather than to record the accomplishment of outstanding results and great discoveries. Nevertheless the Reports of the Groups and general activities in later pages will make it clear that much solid work is in progress and the Society has already justified its formation.

A note on the Society's origin by Mr. R. F. Dalton, to whose enthusiasm and hard work the Society's formation is due, appears in page 2 of these Proceedings, and it need only be added that from its first conception the Society received nothing but friendly welcome and cordial support. The Society is most fortunate in having persuaded Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., to afford them, as Chairman, the benefit of his technical and general experience. The County Education Authorities have recognized the Society and have been good enough to make a grant to its expenses. The cordial and co-operative relations established with the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies are of the greatest value.

Since November 1946, the membership has increased weekly and exceeded one hundred by September 1947. We much regret to have to report the subsequent loss of two members by death. So far there are five junior members whose active interest is most gratifying.

Lectures and Tours.

The severe winter weather of 1946-7 upset the intention to hold monthly general fixtures, but four lectures and talks and seven conducted tours were arranged in that year as follows:

1946	
Dec. 20	Lecture by Capt. Lowther on " Archaeological Methods."
1947	
Jan. 21	Lecture by Mr. John Harvey on " Court Rolls and Manorial Documents."
Feb. 1	Conducted visit to the Public Records Office (Mr. R. F. Dalton, M.A.).
Feb. 15	Conducted visit to the National Building Records Office and Victoria and Albert Museum (cancelled owing to weather conditions).
May 9	Lecture by Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue on " Feudal Tenures."
May 30	Conducted tour of Polesden Lacey Manor!(Mr. R. R. Fedden) with a talk by Mr. Hanscomb on " The Road to Bookham."
June 21	Conducted tour of Stane Street, (the Roman Road) (Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A.).
July 19	Conducted tour of the five Parish Churches: Capt. Lowther (Ashtead), Mr. H. G. Smith (Leatherhead), Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne (Fetcham), and Mr. C. E. Hanscomb F.R.I.B.A. (The Bookhams).
Aug. 23	Exploration of the bed of the River Mole and its " swallow-holes" (Mr. C. C. Fagg, F.G.S.).
Sept. 27	Tour of the Excavations of " The Mounts " (Capt. Lowther).

The work of the Society has been divided into six Groups, each under a Group Leader, a note on each of which appears in the Group Reports (v. infra). The Group Leaders meet periodically as a Sub-Committee to discuss and correlate the activities of their respective Groups, to prevent overlapping, and to arrange for mutual assistance as required.

The formation of a Library has been put in hand and a Library Sub-Committee administers the Library Rules, and recommends books to be purchased out of the Library Fund, initiated in April 1947. Donations to this are always welcome. A number of books have been given, and these, with purchases from the Fund, will form the nucleus of what will be a very useful and necessary adjunct to the Society's work.

The Society was pleased to accept an invitation to participate in the Community Services Exhibition organized for the National Savings Week, 27th September to 4th October, 1947. As varied an exhibition as is possible by a body of this nature was staged and attracted considerable attention. Further local exhibitions are in contemplation.

A. T. RUBY,
Hon. Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE SEPARATE GROUPS GROUP A

(Historical Records: MSS. and other Written Records)

Leader: Mr. G. H. Smith, Roselawn, Leatherhead Road, Ashtead

THE most important work undertaken by members of this Group is the commencement of the history of the Manor and Parish of Ashtead by Captain A. W. G. Lowther (Chairman) and Mr. S. N. Grimes. These members concentrated during 1947 on a study of the Court Rolls, the earliest of which are to be found at the Public Record Office. After two visits paid to Chancery Lane to inspect the Rolls, it was decided by the Chairman that, owing to the small number of members engaged on this work, it was necessary to obtain photostats of all those which were reasonably legible, and these were received in August. The Group received invaluable assistance from the Chairman. In fact he has carried out all the work of deciphering the records, whilst the Group has been studying Court Hand, and copying the translations. The period covered by some 13 membranes is from 1387 to 1546, and, apart from the earliest

REPORTS, GROUP A (Historical Records)—GROUP B (Architecture)

sheet, they are in fair condition. Much useful and interesting information has already been obtained. So far 10 place-names have been recorded, and 5 of these have been connected with the 1638 map.

Up to the date of this report the work has not proceeded much beyond 1410, but it was expected that before the end of 1947 the majority of the present membranes would have been translated and recorded.

The Chairman has also arranged to obtain photostats of Ministers' Accounts of Ashtead held in the Record Office, and these are expected to reveal interesting cross-evidence.

The Group have also recorded the following information:—

- a. Copy of Domesday entry *Stede* (Tab. V).
- b. Extract from Camden's *Britannia* (1752) Gibson's Ed. *Ashtead*.
- c. Copy of Royal Deed of Elizabeth—Lord Seymour as Owner and S. Mawe and W. Knight as tenants of land at Ashteede to J. Fallet and wife (1589).
- d. Surrey Fines. Extracts from *Surrey Arch. Collections*, Extra Vol. L (*Ashtead*).
- e. Extract—Manning & Bray—*History of the County of Surrey* p. 634, *Vicars and Rectors, Ashtead*.
- f. Copy of List of Rectors and Vicars of Ashtead 1282-1942.—Vestry of St. Giles' Church, Ashtead.
- g. *List of Incumbents (Ashtead)*—Manning & Bray.

Other studies have been the beginning of the transcription of the Church Registers, where not hitherto made, and Mr. Mayer has completed the Burial Register of Leatherhead from 1812-1837, a period which records the burial of the three maiden daughters of Lord Henry Beauclerk, of Leatherhead, Henry Boulton, Lord of the Manor, and James Dalloway, the Vicar of Leatherhead, antiquary and historian.

A copy has been made of the Assessments of the Parish of Leatherhead in 1819 showing the total value of £4,890 apart from the liability of the Common Downs, Waste and Timber of the Manor and the Vicar's tithes, which were referred to "an Eminent Barrister" for decision.

Mr. L. E. Buckell has undertaken the work of recording the local military history, which will include a reference to the local detachments of Militia, Volunteers, Territorials, and Home Guard.

Work has been commenced on searching the Calendars of State Papers for local items, and so far it has been found that the Justices of Surrey wrote from Leatherhead to the Council on 24th February, 1580, with reference to preparations to resist invasion, and the Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey wrote to the Council from Leatherhead on 9th and 22nd July, 1588, on the same subject.

The Vicar of Leatherhead has kindly permitted a member to make an examination of a large number of documents in a church chest, which, so far, has revealed several 17th and 18th century deeds relating to property in Great Bookham and Fetcham, including a record of the Court Baron of the Manor of Great Bookham of 1637.

It is hoped during the succeeding year to continue these studies and that some member will undertake the history of another manor. An account of the history and the change from the Vestries to the Urban District Council is being started.

G. H. S.

GROUP B

(Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.)

Leader: Mr. C. E. Hanscomb, F.R.I.B.A., "Marlow," Eastwick Road, Great Bookham

THE formation and organization of the Group took place during the early part of the year and Mr. C. E. Hanscomb, F.R.I.B.A., was invited to become leader on 27th March, 1947.

A Group Meeting was held on 18th April for an informal discussion on the forthcoming programme and other matters.

The Group was instructed by the Executive Committee to undertake during the summer a survey of "The Mounts," Randall Road, Leatherhead.

It was felt that some preliminary instruction on surveying should be given for the benefit of the less experienced members and a further Group Meeting took place on 8th May, 1947, when the leader gave a talk on this subject. The good attendance and the discussion which followed showed great interest by the Members which has been sustained throughout the outdoor work.

REPORTS, GROUP B (Architecture)—GROUP C (Photography)

Surveying at "The Mounts" commenced on 10th May, 1947, and continued until the work of setting out a grid, measuring and taking levels, contouring and preparing plans was complete and the site taken over for excavation by Group D.

The task was found to be lengthy and physically arduous owing to the closely wooded and undulating nature of the site. The necessary hard work was cheerfully forthcoming without stint on evenings and Saturdays.

The nature of the various surveying instruments, chain, rods, level, etc., and the methods of their use were explained and demonstrated during the work.

The Group feels that not only has it had the pleasure of carrying out a useful piece of work but that the knowledge and skill thereby gained must add to its ability to carry out further work.

Little time for other collective activities has remained but the Group look forward to a possibly more varied programme during the coming year.

The Leader gave a talk on Bookham at Polesden Lacey on 30th May, and at the tour of the Five Parish Churches on 19th July conducted the party round the Churches of Great and Little Bookham.

The Group wishes to express its appreciation of the Hon. Secretary's never failing help and encouragement and also of his very active participation in its work.

The winter months offered the opportunity to provide what has become a pressing need, the preparation of a schedule of buildings within our district which have features of architectural or historical interest.

With this as a guide it is intended to examine them as opportunity offers and make suitable records. Where records are already in existence they will be checked, amplified or amended as may be appropriate.

Age, either at its upper or lower levels, has been no deterrent in the Group's activities and extremes have met on the plane of mutual interest. The age of that indefatigable and most junior member, 12 year-old Stephen Sheppard, may be mentioned; but a decent reticence as to the ages and identities of some of our senior members should be observed.

C. E. H.

GROUP C **(Photography and Cartography)**

Leader: Mr. M. A. Snellgrove, 6 Gatesden Road, Fetcham

IN all our five parishes photographic recording has been actively pursued, our main line of approach being the list of Antiquities prepared by Mr. J. H. Harvey and Mr. F. B. Bengier for the 4th Edition of the County of Surrey Schedule.

Special attention has been paid to natural features and buildings which might soon disappear, as "Carter's Grove," Ashtead (threatened by a new Estate) and the interesting but ruinous outbuildings of Bookham Grove (Great Bookham).

Such modern but transient features as bomb craters and air raid shelters have also been recorded—mundane to us, but of interest to the Society of the future.

The excavations at "The Mounts" have been faithfully and meticulously photographed by Mr. Blake, whose delightful enlargements of this, and other, subjects have done so much to arouse interest in our activities. Accurate and ample photographic work is always important on such a site as "The Mounts"—photography of a nature which indicates the varying textures of different layers of soil, together with any rubble, tiles, etc., contained therein (see Plate facing page 8). Excavations, unless in exceptional and important cases, can rarely be maintained, and photographic records have to serve for any future work in ascertaining layouts or dates after the excavations have been filled, or have fallen, in. We hope to be able to submit many more photographs next summer, recording the excavations to be made in the centre of the site, and elsewhere, at "The Mounts."

A small selection of our photographs on exhibition during the Civic Savings Week, 27th September to 4th October, 1947, and again at the General Meeting, 19th November, 1947, created much interest. The kindly co-operation of the Bookham Camera Club in our work is appreciated.

We have started to acquire, or borrow for copying, old photographs and prints and engravings of our district—and an appeal for help is made in this. Interesting old photographs are often tucked away in many boxes and albums. If lent for copying photographically they may be sent to the Leader of Group C or to the Hon. Secretary. Their safe return is promised. The Photographic Section is properly at the service of all other Groups of the Society, and our work, made difficult by restrictions and high cost of materials, is continuous.

REPORTS, GROUP C (Photography) — GROUP D (Archaeology)

While the importance of the camera as a recording medium has naturally been stressed, anyone who has photographed the old buildings of this part of Surrey will not have failed to notice that to miss the fine colour of an ancient tile-hung wall or an undulating roof is to miss a lot. The Group would enthusiastically welcome any artist member who could supplement the precision of the photograph with the beauty of the palette.

The Cartographical Section depends chiefly on calls made by other Groups for the nature and extent of its work. A number of sketch maps have been prepared for various purposes; also a series of plans of Fetcham in 1777 have been pieced together to show the actual layout of the district at that period.

M. A. S.

GROUP D (Archaeology)

Leader: Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.,
The Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashted

Report. The work accomplished by this Group during 1947 can afford considerable satisfaction to the Society, and it is a pleasure to be able to record that, thanks to the energy displayed by its members, it can be stated that the Group has carried out a full and satisfactory programme. In addition to lectures, and visits to some of the principal antiquities in the area, a preliminary season's excavation on one of the outstanding "ancient monuments" in the district—the earthworks known as "The Mounts" at Patchesham—has been carried out, and it is intended to continue work at this site during 1948. Meanwhile an Interim Report on this work appears in pages 6 to 11.

Active membership of Group D numbered 22.

Visits and Lectures to December, 1947.

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|-----------------------|--|--|
| 20th December, 1946. | "Archaeological Methods". | Capt. Lowther. |
| 21st June, 1947. | "Stane Street"—Roman Road. | Conducted Visit. |
| 19th June, 1947. | "The Five Parish Churches." | Conducted Visit. |
| 27th September, 1947. | Visits to the Excavations at "The Mounts." | |
| 19th November, 1947. | The Excavations at "The Mounts." | Lecture on the first season's work. Capt. Lowther. |

During the year several local discoveries were reported to the Group. Chief of these was the discovery, during the war and by means of air-photography, of "crop-marks" revealing a Celtic "field-system" on Leatherhead Downs, including what is clearly a pre-Roman track-way. The same photographs reveal, in a nearby field, a group of about a dozen "barrows" (burial mounds). This discovery was made by Mr. B. Hope-Taylor, who kindly undertook to give the Society a lecture on it in 1948. It is also hoped to carry out some investigation of this find at a later date.

"THE MOUNTS," PACHESHAM

Interim Report on the Excavations during September, 1947

SITUATED just under a mile to the north-west of Leatherhead Station, and in a small patch of dense woodland adjoining Patchesham Farm, is a low hill, at the southern foot of which flows, from east to west, the small stream known as the Rye Brook (Six-inch O.S. map, XVIII S.E.). This hill, formed of the deposit known to geologists as "London Clay," is surmounted by a large, and in places, impressive ditch, or moat, enclosing a roughly oval space of about a third of an acre. This earthwork, known as "*The Mounts*," and now a scheduled ancient monument under the control of the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works, has for long provided speculation as to its date and purpose. Until fairly recent years, it has, on maps of the district, appeared with the description "Camp, (remains of)," which it shared in common with all ditch-enclosed earthworks of whatever period.

Speculation as to whether it was of "British" (a vague term used during the last century for everything "pre-Roman") or "Roman" origin was, for some people, settled in favour of the latter through the finding of some "Roman

REPORTS, GROUP D—"The Mounts," Padesham

tiles and a brass coin" in a field to the west of the site. However, for the last 30 years or so, it has been fairly certain that the moat was of early mediaeval date, several similar examples in various parts of the country having been excavated, and shown to have been the site of "moated homesteads, farms or manor-house," and most commonly of 13th Century date (e.g. the excavations at Nuthampstead, Herts, in 1945, by Mrs. A. Williams. *Ant. Journ.* XXVI, 138-144).

Thanks to the excavations carried out in recent years at numerous mediaeval sites of known date (especially to work by Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A.), knowledge as to the dating of different types of mediaeval pottery has increased greatly, and it is now possible to deduce the date of the occupation at mediaeval sites with the same certainty as, for a much longer period, has been possible in the case of Roman sites or buildings.

It will be readily appreciated that "The Mounts" was placed first on the list of the sites within our area where excavation was considered desirable, and, even on a limited scale, some important results seemed likely to be forthcoming. That these results were quite up to, if not ahead of, this anticipation, was in part due to the exceptionally fine and dry weather, which enabled our first objective—a "section" through the moat, and dug down to "natural sub-soil" beneath its lowest point—to be attained. The good fortune whereby a small quantity of datable pottery was obtained from the stratified layers in the moat, was another important factor, but the great assistance received from members of Group D (Archaeology), and the preliminary survey of the site which, as the result of some months of arduous work, was carried out by Group B (Architecture, Surveying), were all important contributions to the results obtained.

When the excavations were decided upon, consent for the work was obtained both from the Ministry of Works (Ancient Monuments Dept.) and from Mr. Prewett, owner of the site, and the thanks of the Society are due for these facilities so readily granted.

As regards the identification of the site as that of the Manor of *Padesham Magna*, and the discovery of a wealth of documentary evidence regarding the ownership and history of this manor, this is due entirely to researches undertaken by Mr. J. H. Harvey (who contributes a note following this Report). Perhaps one of the most noteworthy points that has arisen from Mr. Harvey's work is the clear evidence as to how the site came to be abandoned, and at such an early date as about A.D. 1350. At the same time the close agreement between the evidence of the manuscripts and that of the pottery unearthed in our excavation is remarkable since, even before Mr. Harvey had made his discovery, the excavations had shown the absence of any pottery which could be dated as being later than A.D. 1350, and that most of the pieces found were of *circa* A.D. 1300, and some of the pieces found are assignable to the 12th and 13th centuries.

The Excavations.

It was decided to confine the first season's work to the exploration of the moat, and, after study of the survey and of the site itself, a point on the western side of the moated area was selected, and undergrowth and small trees were cleared from part of the site, forming a "glade" about 10 feet wide and extending across the moat, at right angles to it, and well beyond the inner lip.

A trench 3 feet 6 inches wide was then set out and, in case of a possible change in the weather, work commenced with the excavation of the lowermost part of the moat. At the point selected, the moat is still about 40 feet in depth and 70 feet in width, and there is an external bank rising some 15 feet

REPORTS, GROUP D—"The Mounts," Patchesham

above the level of the ground within the moat. (A similar, but lower, bank is present on the eastern side of the site. Both banks are probably composed of material excavated when the moat was originally dug, and, since the normal practice at sites of this nature was to deposit this material *inside* the moated area—thus keeping the inside higher than the level of the ground outside the moat—it seems likely that the innermost area was already occupied by buildings at the date when the moat was dug, and that the latter was, therefore, a later addition.)

The stratification in this part of the moat, as revealed by the section, is shown in the diagram (Plate facing page 9).

At the bottom, resting on the natural clay, was a layer of what is termed "rapid silt" (*Level 5*) since it consists of material washed down into the moat immediately after the latter had been dug. It contained no pottery or other finds.

Above it (*Level 4*) was a thick deposit of silt, which was largely composed of clay from the sides of the moat ("slip" from both the inner and outer faces) but containing a certain amount of pieces of pottery and of roof-tiles, some of the latter being within a few inches of the bottom of the moat. The pottery dates *circa* A.D. 1150—1300.

Level 3, a clayey silt, contained a large accumulation of roof-tiles, mixed with pottery, flints, and some pieces of sandstone. The building material was thickest against the inner slope, from which direction it had clearly been derived. It was clear that the roof-tiles had cascaded down into the moat, and apparently off the roofs of buildings situated close to its inner lip. It seemed evident that the whole of this deposit had formed when the buildings had been abandoned and allowed to fall into complete decay. The associated pottery is of types ranging from the 12th century to *circa* A.D. 1350. With it was the broken fragment of an iron object (Fig. 2, on the Plate facing this page) having, on one surface, a carefully wrought scale-like pattern. It has not yet been possible to identify its original purpose, or of what object it once formed a part.

Level 2, a tumbled layer of pieces of stone of a type ("septarian nodules") natural to the London Clay, were proved, as the work proceeded, to have been derived from large boulders (some of them measuring several feet in length) which occur, as a natural formation, just below the surface of the ground. (Three of these huge boulders, or "nodules," were exposed at the inner lip of the moat.)

Level 1. Dark clay and humus silt, formed long after the site had been entirely abandoned. In it were the pieces of several wine-flasks which, from their shape (and the dated series found at Oxford—*Oxoniensia* VI, p. 52) can be dated about A.D. 1650.

Summary of Conclusions.

1. Some Early Iron Age occupation at this site is suggested by the presence of a considerable number of calcined flint "pot-boilers."

2. Some Roman tiles (roof- and flue-tiles and building tiles) were found with the mediaeval material. Though they may denote some Roman occupation at or near the site, it seems most probable that these tiles were brought to the site in mediaeval times, for use in the buildings. (In this connection, it is worth noting that the remains of the Roman buildings on Ashted Common proved to have been demolished, for the sake of the bricks and tiles, in early mediaeval times. Some pieces of 12th century pottery were found among the debris at points at which the walls had been demolished and the tiles removed.)

EXCAVATIONS AT "THE MOUNTS," PACHESHAM, 1947



Preliminary clearance of undergrowth
on inner face of the moat.



Trench 'A' on completion, view looking
east, to inside of earthwork.



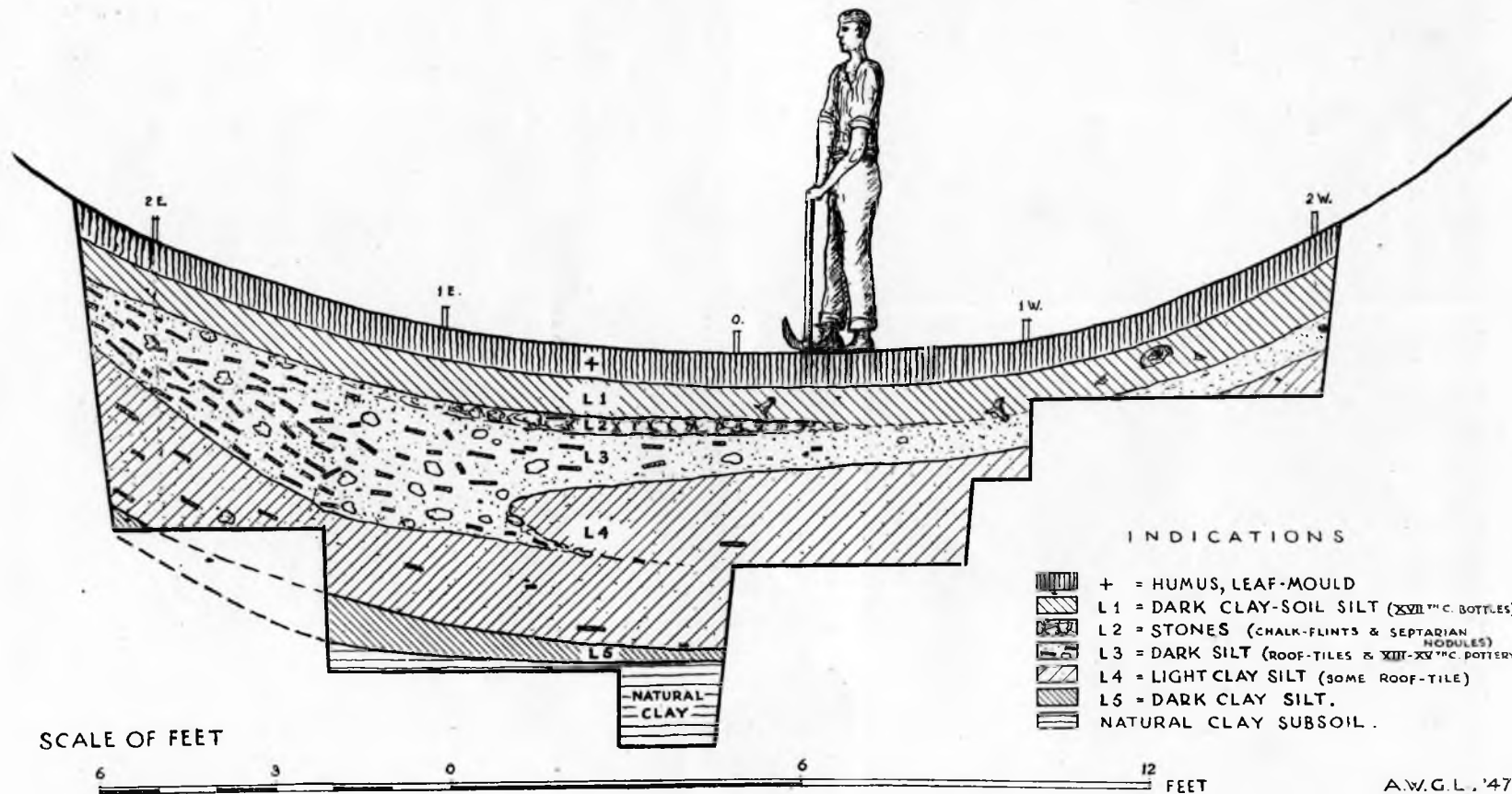
Piece of iron object,
with 'scale' pattern
from moat. Size $\frac{1}{4}$.



"THE MOUNTS", PACHESHAM NEAR LEATHERHEAD, SURREY

THE LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S EXCAVATIONS - SEPTEMBER 1947

SOUTH FACE OF TRENCH 'A' - THROUGH THE MOAT



3. Pieces of 11th century, Norman pottery are, as yet, the earliest evidence connected with the Manor, though (especially in view of the recorded history of the site) it is quite possible that some evidence of pre-Conquest occupation will be found.

4. Probably *circa* A.D. 1250 the moat was dug, apparently surrounding structures which were already in existence on the summit of the hill. (That these "pre-moat" buildings had their roofs covered with hand-made tiles is implied by the depth in the moat at which pieces of these tiles were found.)

5. About A.D. 1300. Main period of occupation, most of the pottery found being of this period. (Several of the pots and dishes are of types identical with those found at a pottery-kiln site of this date at Ashted, by Mr. S. S. Frere, F.S.A.—S.A.C. 48, pp. 58—66.)

6. *Circa* A.D. 1350. Handle of a green-glazed jug, apparently of this date, is the latest find connected with the occupation. (From the top of *Level 3*, at a point just inside the inner lip of the moat.)

7. The wine-flasks of about A.D. 1650 are probably connected with some casual visit to the site (such as that of a hunting party) in the late 17th or early 18th century.

Full publication of the pottery and other finds is reserved for the final report, on completion of the excavations. A. W. G. L.

"The Mounts," Pachesham—An Historical Note

THE site of the earthworks known as "The Mounts" was in 1808 part of a copyhold close known as Hither Mount¹; the actual earthwork was apparently covered by a "Plantation." On the north-west side the boundary was formed by a lane called "Drove Way." A map of 1782/83² does not show the earthworks or the close, but the site is included in a very large parcel of copyhold held by the Earl Tyrconnel, consisting of 152 acres 12 perches of arable, meadow and pasture. Collation of the plans of 1782/83 and 1808 with the schedule of a conveyance of 1788³ proves the site to be identical with "Mount Field late in 2 pieces," comprising 7 acres 8 perches arable; the adjacent Drove Way appears in 1788 as King's Lane. The extensive copyhold then conveyed by Lord Tyrconnel to Lewis Montolieu, Esq., included a "Capital Messuage or Farmhouse" on the north-east of Randalls Road, opposite to the site of the now destroyed mansion, Randalls Park. Other parcels of this copyhold bore the names Hilly Park, Bottom Park, Gardens, Dovehouse Close; and in the Leatherhead open fields, places called The Lord's Piece and Windmill Piece. From the reference to a capital messuage and from these names, it is clear that the copyhold represents the earlier demesne of Pachenesham Magna, the chief Manor of Leatherhead, of whose manor-house there is otherwise no trace in documents since the 15th century. The freehold lands held with these demesnes comprised the Randalls estate and the conjoined reputed manor of Pachenesham Parva.

The combined estate can be traced for some distance back⁴; during the 17th century it belonged to the family of Sandes, who resided at Randalls. The central parcels of copyhold appear as Parkfield Land, subject to a quit-rent of £2 2s. 8d. yearly in 1783⁵, and the same rent was paid in 1693⁶ by John

¹Plan of *Randall Farm in the Parish of Leatherhead*, the property of Mr. Richd. Ironmonger, by Thomas Williams, Architect, 1808.—Minet Library, Camberwell.

²Map of the *Parish and Manor of Leatherhead*, by G. Gwilt, now in the possession of Gilbert H. Grantham, Esq.

³Conveyance of *Freehold Estates and Covenant to surrender Copyhold Estates called Randalls*: Lord and Lady Tyrconnel and Trustees to Lewis Montolieu, Esq., 17th August, 1788.—Original deed in possession of Wimbledon Corporation; and enrolled on *Close Roll* 1788, part 7, P.R.O., C.54/6847, ro.4.

⁴See descent of Parva Pachenesham in *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, pp. 296-7, and original deeds from 1700 in possession of Wimbledon Corporation.

⁵Quit Rental of the *Manor of Pachenesham and Leatherhead*, 30th April, 1783.—Kingston County Record Office, S.C.6/(un-numbered).

⁶Rental in the possession of Gilbert H. Grantham, Esq.; cf. also *Kingston County Records*, S.C.6/27, 28.

REPORTS, GROUP D—"The Mounts," Pachesham

Sandes, Esq. for "Parkfeild gardens Burnish feild & Meade acres." As the Court Rolls are missing for the period 1527-1701, it is not possible to say when the owners of Randalls became also tenants of their overlord's demesne, but a number of mediaeval documents throw some light on the latter's earlier history.

On 17th April, 1343, an inquisition was taken at Leatherhead on the death of Robert Darcy, who had held the Manor of Pachesham (Magna), and it was found that there was a capital messuage worth nothing beyond outgoings, and a dovehouse worth 2s. yearly⁷.

On 5th October, 1398, a case was heard in the Court of King's Bench⁸, when Sir Ivo Fitzwaryn and Matilda his wife claimed damages from William Wymeldon, their tenant for life in the Manor of Pachesham. The Fitzwaryns alleged that William had sold one chapel, two watermills and divers lands in the manor, 30 oak trees and other wood, 20 pear and 30 apple trees, to the value of £300. William's answer was that the damage and sale of wood took place before he had entry of the manor, but the jury found that Ivo and Matilda should recover seisin from William's lands to the value of the damage. It was brought out in evidence that the Fitzwaryns had reserved from the grant wards, escheats, marriages and other perquisites of the manor, and the right for them and their servants to fish in the Mole (Elmestrem), while William was to pay a yearly rent of £20, 2 cartloads of hay, 2 cartloads of straw, and 2 quarts of oats.

When Sir Ivo Fitzwaryn died, the inquest at Leatherhead on 13th November, 1414⁹, found that in the Manor of Pachesham there was a certain "site" and a dovehouse, worth nothing beyond outgoings yearly. There is no evidence that the site of the manor-house was ever re-occupied, the "capital messuage" of the 18th century being a quarter-mile to the south. In the later 15th century the manor was divided between co-heirs, who were evidently neglectful, for the jurors of the View of Frankpledge in 1472¹⁰ presented that there was no cucking-stool and that the pillory and stocks were extremely ruinous through the lord's default.

The manor-house was certainly in existence in 1343, and had disappeared by 1414, but little else can be added to its history. It was presumably for building-work at this house that Eustace de Hacche took horses and carts and wains from strangers in Kingston market. He was charged at the Assizes of 1292-93 with having caused his bailiffs to do this in order to carry timber to his manor of Pachesham in Leatherhead. De Hacche had held the Manor for 6 (years?) past, as mesne tenant of Walter de Thorp, who held Pachesham of the King in chief by serjeanty of finding a prison, a pound for beasts distrained for the King's debt, and a bench for the County Court where it was wont to be held¹¹.

These services show that Pachesham was the manor in Leatherhead which had been granted by King John to Brian de Therfield in 1203¹². The manor was apparently in the King's hands from 1088, when Bishop Odo of Bayeux forfeited his lands for rebellion; two years earlier, at the Domesday

⁷*P.R.O.*, C.135/70(3): "Manerium de Pachesham . . . Est ibidem quoddam capitale mesuagium quod nichil valet per annum ultra reipis'. Et est ibi vnum columbare quod valet per annum. i.j.s." The Dovehouse is referred to in a Court Roll of 1322, when a fine was imposed for allowing two piglets to wander in the lord's beans there.—Kingston County Record Office, S.C.6/1: "Misericordia i.j.d. Alic' in la Hurne in misericordia pro ii porculis in fabis apud Columbare."

⁸*De Banco Roll* 551, m.422 Surrey, quoted in *MS. Notes for V.C.H., Surrey*, Kingston County Record Office.

⁹*P.R.O.*, C.138/9: "Manerium de Pachesham . . . est ibidem quidam situs in predicto manerio cum quodam columbar" & nichil valet ultra reipis' per annum."

¹⁰Kingston County Record Office, S.C.6/6: "Et dicunt quod non habent Cukkyngstole & quod le pelerye & lez stokkys sunt valde ruinose & non abil' in defectu domini."

¹¹*Assize Roll* B92, quoted in *MS. Notes for V.C.H., Surrey*, Kingston County Record Office: "Eustachius de Hacche cepit equos et caretas et carros in foro de Kingeston de extraneis ad ducendum mererium suum ad manerium suum de Pachesham in Leddr' et ista capere fecit per ballivos suos contra voluntatem dictorum extraneorum." Further, "debetur inde inveniri una domus ad prisiones custodiendum et parcus ad distractiones factas pro debito domini Regis imparcand" et "etiam sedes in loco ubi comitatus solebat teneri" cf. *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, pp. 294-5.

¹²In 1292 Pachesham was said to be valued at 70s. 2d., representing 60 solidates and 2 denariates of land granted by King John, and 10s. rent granted by Richard Coeur-de-Lion to William d'Eyo.

REPORTS, GROUP D (Archaeology)—GROUP E (Natural History)

survey, the mesne tenant under Odo was Hugh, and the name of the Saxon holder before 1066 is given as Elmer¹³. It is possible that it was this chief estate in Leatherhead (Leodrian) which was granted by King Alfred to his son Edward.

This possibility is strengthened by the attached serjeanties relating to the holding of the County Court at Leatherhead, said in 1259 "always" to have been the custom. But this usage was already falling into desuetude, if not obsolete, by 1195¹⁴. The practice must therefore have been already ancient in the 12th century, and suggests that Leatherhead had been the *county town* at the original institution of County Courts by King Alfred.

JOHN H. HARVEY.

¹³Possibly commemorated by the name of the recently destroyed mansion The Elmer, on the boundary of Fetcham and Leatherhead—'Great Elmore' (field) 1782/3 Map; 'Greate, Little Elmes', 1629 Survey, Merton College, Oxford.

¹⁴V.C.H., Surrey, III, p.294.

GROUP E (Natural History)

LEADER: Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

AS being the first year since it was constituted, this Group's activities as regards much of the early part of the year consisted, of necessity, of arranging matters of organization and procedure.

In this respect, much assistance has been received from the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies, now in course of forming a "Field Centre" at Juniper Hall, Mickleham, and both Mr. C. C. Fagg, Regional Survey Officer of the Council, and Mr. G. E. Hutchings, Warden, have joined our Society and are taking an active part in the work of this Group. Since the area of the territory with which this Group is concerned falls within the area which the Field Centre is studying, and from which it will be compiling records covering every branch of natural history, it will be evident that the close relationship which has been established between these two societies is likely to prove of very material, and mutual, benefit.

The active membership of Group E is still very small, but has increased during the year from an initial 8 to 15, and in view of the extent and variety of the work which it is proposed to accomplish, a considerably greater increase is to be hoped for in the near future.

Meetings in the Field, in conjunction with other Groups of the Society, took place as follows:—

21st June, 1947. Meeting at Juniper Hall. After a talk by Mr. Hutchings on the Field Centre and its organization and objectives, the members were conducted along the course of "Stane Street" as far as "Thirty Acre Barn" between Ashtead and Headley. En route, members had an opportunity of studying typical chalk down-land flora. (Amongst the species recorded on this occasion was *Echium vulgare*. L., which was observed as having spread extensively on fields bordering the Headley—Mickleham road, forming large patches of colour.)

23rd August. Exploration of the bed of the River Mole and inspection of the "swallow-holes." Mr. Fagg explained the geology of the area, and thanks to the exceptionally dry summer, members were able, after seeing the main "swallow-hole" into which the river flows, to proceed along part of the dried-up river bed and observe the flora on ground normally covered by the river, and on the adjacent fields. (Lists of the flora observed were submitted by some of the members. One of the more interesting species observed was the balsam

REPORTS, GROUP E (Natural History)

Impatiens glandulifera, a handsome, pink and white flowered, species attaining a height of 3—4 feet. A naturalised "garden-escape," it is securely established, and spreading rapidly down the river. The writer has observed the same species at Looe in Cornwall, where, after establishing itself in the West Looe River, it has, in course of years, spread many miles downstream, at places nearly filling the river from bank to bank).

Indoor Meetings, on 30th June and 4th November, were held at Ashtead, at the latter of which the Group leader gave a talk on "Tree-ring Analysis."

ENTOMOLOGY

Orthoptera (Earwigs, Cockroaches, Crickets and Grasshoppers).

Pachytylus migratorius (Migratory Locust). One specimen of this rare visitor to our country was captured on Headley Common, on 22nd September, by Mr. J. E. S. Dallas, a member of the Society, by whom it was sent, alive, to the British Museum, Natural History. Mr. Dallas has kindly supplied a note on this record, and a copy of the Museum's note on the occurrence of the Migratory Locust in this country, quoting an article by Dr. B. P. Uvarov, director of the Anti-Locust Research Centre, on the occurrence of this insect in England in 1946, when 10 specimens were taken on the south-east coasts of England. Quoting Mr. Dallas—"These were all of a sub-species which, for the last three years, had been swarming in Western France. In 1946 the swarms flew north in France, and some individuals were taken in the north-west of that country, while, as we see, a few reached the south coast of England. It is interesting to find that, in the warmer summer of 1947, one individual of the same sub-species, at least, has got about 30 miles further north!"

Mecoptera (Scorpion-flies).

Both the common species, *Panorpa communis*, L. and *P. germanica* L., were observed, from the early spring onwards, in rather greater numbers than usual, in the chalk-district of Ashtead.

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths).

The warm summer of 1947, in conjunction with southerly winds, caused it to be a "Clouded Yellow" year, and many of the host of *Colias edusa* visitors to this country were observed in this area. At Ashtead it was observed that *Vanessa atalanta*, *V. cardui*, *V. c-album*, *V. urticae* and *V. io* were all plentiful, and, contrary to some observers' reports, there was no reduction in numbers as regards the last named. As throughout the country, *Macroglossa stellatarum*, the Humming-bird Hawk-moth, was quite exceptionally plentiful. A caterpillar of *Sphinx ligastri*, the Privet Hawk-moth, was, in the late summer, found by the writer. It was searching in vain, owing to the baked condition of the ground, for some soft soil to enter for pupation. On being provided with some damp earth, it soon burrowed its way underground. (Details as to other species recorded can be obtained from the Group Leader).

Coleoptera (Beetles).

There was a marked reduction in numbers as regards many common species, and while this may partly be attributable to the severe winter, it seems that, as regards the plant-eating species, the drought may have caused the food-plants to wither away before the larvae had finished feeding, thus affecting the later brood, in late summer, when the reduction was most marked. Particulars of species recorded are held by Group E, from whom they may be obtained.

Hymenoptera.

A considerable reduction in numbers, as regards both Bees and Wasps, was observed in the area; probably directly due to the severe winter. Fewer ants were also noted.

A. W. G. L.

ORNITHOLOGY

Ornithological records have during the year been compiled under the direction of Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue, Hon. Treasurer, who is looking after this branch of the Society's work; his report is appended.

It will be some time before a comprehensive report on bird life will be available, but the Group is now actively at work. During the Society's first year, contact has been made with the London Natural History Society, whose members have made a detailed study of the species on Bookham Common, the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies. All these organizations have expressed their desire to co-operate both in the field and in the lecture-hall.

A Survey of birds in the area is now in progress, and an endeavour to ascertain their density and distribution. A card-index is being compiled, and a list of Protected Birds and Eggs in the County of Surrey is available for perusal.

A Short List of Books on Natural History

(*Denotes copy in the Society's Library. Copies of the remainder are in the possession of Capt. Lowther, and may be consulted by members of the Group.)

BOTANY

- *"A Flora of Epsom and its Neighbourhood," Rev. T. N. Hart Smith-Pearse, M.A.
 - "Flora of Surrey," C. E. Salmon, F.L.S.
 - "Hayward's Botanist's Pocket Book," G. C. Druce.
 - "Flowers of the Field," Rev. C. A. Johns, Ed. by J. A. Owen.
 - "British Grasses and Sedges," A. Pratt.
 - "Ferns British and Exotic," Lowe (9 vols.)
 - "The Ferns of Great Britain," A. Pratt.
 - "Outlines of British Fungology," Rev. M. J. Berkeley.
 - "British Lichens," W. L. Lindsay, M.D.
 - "Flora of the British Islands," Sir J. D. Hooker.
 - *"Flora of the River Mole," H. J. Burkill, M.A., F.R.G.S.
- N.B.—Reference to the two vols. of Bentham and Hooker can also be arranged with one of the Society's members on application to the Hon. Secretary.

ENTOMOLOGY

- "Butterflies and Moths," W. E. Kirby.
- "The Moths of the British Isles" (2 vols.), R. South, F.E.S.
- "Handbook of Coleoptera" (2 vols.), H. E. Cox.
- "British Coleoptera" (6 vols.), Canon Fowler.
- "A Practical Handbook of British Beetles" (2 vols.), N. H. Joy.

ORNITHOLOGY

- "British Birds and their Nests," A. L. Thomson.

GEOLOGY

- "Cretaceous Rocks of Britain," Jukes-Brown.
- "Memoirs of Geol. Survey" (dealing with Leatherhead area).
- "Geological Maps" (various—Leatherhead district).

GENERAL

- *"The Survey of Bookham Common" (years 1-4—Reprints from "The London Naturalist").

GROUP F

(Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.)

At the date of this note (January, 1948) this Group is not functioning independently, but material relative to its purposes is being collected during the activities of other Groups.

It was noted from a copy of Rees' "Cyclopædia" of 1819, presented to the Society, that Leatherhead was therein described as noted for its Fair and its toymaking industry. It is known from a sale catalogue of the Fairfield in 1843 that the Fair was then still in active existence.

A. T. R.

Feudal Tenures

BY S. E. D. FORTESCUE

(An Abridgement of a Lecture given to the Society 9th May, 1947)

LITTLE is known of the early system of feudalism in this country, and to what extent it was influenced by the Conquest of 1066 remains highly debatable. Even an accurate definition of feudalism is difficult, but Potter in his *Legal History of England* suggests that it was "a system of government, including the administration of justice, based on land holding."

Anglo-Saxon. In Anglo-Saxon times property in land was for legal purposes divided into:

- (1) Bocland—land held under a Charter originally granted by the King;
 - (2) Folkland—held according to the custom of the locality;
- and (3) Loanland—in the nature of a tenancy.

Life outside the precincts of the community was perilous; therefore, small landowners banded themselves together and commended themselves to the protection of the larger landowners who could afford more effective security. In return, the smaller landowners performed certain services varying according to the area to be protected. This was the basis of the principle of feudalism and the quantum of the tenant's estate. This system of land holding had existed on the Continent for many generations and by 900 A.D. was firmly established in England—although by no means universally.

FEUDAL TENURES

Post-Conquest. The effect of the Conquest upon tenure was immediate, and William I took advantage of the immense areas of land which fell under his control to push the feudal system to its logical conclusion, and he compelled all landowners to admit that they held their land of him or of a Lord who in turn held of him. After compilation of the Domesday Book, however, William went further, and at Sarum in 1086 required all tenants, whether holding directly of him or of some mesne (intermediate) lord, to take the Oath of Fealty to the King. This direct bond between the King and the tenants of mesne lords was anti-feudal in principle; it should be emphasised, however, that the principle of feudal tenure had no statutory origin and was assumed in the Domesday Book and by the early legal authorities.

The man holding land of a feudal lord was termed a *tenant*, or, if holding direct from the Crown, a *tenant in capite*. The land which he held was his *feudum* or *fee*; the lord's right to receive the tenant's service was his *seignory*; the possession of land by a feudal tenant was his *seisin*. A tenant who had no sub-tenant and held the land itself and not a seignory was said to be *seised in his demesne*. The quantum of the tenant's interest in the land or seignory which he held was his *estate*.

Freehold Tenures. While there is no logical relation between the form of tenure and the quantum of the tenant's estate, there arose early a theory that the estate of a free tenant (a *freehold*) must be of indefinite duration, i.e. no one could at the time of its inception predict that it would terminate at or before a specified future date. Freehold estates were either *estates of inheritance* which descended to the heir-at-law on the death of the tenant, or *estates for life* only. The rules of inheritance determining the line of descent were those of the Custom of Normandy and applied, with great regard, the principle of primogeniture.

Common law recognized two classes of freehold tenure viz:—(1) *freehold* tenures and (2) *villein* tenures. Freeholds depended on the dignity of the services rendered, which were not of a servile nature but had no connection with the personal freedom of the tenant.

The free tenures fell into two classes: (1) the *lay* and (2) the *spiritual* (held by religious services); the free lay tenures were again divided into (a) *Tenures in Chivalry* or *Military Tenures* and (b) *Tenures in Socage*.

Tenures in Chivalry. Of Tenures in Chivalry, *Knights Service*, was the most important and the usual tenure by which the great barons held of the Crown. Originally the essence of the tenure was the liability to serve, or provide one or more fully equipped Knights to serve, the King in his wars for 40 days in the year. Henry II introduced *Scutage* or *Shield Money* leviable upon those under Knights Service, at least if tenants in capite. By the 15th Century, however, *Scutage* was obsolete, or was a levy charged upon demesne lords.

The principle incidents of Knights Service were:—

(i) *The Act of Homage* (swearing to become the King's man) and the *Oath of Fealty* (undertaking to perform feudal services).

(ii) *Relief*, a fine payable by an heir before admittance to his inheritance.

(iii) *Primer Seisin*, the King claimed from the heirs of a tenant in capite the first year's fruits of the property, as well as a Relief. Mesne lords were forbidden to claim Primer Seisin by the Statute of Marlbridge, 1267.

(iv) *Auxilia* or *Aids*, were payments restricted by Magna Carta, 1215, to the ransoming of the lord's body, the Knighting of his eldest son and the marriage of his eldest daughter.

(v) *Wardship* and *Marriage*. The lord was entitled to wardship and the use of the lands of an heir under 21, or an heiress under 14; one of the most valuable incidents, pecuniarily, to the lord. *Marriage* gave a right to propose a suitable spouse, which consent could be sold. Refusal of consent, or failure to pay duties, might result in forfeiture of the inheritance.

(vi) *Ouster le Main* was a fine of a half year's profits for withdrawing the lord's control when the heir came of age.

(vii) *Escheat*, the lord's right to resume possession if the tenant died without heirs, or committed felony thereby depriving the lord of feudal services.

(viii) *Suit of Court* or *Secta Curiae*, the tenant's duty to attend and give judgement in the Lord's Baronial or Customary Courts.

Another form of Tenures in Chivalry was *Grand Serjeantry* which differed from Knight's Service in that (a) it could only exist as a tenure in capite and (b) the military service was replaced by the performance of an honourable office having relation to the person of the King e.g. his standard bearer. Such services have been preserved to the present day.

Homage Ancestral was a third type of Tenure in Chivalry and occurred when land had been held time out of mind by homage only. Such tenures were obsolete by 1550.

Constant warfare for supremacy existed between the King and the Barons, and the battle went in favour of the latter when the Statute of De Donis Conditionalibus, 1285, was passed enacting that land could not be alienated; but the tide was turned by the King when the Statute of Quia Emptores, 1290, came into force which abolished sub-infeudation, that is, the sub-granting of land by a tenant, and made the Crown practically the sole lord of all freeholdings. Gradually the incidents of tenure declined into ways of obtaining money, and the

FEUDAL TENURES

King found a means of enforcing payment by creating a Court of Wardship and Marriage. The result was that an heir who succeeded under age might become wholly impoverished by the extortionate payments, firstly of primer seisin and relief, the possible wasting of inheritance, followed by the payment of Ouster le main and in all probability for a compulsory knighthood, which no man who held more than a certain acreage of land could refuse to accept. The majority of these payments of an uncertain character were abolished in 1660.

Tenures in Socage. Of tenures in socage the usual form was *common socage*. It differed mainly from Knight's service in that (i) the military service was replaced by one of agricultural value, e.g. so many days ploughing in the lord's fields (such services being gradually commuted for annual payments, many of which survive to the present day as quit rents, etc.); (ii) the incidents of wardship, marriage, and Ouster le main did not attach to Socage tenures.

Other forms of socage tenures were:—

(a) *Customary Socage* such as *Gavelkind* (chiefly in Kent, and characterised by descent to all males of the same degree; and with no escheat for felony); and *Borough English* (similar to gavelkind but with descent to the youngest son only).

Gavelkind and Borough English have never been formally abolished, but as new legislation applies a different system of law to land of whatever tenure, they have in fact disappeared.

(b) *Petty Serjeantry*—found, like grand serjeantry, only as a tenure in capite—the special service to the King being such as keeping his hounds or serving his writs.

(c) *Homage ancestral in socage*, the same as in chivalry.

Spiritual Tenures. Spiritual Tenures were divided into *Frankalmoin* and *Divine Service*. Frankalmoin, or free alms, was a survival of Anglo-Saxon law and implied an indefinite promise to pray for the soul of the donor. In Divine Service the tenant promised a definite number of prayers, which promise might be enforced in the King's Courts.

Villein Tenure. While tenures by Knight's service or by socage might be tenures in capite and the tenants in their turn the lords of other tenants, *villein tenure* (later known as copyhold tenure) was to be found only at the bottom rung of the feudal ladder. It is the tenure of the semi-servile peasant, the actual tiller of the soil.

The Manor. By the end of the 12th century the old Saxon village community had acquired a definite place in the feudal system as "the Manor" (from *mansio*, the lord's residence) and formed the administrative and economic unit of agricultural organization to the end of the 18th century. As a unit the Manor consisted of the demesne lands of the lord comprising the manor house, and the land occupied with it, cottages of the tenants with their curtilages, the common fields and the waste.

The common fields were large enclosures divided into numerous strips called furlongs, separated from each other by raised banks or balks. The lord, the parson in respect of his glebe, and each of the tenants in respect of his holding, had one or more strips in each field. The rotation of crops being unknown, each arable common field had to lie fallow at least a year between each crop. Where a common field was under grass the owner of each strip had to harvest his hay by Lammas Day (1st August), when the whole field was open to the tenants to pasture their commonable beasts until the following Lady Day (25th March). Such fields were often named Lammas Lands. The tenants also had rights of common over the waste, that is the uncultivated land, of which there was a great quantity in mediaeval England.

Until the Enclosures each such unit was a closely knit and autonomous community governed by "customary code." In the manors each free tenant had the seisin of his holding, a right good against all the world including the lord, and with recourse to the Courts if injured in such rights. But, whatever the original position, the villein or bond tenant had, by Henry III's time, no rights against his lord at all. The seisin of the cottage and the strips in the common fields was in the lord and the copyholder had only an exclusive right of occupation. All timber trees and minerals belonged to the lord.

Copyholder's Services. The feudal services owed by the copyholder were

(a) *Suit of Court*, see above (Tenures in Chivalry, viii).

(b) *Heriot right*, the lord's claim to the best beast on the tenement at the death of the tenant.

(c) *Fines on alienation* payable on the admission of a new tenant—normally two years improved rent.

(d) *Customary Services*, the liability to do so many days work each year on the lord's demesne. These gradually fell into disuse or changed to money payments.

The lord's income and the tillage of the demesne lands depended on the villein's work, as there were no hired labourers. With the scarcity of labour caused by the Black Death the lot of the villeins rapidly improved. Most of them were personally free by the end of the Middle Ages and the King's Courts began to protect them against invasion of their customary rights. The villein tenant became a copyholder, holding not only "at the will of the lord" but also "according to the custom of the manor and by copy of court roll."

S. E. D. F.

Little Bookham Parish Registers

LIKE many another parish, Little Bookham is in danger of losing the data recorded in its Parish Registers.

No printed transcript exists, and the only known MS. copy (that in the Minet Library, Camberwell, covering the period 1642-1812) records that the originals are in part obliterated by time. The MS. copy, itself in small script, will become increasingly difficult to decipher. Unless the Minet MS. is copied, the illumination thrown thereby on local history, genealogy, and sociology may in the course of time be extinguished.

Work started by the writer in copying the Minet MS. remains unfinished owing to his being no longer in the county: it is hoped that some volunteer will complete the work. The pages already copied gave in themselves some reward in the light they cast on local history; but there is still much to glean.

The earlier entries are terse except for the fuller entries relating to the family of James Hindle, who was "parson" and "minister" under Charles I and still incumbent at the end of the Protectorate. His religion apparently was "that by law established."

In the 17th and 18th centuries appeals for charitable purposes, such as the repair of churches damaged by storm or fire, and the release of captives, were made from time to time from the pulpit in response to the "briefs" issued under royal mandate. The Registers mention briefs for 1637, 1653, 1658 and 1660.

In an attempt to sustain the woollen industry, three successive Acts (those of 1666, 1678, and 1680) relating to burials in woollen came on the Statute Book during the reign of Charles II. Little Bookham appears to have ignored the first of these three Acts; but amends were made after 1687, when each entry of a burial in woollen is followed by the name of the testifier on oath, the name of the Justice (or clergyman) who certified the affidavit, the names of the witnesses to the affidavit, and the date of the Rector's receipt of the affidavit within the statutory 8 days. Later it was thought sufficient to dismiss the matter more summarily—e.g. the entry of the burial in woollen of Mary Slyder 12th August, 1687, is followed by the words "affidavit brought ye same day."

The only exemptions from these Acts were those who died of the plague. Between 21st January, 1684/5 and 26th August, 1686, there is only one entry of a burial "Jo Hide buried," and this entry, which is undated and devoid of any reference to burial in woollen, is suggestive (unless it is a later interpolation correcting an omission) of death due to the plague. Visitations of the plague to Little Bookham may explain the entries for the month of August, 1664, when four members of the Chasmoore family were buried; and again in the month of October, 1669, when Henry and Anne Aisted and their two daughters were laid to rest.

The entry of 20th February, 1680/1 of the burial of Mary Edwards, daughter of a "traveller," reflects the sad circumstances of the vagrant poor. Till 1662 they were free to travel in search of work, or, in the words of the Act of 1662, "to settle themselves where there is . . . the largest commons or wastes to build cottages and the most woods for them to burn or destroy." Thereafter the poor "traveller" could be removed by the Justices unless some employer or relative stood security for any expense falling on the parish on his, or her, behalf. Mary Edwards was at least law-abiding in death—she being buried in woollen; but at whose expense appeareth not.

For human pathos James Hindle's entry of the death of his wife bears quotation. The years, days, and hours, both of her life and of her brief married life, are—like to the beads of a rosary—told by the widowed minister. ". . . after being married to the said James the space of 4 years 19 weeks and about 9 or 10 hours." And he bids her farewell with the words "Vale, vale, vale, non in aeternum sed in posterum."

* * *

The unfinished copy of the transcript is lodged with the Society of Genealogists. Any volunteer willing to complete the work should communicate with the Secretary (Miss K. Blomfield), Chaucer House, Malet Place, W.C.1. The Society of Genealogists will provide standard stationery, and in exchange for the completed copy will provide one typed copy for the Leatherhead & District Local History Society and another for the incumbent. These benefactions can be secured by any one of our Members willing to give his time for so worth-while an object.

R. F. DALTON.

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Briefly the OBJECTS of the Society are :—

To institute, promote and encourage the study of local history, architecture, archæology, natural history, folklore and similar subjects appertaining to Leatherhead and surrounding districts ; including the search for, recording, and preservation of, historical records and other material ; a library for members' use ; lectures, debates, exhibitions and tours ; fieldwork ; photography of historic features ; and (as a long term objective) the compilation and publication of a history of the Leatherhead district.

A real interest in the locality is the only necessary qualification for membership ; those with any specialised knowledge are of course doubly welcome, but this is not essential. The Society hopes to help those who have little or no special knowledge to improve or acquire it. Provision is also made for Junior Members at a nominal fee.

Persons who would like to keep in touch with local history but have no time to take an active part can join as Non-Active Members. They have all the other privileges of full membership.

The yearly membership fee for all adult Members (to include one copy of the Society's Proceedings) is seven shillings and sixpence. Apply to the Hon. Treasurer : MR. S. E. D. FORTESCUE, Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Gt. Bookham (Bookham 2683).

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, on
19th November, 1947.

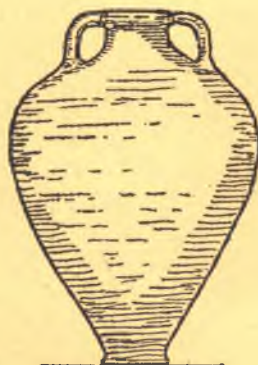
THIS meeting, marking the Society's first birthday, was very well attended, in spite of a foggy night. Mrs. E. Levett, Chairman of the Urban District Council, honoured us with her presence, and opened the meeting. Representatives of a number of National and County bodies concerned with historical records expressed their regret for their absence due to the holding on that date of the British Records Association's Conference.

The meeting received most encouraging reports from both the Executive Committee (the salient points are given in "Secretarial Notes," page 3) and from the Hon. Treasurer. The accounts showed a healthy balance; but it was necessary to sound a note of warning that increased activities and requirements would cause a heavier drain on the income in the near future.

In view of the forthcoming publication of these Proceedings, the Meeting willingly agreed to an increase to 7s. 6d. in the annual subscription to enable each member to receive a copy *gratis*. Also the Rules were amended to give a vote to each non-active Member. This avoided an unnecessary distinction at meetings; though the two classes must be maintained so that Group Leaders know on whom they can call for assistance and fieldwork, etc.

All the Officers were re-elected—*see* page 1 for names.

After formal business Capt. Lowther gave an Address on the work to date at "The Mounts," followed by an account by Mr. J. H. Harvey of the historical records of the site. Both are set out in pages 7 *et seq.*



ROMAN AMPHORA,
FR. ASHTEAD COMMON
1926