

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1902.

---

THE fifty-fourth annual meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held on Tuesday, July 29th, at Glastonbury.

The proceedings commenced with the annual meeting, held in the Victoria Rooms, at which there was a good attendance.

The Bishop of Bristol, the retiring President, being unable to be present, the Rev. E. H. BATES took the chair at the commencement of the meeting, and formally introduced the Dean of Wells (the Very Rev. T. W. JEX-BLAKE, D.D., F.S.A.) as president.

The Dean of Wells then presided over the gathering, and said that the Society had conferred a great honour upon him by electing him as president, because he did not profess to be an archæologist. He merely had an interest in its study—a taste for some of the things that they had a taste for, an eye for some of the things that they had an eye for.

Lieutenant-Colonel BRAMBLE, F.S.A., read letters of regret for inability to be present from the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Mr. H. Hobhouse, M.P., Mr. E. J. Stanley, M.P., and others.

## The Annual Report.

Lieutenant-Colonel BRAMBLE, F.S.A., read the annual report of the Council as follows :—

“Your Committee present their fifty-fourth annual report. Since their last report forty-eight new names have been added to the list of members. The loss by deaths and resignations has been forty-three. Altogether the net gain has been five. The total membership of the Society at date is 602.

“The important Society at Glastonbury has become affiliated as a branch, under Rule 2.

“The balance of your Society’s general account at the end of 1900 (your accounts being made up in each year to December 31st) was £21 17s. 9d. in its favour, but at the close of 1901 there was a balance of £113 1s. 7d. against the Society. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired, or on the other hand any unpaid subscriptions taken into account. The total cost of Volume XLVII (for 1901), including printing, illustrations, and delivery, has been £125 17s. 9d. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. F. F. Tuckett and to Mr. H. St. G. Gray for illustrations.

“Since your last general meeting your Museum has been enriched by the generous gift by Mr. W. W. Walter, of Stoke-under-Ham, of his well-known collection of Roman and other antiquities from Ham Hill—mediæval relics relating to the county, natural history and ethnographical specimens.<sup>1</sup> These have been arranged as one separate collection in the upper room of the Castle, formerly devoted to geology, the geological specimens having been removed to the Great Hall, where that and numerous other portions of your Society’s extensive collections are now very advantageously displayed.

1. See the Curator’s paper on the “Walter Collection,” pt. ii, p. 22.

“Your Committee have also to announce the liberal gift from one of your Vice-Presidents, Sir Edmund H. Elton, bart., of an important collection of twenty-nine pieces of his well-known ‘Elton ware.’ They are now exhibited in a temporary case in the Great Hall, but a more fitting receptacle will shortly be provided for them. They are of great interest, not only for their beauty of form and colour, but also as marking an important era in the art history of the county.

“The completion of the Hall with the additions to its collections was duly celebrated on the 21st May last by a formal reopening by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the Earl of Cork and Orrery, K.P., etc., the Dean of Wells, Dr. Jex-Blake, F.S.A., etc., V.P. and President-Elect, occupying the chair in the absence of your President, the Bishop of Bristol, whose engagements prevented his presence on the occasion.

“The Castle Restoration Account to 31st December last shows an adverse balance of £246 15s. 11d. At your last annual meeting you authorised your trustees to borrow a sum not exceeding £500, and to give security on the property of the Society, which is, of course, very ample for the purpose. It had not, so far, been found necessary to make any permanent arrangement, your bankers having advanced the amount required on your current account. Your Committee desire to express the hope that now that the onerous calls upon your liberality incident to the late war are somewhat mitigated, the subscription list may increase to such an extent that no arrangement approaching permanency may be requisite.

“In addition to the gifts before mentioned, the Committee have to report the following:—From Mrs. Blake, of South Petherton, a set of the publications of the Palæontographical Society to 1900 inclusive; from Mrs. Ewing, an important MS. book containing the receipts and payments of the Treasury in 4 and 5 Edward VI; from Mr. T. Leslie, a collection of palæolithic chert implements found by himself near Taunton, and a large collection of neolithic flint implements from North Wilts;

from Mr. H. R. Goddard, MS. books relating to the old Taunton turnpike roads, etc.; from Mr. C. B. Winchester, a collection of Indian pottery and other objects; from Mr. H. W. Seton-Karr, some flint implements found by himself in Somaliland. Amongst other donors to the Museum should be mentioned, Major Franklin Moore, Mrs. E. Clatworthy, Messrs. Eley Scarlett, H. Franklin, C. Tite, H. S. Toms, and others.

“For some thirty-five years past numerous bronze and other implements found in the district, as well as several articles of interest connected with the Monmouth Rebellion, collected by the late Mr. Wm. Stradling, have been deposited on loan in your Museum. Consequent on the death of the owner, they were recently recalled by his executrix, but your Committee was fortunate to be able to secure, at a reasonable price, most of those having a substantial archæological, as apart from a ‘fancy,’ interest.<sup>1</sup>

“The ‘Alfred Monument’ at Athelney, is about to be put into complete repair as the result of a subscription initiated by your Society. The Rev. A. H. A. Smith (vicar of Lyng), one of your Committee, is taking steps for the restoration of his church as a further memorial of the Millenary. Both monument and church have been visited by a large party of your members since the last annual meeting.

“Mr. Green’s *Somerset Bibliography* has been issued to subscribers.

“The Secretary of the Photographic Record Society reports ‘plenty of promises, but no prints.’

“The number of visitors to your Museum during 1901 was 5,047, an increase of 307 as against the previous year. The number for 1902, up to June 30th, was 3,197, an increase of some thirty-five per cent. It is hoped that the recent additions and improvements will result in a still greater increase of numbers in the future.

1. See descriptive list of the “Stradling Collection.”

“A proposal has been made that Societies, subscribers to your Society should be at liberty to nominate their secretaries, or other official, subject to the approval of your Committee, to be at liberty to attend the annual meeting of your Society without payment of a further subscription. The suggestion was, however, made too late to enable the necessary notice for alteration of rules to be given for the present meeting.

“Since your meeting in July of 1901 your Society has sustained severe losses by the deaths of prominent members. Mr. H. Duncan Skrine, v.P. (president 1895), Sir Edward Strachey, bart., v.P. (president 1867), Dr. Livett and Mr. William Blake (both original members), have all died, and obituary notices appeared in your last volume of the *Proceedings*.

“On the 16th March of the present year your Society sustained the loss of a third vice-president—Colonel A. R. Hoskyns (president 1891), whose great courtesy to the members on the occasion of the Crewkerne meeting will be in the recollection of all then present. Colonel Hoskyns had been a member of your Society since 1883.

“On the 28th March Earl Temple died. He had been a member since 1876, and was one of your trustees. Sir E. B. Medlycott, bart., a member from 1890, and Captain Newnham, a member from 1873, have also died. Neither, however, had taken an active part in the work of the Society.

“As lately as Saturday, the 26th, Mr. William Daubeny, of Bath, died, at the age of seventy-eight. He became a member in 1883, and was for many years a regular attendant at your annual meetings, in the proceedings of which he took great interest. He acted as local secretary at your Bath meeting in 1895, and a great deal of the success of that meeting was due to his careful attention to details and his perfect and never-failing courtesy.”

Dr. WINTERBOTHAM, in moving the adoption of the report, recalled the previous meeting of the Society at Glastonbury twenty-two years ago, when the late Professor Freeman was

president. There were giants in those days, and it was something to remember to have seen Freeman on one tombstone and Parker on another brandishing their alpaca umbrellas at each other. The ordinary minds could only wonder who was in the right. Referring to the election of Mr. Gray, as assistant secretary and curator, he said that Mr. Gray had done a great deal to advance the interests of the Society, and they had been fortunate in securing his services. Having alluded to the excellent work which had been carried out in the restoration of the Castle Hall at Taunton, the speaker referring to the finances of the Society said that their income ought to be double what it was, and their membership ought to be one thousand instead of six hundred.

The Rev. Canon HOLMES seconded, and remarked that they were very fortunate that year in having as their president a man of such great ability as the Dean of Wells. He (the speaker) believed that the secret of the success in the old days of the Society, was that the men were thoroughly in earnest. They possibly delighted in the picnic character of the gatherings, but it was kept entirely in the background, and he believed that their Society would succeed in the future if the members kept the study of archæology and history in the forefront. There was no other county which opened up more fields of inquiry than their own, and which brought so much interest to bear on the study of these questions. But they could not expect to make headway while they continued to go on talking about the "Somersetshire Archæological Society," especially when they remembered that Freeman and others used to scoff at the term.

The resolution was carried.

### **Finances.**

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, M.A., F.S.A., in the absence of Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, presented the annual balance sheet.



## Taunton Castle Restoration Fund.

*Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year 1901.*

| RECEIPTS.                             |     |   |      | EXPENDITURE. |   |     |      |    |    |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---|------|--------------|---|-----|------|----|----|
| 1901.                                 |     | £ | s.   | d.           | 1900, Dec. 31st.                              |     | £    | s. | d. |
| By Rent of Premises                   | ... |   | 57   | 13           | To Balance of former Account                  |     | 168  | 16 | 0  |
| „ Messrs Hancock, Rent of 3 Lights    | ... |   |      | 0            | „ Repairs to Castle (chiefly Curator's House) | ... | 61   | 18 | 0  |
| „ Telephone Compy. Wayleave           | ... |   | 0    | 2            | „ Repairs to Property                         | ... | 2    | 19 | 9  |
| „ Subscriptions towards Re-pairs Fund | ... |   | 0    | 15           | „ Laying New Drains                           | ... | 23   | 15 | 0  |
| „ Table Sold                          | ... |   | 1    | 1            | „ Architect's Fee (Great Hall)                | ... | 30   | 0  | 0  |
| Balance                               | ... |   | 246  | 15           | „ Rates and Taxes                             | ... | 4    | 2  | 10 |
|                                       |     |   |      |              | „ Insurance                                   | ... | 3    | 16 | 6  |
|                                       |     |   |      |              | „ Cheque Book                                 | ... | 0    | 2  | 0  |
|                                       |     |   |      |              | „ Interest on Overdrawn Account               | ... | 11   | 0  | 5  |
|                                       |     |   |      |              |   |     |      |    |    |
|                                       |     |   | £306 | 10           |   |     | £306 | 10 | 6  |
|                                       |     |   |      | 6            |   |     |      |    |    |
|                                       |     |   |      |              | To Balance brought down                       | ... | £246 | 15 | 11 |

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

January 10th, 1902. Audited and found correct. { ALEX. HAMMETT.  
HOWARD MAYNARD.

The Rev. Canon CHURCH moved that the accounts be received and adopted, and spoke of the days when Bishop Stubbs was a welcome visitor to their meetings, and contributed learned papers, as well as Mr. Pope and others.

Mr. W. S. CLARK seconded, and heartily agreed with what Dr. Winterbotham had referred to as to the rearrangement of the specimens in the Castle Hall at Taunton, whereby visitors could now see the many objects which at one time were hidden away. He thought that they should make an effort to bring the natural history side of the Society into greater prominence.

The resolution was agreed to.

## Election of Officers.

Mr. J. MORLAND in proposing the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, the Hon. Treasurer, General and Local Secretaries, also the members of the Council, with the addition of Mr. T. S. Bush, of Bath, as local secretary in the place of Mr. Daubeny, on behalf of himself and others resident in Glastonbury, extended to the Society a hearty welcome to the



town, after an interval of twenty-two years, and apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Mayor at that meeting.

Mr. W. MACMILLAN seconded, and the motion was cordially carried.

Mr. C. TITE moved the election of forty-eight new members.

The Rev. A. H. A. SMITH, in seconding, expressed his pleasure at hearing such a long list read. Referring to the King Alfred Millenary, he remarked that the necessary funds for the restoration of King Alfred's Monument at Athelney had been collected, through the energy of Mr. Wyndham Slade, of Montys Court, Norton Fitzwarren; and with regard to the restoration of Lyng Church (known as King Alfred's Church), although he had to thank several friends who had subscribed towards that object, yet a further sum was necessary in order to carry out the work of restoration.

The resolution was carried.

### **Somerset Record Society.**

The Rev. E. H. BATES, Editor of the Somerset Record Society, next made a statement as to its position and intended publications. He said that those who were members of the Society had received the volume for the previous year, and they would, therefore, know that the Council had struck out a new line. They had left the records proper, and had brought out a volume of early Somerset Wills. The volume had not been out very long, and he supposed that non-members had not had an opportunity of getting hold of a copy. It was found that there were quite enough wills after 1500, which had been omitted by the late Rev. F. Brown in his well known "Somerset Wills," to make another volume. In addition to that, there were a large number of wills preserved in the registers at Lambeth, and those would be included in the forthcoming volume for 1903 as an appendix. With regard

to this year, the Society had reverted to the system of issuing two volumes. One would be a continuation of "Feet of Fines;" and although those old records might be found terribly dull, such information was absolutely necessary for an insight into the history of the county. Mr. Green had provided a fresh instalment, carrying them over the period of the Black Death. The other volume would include an outline of the history of the Civil War which took place in Somerset. The volume would also include "Hopton's Narrative," which was being edited by Mr. Chadwyck-Healey, K.C., and he would use a plan of the battle of Lansdown, which illustrated the paper read by the President of the Society when they last met at Bath, seven years ago. As regarded the volumes of future years, he could not say anything positively; but they were not quite in the position of the Somersetshire Archæological Society—always in debt. The Record Society had a little money in hand. At the same time, those records had to be copied by specialists, and that was part of the reason why the volumes did not come out so regularly as one might wish. He would like to see Mr. Green's "Bibliotheca Somersetensis" more taken up than at present. Mr. Green had produced three large volumes, and nobody could pretend to find out the history of his own parish until he had read those books, which related entirely to printed matter. He (Mr. Bates) would like to see someone bring out the Bibliography of Somerset Prints—a book describing the old engravings and illustrations. He thought that a book like that would prove to be of great interest.