Lord Morley at Wincaunton, 1820

BY THE EARL OF ILCHESTER, F.S.A.

THE verses printed below, which appear to be unpublished, recently came to light in a bundle of 'Poetical Scraps', evacuated from Holland House, Kensington, when the manuscripts there had to be moved to Dorset.

Two versions were found, varying only slightly in wording. Both are in the handwriting of Henry Richard Vassall, third Lord Holland; and from the alterations in what appears to be the rough copy, it is considered fairly positive that they were written by him, for a number of such impromptu lines can be traced to his pen.

John Parker, Viscount Boringdon (1778–1840) was created Earl of Morley in 1815. His friendship for the Hollands dates from about the time of their marriage in 1797; and they were entertained by him at his Devonshire home, Saltram, near Plymouth, on more than one occasion. After 1800 their paths in politics slightly diverged; but later in life Lord Morley moved much nearer to the Whig Party, and he became a strong adherent of Parliamentary Reform.

THE WELCOME

(*Wincaunton*, 15 *November* 1820)

Here we have wine and beer and rum,
Brown is our crust and soft our crumb.
The cloth is laid. *The Clock is dumb.*
Come in and eat, Lord Morley, come!

Hush'd now is every village hum,
The inn, the world's beneath thy thumb.
Thou art obeyed. *The Clock is dumb.*
Come then and stay, Lord Morley, come!

The Giant cry of Fee Fo Fum
May childish hearts with fear benumb.
Thine gladdens ours. *The Clock is dumb.*
Oh come and sleep, Lord Morley, come!

Some beds are soft and harder some,
But carriage seat must tire thy ——.
Repose, lie down. *The Clock is dumb.*
Come then to bed, Lord Morley, come !

Cowards will quake at sound of drum,
And cats abhor Musician's thrum,
Thou ticking clock. *But our's is dumb.*
Then come to rest, Lord Morley, come !

Our bills amount to smallest sum,
Throughout the night the word is mum.
No horn is heard. *The Clock is dumb.*
To rest, to rest, Earl Morley, come !

THE LAMENT

(15 *November*)

Through long Wincaunton streets and lanes,
What sad perverse disorder reigns !
The farmers bring their samples down
After the factors leave the town.
The devotee to Church repairs,
Just as the Parson closes prayers.
Bridegroom and bride so long have tarried,
The Canon says they can't be married.
The muffin maker taps the door ;
The tea is swallowed, breakfast o'er.
The postman's bag is much too late :
The ticket wrong at Bourton Gate.
The child condemned to two hours book,
Casts on the Dame a wistful look.
In vain : he knows what sounds must win her,
But hears no clock, and gets no dinner.
Th' Apothecary called at noon
On those he bade be stirring soon.
The cook had scarcely dipped the chine,
When all the neighbours met to dine.
The town behaves as never town did ;
'Tis all ' confusion worse confounded ! '
No bargain's kept, no hour is certain.
At midnight one undraws the curtain.
I saw another wake at one,
And ask about the rising Sun.
What *does* it mean ? *The Clock is dumb.*
Earl Morley is about to come.
The Giant Lord, the Fee Fo Fum !
Where'er he stops, it is his will ;
The World should pause and time stand still.

THE REVIVAL

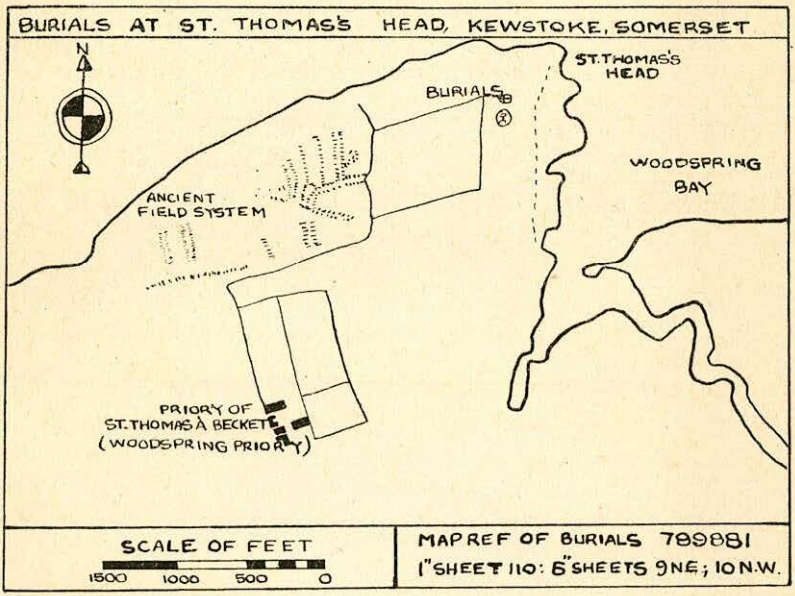
(*Wincaunton*, 16 *November*)

Once more Wincaunton's streets look gay,
And cheerful order rules the day.
The neighbours their engagements keep,
They wake at morn, at night they sleep.
Labour and rest resume their place,
And life runs on its usual pace.
The sellers can their goods supply
When most the chapmen wish to buy.
The listening baker knows the hour
To heat his oven, knead his flour.
Ere tea one breakfast parlour is in,
His cakes are baked, his crust has risen.
At shop, at market and at schools,
All follow their accustomed rules.
All hear in town th' expected sound
That regulates the world around.
' How great the contrast ', many cry,
' From when the Earl was passing by.
That passage was indeed a shock,
Time's anarchy, without a Clock !
But sudden turns enhance delight,
Lo ! joy revived, and all is right ;
Mirth, business, life, roll smoothly on.
And ask you why ? The Earl is gone.
Yon hand relieved from magic power,
Traces the circle, strikes the hour.
Its Giant foe is down in Devon.
Our Clock goes well ; and we're in Heaven.'

Human Remains found at St. Thomas's Head, Kewstoke, Somerset

BY R. RAINBIRD CLARKE, F.S.A., AND L. F. COWLEY, M.SC.

TOWARDS the end of 1944 or early in 1945 a naval working party under Lt. Hunt, R.N., accidentally uncovered a human skeleton while testing the ground as a suitable site for the erection of huts on St. Thomas's Head, Kewstoke. This site

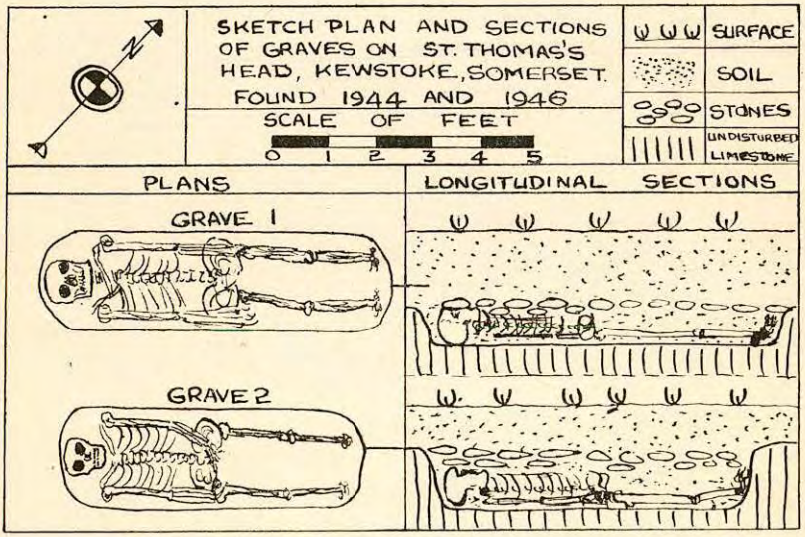


(Grave 1) is shown on the sketch plan, and the general position is indicated by the tracing from the 6 in. O.S. sheets 9 N.E. and 10 N.W. The approximate map reference of the discovery is 348688.[1] The height above sea-level is between 50 and 100 feet. Lt. Hunt photographed the skull and ribs of this skeleton *in situ* before removing them. The frontal portion

[1] National Grid number (?). The map reference on Sketch-plan was taken from a War Office Provisional Grid map.

of the skull was damaged by a blow from a pickaxe. Nothing of archæological significance was found in this grave. The discovery was reported in 1946 to the City Museum, Bristol, by Lt. H. J. Barge, R.N.V.R., of the Mining Trials Base, Weston Airport, by whom the site was re-examined on 3 May 1946, in the presence of Mr. G. R. Stanton and Mr. R. R. Clarke.

Grave 1 was found to be oriented N.E.–S.W., with head at the latter end. It had been cut through the surface soil into the solid limestone and the base of the grave was 2 ft.–2 ft. 3 in.



from the surface. The grave was 6 ft. 8 in. long and averaged 2 ft. wide.

To ascertain if this grave was isolated or part of a cemetery, the excavation for Grave 1 was extended S.E. and a second grave (Grave 2) was soon located lying parallel to Grave 1 and 1 ft. 6 in. distant from it. The dimensions of the grave were 5 ft. 7 in. × 2 ft., and the skeleton lay at 2 ft. from the surface. In this case it was noted that under the surface soil and above the skeleton was a layer of stones, probably portions of the limestone hewn away to make the grave, and cast back first in the infilling. The smashing of the frontal portion of this skull was due partly to this layer of stones and partly to

damage in the first stage of the excavation before the skeleton had been located. The skeleton was photographed *in situ*. It lay on its back with the arms nearly straight. No archæological remains were found in the grave, but a corroded iron nail was found at a higher level.

At a later date a trench was made by Lt. H. J. Barge in a northerly direction from Grave 1 about 10 ft. long and 2 ft. deep, but no other grave was found.

No artificial mound exists at this spot and the two graves are probably part of a flat cemetery which may occupy this corner of St. Thomas's Head. There is nothing in the graves to date them, but the absence of grave goods and the orientation suggest, without proving, the Christian rite. In this connection it is perhaps significant that W. de Courtenay writing to Bishop Jocelin of Bath between 1219 and 1242, states that he wishes to found a monastery at Woodspring in Kewstoke parish on his domain, ' where he had built a chapel in honour of the blessed martyr St. Thomas '. By 1226 Woodspring Priory was built in its present location, but its previous home has not been established with any certainty, as the place-name Dodlinch cannot be identified. However, it may be suggested that the graves on St. Thomas's Head may have lain round a thirteenth-century chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, but this guess needs confirming by further excavation. The human remains have been deposited at the Museum, Weston-super-Mare. For chapel, see *V.C.H. Somerset*, II, 144–6 ; Dugdale, *Monasticon*, VI, 414–6, printing original documents in Cotton MS., British Museum.

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The remains represented two skeletons, both males.

Skeleton No. 1 was represented by skull, and thigh-bone (femur) of the right side.

The skull after repairs gave a cephalic index of 68·2 and a cranial capacity of 1,483 c.c. The formation of the occipital region of the skull showed that its owner was right-handed. The foramen magnum gave a length of 39 mm. There was nothing of interest to report about the teeth save that the second upper molar of the left side showed a spot of decay. Although some teeth were missing all the sockets were open, indicating that the teeth were lost during or after the removal of the skull from the earth.

The right femur had an oblique length of 430 mm. and a maximum length of 435 mm. On this latter measurement stature was estimated at 5 ft. 4½ in. There was no platymeria at the upper third of the bone.

Remains of Skeleton No. 2 were more numerous. The skull, which had been repaired, gave a cephalic index of 76 and a cranial capacity of 1,530 c.c. The upper jaw carried only two teeth, one molar on each side, all the sockets for incisors, canines, and premolars were closed, indicating that the teeth had been lost or removed during the life-time of the individual. In the lower jaw, however, the arrangement of the teeth was quite different, as the only teeth present were the four incisors, two canines, and the first premolar of the right side ; the sockets for the other premolars and molars were closed, and the bone of the jaw presented the appearance of much ' wear '.

Another interesting feature of the skull, which occurs only in about 8 per cent. of Europeans, was the presence of the frontal or metopic suture. The occipital bone showed that its owner was right-handed.

Of the long bones the left femur was measured for oblique length and yielded 412 mm. and in maximum length 417 mm. ; its head had diameters of 47 and 47 mm. Measured for platymeria of the upper third of the shaft an index of 72 was obtained. The right femur gave an oblique length of 407 and a maximum length of 412 mm. Its head measured 47 and 47·5 mm., and at the upper third of the shaft a platymeric index of 75·8 was obtained. The stature of the individual was estimated at about 5 ft. 2 in.

The tibiæ were measured and the lengths were—left 340 mm., and right 335 mm. The platycnemic index of the left was 69·6, and that of the right 72·1. Each tibia showed indications of the squatting facet on its distal extremity.

Taking the measurements of the left femur and left tibia a femero-tibial index of 81 was obtained. The left humerus with a length of 307 mm. and the left radius with a length of 224 mm. gave a humero-radial index of 72·9. Both the femero-tibial index and the humero-radial index are very near the average for Europeans.

During the examination of the bones it was noticed that the left ulna had been broken, at about a third of the distance

from the distal extremity, and repaired during life. In addition it was found that considerable damage had, at some time during life, been suffered by the left wrist resulting in the locking of the proximal ends of metacarpals 2 and 3 in a solid mass with the scaphoid, lunar, trapezium, trapezoid, and os magnum.