

NOTES

Stone Cist found at Walton Park, Clevedon, in 1898

SINCE writing Footnote no. 3 in my paper on 'Glass Beads found in a Cist-burial at Clevedon' in *Proceedings*, lxxxviii, 73, more particulars have come to light with regard to the finding of a stone cist on the late H. C. A. Day's estate at Walton Park. They were published in the *Clevedon Mercury*, 29 October 1898. A newspaper cutting had been preserved in an old Guide to Clevedon (c. 1880), and this came into the hands of Dr. C. Visger, having previously belonged to the late S. G. C. Cossham, a Bristol solicitor, who lived for many years in Walton Park.

The discovery, it appears, was made on 22 October 1898 on the estate of H. C. A. Day, where, in a portion of the grounds, extensive planting of shrubs was being carried out. The cist was found in digging at a depth of 18 in. below the surface; it was only 4 ft. in length and consisted of five stones—two side and two end stones, with an irregular rounded top-stone about 5 ft. 3 in. in length, said to weigh upwards of a ton. The bottom was paved with flat irregular stones. The grave on being opened was found to be filled with fine soil which contained 'some stone arrow-heads and portions of a skeleton which was evidently above the average height probably six feet two or three inches'.

At the back of the newspaper cutting, from which the above information was taken, were notes in Mr. Cossham's handwriting. The skeleton was evidently contracted, and the skull in the eastern corner. The teeth were much worn down. Mr. Cossham speaks of a piece of worked flint, 'not an arrow-head, but in the shape of one'.

This burial may be of the early Bronze Age.

The *Clevedon Mercury* also mentioned a stone celt or axe (length 6 in.), polished and in a good state of preservation, found near the cist a few days previously. The celt was found by Edmund R. Brown of London who was superintending the planting operations. This implement is still in the posses-

sion of the Day family. (A full-size drawing of the axe is in the collections of the Society at Taunton Castle.)

This note should be read in conjunction with the Footnote no. 3 mentioned above.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The Architect of Yeovil Church

THE building of the Parish Church of Yeovil was begun about 1380 in the Rectorate of Robert de Samborne, Canon of Wells, who in his will devised the residue of his estate 'to the works of Yeovil Church begun by me'.¹ Who was his master-mason or architect? There had been a suggestion that the Church might have been designed by Henry de Yevele, the master-mason of Edward III, but an examination of the dates of de Yevele's various appointments had shown that it was hardly possible for him to have had anything to do with the Church of the town which has been accepted as the place of his birth about 1320.

Mr. John N. Harvey, of Little Bookham, Surrey (now working on a life of de Yevele) in some correspondence with the writer agreed that the Church was unlike de Yevele's work and nearer the style of William Wynford, master-mason at Wells Cathedral in 1365. He pointed out the similarity of certain constructional details in the Cathedral and Yeovil Church.

Later, after a study of a photograph of the Church, Mr. Harvey had no doubt at all that the architect was William Wynford, though he thought the very plain tracery in the large windows must be assigned to some local mason who was actually in charge of the work. The parapets, the proportions of the tower, the tower's stair-turret, the tracery of the tower windows, the south transept elevation and the masterly grasp of planning and composition all found their counterpart in Wynford's work.

There is ground for assuming that Rector and master-mason were known to each other. Robert de Samborne was Rector of Yeovil from 1362 till his death in 1382.² As Canon of

¹ *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xix, 287.

² *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxviii, 82.

Wells he was one of a succession of non-resident rectors and the greater part of his time was spent in Wells. On deciding to re-build Yeovil Church he would be likely to seek advice from the master-mason employed at Wells, and William Wynford was given the post of Master-mason (advisory) at Wells Cathedral in 1364-5. He had a fee of £2 a year, a house in Byestewall Street and 6*d.* a day when he should be at work.¹

Wynford, Mr. Harvey suggests, was far too busy on other work to be able to take full charge of the building of a parish Church so remote from his headquarters as Yeovil, and this may account for the magnificence of the general design and the plainness of the tower and tracery.

These details are useful additions to the published facts of the origin and building of Yeovil Church.

JOHN GOODCHILD.

¹ *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, Wells, i, 267.

Somerset Wills

ATTENTION should be drawn to Mr. A. L. Humphreys' article on this subject published in *Notes and Queries*, vol. 185, no. 11, 20 November 1943, pp. 303-8, which passes in review the large amount of work done by Somerset genealogists in making researches into testamentary records.

He not only mentions the separate work undertaken by various individuals, but also gives a short biographical note on them. The names of the chief researchers are the Rev. Frederick Brown, the Rev. Frederic William Weaver, Alfred James Monday, Thomas Serel, Lt.-Colonel Henry Ramsay Phipps, Edward Alexander Fry, George Samuel Fry, Charles Tite, and Arthur Lee Humphreys.

This useful article is concluded by a complete list, with full references, to all material on the subject of Somerset Wills which has been published up to the present time.

Tercentenary of John Pym

THE tercentenary of the death of John Pym was commemorated at Brymore in the parish of Cannington on Wednesday, 8 December 1943. Speeches were made by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Chairman of the Somerset County Council; Mr. Vivian-Neal, Chairman of the Council of the Somerset Archaeological Society; Mr. A. F. Luttrell, a direct descendant of John Pym,¹ Alderman C. H. Goodland, Mayor of Taunton, who placed on view the contemporary portrait of Pym lately bequeathed to the town by Alderman Long of Bath; Mr. H. St. George Gray, Secretary of the Somerset Archaeological Society; and others.

Brymore was held by the Pym family from the thirteenth century. The property was inherited from his father, Alexander Pym,² by the statesman, and remained in the possession of his descendants (latterly in the female line) until the death of Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Hales, bart., and widow of the first Earl of Radnor, in 1795.

John Pym appears to have taken little or no part in the affairs of his own county, but the influence of his life and opinions on the world at large has perhaps been greater than that of any other Somerset man. His conception of liberty has had a profound effect on the development of constitutional government, not only in England and the British Dominions, but wherever parliamentary institutions have been established. A continental historian has thus summed up Pym's position in history:—'He was one of those personalities who stand between the past, which they shatter for ever, and the future which generally, however, develops itself on lines different from those they have laid down.'³

¹ Philippa, daughter of John Pym, m. Thomas Simonds of Whittlesford, Cambs., and had issue a daughter, Lucy, m. 1655, Francis Luttrell, of Dunster.

² Philippa, wife of Alexander Pym and mother of John Pym, was daughter of Humphrey Coles of Barton, whose monument in Pitminster Church has been restored recently.

³ L. von Ranke.

Additions to the Lepidoptera of Somerset

THE Entomological Section of the Society has, unfortunately, fallen into what it is hoped is only a temporary abeyance. With the object of helping to keep a spark alight, the writer now records the capture in Somerset of three species of lepidoptera not previously noted in A. E. Hudd's list in the *Victoria County History*, nor by the late A. R. Hayward in his useful addenda, published in the Society's *Proceedings* for 1939 (Vol. lxxxv, 210-25).

Rhyacia simulans, Hufn. (Dotted Rustic).—One netted at Clevedon, 28 June 1943, in the writer's garden. It is interesting to note that a specimen was found at rest on the same day in Wiltshire, within a mile of the Somerset border, by Mr. E. Barton White, who has also taken one within the city boundary of Bristol 'some three miles from the Somerset border' (*Ent. Record*, lv, 92). This moth occurs in the Cotswold district of Gloucestershire, so it would almost appear that its range may be extending.

Cosmia pyralina, View. (Lunar-spotted Pinion).—Once, at Clevedon, on 2 August 1941, in the writer's garden (Redclyffe, Walton Park).

Ortholita umbrifera, Prout.—Until recently considered to be an aberration of *O. mucronata*, Scop. (Lead Belle) (South's *Moths of the British Isles*, revised edition).—The writer has ascertained, from specimens found included in his series of *mucronata*, captured in West Somerset, that this newly-differentiated species is not uncommon in the Minehead district, and is also present near Castle Neroche. It flies about one month earlier than *mucronata*, as the writer's records of the appearances of the two species in Somerset bear out: *O. umbrifera*, 16 May-10 June; *O. mucronata*, 16 June-15 July. It will most certainly be found to occur elsewhere in the County; therefore collectors should carefully examine their specimens of *mucronata*.

J. F. BIRD.

Observances of Lepidoptera

THE entomologist W. S. Coleman states that the Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*) seldom appears before July. Prebendary Gedge, however, in 1941, had one under observation at Cothelstone Vicarage soon after the middle of June.

In 1940 the writer saw two specimens on 30 June in the garden of Stoford House, West Buckland, and in the same year one in the garden at Taunton Castle on 7 July, and another on 16 August.

In 1941 he observed a specimen at Taunton Castle on 21 August, and another on 30 August. None appeared in 1942, but one specimen was seen in the garden on 2 September 1943 at 10.45 a.m. (summer time).

The Comma has frequently been seen in Taunton Castle garden of late years, but previously to about the year 1938 the writer had never seen any in the town. On one occasion he saw two specimens settled together—in fine condition. In 1940 he observed single specimens on 22 July and 21 September, and on 21 July he took a specimen for the Museum cabinets.

On the 9 October 1943 and for a week following one large bunch of Michaelmas Daisies, close to the millstream, Taunton Castle, was adorned by a Comma, four Red Admirals and four Tortoiseshells.

One of these Red Admirals was still with us as late as October 24, and a single Tortoiseshell was observed on 28 October.

At Fiddington the writer saw a Peacock on the wing on 26 October 1943.

It is perhaps worth recording that, although in the early years of the century, the Humming Bird Moth was fairly common at Taunton Castle, the writer had not seen a specimen in the garden for several years until a single specimen appeared on 14 June 1943 on Pinks at 9.45 a.m. (double summer time).

From two to three dozen specimens of the Tiger Moth emerged from chrysalides in a poultry-house on the Lambrook estate, Taunton, in the third and last weeks of July 1942. Of late years the writer has rarely seen a Tiger Moth in the Taunton neighbourhood.

On 3 July 1943, Mr. C. G. Chenevix-Trench saw 'quite a dozen specimens of the White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*) in a wood less than five miles from West Lydford, Somerset. He hopes to make a fuller report on this new record for the county.

H. ST GEORGE GRAY.