

## Obituary

WILLIAM WYNDHAM, B.A., F.S.A.

(With Portrait, Plate XIII)

ALTHOUGH Mr. Wyndham was not what is generally called a public man, he was well known for his achievements in spreading knowledge and culture among young people and for bringing the history and archæology of Somerset to the schools of the West Country—subjects he frequently discussed with the undersigned and his wife.

If competence won him respect it was his lofty character, complete fairness and charming disposition which brought him friendship from those who best understood him. He was a man of very simple tastes, and in some ways of almost Spartan habits, and throughout his life he had a horror of the extravagances that are sometimes attendant upon social display. This was one cause of his shyness and reserve, especially in later years.

William Wyndham was born at Dinton on 9 October 1868, and was educated at Elstree, Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was the son of William Wyndham of Dinton House and Orchard Wyndham, who was the sixth William to own the property, and his mother was Frances Ann (died 1934), daughter of the Rev. James Charles Stafford, vicar of Dinton. Mr. Wyndham sold Dinton in 1916, and moved to Orchard Wyndham, a house of which he was very fond all his life.

Our benefactor died at Orchard Wyndham on 6 August 1950 in his eighty-second year, and his cremated remains were deposited in the north chapel of St. Decuman's Church, Watchet, after the memorial service and committal on 10 August.

Mr. Wyndham was one of the representatives of the ancient family of Wadham of Merifield,<sup>1</sup> and at one time was the owner of the site of Merifield manor-house, until he sold his property at Ilton.<sup>2</sup> Further particulars may be gleaned from Mr. Wyndham's paper on 'The Wadhams and Merifield'.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Merifield is in the parish of Ashill near the Ilton boundary.

<sup>2</sup> The ownership of the greater part of Ilton and the neighbouring parishes and the lordship of the manors were successively in the hands of the early Saxon kings and then of the Abbey of Athelney until the Dissolution, and after that went to the Wadhams and their heirs.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxx (1934), 1-10. Those wishing to dip deeper into the family history of the Wyndhams should read the following interesting books by the Hon. H. A. Wyndham: *The Wyndhams of Norfolk and Somerset, 1410-1688* (issued 1939); and *The Wyndhams of Somerset, Sussex and Wiltshire, 1688-1837* (issued 1950).



WILLIAM WYNDHAM.

Mr. Wyndham was lord of the manor of Watchet and Williton, and also of several other manors in Somerset, Wiltshire and Devonshire, in many of which he owned land most of his life.

Having sold some of his outlying property during and shortly after the first World War, Mr. Wyndham found the means, without spending the capital moneys of the estate, to carry out his educational and charitable schemes, the largest being for Chard School, where he did much for the buildings and their extension, and established an endowment fund to provide two additional assistant-masters (at a total cost of £29,000). Both Salisbury and Taunton Castle Museums benefited enormously. For Taunton he built a lecture hall (with equipment), the Museum extension known as the Wyndham Galleries (opened when the donor was President of the Wellington Meeting in 1934),<sup>1</sup> new offices and workroom with another museum gallery above them, and purchased the adjacent Tone lands to preserve the amenities of the Castle.

The late Frank Stevens in his brochure on Salisbury Museum (1947) particularly mentioned that 'Mr. Wyndham brought to the Museum not only much needed financial assistance, but also progressive ideas'. In 1927 and 1929 he paid for the building of two new galleries, and in 1933 he built another gallery to join the main museum with the old Blackmore department. He also endowed the Wyndham Lecture Trust for Secondary Schools in Salisbury.

Mr. Wyndham's benefactions for Schools, however, extended much further, for he established and endowed Lecture Trusts (either for Primary or Secondary Schools, or both) at Taunton, Yeovil, Wells, Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare and Ilminster. At Wells Mr. Wyndham also did much for the proper establishment of the Museum which Mr. H. E. Balch had brought together and housed in the West Cloister of Wells Cathedral. Mr. Wyndham became interested and purchased the present museum premises at Wells which formerly were a private school situated in Cathedral Green between the Deanery and the Library of the Theological College. He also provided students' museums at the Yeovil and Weston-super-Mare Schools.

Space forbids our listing Mr. Wyndham's other generous benefactions to Taunton and other hospitals, churches including organ funds (notably to St. Decuman's at Watchet), and museum funds for the purchase of specimens; he also gave a considerable sum to the fund to acquire land to prevent building encroachments round Stonehenge.

Mr. Wyndham was President of the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1931 (Minehead Meeting), when he gave an address on 'School Museums'.<sup>2</sup> He was elected an Hon. Life Member of the

<sup>1</sup> These galleries were opened on 3 October 1934, on which occasion the speakers were Sir Frederick Kenyon, Dr. (now Sir Cyril) Fox, Sir Matthew Nathan and Mr. St. George Gray.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxvii, ii, 1-6.

Society in 1926, and was a Vice-President from 1932 until his death.

Between Williton and Watchet Mr. Wyndham owned an interesting archæological site known as 'Battlegore', which was excavated by the undersigned.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Wyndham will always be remembered for his benefactions, erudition and sterling worth, together with the warm humanity which characterized all his actions. He was a man who was deeply aware, all his life, of the educational needs and of the responsibilities of the new democracy.

He rendered a great service to education and to museums, and left a memorial worthy of a great name.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

### BERNARD WILLIAM TUCKER

The death of Bernard Tucker, which took place at Oxford on 19 December 1950, is a sad blow indeed for those working on the study of the birds of Somerset in particular, and to a very large circle of ornithologists in general. His influence in both these spheres was so great that his loss is wellnigh irreplaceable.

Bernard Tucker was born on 22 January 1901, at Chewton Mendip, Somerset.

He was educated from about 1910-14 at Lambrook School, Berkshire. One who was a boy with him at this school has informed the writer that he 'certainly remembers very well that from the first he had a passion for frogs, toads, birds, etc., and that while he was still a boy there, he lectured the School on that and kindred subjects'. 'I fear I was one of those horrid little boys who did not like organized games', he once said to the writer of this memoir. Although ornithology ultimately became his first love, his passion for reptiles never left him, and many must well remember his study in his home at Oxford, adorned with glass tanks and cases full of those creatures, while in his garden were frames enclosing snakes and many other creeping things.

After being educated at Harrow, Bernard Tucker proceeded to Oxford, where he was a 'demy' (i.e. scholar) of Magdalen College (1919-23) and obtained first-class honours in Zoology in 1923. He was then the Oxford Scholar to Naples (1924), Demonstrator in Zoology at Cambridge (1925-6), and after that a University Demonstrator and Lecturer at Oxford for the rest of his life. He had a research fellowship at Queen's College (1944-7) and was made Reader in Ornithology in 1946.

Bernard Tucker was for many years President of the Oxford Ornithological Society and played a prominent part in putting the British Trust for Ornithology on sure foundations. He joined the British Ornithologists' Union in 1922, was on the Committee

<sup>1</sup> *ibid.*, 7-36.

(1933-6) and was vice-president (1947-9). He joined the Zoological Society of London in 1921 and was a council member (1924-37). His greatest ornithological achievements were : (1) The large part he played in the authorship of *The Handbook of British Birds*, a standard work for many years to come and (2) his editorship of *British Birds* from 1944, in succession to the late H. F. Witherby.

What were his special contributions to Somerset ornithology? His initial effort, begun when still a schoolboy, seems to have been his detailed list of 'The Birds of Chewton Mendip and District', the first part appearing in the 1918 issue of the *Report of the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society*, of which society he first became a member in 1917. Concluding parts appeared in the Reports for 1923 and 1924. Almost every line of this list shows evidence of the meticulous care with which he was always associated in later years. He joined the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1917, and shortly afterwards the Ornithological Section, of which section he was vice-president from 1931, until he was elected president in 1950.

His wide experience and unrivalled knowledge as a field-ornithologist, were invaluable assets in the compilation of the annual bird reports. Of careless observations, he was apt to be highly critical and outspoken, especially if such appeared in print, for extreme accuracy was his aim at all times. A work of his, the result of much labour and many miles of journeying, 'The Rookeries of Somerset', was published with three folding and coloured maps in *Proc. Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, lxxxi (1935), 149-240.

Had the enormous pressure of other work allowed it, he would probably have written a new edition of the *Birds of Somerset*. Somerset bird lovers are deeply grateful for all he has done to teach and encourage them. Often he and his wife would rise before dawn at Oxford, to ensure punctual arrival for a morning ornithological meeting in Taunton, and the meetings were always enriched by their presence.

F. L. BLATHWAYT.

#### SIR ARCHIBALD LANGMAN, Bart., C.M.G.

Sir Archibald Langman was a modest man, retiring and friendly, and one who made a point of looking after the interests of those with whom he was closely associated. Needless to say, therefore, he was much beloved and very popular.

Archibald Lawrence Langman, of North Cadbury Court, was the only son of Sir John L. Langman, 1st baronet, and was born on 2 September 1872; his death occurred on 9 December 1949. He served in the South African War with the Langman Field Hospital formed and sent out by his father; it was for this great service that Sir Archibald received the C.M.G. in 1902. In his earlier days

he became Major of the North Somerset Yeomanry, and married Eleanor Katherine, second daughter of the first Baron Lyell, who survives him.

Sir Archibald was an honorary associate of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, a deputy-lieutenant of Somerset and High Sheriff in 1938. He joined the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1910 as a life member, and served as president at the Sherborne Meeting in 1935, when he gave an address mainly on his Elizabethan house, which has portions remaining which date from c. 1417 (*Proceedings*, lxxxi, 20-4). The house was also described and illustrated by the late Avray Tipping in *Country Life*.

Agriculture was perhaps the subject in which Sir Archibald Langman was chiefly interested; he was president of Somerset National Milk Records. 'His breadth of vision and enthusiasm', says *The Home Farmer* (February 1950), 'were such that he early realized the importance of milk recording. He must have been justly proud to have witnessed the expansion that had resulted from his early pioneering efforts in 1914.'

He was president, at the time of his passing, of the Central Public House Trust Association for England, and soon after his arrival at the Court handed over the North Cadbury Inn to the P.R.H.A., so that it should be a well-conducted social centre of the village. Sir Archibald also took part in the work of the Somerset Rural Community Council, especially in connection with the village drama which he keenly supported and encouraged. He was also interested in emigration, and was on the committee of the British Dominions Emigration Society, and later their chairman for several years until his health failed.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.