

Ancient Monuments in Somerset

Scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Act, 1913.

AS the following is the first list of Scheduled Monuments to be published in these *Proceedings*, some explanation may be useful.

When the preservation of any Ancient Monument appears to the Commissioners of Works to be of national importance, it is scheduled under the Act for that purpose, passed in 1913. The owner is informed of this, and he is warned that if he proposes to "demolish or remove, in whole or in part, structurally alter, or make addition to" such monument, he must acquaint the Commissioners, and must not commence any work for a month after giving the notice. Non-compliance with these orders renders the owner liable to a fine not exceeding £100, or three months' imprisonment, or both.

Our members can assist in the preservation of the Ancient Monuments of the county by noting those that are scheduled in their immediate neighbourhood, and by informing the undersigned should they see that such monuments are being interfered with.

Suggestions as to other buildings, crosses, earthworks, stones, etc., that might be scheduled will be welcomed, but neither buildings inhabited as dwelling-houses, nor churches, can be placed upon the list.

ETHELBERT HORNE,

Chief Correspondent with the Office of Works.

The following are the Ancient Monuments scheduled in Somerset :

To October 31st, 1921.

1. Glastonbury Abbey.
2. Nunney Castle.
3. The Abbot's Fish House, Meare.
4. Farleigh Castle.
5. The Circles, Avenues, and Cove, Stanton Drew.
6. Long Barrow, Stoney Littleton.
7. Worlebury Camp.

To March 31st, 1925.

11. Bury Bridge, Dulverton.
12. Tithe Barn, Preston Plucknett.
15. Congresbury Cross.
18. Market Cross, Somerton.
19. Castle Neroche, Curland.
21. Market Cross, Cheddar.
22. Tithe Barn, Glastonbury.
23. Tithe Barn, Doulting.
24. Bishop's Tithe Barn, Wells.

To May 21st, 1925.

26. Cynwit Castle, Cannington.
27. Church House, Crowcombe.
28. Wick Barrow, Stogursey.
29. Packhorse Bridge, West Luccombe.
30. Horner Packhorse Bridge, Luccombe.
31. Cleeve Abbey, Old Cleeve.
32. Yarn Market, Dunster.
14. Tithe Barn, Pilton.
34. Torr Steps, Hawkridge.
36. Stone Circle, Withypool Hill.
37. Caratacus Stone, Spire Cross, Winsford.
39. Wedmore Village Cross.

Notes

THE DRAGON OF WESSEX.

THE heraldic figure of a dragon (its colour is wrongly hatched) which this Society has adopted as a device or emblem may, for geographical reasons, be assumed to represent the Dragon of Wessex rather than the Red Dragon of Wales. The latter gave its name to the office of Pursuivant of Arms created by Henry VII on his accession to the throne of England.

The traditional history of the Wessex Dragon appears to be no less legendary than that of its brother in Wales. It is said—and who would destroy so pleasing a myth or so faithful a dragon?—that the Wessex monster fought against the Norsemen on behalf of Cerdic, the supposed founder of the West Saxon kingdom, about A.D. 519. But even the person and identity of Cerdic himself seems to be a matter of doubt and controversy.

Then, leaving the purely fanciful and noting the partly historical in this connexion, we have the literary evidence of a mediaeval chronicle that the *draco aureus* was to be seen on the battle standards of the later West Saxon kings. And again, Richard I is reputed to have borne a dragon as a badge upon his banner, and there are some who maintain that it represented the West Saxon variety which had contended with the Norse invaders. That being so, our particular dragon may fairly be coloured golden or yellow, if we wish to exhibit the animal in its ancient guise. It may also be noted that the County Council of Somerset has adopted a similar device.

HENRY SYMONDS.

DISCOVERY OF HUMAN SKELETONS AT DOULTING,
SOMERSET.

IN digging shallow foundations for a small house at Doulting early in September 1925, an interesting series of human skeletons was discovered near the eastern border of the parish, and only 30 feet west of the West Cranmore parish boundary.

The eastern foundation-trench was dug on Saturday, September 5th, when the workmen, probably not at first identifying the bones, broke up five human skulls and the arm-bones and threw the fragments out with the earth and stones. The lower parts of the trunks and the leg-bones extending beyond the trench eastwards were left undisturbed. In the afternoon the most northerly of these skeletons (No. I of the table below) was partly uncovered by the Vicar of Doulting (the Rev. H. S. Darbyshire) and Mr. Charles E. Burnell of Charlton House, Shepton Mallet.

On the following morning (Sunday) Mr. Burnell motored to Taunton and fetched the writer of this note to obtain advice before continuing any further examination of the site. In the afternoon we were met by Mr. Darbyshire, the Vicar. There were also present, from Shepton Mallet, Police Inspector R. G. Leader, and Mr. A. W. Halsted.

In the presence of several villagers a general survey of the site was made, and the uncovering of Skeleton No. I completed; and arrangements made so that Messrs. Darbyshire and Burnell, etc., might uncover the trunks of the other skeletons on the following day. This was accordingly done, and the four additional skeletons, all extended and laid out in parallel order, were cleared and photographed.

These five skeletons were buried at an average depth of one foot below the surface, with heads to west. No trace of pottery or other objects were discovered; in fact there were no remains associated with the skeletons.¹

The distance from the feet of Skeleton No. I (that is the most northerly of the five in line) to the s.e. corner of the field was

1. Mr. Halsted picked up two flint flakes in the shallow trenches near the skeletons; and a few others were picked up in the soil later.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS. DOULTING SKELETONS.

No. OF SKELETON, ETC.	FEMUR. LENGTH. (MILLIMETRES).	TIBIA.				ESTIMATED STATURE. FEMUR + TIBIA.
		LENGTH.	ANTERO-POSTERIOR DIAMETER.	TRANSVERSE DIAMETER OF SHAFT.	LATITUDINAL INDEX.	
I.	{ Right	495†	w	w	w	} 5' 8.89"
	{ Left	495†	400†	34	22	
II.	{ Right	555	w	33	28	} 6' 2.39"
	{ Left	551	463	34	28	
III.	{ Right	w	381*	29	25	} 5' 7.13"
	{ Left	475	w	w	w	
IV.	{ Right	527	463	36	29	} 6' 1.45"
	{ Left	537	464	37	29	
V.	{ Right	w	w	35	21.5	} 5' 10.12"
	{ Left	507	415	33	21.5	
AVERAGE STATURE ..						5' 10.8"

* Approximate.

w = wanting.

† Measured with millimetre tape on the ground at place of burial.

‡ Skeletons I and V show marked Platycnemism.

Notes

146 feet, and from the same point to the hedge (West Cranmore parish boundary) 30 feet.

There was another skeleton (No. VI) a few feet to the west, but not in line with the five burials already described. The long-bones of No. VI were not preserved.

I measured the leg-bones of Skeleton No. I on the ground; and the corresponding bones of Skeletons Nos. II to V were sent to me for examination soon after the interments had been uncovered.

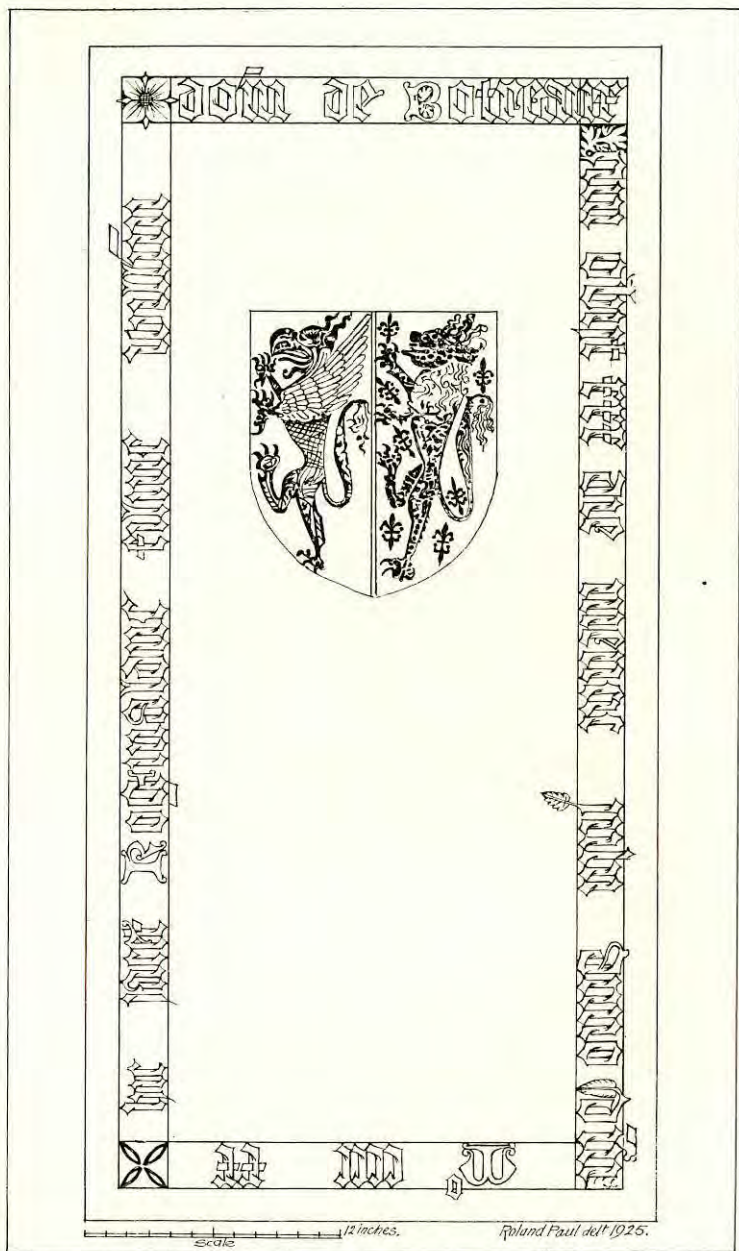
I reported the discovery to Professor Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., of the Royal College of Surgeons, and he is under the impression that these rather tall powerful men are of early medieval date.

From the table of measurements on p. 115 it will be seen that according to the most up-to-date formulæ for calculation,—those of Professor Karl Pearson, F.R.S.,—the tallest man was 6ft. 2½ins., and the shortest 5ft. 7ins., the average stature of the five being 5ft. 10¾ins.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

EXCAVATIONS AT CHELM'S COMBE, CHEDDAR.

ATTENTION was called to this cliff shelter by Mr. H. E. Balch, F.S.A., early in 1925. The owners were on the point of leasing the valley for quarrying purposes, so a Cheddar 'group' during the light summer evenings devoted time to preliminary investigation of surface debris. The lease was granted about July last, but with great consideration the owner, Miss Ford, of Castle Farm, reserved the cliff shelter site. Preliminary examination pointed to the desirability of engaging expert labour and Wm. Young was suggested. He came to Cheddar on December 1st and started work the next day. Since then excavation has gone on continuously, supplemented by voluntary work given by amateurs from Cheddar, Wells and Winscombe.



ALLER CHURCH, SOMERSET
Incised slab to Reginald Botreaux

INCISED SLAB, ALLER CHURCH.

THE slab or gravestone, Plate XVII, has been for many years built into the north wall of the chancel of Aller Church, and it is at present partially hidden by the choir stalls. It is interesting both for the beauty and boldness of its incised lettering and heraldry, and as being a memorial of a member of the Botreaux family of whom but little if anything appears to be known. The only Reginald Botreaux mentioned by Collinson (*Hist. Som.*, II, 66-67) is of too early a date. The stone is 4ft. 9ins. in length and about 2ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. in breadth; its thickness is probably about 5ins. : at present it projects at the top 3ins. from the face of the chancel wall. In the centre is a shield charged with the arms of Botreaux (*arg. a griffin segreant gu. armed az.*) impaling those of Beaumont (*az. semeé de lys and a lion rampant or*). Set between two marginal lines 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. apart is an inscription in "ribbon" lettering with effective capitals and interesting treatment of some of the lower-case letters. The inscription, fortunately perfect, reads :

HIC JACET ROGINALDUS FILIUS WILLMI DONI DE BOTREAUX
QUI OBIIT XXX DIE MENSIS JULII ANNO DNI M^oCCCCXX.

From the heraldry on the shield it appears that Reginald Botreaux married a Beaumont heiress, but I have failed to find a record of any marriage between these two families before this date, although at a later date the last Lord Botreaux (who died 2 Edward IV) married Elizabeth, daughter of John Lord Beaumont. The well-known seal of Margaret their daughter and heir, married to Sir Robt. Hungerford, has two banners : one Hungerford impaling Botreaux and the other Botreaux impaling Beaumont, as on the Aller slab.

ROLAND PAUL.

THE DAUBENEY TOMB IN JERUSALEM.

IN the *Times* of December 23rd, 1925, there was a picture of Philip Daubeneý's tombstone in process of removal—anyone seeking them can just discern the Daubeneý fusils. On February 2nd, 1926, it was shewn in its new place, 18 inches s., and lowered to allow of a protective iron grille (seen against the wall), which will be level with the courtyard. In the same issue was an article by Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, giving the reason for the removal, and recording that they found and left undisturbed the bones of the pilgrim. He had gone out as a crusader, but finding that peace had been made returned to serve again his king, Henry III. Later he went out as a pilgrim.

We were told in 1874 that what covered and preserved the tombstone until 1867 was steps. Now it is said to have been a *mastaba* or stone bench. If so it was as high as a man's shoulder : see the photograph in Archer's *Crusade of Richard I*, page 319. The *Times* has a misprint in the inscription, "Aubingni" for "Aubinedi." The article repeats the mistakes of *Quarterly Statement Palestine Explor. Fund* 1874, which were corrected in *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, 1897, v. 241.

In 1874 Philip Daubeneý was thought of as a French knight, in 1925 as the Governor of the Channel Islands. But his custody of the Isles was only one of manifold services to this realm, by sea and by land, in court and in camp. We shall remember him as lord of Barrington, South Petherton, and other Somerset manors. And it is ever to be remembered that his is the only known unrifled crusader tomb in Jerusalem, and that it is at the very threshold of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as we Westerns say, or of the Resurrection as the Easterns name it.

J. HAMLET.