

Obituary

THOMAS BRUCE DILKS

THREE weeks before his eighty-fourth birthday the death occurred, suddenly, on 7 February 1949, at his home, Eastgate, Bridgwater, of Thomas Bruce Dilks, B.A., F.R.HIST.S., the well-known Bridgwater historian and archivist.

A native of Penrith and son of a Wesleyan minister, Mr. Dilks came to Bridgwater at the age of twenty, and was a teacher at Mrs. Alexander's private school in Friar Street. Later he taught at Queen's College, Taunton, and Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, Glos. Owing to a breakdown in health he relinquished the scholastic profession. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and founder of the Oldmixon Club, Bridgwater, which met at his house.

A widower since 1923, Mr. Dilks is survived by two sons and a daughter, the latter, Mrs. M. Granville Brown, a member of the Town Council and the Borough Bench of Magistrates. Mr. Dilks' ashes were deposited in the Garden of Rest, St. Mary's Churchyard.

Mr. Dilks was best known as an historian, having devoted the greater part of his time for many years to research into the archives of Bridgwater. He was much interested in the work of the English Place-Name Society, of which at one time he was the county organizer. Dilks was also a writer of verse, and a published collection was favourably reviewed in *The Times Literary Supplement*. He was a keen chess player and a member of the Bridgwater Chess Club, which held matches at his home.

It was always a pleasure to call on Dilks to find him working on and transcribing some ancient document relating to Bridgwater. He was unable to leave his home at all of late years, but many friends and admirers of his scholarly work called on him, not only to keep him in touch with the outside world especially as concerned local history and archæology, but also to show their deep appreciation and recognition of his great powers in research with a limited library at his disposal. However, the Somerset Archæological Society was able to supply him with reference books which would otherwise have been unprocurable in the county. He was generous in the knowledge he conveyed to others, which induced his friends to assist him in such ways as were in their power. Dilks' modesty, genial manners and industry will long be remembered.

For the Somerset Archæological Society Dilks wrote the following papers :—

Vol. LXIII (1917), 'The Burgesses of Bridgwater in the Thirteenth Century'.

Vol. LXVI (1920), 'Bridgwater Wills, 1310-1497'.

Vol. LXXIII (1927), 'Bridgwater and the Insurrection of 1381'.
 Vol. LXXXVI (1940), 'Bridgwater Castle and Demesne towards the end of the Fourteenth Century'.

Vol. LXXXIX (1943), 'A Lottery in Jacobean Bridgwater'.

Dilks' contributions to the Somerset Record Society were:—

Vol. XLVIII for 1933, 'Bridgwater Borough Archives, 1200-1377'.

Vol. LIII for 1938, " " " 1377-1399'.

Vol. LVIII for 1943, " " " 1400-1445'.

Vol. LX for 1945, " " " 1445-1468'.

Vol. LVII for 1942, in *Collectanea III*, 'A Calendar of Brymore and Steyn-
 ing MSS'.

For the 'History Teachers' Miscellany', 1925, he wrote:—

'Medieval Bridgwater', in Vol. III, nos. 7-10.

For 'Bridgwater Booklets' he compiled:—

'Pilgrims in Old Bridgwater' (1920), Booklet no. 1.

'Bridgwater in Brief' (1927), Booklet no. 2.

'Charles James Fox and the Borough of Bridgwater' (1937), Booklet
 no. 6.

Dilks also wrote the 'Bridgwater Charter-Day' song (music by M. Shaw)
 in 1926; and with the Rev. H. Eardley Field he produced 'The Parish of
 S. John Baptist, Bridgwater, 1846-1946', to mark that church's centenary.

H. S. GEORGE GRAY.

ARTHUR EDGELL EASTWOOD

(1859-1949)

Arthur Edgell Eastwood, who died on 10 October 1949 in his
 ninetieth year, came to Somerset and took up residence at Leigh
 Court, Angersleigh, in May 1901; he became a member of the Society
 the same year and was elected to the Council in 1904. From that
 date, until he was no longer able to attend the Society's meetings,
 he took a great interest in all its activities, but particularly in its
 financial affairs, and he became one of the Trustees in the year 1911.
 It was due to him that the form of accounts, as now presented in
 the Annual Reports, first took shape in 1915.

Arthur Eastwood was greatly loved by those friends who knew
 him best; he was most meticulous in carrying out what he conceived
 to be his duty and he set himself a very high standard. As squire
 of Angersleigh he took the best possible interest in the welfare of
 those amongst whom he lived, watching over the village boys and
 following their activities into their manhood in such a way as led
 them to regard him as a real and lasting friend.

It may be said that his greatest interest was in the affairs of the
 Church. He was one of the first members of the Church Assembly
 and played a leading part in establishing the Central and Diocesan
 Boards of Finance. His other interests included the Somerset
 Association for the Blind, of which he was president, and during
 the 1939-45 War he accommodated at Leigh Court some sixty

blind persons evacuated from Plymouth following the air raids. As a member of the Standing Joint Committee and of the Taunton County bench of magistrates as well as a very active member of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital Committee, he endeared himself to those associated with him. His life was full of good works ; he wasted no time and his example was one for which his many friends are thankful.

A. C. M.