

## THE SOMERSET RECORD OFFICE

### I. MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

JULY 1965 — JUNE 1966

#### FAMILY AND ESTATE:

SLADE OF MAUNSEL: deeds of Maunsel, etc., in St. Michael Church and North Petherton, *c.* 1250-1570; deeds, survey, rental, etc., relating to the manor of Maunsel, 1702-1772, 1875, and an abstract of title reciting from 1631; deeds of North Petherton, 1598-1904, including the manor, borough and hundred of North Petherton, 1659-1768, and of the site of the dissolved monastery of Athelney and Athelney Farm in Lyng, 1664-1791, with transcript and translation of letters patent, 1544; leases of properties held of the manors of North Petherton, Maunsel, etc., 1681-1861; probate inventory of Wm. Catford of Boomer in North Petherton, 1644; court papers of the hundred of North Petherton, 1759-1779; rentals of the manor of North Petherton and its members, 1637 (with other manors of the Bluett co-heiresses) and 1725; abstracts, leases, survey, etc., relating to the Hammoon (co. Dorset) Estate, 1796-1870; household and estate vouchers, 1820-1855.

SPEKE OF JORDANS: deeds of Ashill, Broadway, Ilminster, etc., 1685-1893; Speke settlements relating to the manor of Curry Rivel, etc., 1821-1878.

HARINGTON OF KELSTON: deeds, etc., of Kelston, including the manor and advowson, 1547-1753, St. Catherine, 1594-1698, and the rectories of Corston and Weston (by Bath), 1563-1699; vol. of copy leases, etc., of Corston manor, 1507-1589, with copy survey, *post* 1540; survey of the manor of Kelston, *c.* 1700, and extent of the manor of Kelston and rectory of Weston, *c.* 1616; litigation papers relating to the Kelston estate, 1746-1755; wills, settlements and executors' accounts of Harington and related families, 1654-1777.

RECORDS OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS (*Additional deposit*): records, mainly leases, of Wells Prebendary Estates: Litton, 1705-1843, including survey, 1837, and rentals, 1775-1831; Wanstrow, court book, 1622-1681, with copy will and inventory of John Messiter, 1681. Sub-Deanery Estates: Wookey, leases, 1790-1882. Deanery Estates: Chard and Wellington, draft court rolls, 1661-1699.

WELLS MUSEUM COLLECTION: deeds, etc., of Ashwick, 1571-1732 (Norman family), Ashwick, Cheddar and Rodney Stoke, 1730-1833, Wells, 1637-1856, Uphill, 1711-1819, Westbury, 1748-1855, Wookey and Wedmore, 1699-1862, North Wootton, 1705-1858 (Cock family); family papers, including wills, settlements, etc., for Lax and Nash families of Wells, 1718-1842; business articles and bankruptcy documents, 1770-1851, including documents relating to the Wells Bank of Payne and Hope, 1809-1831; rental of the manor of Wellington, 1663; reeve's accounts for the manor of Newton Placey in North Petherton, 1281-2, 1360-1, and proceedings relating to title to the hundred of Exton and the third share in the manors of Exton

and Newton Placey, the advowson of Hawkridge and the free chapel of Newton Placey, 1437-8; Wells communal's accounts (incomplete) c. 1550; printed posters, etc., relating to Wells election, 1780.

DEEDS, ETC.: Cheddon Fitzpaine and Taunton, 1689-1845, and Ashton-under-Lyne (co. Lancs.), 1689-1902 (Warre family); Compton Martin, 1791-1964; Ditcheat, 1698-1859; the Walford House estate in West Monkton and Creech St. Michael, 1745-1842; Hutton, 1831-1900, with abstract of title (including manor of Hutton) reciting from 1730; Taunton, 1699-1899; deeds, wills, settlements, etc., of the Wall and (related) Taverner families of Wedmore and Bridgwater, 1707-1905; survey of the manor of John Prowse in Wells, 1684; map of Mendip showing Mining Liberties, not dated, 17th cent.

PARISH: Butcombe: churchwardens' rates, 1840-1865. Charlinch: waywardens' accounts, 1770-1837. East Cranmore: registers, 1783-1955; chapelwardens' accounts, 1732-1908; overseers' accounts, 1725-1848; surveyors' accounts, 1786-1845. West Cranmore: registers, 1562-1937. Doultling: registers, 1634-1912; overseers' accounts, 1777-1789. Downhead: registers, 1695-1836. Haselbury Plucknet: registers, 1672-1956. Milverton<sup>1</sup>: registers, 1538-1925; churchwardens' accounts, 1797-1853; vestry minutes, 1839-1887; overseers' accounts, with rates, 1733-1788. North Perrott<sup>1</sup>: registers, 1648-1937; churchwardens' accounts, 1704-1941; overseers' accounts, with rates, 1680-1862. Stoke St. Gregory: vestry minutes, 1774-1822, 1834-1856; select vestry minutes and accounts, 1821-1825; churchwardens' accounts and rates, 1742-1813, 1831-1853; overseers' accounts and rates, 1704-1744, 1756-1827; tithe map and award, 1840. Swell: overseers' accounts, 1830-1850; Templecombe: churchwardens' accounts, with rates, 1665-1701; overseers' accounts, with rates, 1677-1774; surveyors' accounts, 1768-1816. Wells St. Cuthbert: registers, 1609-1963; churchwardens' accounts, 1649-1939; inventories of church goods, plate, etc., 1649-1703; churchwardens' rates (In and Out parishes), 1675-1700, 1808-1835; churchwardens' rates (In parish), 1844-1868; pew registers, c. 1760-1878; papers relating to the Southover and Launcherley Missions and to the church of St. Mary, Wookey Hole, 1865-1935; vestry minutes (In parish), 1732-1814; vestry minutes (Out parish), 1758-1864 (including Select Vestry minutes, 1831-1836); Select Vestry minutes (In parish), 1820-1836; overseers' accounts (In parish), 1698-1751, 1763-1836, with rates to 1751; overseers' accounts (Out parish), 1671-1813, with rates to 1745; numerous settlement, bastardy and apprenticeship papers (In and Out parishes) 1664-1858; records of Henry Llewellyn's (almshouses) charity, including leases, surveys, etc., relating to estates in Wedmore, 1652-1906, accounts and minutes (supplemented in both cases by drafts), 1705-1914, and many bundles of

<sup>1</sup> Previous deposit included.

papers relating to both the management of estates and the administration of the charity, largely from *c.* 1840; minutes, deeds, accounts, etc., relating to numerous other charities in Wells, from 1621 (mainly 19th century); minutes, accounts, Inspectors' reports, etc., relating to the Wells Central (National) Schools, 1812-1916. North Wootton (*additional deposit*): register of burials, 1813-1966; glebe terrier, 1834; school managers' minutes, 1848-1962.

OFFICIAL: log books, etc., of schools (now closed) in Babcary, Beer Crocombe, Biddisham, S. Brewham, Corfe, Godney, Paulton, Puckington, Street, Whatley and Wraxall, from 1861; minutes of Chew Magna School Board, from 1874, and Chipstable, from 1893; minutes of Teachers' Classes Sub-Committee, 1891-1896; plans of alterations or extensions to 150 schools, 1841-1902.

A further transfer of copy wills from the Estate Duty Office, 1830-1835.

Ilminster Turnpike Trust records: order book, 1824-1828; accounts 1781-1820; surveyors' returns as to state of roads and bridges, 1815-1823.

Wells Turnpike Trust records: Acts of Parliament, 1753-1875; minute and order books, 1753-1884; accounts of treasurer, surveyor and clerk, 1753-1884; leases of tolls, 1801-1880; papers relating to road works, bridge repairs, tolls, toll houses and gates, etc., 1778-1883; plans, 1803-1852; records of the Trustees as Paving, Cleansing, and Lighting Commissioners in Wells under the 1821 Act, including minutes, accounts and papers, 1821-1860.

Photocopies of enclosure maps and awards for Rodden, 1820, and Badgworth, 1831, 1875.

MISCELLANEOUS: minutes of Taunton Village Evangelists' Society, from 1853; minutes of Mid-Somerset Clerical Association, from 1917; photocopies of a return of 464 dissenting meeting houses in the Archdeaconry of Taunton, 1792-1852; records of Brittain's Charity, Wells, including foundation deed, 1704, appointments of new trustees, 1727-1864, accounts, 1718-1839, and apprenticeship indentures, 1725-1789, 1844-1879; photocopies from the Wase School Collection in the Bodleian Library relating to Bruton, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Martock, Wells and Taunton schools, 1673-1675.

## II. SUMMARIES OF CATALOGUES OF MS. HOLDINGS

These summaries are intended to give more detail of MS. holdings for which catalogues exist in the Somerset Record Office

### PARSONS MSS.

Several generations of the family of Parsons were land agents or manorial stewards in the last century and this small, but interesting,

collection consists of records presumably accumulated by them in the course of their business. This is certainly true of the records of the administration of Portman estates and may be true of the records of the Donn family. The parish records all come from parishes where the Berkeley Portman family was the chief landowner. Several members of the Donn family were glovers in the 18th century and there are a few welcome survivals relating to this activity, welcome because of the general scarcity of such material in the Record Office.

*Donn family:* deeds, etc., of Yeovil, 1651-1805, and Odcombe, 1641-1848; personal papers of the Donn family of Odcombe, 1824-1877, including expenses at St. John's College, Cambridge, 1828-30, and a journal of a visit to the Low Countries and Germany, 1838; personal papers of the Donn family of Yeovil, 1692-1809, including wills, correspondence and references to their interests in the glove trade; accounts, books of orders and a letter book relating to business as glovers in Yeovil and Exeter, 1752-1808.

*Administration of Portman estates:* surveys, valuation, etc., of East Chinnock, 1852-1855, Haselbury Plucknet, 1853, 1855, and Hardington Mandeville, 1846-1855; plans of Hestercombe House before and after alterations, 1873-1874, and specifications and accounts of work done, 1874-1877; maps of Catcott, 1771, Cossington, 1771, North Curry, 1773, Staple Fitzpaine, Bickenhall and Orchard Portman, all 1829; court book for the manor of East Chinnock, 1773-1856.

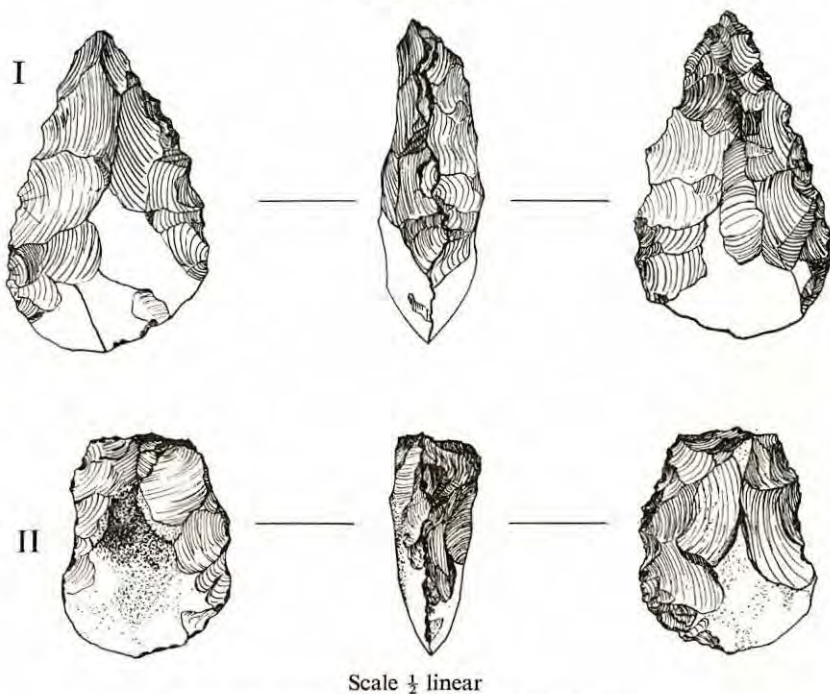
*Parish records:* Downhead: overseers' accounts, 1749-1819, with rates to 1802; Pylle: overseers' accounts, 1685-1794; surveyors' accounts, 1691-1766, with occasional rates to 1733; Closworth: overseers' accounts, with rates, 1804-1836.

*Other business records:* map of Muchelney, etc., 1768; register relating to liability to repair of banks, rhynes, etc., in Kingsbury Episcopi moors, 1762, and survey of Kingsbury Episcopi, 1850.

OSBORNE, WARD, VASSALL, ABBOT & CO. (SOLICITORS) OF BRISTOL:

Deeds, etc., of the Hazel Manor Estate in Ubley, Chewton Mendip and Compton Martin, 1773-1924. Deeds and papers relating to a rentcharge upon Twerton Mills, 1813-1891, including an abstract of title reciting from 1784 giving information on the changing user of the mills; large-scale plan of the mills, ?copy of 1811 plans. Deeds of Axbridge, Cheddar and Winscombe (Fry family), 1701-1856; Fry settlements, wills, etc., 1778-1873. Deeds of Meare and Glastonbury (Bath family), 1686-1855. Deeds of Mark and Wedmore (Batt family), 1711-1846. Deeds, settlements, executorship papers, etc., relating to the Kington family and Charlton House in Wraxall, 1740-1865. Deeds of Chewstoke, 1609-1717. Deeds of copper mills, etc., in Stanton Drew and Pensford, 1608-1825; litigation papers concerning a partnership dispute in the firm owning the above mills, but which principally worked at the White Rock copper works in Swansea, 1851-1853. Map of Spargrove in Batcombe, 1796.

## NOTES



### TWO UNUSUAL STONE IMPLEMENTS

The two polished axeheads illustrated above are, in the writer's opinion, sufficiently unusual to be worth recording.

I. This is in the Selley Collection in Bristol City Museum (F 1341). Selley's diary, which is also housed there, records that it was given to him by a Mr. Brown on 5 Feb. 1925. Brown, who was a brother of Tom Brown, the chief gamekeeper on Sir Charles Miles's estate, told the writer some years later that he found it when digging a post-hole in the woods well down the northern slope of Walton Common Down (ST432742). It is made of flint and weighs just under  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. Its length has been slightly reduced by a second polishing, presumably after the cutting edge had been dulled by use. The patina is white.

II. This is also in the Selley Collection at Bristol City Museum (F 1693) and is described as having been found at Lulsgate Bottom, "near the Waterstone Cromlech"—the Burial Chamber marked on the O.S. maps (ST502642). The stone is light brown cretaceous chert, with incipient white patina. It weighs only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. but was apparently not a toy, since the cutting edge seems to have been damaged by use.

It is hard to imagine that these two axeheads could have been very effective tools, but both appear to have been re-worked after

becoming worn or damaged by prolonged usage — a practice that must have been normal in regions where local flint or chert was scarce or non-existent.

The writer's thanks are due to the Committee of Bristol City Museum for permission to illustrate Figs. I and II, and to Mr. Abd-el-Aziz-ben-Yahya from Kuala Lumpur Museum for drawing the implements.

C. M. SYKES.

#### BOOK NOTICES

R. L. Tongue, *Somerset Folklore*, edited by K. M. Briggs (The Folklore Society, 1965), 243 pp. Price 40/- (30/- to members of the Folklore Society).

This volume differs from its predecessors in the County Folklore series of the Folklore Society, issued between 1895 and 1912, in being mainly the fruits of the gleaning of folk traditions straight from the people by Miss Tongue over many years; whereas the other volumes were largely compilations from published sources. The book is divided into five parts: I (natural and inorganic objects, flora and fauna); II (witchcraft, magic, and the supernatural); III (superstitions and customs); IV (narratives and traditions); and V (songs and sayings). There are appendices on healing wells, tree beliefs, witch trials, phantom hearses and coaches, and wild hunts.

Although all this material is of interest to members of our Society, it is here fitting to take note of those sections which bear most directly on our Society's work. Part I includes (pp. 11-16) items on the folklore of the megalithic monuments of Stanton Drew; standing stones such as the Wimblestone (Shipham-on-Mendip); burial-chambers such as the Waterstone (Wrington); barrows including Robin Hood's Butts on the Blackdowns and Hangleley Cleeve barrows on Exmoor near the Devon border; and the Caratacus Stone on Winsford Hill. There are comprehensive sections on the folklore of trees and plants (pp. 26-34), leechcraft (pp. 34-44), and birds, beasts, reptiles, and insects (pp. 45-59). The chapter on supernatural creatures (pp. 93-131) is a mixed bag, ranging from references to the formation of the Cheddar Gorge (and Triscombe Stone!) by the Devil, to the activities of Pixies at the barrow on Wick Moor (Stogursey), known as the Pixies' Mound, excavated many years ago for this Society by the late H. St. George Gray. The chapter on saints and worthies (pp. 185-90) includes references to the Glastonbury Holy Thorn and the Snakes of St. Keyna at Keynsham.

It is remarkable how many of the traditions recorded in this book are attached to prehistoric and early historic monuments. Although material has been gathered from almost every part of the county, Miss Tongue appears to have done most of her collecting in West, South and Mid Somerset.

There is still a need for a companion volume embodying the material on Somerset folklore from published sources. L.V.G.

Leslie Grinsell, *Prehistoric Sites in the Mendip, South Cotswold and Bristol Region* (Bristol Archaeological Research Group, Field Guide No. 1, 1966) 32 pp. Price 3/6d.

This work is designed as a guide to the more noteworthy visible remains of the prehistoric period in the area bounded by the Stroud Valley on the north, the county boundary of Wiltshire (with occasional extensions) on the east, the southern fringe of Mendip and the Severn. Further field guides on the Roman, medieval and later monuments are promised in due course.

The present publication has five chapters dealing with Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites (mainly caves), Neolithic long barrows, the early ceremonial monuments (stone circles and henges), Bronze Age barrows and the Iron Age. Each chapter is prefaced by a general summary which is followed by short descriptions of the more important monuments of each class. The present location of objects found in the monuments is noted, but portable antiquities as such are not dealt with. Finally there is a list of local museums with prehistoric collections.

The descriptions are lucidly and succinctly written. The chapter dealing with the Iron Age monuments, which occupies nearly half of the text, brings out the great development and diversity of human settlement in this final 500 years before the Roman Conquest of the region. A short, but well chosen, bibliography and references to detailed reports under the individual sites encourage the interested reader to pursue further studies on the subject. The series should be of considerable value to the visitor to Bristol and its neighbourhood.

C.A.R.R.

L. Grinsell, P. Rahtz and A. Warhurst, *The Preparation of Archaeological Reports* (John Baker, London, 1966), 71 pp., 5 figures. Price 10/6d.

In 1962 a series of lectures on the preparation of archaeological reports was given at Bristol (under the auspices of the University's Department of Extra-Mural Studies) by the then chairman, excavations adviser and editor of the newly formed Bristol Archaeological Research Group. The lectures were aimed at catching enthusiastic amateur excavators and demonstrating to them that excavation without publication was little short of criminal; but at the same time such excavators were encouraged to meet their obligations by being shown how exactly to set about the forbidding task of presenting their results to the world. The substance of these lectures, first published by the Research Group as a duplicated booklet, has been further revised and is now issued in book form with the addition of five pages of line illustrations.

The book deals soundly and in detail with such matters as the placing of the report with an editor, the preparation of the typescript, the method of making drawings and the materials and equipment

required by the draughtsman, photography, the recording of evidence in the field, and the arrangement of the text and appendices. There is a section on 'non-excavational' reports and some useful notes on references, indexes, proofs and offprints, as well as on the relationship between contributor and editor. Great emphasis is laid throughout the book on the need for consistency in matters of detail and at every turn one finds laid down suggested standards of good practice, which should help all those concerned with archaeological publication towards the achievement of this difficult ideal.

The wide circulation which this guide should now enjoy is greatly to be welcomed.

R. K. Bluhm ed., *A North Somerset Miscellany* (Bath and Camerton Arch. Soc., 1966) 39 pp., 1 map. Price 3/6d.

This book brings together summaries of eleven lectures given at a conference on local history and archaeology held in Bath in March 1965. The director of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, Mr. W. J. Wedlake, gives a short account of that Society's activities between 1946 and 1966, and Mr. M. Kelly describes recent work by the Downside School Archaeological Society. There is also a varied and interesting collection of contributions from Prof. E. K. Tratman (Little Solsbury Hill Camp), Mr. J. W. Gardner (Excavations on Lansdown), Prof. B. W. Cunliffe (Excavations in Bath, 1963-65), Mr. P. J. Greening (St. Werburga's by Bath), Mr. P. Rahtz (Medieval Sites south of Bath), Mr. E. J. Mason (Keynsham Abbey), Dr. R. W. Dunning (Members of Parliament for Bath in the later Middle Ages), Mr. M. B. Owen (Post-medieval pottery from Bath), and Mr. J. E. Hancock (Air Photography and Archaeology).

H. E. L. Mellersh, *Archaeology: Science and Romance* (Wheaton of Exeter, 1966), 208 pp. Price 25/-.

A general survey of the development of archaeology in all its aspects, and intended primarily for the younger interested amateur, this book provides a most valuable introduction to an increasingly complex study.

Mr. Mellersh, who has a remarkable gift of clear exposition, traces the evolution of archaeology from its early days as a pastime for picnickers, through the first scientific workers into all the complications of modern techniques for which he offers clear, concise and interesting descriptions. The book, illustrated with numerous line drawings, includes a glossary and a short bibliography and is to be recommended strongly for all those who are anxious to take the first steps in archaeology.