

OBITUARY NOTICES

MAJOR GENERAL R. EVANS, C.B., M.C., D.L.

Major General Evans, whose death on October 22nd 1968 was reported in the last volume of these *Proceedings*, served his country with distinction during a long military career and on his retirement gave full and energetic service to the County of Somerset in a wide range of activities.

General Evans was a cavalry man 'of the old school' who had served with the 7th Hussars in India. In 1911 he was present at the Delhi Durbar when George V and Queen Mary visited India. He was awarded the M.C. during the campaign in Mesopotamia in the First World War. After service with the Royal Horse Guards he was appointed Commanding Officer of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in 1929. As Brigadier, Headquarters Western Command, India, he played a prominent part in relief work after the Quetta earthquake during the summer of 1935. With the change from horses to armoured fighting vehicles in 1937, he became Colonel of the Regiment and held that appointment until 1947. He was given command of the Armoured Division in France in 1940, but after Dunkirk his service was principally in England. In 1932 he became a Commander, Order of the Crown (Belgium), and was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1941.

His retirement in 1946 marked the beginning of more than twenty years of distinguished work in the County affairs of Somerset. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset from 1947, a Justice of the Peace from 1950, and High Sheriff in 1955-6. His work as a County Councillor and Alderman included service on many committees and led to his appointment as Chairman of the Staff Committee, the Standing Joint Committee and its successor the Somerset and Bath Police Authority, and the Reorganisation Committee. He was instrumental in the re-establishment of work on the Victoria County History of Somerset, and a member of the County Records Committee from 1952 until his death. In all this work he was remarkable for his keen intellectual grasp and his willingness to tackle involved problems with a rare blend of drive and tact.

He joined the Society in 1946, was elected to the Council and became Chairman in 1951, which office he held until 1958. When the Society undertook the re-organisation of the Museum in conjunction with the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, his personal interest and skilful leadership smoothed the way towards the completed scheme. Again, his work in the negotiation of the transfer of the Society's museum to the care of the County Council helped to remove a burden that was rapidly undermining the Society's financial stability. The final agreement owes much to his skill in protecting the interests of the Society whilst winning support from the County Council, and it has proved to be highly successful for both parties.

In electing him President in 1961 the Society was able to express its gratitude for, and appreciation of, all the valuable work he had done during some of the most difficult years of its history. His Presidential Address on the history of the Defence Forces of Somerset, printed in Vol. 105, added to his reputation as an historian. He had already demonstrated his considerable gifts in the history of his regiment published in 1951—*The Story of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards*. His clear and direct English style and his sympathy for, and understanding of, the past reflected his own personal qualities.

He enjoyed life and brought a sparkle of pleasure to all who knew him, even in the dull routine of committee work. Above all, he was a gifted leader who through the example of his own loyal service won support from all who worked with him. His death has been a grievous blow to the Society to which he had rendered such great service for twenty-two years.

F. C. VICKERY, M.INST.R.A.

With the passing of F. C. Vickery on September 14th 1969 at the age of 80, the Society has lost one of its oldest and most valued members, for he had been a member of the Society since the year 1932. Mr. Vickery served with the West Somerset Yeomanry in the 1914-18 war, and later after qualifying as a Member of the Institute of Registered Architects, he practised in Minehead as an architect. On the outbreak of the Second World War he moved to London and there supervised the building of air-raid shelters and served as a fire warden throughout the blitz. When the war was over he joined the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works as a surveyor. In this capacity he had full scope to use his talents, and he recorded historic buildings all over the Country, which included a survey of Cleeve Abbey in Somerset.

He was an authority on architecture, a talented draughtsman, had a deep interest in archaeology and heraldry, and was an expert wood carver, being an associate of The Somerset Guild of Craftsmen. With his wide knowledge he frequently helped the Society in answering queries on architecture and other matters. In December 1959 Mr. Vickery, who was then a widower, married Dorothy (née Roberts) the widow of Mr. A. G. Brown and daughter of Mr. F. W. Roberts, F.R.I.B.A. who was for many years a member of the Society and the architect of our Wyndham Hall.

No excursion of the Society was complete unless Mr. Vickery was present, and he was always in great demand by members when an authoritative opinion was required on an architectural problem. It was on the 1959 Three-Day Excursion that Mr. Vickery first met his future wife. They met at Stonehenge on Wednesday, September the 9th, which was a glorious summer day. After their marriage three months later they enjoyed nearly ten years of great happiness in their cottage at Washford surrounded by the many books and treasures which Mr. Vickery had collected over the years.

C.A.C.

W. A. WILSON, F.R.E.S.

W. A. Wilson, who joined the Society in 1948, was one of the enthusiasts who revived the Entomological Section in 1949, after it had been in abeyance for over ten years. He became Recorder for Coleoptera and continued to contribute records to the Society's *Proceedings* until 1965 in spite of increasing ill health in later years. From 1962 until 1967 he was one of the representatives of the Natural History Section on the Council of the Society.

Mr. Wilson's most notable contribution to Somerset Entomology was his *Coleoptera of Somerset*, published in 1958 by the Society with the help of a grant from the Royal Society. This was the first comprehensive list of coleoptera for the county

since that which Mr. L. Blathwayt made for the *Victoria County History* in 1906. Mr. Wilson increased the latter's 900 species to about 2,000 and continued after 1958 to contribute new records for a further eleven years.

Until his health deteriorated he attended field meetings regularly, and it was pleasant to observe the gleam in his eye when he spotted a well-decayed cow-pat. He gave generously of his time in identifying beetles for those who were not coleopterists, and he nearly always added to his identification interesting information regarding their habits and environment.

Mr. Wilson died at Minehead on 26th March 1968 at the age of 78. He generously bequeathed his collections and his entomological books to the Society and also a legacy of £1,000 to the Society for the purchase of exhibition cases in the Museum to illustrate the general aspects of entomology, thereby showing that in spite of his devotion to beetles he was no narrow specialist.

A.D.H.

I. I. JEFFRIES

We report with deep regret the death of Ian Jeffries, our editor since 1959, who died on the 27th November 1969. An obituary notice will appear in the next volume of these *Proceedings*.