BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From a map of Sussex by John Nordon, augmented by John Speede. a.1616 d.

Newsletter

MARCH, 1987 No. 5

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society, the Sussex Archaeological Trust, the South Eastern Federation of Sussex Museums and Art Galleries and the Federation of Sussex Local History Societies.

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Once again I am grateful to those who have contributed to the Newsletter, and once again I must stress that if there are errors in summaries of lectures, these must be attributed not to the speaker, but to the difficulties of notetaking, often in the dark, looking at slides in a hall where the acoustics may not have been entirely satisfactory. (Where no name is appended, the note has been supplied by the speaker).

Newsletter is, perhaps, not an apt title for this publication, for information about past talks and outings, the repairs to the Museum roof, while it is right that these should be reported, will not be 'news' to many, and there is little point in repeating here the substance of reports given at the A.G.M.

I must, however, make an exception by referring to the exhibition in the Abbey of the facsimile of the Bayeux Tapestry embroidered by the Ladies of Leek in 1886. The success of our contribution to the Domesday Anniversary celebrations has enabled us to purchase a new microphone and install new loudspeakers in Langton Hall.

But why did we commemorate Domesday? We can certainly regard it as a magnificent administrative achievement, and marvel that the survey was completed so speedily. There may have been precursors of Domesday in the Roman Census and in Roman and Carolingian Land Registers. Fiscal records may have been kept by the ducal administration in Normandy in the eleventh century, and certainly were in Sicily based on Muslim and perhaps Byzantine material. But if Domesday Book is not altogether without precedent, there are characteristics which set it apart from other surveys. "In 1844, a celebrated French scholar who had worked extensively on polyptychs (surveys) commented that, of all of them, 'the most wide-ranging and the most remarkable, if not the most ancient, is without doubt the description which William the Conqueror, king of England, had made of his kingdom'. The detail contained in Domesday Book, the coverage not merely of the royal estates but of all the land, the several different sets of questions - fiscal, feudal, tenurial and legal - which it answers, the systematic analysis of information there, the sense of administrative purpose and royal direction which it conveys have all combined to make it a unique record".*

Scholars can speculate on why it was made at that point in time, what it all means and the light it sheds on pre- and post-Conquest England. The rest of us can note familiar place names "Herewulf holds Netherfield from the Count". "Earl Harold held Whatlington". "Walter son of Lambert holds Sedlescombe from the Count, Leofsi held it from Countess Goda". But what are we to make of "It answered for one hide" or "In this hundred (Netherfield) Hugh holds a manor from the Count which Alnoth held before 1066; he could go wherever he would with it"? Although a recent article in 'Sussex History'

*From "Domesday Book Through Nine Centuries" by Elizabetham Hallam.

maintains that "there is simplicity in what has been made so difficult by previous scholars"* I think many are likely to agree with a comment by our Vice-President, Professor Loyn in his far from unsympathetic reviews of the Phillimore county by county translations of Domesday. "Domesday was a professional production of the highest order, using a difficult technical language, and the attempts, no matter how praiseworthy, to simplify that technical language have not proved successful and, indeed, at times are positively misleading. The intelligent reader needs to grapple with the meaning of freeman, villein, sokeman, geld and demesne, to say nothing of housecarl, soke or farm".+

But what says the contemporary Anglo-Saxon Chronicle about all this? "the King....then sent over all England, into every shire, his men and caused to be made out how many hundred hides were in the shire.....and - though I tell it at some length - what or how much each man had who was a holder of land in England, in land or in cattle and how much money it was worth. So very narrowly he caused it to be searched out that there was not a single hide nor a yard of land nor even - it is shame to tell though it seemed to him no shame to do - an ox, nor a cow, nor a swine was left that was not set down in his writing".

I doubt if the writer of that passage would see any good reason why his descendant on the Hastings and District Omnibus should appreciate and applaud the forerunner of census forms and income tax returns!

K.M. Reader

*Sussex History, Winter 1986 'At Variance with Domesday' by Frank Kitchen.
+History (the Journal of the Historical Association) October 1984.

(As a memento of our exhibition of the Leek facsimile of the Bayeux Tapestry we now have in our library the splendid Thames and Hudson 'The Bayeux Tapestry'. The quality of the reproductions is unlikely to be surpassed, and there is an introduction, description and commentary by David M. Wilson, the Director of the British Museum and a noted Anglo-Saxon scholar.

THE ENGLISH AFTER HASTINGS

Adapting to a Normanized World

The Commemoration Lecture: Dr.E.Emma Mason B.A.,Ph.D.,F.R.Hist.S.
11th October, 1985

To contemporaries the outcome of Senlac was the Judgment of God. This view enabled some, mainly Churchmen, to adapt more readily to the new regime; but many laymen saw matters in a different light, and repeated rebellions made things worse for those who survived 1066.

William claimed to rule as the lawful successor of the Confessor, and many administrative practices of the late Old English period continued until Henry II's reign, with Englishmen for some years still serving in the royal secretariat, and with business conducted in English alongside Latin. But after the rebellions of the late 60's Normans supplanted English sheriffs, and in the mid 70's English clerks at court were similarly replaced, and English ceased to be a language of government. The great English earldoms were disbanded, and wealthy Anglo-Saxon landowners, if they survived, held only a fragment of former estates, usually as dependents of Norman overlords. Thegns of Northumbria and Mercia had fallen against Harold Hardrada, and survivors not engaged at Senlac were involved in the rising of 1069 and suffered in the harrying of the north. In the south, household thegns of Harold and his brothers inevitably disappear. Stamford Bridge and Senlac caused massive devastation of the thegns of Wessex and Eastern England, and later risings saw the disappearance of thegns from the south west and Severn Valley. But while most thegns who survived declined in status a few, like Coleswain of Lincoln and Thurkill of Arden, were promoted and greatly increased their possessions between 1066 and Domesday. For older Englishmen knighthood and entry into the elite Norman cavalry was not possible since it involved tough training from boyhood; the far-sighted therefore sent their sons to the lord's household to be trained.

By the 12th century sons and grandsons of Englishmen were being given more socially acceptable Norman names, and even peasants did likewise by the second half of the century. Women's names changed more slowly. In unions with English women sons were given Norman names, daughters English ones. From mixed marriages English was the cradle language, and if as a written language it disappeared save in a few monasteries, it came to be adopted by the rulers. Mothers transmitted English values and customs, hence contemporary complaints about long haired youths!

Not all Englishmen could or would adapt. Edgar Aetheling along with his mother and sisters went to Scotland. Some wives of distinguished men took refuge in Flanders, but Englishwomen normally had a better chance than men of retaining their social position. Many Englishmen, after the execution of Waltheof, prudently sought their fortunes elsewhere,

especially in the Varangian Guard of the Byzantine Emperor.

Records, such as they are, suggest there was some merging of the races among townsfolk, amicable co-existence, soon after 1066. Even less is known of the peasants. With the introduction of Norman style feudalism and manorial organisation all became tenants of a lord, without possibility of taking allegiance* elsewhere. But slavery disappeared.

Clergy suffered less in material terms, but careers and lifestyle were affected. After the rebellion of 1069 English bishops no longer played a major part in political life, and by 1087 only Giso of Wells and Wulfstan of Worcester survived, though abbots were not replaced to the same extent. Worcester played an important part in transmitting English culture to the Anglo-Norman world. Abbots were replaced by Normans only on death; exceptionally Ramsey, with but one break, had English abbots until well into Henry I's reign.

Archbishop Lanfranc had doubts about the merits of the Old English saints and about the quality of English monasticism. He sought standardised monastic observance and uniformity of ecclesiastical building - romanesque in structure, decoration and ground plan; unenthusiastic heads of houses chose Mont St. Michel as a model rather than Canterbury, thereby making it possible to continue English liturgical practices. Attack on English customs and Norman encroachment on Church lands prompted a wave of historical writing to protect cherished values and possessions, and French as well as English abbots and monks came to appreciate the value of such work. As a result, by around 1130 their interests and the cult of the old saints had been securely defended. Wulfstan's league of monasteries brought together English and Norman abbots, thereby instilling the ethos and values of 10th century English monastic reform into the French as a counterweight to Lanfranc. English and Norman likewise combined to revive monasticism in Northumberland, where it had not recovered from the Viking invasions centuries earlier, let alone William's harrying of the North. English artistic traditions survived the Conquest. English artists and designers worked on the Bayeux Tapestry and introduced an English interpretation into a piece of Norman propaganda.

According to Richard Fitz Nigel (c.1177), among the landed gentry, townsmen and craftsmen, one could not tell the races apart. Some of the most creative minds of the 12th century, William of Malmesbury, Oderic Vitalis and indeed Henry II himself, had English ancestry, and around the 1120's there was a widespread tendency for heads of baronial houses to found English monasteries as their burial places, when previously lands and treasures had been taken from English monasteries and given to Norman houses.

Intermarriage, a mingling of social customs in landed and urban society, suggest an ironing out of ethnic differences by the mid 12th century, along with a composite culture of

*i.e. unlike Alnoth. - see Foreword! - Ed.

spoken English and written Latin. The English were adopting Norman habits and vice versa, but we must not assume that assimilation took place before it did. We cannot discern when men of predominantly English origin were able to play a major part in public life. Even William of Malmesbury, himself a product of assimilation, implies that no amount of cultural adaptation could make the English acceptable here. "There is no Englishman today who is either earl, bishop or abbot. The newcomers devour the riches and entrails of England, and there is no hope of the misery coming to an end". Polemic from a professional writer, or do we believe that the author, a product of cultural adaptation, still thought it impossible for the English to adapt to a Normanized world?

K.M. Reader

ASHBURNHAM: PARISH, FAMILY AND ESTATE 1830-1850

Dr. Brian Short, B.A., Ph.D. 25th October, 1985

Ashburnham was at once a Parish, and an Estate and a landed family. The lecture illustrated and commented upon the variety of influences which were brought to bear, within this triple structure, on the lives of the inhabitants of the Parish and the Estate. The speaker pointed out that the Parish was slightly anomalous in the Weald, since it was very definitely a "close" Parish in an otherwise relatively "open" area. The role of the Ashburnham family in the care of the Parish poor was discussed. An account was given of the estate management and Parish interests taken by the fourth Earl, Bertram. Between the assumption of the Estate in 1830 and his death in 1878 he was the archetypal "Lord of the Manor". His estate comprised over seven thousand acres with over 30 substantial farms and with many buildings and cottages in Parishes around Ashburnham. The Earl dominated the Parish, but further work was now needed to indicate how his economic concern with the Estate was compatible with his social concern with the Parish. A sense of paternalism seemingly went in hand with Bertram's feudal pretensions.

(Members may recall Mrs. Ann Moore's references to the fourth Earl in her lecture on 'Rother District in the 19th century'; with particular mention of the conflicts over the Turnpike road proposals, and his abusive letters to the Rector of Etchingham, and to the Vicar of Westfield. But there was another side to this formidable, even cantankerous person. He was a great book collector, and although he did not welcome visitors to his collection he made a special exception in favour of his nephew the poet Algernon Charles Swinburne whose mother, Lady Jane Ashburnham had married Admiral Charles Swinburne in 1836. It seems that real affection existed between the old bibliophile and the young poet who, according to his cousin, spoke "with the pure Ashburnham voice". All this I discovered only recently in an essay on Swinburne by Edmund Gosse.

Anyone interested in earlier members of the Ashburnham family

may like to know that in our Library we possess "A Narrative by John Ashburnham of his Attendance on King Charles I from Oxford to the Scottish Army and from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight". Never Before Printed. To which is prefaced a Vindication of his Character and Conduct from the Misrepresentations of Lord Clarendon, by his Lineal Descendant and Present Representative. 2. vols 1830.
John Ashburnham (160 3-71) Groom of the Bedchamber to Charles I Member of Long Parliament. Served King in Civil War, attended Charles in captivity at Hampton Court and was responsible for the flight to Carisbrooke. Remained in England during Interregnum and resumed duties at court at the Restoration. "Oh, Jack, thou hast undone me!" Charles I at Titchfield 1647, Clarendon. - Ed.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF LONDON BUILDINGS

Mr. John Large, C.E.,F.I.M.E.,F.R.S.A. 8th November, 1985

It is often assumed that building regulation and control date from the 1844 Building Act but this is not so, for legislation controlling building design and construction originates from a much earlier time. Although the 1844 Act was the first to unify building practices throughout England, particularly with regard to the new industrial towns emerging at that time, there existed many other statutes, including Acts, Proclamations, Edicts and similar legislation which were actively applied to local areas and which predate the 1844 Act. Of particular interest are the methods of building control adopted for London - it is possible to trace back the implementation of various forms of building control and regulation to 1189. These early attempts to regulate building were not only concerned with the proportioning of buildings, but also with effective fire containment, quality of materials, and, quite specifically, with the structural design of buildings. Certain of the legislation was primarily concerned with social change, economic factors and other seemingly unrelated matters. Whatever the reason for the introduction of legislation, each progressively more sophisticated regulation greatly influenced the form, type and character of London building, so much so that it may be argued that contemporary architecture contributed to the changes in a secondary and subservient way.

The illustrated lecture chronicled the pertinent Acts and Statutes using as examples photographic slides of surviving buildings within the London area - particular emphasis given to the structural design of seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth period buildings, and to the artful dodges and malpractices adopted by the artisan builders of those times.

THE MARY ROSE TRUST

Mr. Peter Leach 6th December, 1985

On the 19th May, 1545, the British warship Mary Rose was manoevering slowly off Portsmouth when she was hit by a squall, capsized, and sank with the loss of most of her crew, only thirty lives being saved. Despite some efforts to salvage

her she was quickly covered by mud, and there she stayed, largely undisturbed, until being found again some twenty years ago. The side lying uppermost had rotted away in the intervening centuries, but the keel, a good deal of one side and parts of the decks, together with large quantities of stores, arms, and personal effects of the crew remained, preserved by the mud.

The Mary Rose Trust was formed to survey and excavate the ship, and when the condition and importance of the find were realised, the decision was taken to try to raise her. The difficulties were formidable: visibility under water was often as little as two feet so the work had to be done virtually blind. Modern technology was used, video cameras being employed to guide the work of the divers, and lifting tackle having to be specially designed for the task as the hull was both heavy and extremely fragile. After many setbacks the Mary Rose was finally lifted and, as we all know, now occupies her own Museum in Portsmouth.

Little was previously known of either Shipbuilding of the period or of life on board, but we now have a wealth of new evidence which will take years to study and assess. The hull itself has shed new light on the design and construction of large Naval ships, nothing else comparable having survived. The contents of the Mary Rose have proved fascinating and of great value to Historians, both Military and Social. Goods found inside the hull include guns and ammunition, cases of bows and thousands of arrows, the first known gimball compass, tools, chests of clothing and personal goods including many rare and well preserved items, pewter, games boards, the list is nearly endless. One item of particular interest is a Surgeon-Barber's chest containing all his instruments and medicines, and including a mallet - an early form of anaesthetic! Last, but by no means least, are the remains of some members of the crew, which have told us much about the physical condition of young men of the time.

Mr. Leach, a Naval Architect, whose enthusiasm was equalled by the depth of his knowledge of his subject, gave us an absorbing talk illustrated by a well chosen selection of colour slides. A collection taken after the lecture raised £50 towards the Mary Rose Trust's considerable needs.

Alan Kinnear

DEFENCES AGAINST NAPOLEON : THE ROYAL MILITARY CANAL

Mr. Barry Funnell — 3rd January, 1986

Mr. Barry Funnell, happily no stranger to our evening lectures, gave, as always, a most interesting talk; this time on the history of the Royal Military Canal, with slides illustrating the peace of the countryside and the wide variety of the flora and fauna.

The brain child of Lt. Col. John Brown, the canal was designed to isolate the flat area of Romney Marsh against the threatened Napoleonic invasion. It was begun on the instructions of

William Pitt the younger as part of the coastal defences from Pett Level to Hythe.

It was planned to follow the original coast line before the reclamation begun by the Romans, and to be 30 miles in length, 60 feet wide and 9 feet deep, with a road 33 feet wide alongside as a service road for supplies - the present Military Road. It took about 5 years to build and cost £234,000.

As a defence against invasion it would have been little of a deterrent and in the event it was to prove unnecessary, although it may be noted that in 1940 a thousand acres were flooded at Pett Level as part of the defence strategy in the 1939-45 war.

It is possible to follow the route of the canal for most of its length, Mr. Funnell's slides showing very clearly the wealth of interest for the historian, the ornithologist and the botanist, along with delightful glimpses of the countryside - for anyone who has the energy to undertake the walk!

Mrs. S.M. Gore

ROTHER DISTRICT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Mrs. Ann Moore, B.A. — 17th January, 1986

The 19th century was a period of great change. At the beginning, Napoleonic Wars, local government in the hands of J.P.'s, the parish responsible for poor relief under the Speenhamland system where low agricultural wages were subsidised from the rates until 1834 when replaced by the harsh poor law exposed in Oliver Twist. Parish overseers were responsible for some roads, other roads, and bridges, were the responsibility of the Constable and ratepayers of each Hundred. Main roads were often under the control of Turnpike Trustees, e.g. the Flimwell and Hastings Turnpike Trust. Little attention was paid to public health and sewage until after the cholera epidemic of the 1840's. Education was random. Most villages had rudimentary Dame Schools, some, like Sedlescombe, Brightling, Guestling, Icklesham, Salehurst and Battle had endowed Charity Schools; Rye had a Grammar School. Transport, heat and light were still in the Stone Age. There were no anaesthetics and antiseptics. Only freeholders could vote, and the unreformed House of Commons included members for Rotten Boroughs with few voters or none. There were two Members for the whole of Sussex, but Rye, Winchelsea, Seaford and Hastings each returned two. There was no M.P. for Battle. The Industrial Revolution was under way, but not in East Sussex where the iron industry was in decline and the gunpowder industry followed suit.

A century which began in social and political upheaval ended in peace, prosperity (though not in East Sussex) and political stability, with local government much as today, a public system of education, X-rays, anaesthetics and asepsis, wireless telegraphy, telephone, gas, electric lighting (not much) and with the internal combustion engine about to revitalize roads fallen into disuse with the coming of the railways.

Voting was by secret ballot, suffrage was wider (male only). Hastings now sent 2 members to Parliament, East and West Sussex 2 each, but Rye only one, and Winchelsea and Seaford none. Rother District (the term did not, of course, then exist) was more wholly agricultural and in deep economic depression.

Elementary education had become universal, compulsory and free, with schools for the under 13's in most villages. Most had been established by the Church of England National Society. Between 1834 (Catsfield) and 1865 (Iden and Burwash Weald) 20 such were founded. The one Nonconformist school in the County (British and Foreign School Society), the Staplecross Methodist School, still flourishes. Only four of the present day primary schools were founded as a result of the 1870 Act.

Problems arose in Battle in the 1830's when the National School tried to join with Langton Charity School. The teaching of the Schoolmaster of the latter had been strongly condemned by an Inspector and the Dean wanted the man dismissed. The other Trustees refused; the schoolmaster was a relative of one of them! In the end all was amicably settled, the two schools were united in 1855 and housed in a building on land given by Sir George Webster. Compulsory education was not universally popular. In 1880 the Guardians of Ashburnham Parish complained to the Education Department of the Local Government Board that although there was "a large school built at great expense, many children do not attend at all".

Rows over schools were minor compared with those over roads. The life of the Flimwell Hastings Turnpike Trust was one of continual conflict: nefarious goings on, stopping up of side roads so that more people would use toll roads and pay, consequent resentment among landowners, breaking down of gates etc.

The speaker dealt at length with the case of Couchman v Brockhurst, the carter of Mr. Allfrey of Park Farm and Banthony's, at Lewes Assizes in 1821 concerning the breaking open of a gate at Goodgrooms by Salehurst Church. The action was a test case between the Trustees (through Couchman) and "the gentlemen Landowners who have estates within the circle of certain Turnpike Roads, one side or part of which is the road from London to Hastings". The Trustees evidently lost, for the track that had been obstructed was in use for waggons until the last war. Further conflict erupted in 1835 when the Trustees wished to build a new road from John's Cross to Battle via Watch Oak to avoid Whatlington and Caldbec. This time they had their way. The real storm broke out when another group of landowners engaged Telford to design a road linking Whatlington direct to Hastings bypassing Battle, till then on the main road to that town. Then in 1840 news broke of yet another road project - from Cripps Corner by Hawkhurst to Cranbrook, bypassing Robertsbridge, Flimwell and Lamberhurst altogether, an episode which showed the Earl of Ashburnham at his most cantankerous. But the Earl was soon to be fighting a rearguard action to prevent a railway line from Tunbridge Wells to Battle encroaching on his land at Mountfield. He lost and the Turnpike Roads and the stagecoach were doomed.

The politics of the time were lively. The Earls de la Warr and Ashburnham were staunch Tory (Conservative), the Websters and Cavendishes (the Duke of Devonshire's family) Whig (later Liberal). The parties fortunes fluctuated with a strong radical period during Gladstone's first ministry (1866-74), but by the end of the century the County was firmly Conservative though the Cinque Ports and Lewes were "less reliable".

What kind of a place was it like to live in? Beautiful (Kipling's "dim blue gardens of the Weald"). Agriculture, labour intensive so the district was more densely populated than today, but fewer houses. Trees were a serious part of the economy. Meadows were full of orchids, there were glow worms in the lanes and night-jars. The countryside was rich in game. Roads were often impassable. Houses were lit by rushlights or candles, with oil lamps by the end of the century, though Vinehall made its own gas lighting. Water would be brought from a well, or if lucky, from the kitchen.

The labour exchange was the annual hiring fair when those seeking work would stand in groups according to their trade, each group in its distinctive smock of coarse unbleached linen. Sunday smocks were finer and more elaborately stitched, and undertakers kept special funeral smocks to be worn by mutes. For girls "good service" was sought after, but conditions, if paternal, were often grim.

Perhaps because life in general was grim for the "labouring classes" people enjoyed themselves more vigorously, even violently. Bonfire night celebrations were enlivened by locally made fireworks, "Battle Rousers", banned only after the last war. At least two local windmills, the Black Horse Mill at Telham and the mill at Staplecross were destroyed on bonfire night. They were not rebuilt; steam driven mills were taking their place.

For the middle class "intellectual" the area was a retreat from London. Artists and writers, e.g. George Eliot and the Rosettis congregated at Barbara Bodichen's cottage on her father's estate at Scalands near Robertsbridge. H.B. Brabazon lived and painted at Oaklands near the Pestalozzi Village at Sedlescombe, Henry James came to Rye and Kipling discovered Batemans. Hastings became a favourite resort.

"Rother District" ended the century peaceful, agricultural and economically depressed. The labouring poor were not treated as harshly as they were in some areas, for as an old Ashburnham blacksmith once told the speaker "They weren't too hard on us, you see we were all in it together". But they were totally dependent on their employer. If a man asked for more money he could be sacked, losing job and cottage, and no other local employer would engage him. Old Mr. Tew of Brightling would sack a man if he discovered he had voted Liberal, and Mr. Mannington if he had voted Conservative. The old industries had gone. The powdermills at Sedlescombe, Brede and Battle came to an end around 1874 and the furnace at Ashburnham had been extinguished some years earlier. K.M. Reader

THE ESTATES OF BATTLE ABBEY

Dr. Peter Brandon, B.A., Ph.D. 7th February, 1986

Battle Abbey was one of the greatest Benedictine Abbeys, both because of its royal foundation and of its great wealth. The Abbot, mitred, was a member of the House of Lords and involved in secular as well as religious affairs. The Abbey estates were so far flung throughout England and Wales that very efficient management was called for. The monks were "profit maximisers" as well as pious men, and capable of careful economic decisions; a combination of piety and sound business sense.

Some of the more distant estates were rented out because they were difficult to supervise, and little is known about them. The estates close at hand provided food for the monks subsistence and surplus produce was sold, the latter practice being somewhat unusual. The Abbey's wealth sprang from efficient agriculture, and the monks were fortunate in that most of their estates were close to coastal or navigable water so that surplus produce was within reasonable reach of markets, including those of northern Europe.

Alciston, one of the most important estates, has changed little since medieval times - even the alignment of the grain fields remains the same, and the 13th century church, the dovecote and the barns provide a direct link with documents like the Cellarer's Rolls. One barn served as a granary for produce destined for consumption or en route for sale. The other, two-floored, was used as an animal shelter. The manor house adjacent to the church is, in origin, a medieval hall house dating from about 1300, but much altered in the 17th century. In common with many downland settlements, Alciston decreased in size as a result of the dwindling population after the Black Death.

Another estate was on the Denge Marsh close to an estate at Broomhill belonging to the Cistercian Abbey of Robertsbridge. Around 1222 the Abbots of Battle and Robertsbridge agreed to share newly reclaimed marshland in the area which was to suffer in the great storm of 1287 which destroyed old Winchelsea. Thereafter what had been a fertile, productive estate became land of poor quality.

The records of the Abbey estates provide information on the type and methods of agriculture and their efficiency. The county records, although few by comparison, show variations in medieval farming techniques. The Bishop of Winchester had large agricultural estates, along with farming methods which have been generalised by historians and applied to England as a whole; whereas there were probably regional variations according to soil type etc. Battle Abbey estates do not conform to the Winchester pattern. The seeding rates on the Denge Marsh were higher than those on the Bishop's estates, and furthermore the need for a fallow year on the Abbey estates was obviated by the use of legume crops. This 13th century version of the 'four-course' crop rotation not only fertilised the soil but also provided fodder for the livestock, and produced

a surplus of grain that could be sold on the London and continental markets. The monks were clearly moving away from a subsistence economy towards a commercial one, so maybe we have underestimated the abilities of our ancestors! However, Battle Abbey would probably not have been so successful in agriculture had it not held land close to sea ports, and with a communications network which gave her access to wider markets. Thus Seaford was Alceston's port, and this estate was close to the main Canterbury Winchester highway.

The Black Death caused a mortality rate of between a third and a half, according to Battle Abbey records, but the resulting rise in the level of wages brought about an improved standard of living and opportunities for social advancement in the late 14th and early 15th centuries. Some individuals improved their social standing. One such rose from humble origins to become a lawyer and eventually steward of the Abbey estate in the 1450's and 1460's, bought property at Firle on his retirement, married his daughter to one Gage; and Sir John Gage, later the landowner of Alciston was his grandson. As a result of the growing enterprise of such individuals the influence of the monks declined. They had established an exemplary model of farming methods, but where these originated remains unsolved. The Romans introduced new crops such as legumes, but written records provide no clues to the origins of this type of farming in medieval times. Was it introduced by the monks, or, after its introduction into Roman Britain did it remain embedded in Sussex traditions in subsequent centuries?

C. Winder

THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL LECTURE: THE FULLERS OF BRIGHTLING PARK

Mrs. Elizabeth Doff, B.A. 21st February, 1986

The speaker began by displaying a map of 1724 indicating the extent of the Fuller estates at that date; arable land, woodland, and marshland at Heathfield, Waldron, Mayfield, Warbleton, Brightling and elsewhere. Originally tradespeople in Uckfield, the rise of the Fullers epitomises the rise of the gentry in the Elizabethan era, the nouveaux riches who acquired country estates. First leased in 1575 they later purchased Tanners Manor at Waldron, and from then on the Fullers engaged in the systematic purchase of land. They also took good care always to marry heiresses.

In 1660 Major John Fuller went into partnership with Sir Thomas Dyke, a Chiddingly ironmaster, and cannons were manufactured there in 1671. In 1693 John reopened the Heathfield ironworks when most ironworks in Sussex were closing down. Admirable foresight, for the Fullers were to receive valuable contracts from the Board of Ordnance until the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763. The Fullers were also keen farmers, introducing new agricultural methods, amalgamating small farms and ensuring that tenants had economically viable mixed farms - arable, grazing and woodland. In 1703 his heir (John Fuller I) married Elizabeth Rose. This brought into the family sugar plantations in Jamaica. An estate was purchased for the couple and sub-

sequently named Rose Hill; Brightling then became the home and hub of the Fuller activities. Mrs. Doff then projected a slide of a 1743 painting* of the family of John Fuller I. Elizabeth bore him 10 children of whom 3 died young. Indeed Elizabeth herself, although she appears in the group, was already dead when it was painted. The Fullers were now obviously gentry, and John is shown as the country squire; a gun indicating his right to shoot game. His sons were not brought up to be idle. One went to the Inns of Court, another to Leyden to become a doctor, one into Holy Orders, one into the Portugese wine trade, and Rose was sent to Jamaica to look after the family interests there. In Jamaica, Rose, perhaps a somewhat devious rogue, allowed business to take second place to a life of pleasure, but subsequently he entered government there, became a member of Council and then Chief Justice.

Meanwhile John Fuller I, once a Tory M.P. in the last year of Anne's reign was again an M.P. in 1727, and a candidate in 1733 and 1734 also, but the power of the Whig Pelhams was now too great, and with failure his involvement in politics ceased. He died in 1745.

*A photograph of this painting by Van Hubner can be seen in Vol. 67 of Sussex Archaeological Collections.

John Fuller II was a more stodgy individual whose sickly wife restricted social life. He enlarged Rose Hill, created the Grand Drawing Room there and made a deer park. Moving in the Newcastle (Pelham) circle he became a Whig and the Duke found him a Parliamentary seat. He purchased more land, took an interest in the local school, and a particular interest in the ironworks for which he was lucky to get more gun contracts. In 1755 he died. His marriage had been childless, and Rose returned as head of the family.

Rose also had Parliamentary ambitions and was duly elected for New Romney having kissed all the ladies in the borough and brought seamen back home who were eligible to vote. Newcastle later found him seats elsewhere. (A slide of a Hogarth election cartoon was shown, very appropriately to illustrate election methods at the time). Rose was an assiduous M.P. and also a J.P. but still found time to give active support to Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital. Not much at Rose Hill, he turned the deer park over to sheep, and dispensed with his brother's two packs of hounds. He seems to have been a benevolent man, good to his tenants, and servants, and setting aside a sack of corn weekly for the poor of the neighbourhood. But gun contracts were a thing of the past. Sussex ironmasters were technologically backward and their workers found the mathematics in the new plans beyond their understanding. Midland ironworks were more go ahead. Rose died a year after America achieved independence, having made just one speech during his time in the House of Commons, and that during the War which he feared would have an adverse effect on the Jamaican sugar trade.

Rose was succeeded by "Mad Jack Fuller". Orphaned as a young man, he was one of the Fullers of Catsfield, his mother being

an heiress in her own right. He is best known for the follies in Brightling Park. He was a man of wide interests. The Observatory reflects his interest in astronomy, and the Needle and his Pyramid tomb in the churchyard, the new fashion for Egyptology. The Sugar Loaf, so the story goes, was erected in one night after he had made a wager in London that he could see the spire of Dallington Church from his estate, and on his return found this was not so. But there was more than all this to "Honest Jack". He was an M.P. and a J.P., a founder member and benefactor of the Royal Institution, friend and patron of Turner, of the architect Sir William Smirke and of Capability Brown. In his responsibilities as squire he was generous to the Church at Brightling. He bought Bodiam Castle to save it from demolition. The wall about Brightling Park provided work for the unemployed during the post Napoleonic War depression. He gave money to Guy's Hospital, gave Eastbourne its first lifeboat, and his final building activity was the Belle Tout Lighthouse. But eccentric he certainly was, retaining his unfashionable pigtail, driving to London in an enormous coach, with blunderbusses for protection. He was forthright, and this led to the end of his political career when he insulted the Speaker when the House was discussing the disasterous Walcheren expedition. He died in 1834 and was buried in the pyramid erected in Brightling churchyard. For permission to build this he provided a stone wall on the south side of the churchyard, and it is said removed his public house "The Green Man" opposite the church to a site further from the village centre.

Underneath the bust of John Fuller in the Church is the inscription 'Utile nihil quod non honestum' - 'Nothing is of use which is not honest'. As "Honest Jack Fuller" he wished to be remembered, and as such we must surely remember him.

K.M. Reader

(Anyone who has visited Brightling Church is likely to possess the little booklet by Geoff Hutchinson which is required reading for anyone interested in Honest Jack. There is an article on "Gentry Wealth in the Weald in the Eighteenth Century" by R.V. Saville in Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.121, 1983.

There are also interesting articles on the Fuller family by Mary C.L. Salt in vol. 104 (1966) and vol 106 (1968) of Sussex Archaeological Collections. These give many 'human' details of the family, e.g. how much John Fuller I paid his children's dancing master and who tuned the spinet. When arranging to send as escritoire to his son in Portugal he suggested it should be filled with cyder or strong beer "as so large a thing should not go empty". Clearly a man after my own heart! - Ed.

Sussex Archaeological Collections are in the Society's Library. They are also in Battle Public Library - top right-hand shelf as you enter the non-fiction room).

ELIZABETHAN BUILDINGS OF SUSSEX

Mrs. Margaret Holt — 7th March, 1986

The European Renaissance may have had some influence on Sussex buildings in the Elizabethan age when people were demanding a higher standard of living and greater comfort. Scientific progress encouraged developments in architecture, and an appreciation of art and a desire for beauty were reflected in both decoration and the style of houses. In Sussex, where timber was prolific, many houses were timber framed, but stone, brick and tiles (made from local clay) were also used. But it was the great amount of woodland, particularly in the Weald, which was important in Sussex building, for timber was not only a valuable building material but also the source of wealth which brought about the 'great surge' in building. The flourishing iron industry in the Weald likewise enabled ironmasters to build large houses, many of which were of brick.

The first large brick residence in Sussex was Herstmonceux Castle, built in 1444 for Sir Roger de Fiennes. By the 1550's brick was used in chimneys of smaller houses: this improved the smokey atmosphere of medieval houses and reduced the risk of fire inherent in houses of timber and plaster. Other improvements, separate upstairs rooms, and kitchens, imply a higher standard of living. Other status symbols included extensions to existing buildings, (in some places with complete new wings added in distinctive architectural style) or even complete rebuilding. Much of this was instigated by the yeoman class who wanted to use their new found wealth in a practical and ostentatious manner.

Hurstpierpoint has a fine example of a large brick-built Elizabethan house dating from c. 1570-90. It has a round-headed porch with distinctive pilasters. The windows of the Hall are large, widely spaced and up to roof-height. The bricks were made on site from local materials. Other features of note are the domes and gablets round the roof, stone-mullioned windows, and the use of curved bricks to form decorative columns at the front of the house.

At Bolebrook there is a late Elizabethan gatehouse (now leading to a 19th century dwelling) built not for defensive purposes but purely for residential use. It also may lend some support to the view that rural areas were somewhat slow in adopting new ideas, including that of moving away from the fortified manor house. This establishment was built for the Dalyngrydges who also owned Bodiam Castle. The gatehouse is gabled, and its large window spaces indicate its non-defensive purpose.

Another example of Elizabethan architectural style is to be found in Mayfield High Street, at Middle House. These 'Black and White' houses as they are often called, are thought by many to be typical of Elizabethan England, but the timbers were not always stained black at the time. Decorative barge-boards also date from this time, carved in elaborate designs to complement the other timber decorations.

The remaining examples of Elizabethan architecture are not confined to large residences; many farmhouse examples still exist. At Great Cooper's Farm, Balcombe, the house is composed of small panels, thus avoiding the need for large amounts of long timber. The roof is of Horsham stone, also used at Knole and Penshurst as well as locally. Wapsbourne, near Chailey, is a timber framed and brick house of the late 1500's, with a projecting bay window and a jettied attic over the first floor, and chimneys set aslant to allow wind circulation. At Lindfield there is another example of a house with a medieval wing and a jettied section, part of the wing having been removed to make way for the Elizabethan addition. The windows are supported by early brickwork, although the frames are wooden with small panes (the high cost of glass), but the transoms and mullions are finely carved.

Hogge House, once the property of Ralph Hogge, the ironmaster who made the first cast cannon, has the unusual feature of a solid staircase leading to the attic. Oakwood at Funtington is a stone and tilehung house and its internal features which include delicate wood carving and wall painting in one bedroom show the movement towards comfort and refinement in living standards. Cuckfield Park, owned by the Bowyer family was built around 1575-81. A brick house built around a central courtyard, it was stuccoed and a Victorian wing added in the 19th century. Inside, the carved screen between the library and the morning room show high quality craftsmanship which is also reflected in the plasterwork. The royal coat of arms appears on one ceiling, because Henry Bowyer was Elizabeth's ironmaster. The family coat of arms of 1579 are found carved in wood. The house has several Renaissance features, columns and capitals, wide, gracious doorways (the fashion for wide-skirted dresses?) and a 'dog-leg' landing on the staircase which has a high handrail with detailed carving.

Slides were shown of all these houses and also of Steatham Manor, Henfield, and of Horncombe, West Hoathly which has a bread oven in a separate annex - one of the earliest of its kind.

C. Winder

GEORGIAN GARDENS : THE REIGN OF NATURE

Mr. David Jacques, M.Sc.Dip.Tp.,M.R.T.T.I.,M.I.H.E.

21st March, 1986

This talk, with slides, was about the historic gardens and parks of East Sussex, though with special emphasis on those that illustrated the rise and fall of the landscape style in Georgian times.

When the eighteenth century began, all grand gardens were regular. Examples of remaining avenues are at Stanstead Park and Buxted Park near Uckfield. At this time many of the classically educated visualised their estates as Roman landscapes. One of the most famous was the Palladian-inspired Chiswick House. The second Duke of Richmond was clearly of the same mind at Goodwood. Although formal still, such places were the

start of the eighteenth century vogue for ideal landscapes. However, the Duke was also an antiquarian, and one of those who, like William Kent, also liked the Gothic. This taste evoked the old English virtues of hospitality and ancient lineage. It was mainly expressed through buildings, as nobody knew what a Gothic landscape looked like, unless it was like the ancient deer park at Eridge, near Tunbridge Wells.

It was probably visions of Greek-inspired pastoral scenes that triggered the English landscape garden, Britain's notable contribution to the visual arts. The great exponent of such gardens was William Kent. In 1751 Horace Walpole noted that Lancelot (Capability) Brown had "set upon the principles of Kent" at Warwick Castle. Over the next twenty years a great many places were transformed into Elysium. A wit, Richard Owen Cambridge, said that he would like to go to Heaven before Mr. Brown, to see Paradise before it was improved!

In Sussex, Brown worked on Petworth from 1751, Ashburnham Place from 1767 and Sheffield Place from 1776. One of Brown's 'followers', Nathaniel Richmond, worked on Stanmer. His successor, Humphrey Repton, a man of great sensitivity, appears at Sheffield Park in 1789, Kidbrook Park, near Forest Row in 1803, Rose Hill (now Brightling Park) in 1789, and Uppark in 1810. In 1805 Repton made suggestions for the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, but John Nash laid out the gardens many years later.

However, many critics wanted to improve on Brown's rather uniform style. Sir William Chambers emphasised that pleasure grounds such as he laid out at Kew were works of art, not merely of Nature. The sublime, and later the picturesque, were promoted as alternative sources to the beautiful. At Goodwood the "rock dell" was described as resembling "rocks rent by an earthquake and earth sunk by a catastrophe .... this is the Sublime in Gardening".

Repton himself changed his views back to antiquarianism and formalism. He was thinking about such ideas in 1800, for Bayham, near Lamberhurst, and for Brighton Pavilion. The picturesque came in style, as at Scotney Castle. One of the last great landscape parks in the Brown tradition was Arundel Park, laid out about 1810.

Mr. Jacques indicated the evidence of a growing interest in Garden History in East Sussex - East Sussex County Council became interested in historic parks ten years ago and published "Exploring Parks and Gardens in East Sussex" in 1979; the Sussex Historic Gardens Restoration Society was founded in 1980 and has organised work at Brightling and the Royal Pavilion and elsewhere, and the East Sussex part of the "register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England" is due to be published by English Heritage before the end of 1986.

We must be grateful to Mr. Jacques for directing our attention to an historical subject which will give many of us much pleasure in the future.

A.R. Denny

SUMMER OUTINGS 1986

Eyhorne Manor, Hollingbourne — 25th June

A yeoman's hall built in the early 15th century, Eyhorne Manor was bought in a derelict condition by the present owners some twenty years ago, - so derelict that only one room was habitable, and even that had a tarpaulin over the roof. Since then the house has been completely restored by the family, and the furniture, needlework and embroidery are likewise the work of its members.

Typical of its kind, the building is oblong, originally with a lofty hall entered from both sides and rising to the ceiling, and with two storeys at either end. Behind the high table for the owner and family when the house was first occupied was a small bower, and above this the bedroom or solar. At opposite ends were buttery and pantry above which were small rooms for storage or sleeping accommodation.

Like most hall houses, Eyhorne underwent considerable modification in the 17th century. The great hall was floored over, with a chimney stack replacing the central hearth, and divided into six small rooms, some with a fireplace.

Models are on display showing both the original construction and the evolution of the house, aromatic herbs are in all the rooms, and in one room is a fascinating laundry museum. And very appropriately, the house stands in a delightful garden full of scented flowers, including old fashioned roses, and herbs.

OTHER OUTINGS

Members also visited Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1924 (22nd May); Broadlands, the home of Lord Mountbatten (24th July); Ightham Moat, a medieval moated manor house now owned by the National Trust (21st August) and Lullingstone Castle (18th September).

Slides of places visited (except Lullingstone) were shown, with a commentary, at the A.G.M. on November 21st, and we are grateful to Mr. Len Shore not only for undertaking this, but also for operating the projector at our lectures.

(Ightham Moat was visited in 1959, 1968 and 1975, and Lullingstone in 1959 and 1963. Details in the Society's Transactions for those years - Ed.).

THE MUSEUM

Our landlords, Langton House, have completed the Museum Roof, and so the days of rain-drop catching buckets on the Museum floor are over. They have replaced the former sloping wall by a vertical one; this, with the new floor covering (provided by the Museum Trust), has greatly enhanced the appearance of the room, and provided extra space for exhibits. We are greatly in debt both to the Hall for shouldering a heavy financial burden, and to the many helpers who re-decorated the walls and ceiling, and moved the library books, exhibits, and heavy

cases out of the room and back again on completion of the structural work. We plan to open to the general public at Easter, and on any special request before then. Our lease from the Hall having expired, our "peppercorn" rent of the last twenty years will not surprisingly be greatly increased. We thus have to face a considerably increased budget.

In order to make the style and contents of the country's small museums more widely known, a Publicity Agent has sent us a short questionnaire. These are their questions, and these our answers .....

Now our Museum has very varied exhibits, and as varied an appeal, so what would your answers have been?

Q.1 What is the most popular exhibit? Answer.. The Diorama of the Battle of Senlac.

Q.2 What is the most interesting exhibit? Answer.. A roof tile from a Lower Lake house bearing the inscription 'God Bless Lord Stanhope for Ever 1777'. A simple tribute to a remarkable man...Third Earl...William Pitt's brother-in-law...father of Lady Hester Stanhope...invented a calculating machine and a printing press... opposed the American War of Independence...president of the English Revolution Society and much admired by a local tiler.

Q.3 What is the most valuable exhibit? Answer.. A facsimile of the Ceremonial Sword of Battle Abbey. Presented to us by the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh.

Q.4 What is the rarest exhibit? Answer.. A Boy Scout's Shoulder Flash, presented by a member of the Society, and once worn by him. It reads "CHIEF SCOUT'S OWN". B.P. founded the Troop, now defunct, when he lived at Ewhurst in the early days of the movement.

Although without any outstanding exhibit, our Museum truly contains "Multum in Parvo". We have relics of the dinosaurs of Telham, of prehistoric ferns and mares-tails at the water works, of neolithic man at Starrs Green and La Rette, of the Romano-Saxon iron industry, of medieval Manors, of the Sussex armament activities, of Battle gunpowder ('The best in Europe'.. Daniel Defoe) and so on to our own times. Society members are especially welcome to come and browse round. The reproduction of the Bayeux Tapestry (from Stothard's drawings) would alone occupy several hours study, and there is also the Library and reading room for their use.

R.H.P. Clark

(Why did the Royal Scottish Museum present us with the facsimile of the Sword of Battle Abbey?
What animal walked over a Roman tile while it was still damp?
At Lewes Assizes in 1929 two boys aged 13 and 15 were sentenced to death. (Later commuted) For stealing what? (No it wasn't sheep stealing).
You will find the answers in our Museum, admission to which is free to Members - Ed.).

THE LIBRARY

Members may also like to be made aware of some of the treasures to be found in our Library.

"Womankind in Western Europe. From the Earliest Times to the 17th century", by Thomas Wright 1869. (Worth looking at if only for the illustrations).

"A History of Domestic Manners and Sentiments in England During the Middle Ages", also by Thomas Wright 1862.

"English Eccentrics and Eccentricities" by John Timbs 1875.

"The Story of the Old Gunpowder Works at Battle", by Herbert Blackman 1919.

And, of course, there are the books you would expect to find on "1066 and All That", including not only works by our President Professor Allen Brown and Vice-President Eleanor Searle, but also E.A. Freeman's "History of the Norman Conquest" which can be regarded as the starting point for modern scholarship on the subject. Like Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" it tells us not only much about the subject, but also something about the presuppositions, and prejudices of the time when it was written (1867). Ed.

ROMAN POTTERY IN THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM

When the cupboards under the display cases were being sorted out several boxes of pottery were found. The contents were mainly from two sites, Petley Wood and Footlands which had been excavated by the Battle and District Historical Society in the early 1950's. Dr. Clark, our Curator, asked me to list the items in the boxes.

The first box contained sherds from the Society's dig in Petley Wood on the Roman iron working site (see Transactions 1951-52 and 1952-53). There were 18 pieces of Samian ware, a glossy mass produced tableware, often relief decorated. This came into Britain during the first century A.D. from Southern Gaul. This type of pottery was stamped with a potter's or workshop mark and can be fairly closely dated. Unfortunately there was only one piece of base from Petley Wood, and was unmarked. Other than a small piece of Roman glass the remainder of the pottery was of a type known as East Sussex, a fairly coarse, black fabric ware. Made during the Iron Age it continued to be made during the Roman occupation. There were a few pieces decorated with lines on the shoulders of the pot, but otherwise mostly plain. Among the remaining pieces was the rim of an amphora, a large two-handled container in which wine and olive oil would have been transported from the Mediterranean. The remaining boxes contained pottery from the large ironworking site at Footlands, Sedlescombe. The site was discovered in 1924 by Ernest Straker whose book 'Wealden Iron' contains details of his finds. A dig was carried out by the Sussex Archaeological Society. The Footlands boxes contained 475 pieces of pottery. Where the pieces of rim or base were big enough I calculated the total size of the pot and its diameter.

The types of pottery from Footlands are as follows: black East Sussex ware, mortaria made of orange fabric, Samian ware, Castor ware, Nene Valley ware. The pieces of Footlands pottery worthy of mention are as follows:-

F120, piece of rim and lip of a mortaria (mixing bowl) with part of the maker's stamp, the diameter of which would have been 26cm., and there is 25% of the rim; 82, a piece of Samian ware base with one letter of the maker's name; 83, another base with a complete stamp, but unfortunately worn; 92, a piece of Castor ware, a fine whitish ware from the Nene Valley district; 109, a piece of Nene Valley ware with remains of animal decoration (this pottery is famous for its Hunt Cups decorated with lively running animals); 127, a sherd of Samian ware with rivet hole; 299, a piece of Box Flue (for circulating hot air around bath houses and villas); 300-310 pieces of grey pot which could be reconstructed; 443, rim of a mortaria with part of the maker's name; 469, sherd of a very large pot with a possible diameter of 50cm. Each piece is numbered as above for easy identification.

Chris Hawkins

DOMESDAY : THE LAST WORD?

The English called the Great Survey 'Domesday' because, like the Last Judgment described in Revelation, there was no appeal from it. As late as the present century Domesday has been used in evidence in a Court of Law. "Through the nine centuries Domesday Book has therefore been seen in a multiplicity of guises; as a museum piece, as the focus of a myth, as a historical source, and as a working record. It is this very diversity of perspectives which continues to make it one of the most interesting of all written records. (Elizabeth M. Hallam, 'Domesday Book Through Nine Centuries').

In 1897 G.W. Maitland, whose 'Domesday Book and Beyond' is still essential reading for all students of Domesday wrote "A century hence the student's materials will not be in the shape in which he finds them now. In the first place the substance of Domesday Book will have been rearranged. Those villages and hundreds which the Norman clerks tore into shreds will have been reconstituted and pictured in maps .... Instead of a few photographed village maps, there will be many; the history of land-measures and of field systems will have been elaborated. Above all, by slow degrees the thoughts of our forefathers, their common thoughts about common things, will have become thinkable once more. There are discoveries to be made ....".

Prophetic, but then imaginative insight has always been the hallmark of great historical scholars. The information in Domesday is now being computerised, both in this country (the University of Hull) and in the U.S.A. (Santa Barbara).

"The first benefit that the computer will confer upon Domesday scholars will be the realisation of Maitland's dream on a scale for which he could scarcely have dared to hope". (John Palmer,

'Domesday Book and the Computer' in Domesday Book, A Reassessment, ed. Peter Sawyer, 1985).

By then we should be able to know all that can be known about Domesday!

K.M. Reader

STOP PRESS

The Commemoration Lecture this year will be given by Professor Henry Loyn, a Vice-President of the Society.

Professor Loyn, now retired from Westfield College, University of London, is a former President of the Historical Association, a recent recipient of the Norton Medlicott Medal for Services to History, and the author of books on Anglo-Saxon England, the Norman Conquest, the Reign of Charlemagne and the Vikings in Britain. Having heard him lecture last year I know that his learning is displayed with a light touch! We are very fortunate in having Professor Loyn among our Vice-Presidents, and we can all look forward to having him with us on 9th October, 1987.

The Commemoration Service will be on October 11th, and the Commemoration Party in the Abbey will be on Friday, 23rd October.

It is not possible in the Newsletter to provide very full summaries of our lectures. This is especially sad when the content is of particular relevance to Battle and District and likely to be of major interest to members. For that reason longer versions of the Commemoration Lecture on 'The English After Hastings' and 'Rother District in the 19th century' will be typed and made available in the Society's Library.

Printed by Battle Instant Print Ltd., 143 St. Georges Road, Hastings, Sussex.