BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Professor G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., C.B.E.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

On account of the high cost of publishing the first volume of the Society's Transactions, the Committee decided to publish none for the second year, but to issue a combined volume for the years 1951 - 52 and 1952 - 53.

In compiling this volume the Editors have felt it incumbent on them, for reasons of economy, to apply more strictly Rule 2 (*a*) of the Society's Articles of Association, and to include only those articles and reports which have a local historical and antiquarian interest. It is for that reason that four extremly informative talks on Architecture by Mr. H. E. Bunce, F.R.I.B.A., and the very interesting lectures by Mr. R. H. D'Elboux on Church Brasses, and by Mr. G. P. Burstow on Roman Provence have had, regretfully, to be omitted. Exceptions have been made in the case of two lectures of general interest ; one, Manorial Customs by Sir Herbert Cole, was seen to contain much valuable information of local application which it is not easy to collect, and the other was the 1953 Commemoration lecture on the Royal Arms of England.

Lecture by Mr. J. C. Moore, B.A., on December 13th, 1951

EAST SUSSEX IN HISTORY

There is a large risk of the student of history being swamped in facts. Too many books on county history contain nothing but " Snippets " of incidents unrelated to each other and unsupported by any background. History, like a symphony, must have a theme—even if it were such a startling theme as Professor Toynbee's !

Two localities were taken in two short periods—the Pevensey Levels about 1066 and the town of Winchelsea from about 1280—1350. Mr. Moore was specially concerned to show the effect on history of the changes in the coastal levels and outlines.

Sussex was in early times like an island, bounded on the East by the impassable swamps caused by the Rother and its tributaries, and on the West by those of the Arun ; while on the North lay the Weald, almost impassable before the days of iron and steel axes, and even long after this a very stiff barrier except for a few tracks such as the road from Hastings to London.

The rivers were the gateways to the outside world and all of these, owing to lack of drainage, were far larger than they now are. For instance, Waller's Haven (Avon) gave a passage to William's ships as far as Boreham Bridge, and the Pevensey Avon was even larger and was important enough to have Pevensey Castle as its guardian fortress.

Mr. Moore dealt briefly with Pevensey Castle in pre-Roman, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Norman times, and he then initiated a discussion on the question "Where did William land?" to which Mr. Barry Lucas made a most interesting contribution.

Mr. Moore then outlined the story of Winchelsea from about the year 1280, when the original town was washed away, leaving its site buried under the present Camber Sands. The town was moved to its present site on the cliffs above the sea. It quickly recovered its old power and prosperity, and became a favourite resort of the two great Edwards—The First and Third. The men of Winchelsea were a turbulent lot, fighting, now armed Spanish merchantmen, now the French, and always their competitors for the herring fisheries, the men of Great Yarmouth.

Mr. Moore said something of the importance of the herring fisheries as the foundation of the Cinque Ports, and thus largely of the Royal Navy, and of the effect on the history of N.W. Europe of the migration of the herring from the Baltic to the North Sea.

He ended by reading an excerpt from the account of the Chronicler Froissart about the battle of Espagnols-sur-Mer, fought between the English and the Spaniards in Rye Bay on August 29th, six hundred years ago.

Lecture delivered by Mr. W. C. Allwork on January 22nd, 1952

BATTLE IN THE LAST SEVENTY YEARS

The lecturer opened by explaining that although seventy years was about the extent of his memory, he proposed to deal with some earlier matters of interest.

Exactly one hundred years ago, in January, 1852, Battle railway station was opened; previous to which the terminus was at Robertsbridge. Until about 1894 there was no foot-bridge or cover to the platforms. The little store shed on the up platform used to serve as a waiting room on the down platform. A peculiarity of the station is the little bell over the door of the waiting room, which used to be rung on the approach of a train.

In 1821 the North Trade road was made from the Police Station to Vine Cottage, to replace the old road which still runs behind Wellington Gardens. The old road used to continue past Watch Oak to Caldbec Hill, where it joined the road to Whatlington.

The new road, still so called, from the Police Station to John's Cross, was made in 1835 as a result of a petition of the Battle people who feared the new road being made from Baldslow to the Royal Oak would divert the stage coach to London.

At an earlier date Lower Lake was almost level at the top for some way and then descended steeply, as can be seen from the levels of the cottages. There is now a cutting between walls.

The roads used to be bad : there was no steam roller, only a horsed one with heavy logs on it to give more weight. Some of the stone used in the town was Cherbourg quartzite, because it was harder. The local stone, mostly from Crowhurst, was stacked along the North Trade Road, where it was broken up by hand by out-of-works, who would otherwise have had to go to the workhouse.

All the roads out of Battle had toll gates except Marley Lane. The gate keepers' cottages still exist on the Whatlington road at the Level, at the foot of Virgin's lane (recently saved from destruction), at the top of Powdermill lane, and at Tollgates. The old man who kept the London road gate at Virgin's lane used to come weekly to the lecturer's shop for three bottles of gin at 2/- a bottle. As his wages were only 6/- a week, one wondered if he handed over all the tolls! The " Tollgates " gate was the last to be destroyed : it was dealt with by the Bonfire Boys on the 5th of November.

The Market Green, with the Bullring in the centre, used to have patches of grass and some stone on it until 1904 when it was metalled by Sir Augustus Webster, who had purchased the Abbey in 1902. The Bullring was buried, but has since been raised again to the surface.

The water supply of Battle used to be very bad. Originally most of the old houses probably had their own well. The first water works were on the right-hand side of the Level on the Whatlington road, and the reservoir there is still in use. The supply was inadequate and only turned on three times a week. In dry weather water was brought round in buckets. It was seldom possible to have a bath and hardly any houses had bathrooms. Things reached a climax in 1901, when, after

much discussion on the local Board of Health, boring was begun at Pepperingeye, where water was struck at 270 feet and yielded 700 gallons an hour. The new waterworks were opened by Mrs. Lambert of Telham Court (now Glengorse School) in 1901. Mr. Lambert presented the town with a drinking fountain in the shape of a small boy which stood for some years near the Abbey Hotel.

There were two public wells on Caldbec Hill, almost opposite the two gates of Loxbeech. The upper one is still there. It was good drinking water, and must have been the cold spring which gave the hill its name. The lower one was an open well some 15 feet deep where the water cart, very necessary before tarmac roads, was filled. Besides wells, there were several ponds around the town : one, for watering horses, was at the far end of the Level ; another was just short of Tollgates on the left side of the road; another was where the market hall now stands in the market ; and nearly half the Wellington yard used to be a pond. In the early days of films a man was ducked in that pond as one of the episodes in a film made here.

The gunpowder works were closed in 1878 : the Duke of Cleveland would not renew the lease because the explosions frightened the Duchess. The Duke ran three farms, Little Park, Coarsbarn, and Marley. Mr. Pook lived at Coarsebarn. He used to lead a team of eight mowers who swung their scythes all together like a rowing eight, for all the grass was mown by scythe at haymaking. The Duchess of Cleveland was best known on her white donkey, presented to her by Lord Kitchener after the Egyptian Campaign.

Watch Oak was probably the name given to a tree from which a watch was kept for fires on hilltops which would give warning of Napoleon's invasion. The oak in the triangle opposite the site of the Towers Hotel was planted in 1863 to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII. An elm tree was planted at the same time at the top of Station road, but it was killed by road tar, and the lecturer replaced it about 16 years ago by a Cornish Elm which is growing well. Two beautiful elm trees in the town had to be destroyed because of Dutch elm disease : one stood outside the Drill Hall and the other at the lower end of the churchyard.

The churchyard was closed in 1866, the last burial being that of Thomas Eldridge. The Cemetery was opened about 1862.

The Post Office used to be where Mr. Holland's butcher's shop is now, and the butcher's shop on the " Eden " site.

The butcher had a residence on the Post Office site. The Brewery buildings still stand behind the Food Office, which stands on the site of the Brewery House. Messrs. Till's showroom used to be a blacksmith's forge.

The Towers Hotel, recently pulled down, was successively a boys' private school, a girls' school and a monastery for French monks. It was built by Mr. Lamborne, its schoolmaster.

The Gateway Tea Rooms represents the old type of house in Battle High Street. Houses like that used to stand on the sites of Gregory's, Errey's, Barclay's Bank, and Barton's. Paul Pemble, the leather-worker, occupied the house on the site of Gregory's.

The site of the parish pond is at the top of the bank on the east side of the London road just before reaching Watch Oak.

In 1852 the Abbey Hotel was called the Half Moon, the present Food Office was the Lion Inn. Two houses below Lake House was the Telegraph Inn. The other licenced premises were as now.

Battle Fair was an annual event in November. The Green was covered with swings, roundabouts and coconut shies, while the horse fair took place opposite the Towers Hotel.

One year an old man called Matthews died in a caravan at the fair. The strange thing was, he had been born in a caravan also at Battle fair. He was buried here, and the lecturer remembered a lot of fairground people coming to his funeral.

The first Battle flower show was held in the Assembly room at the George Hotel in 1834 by the Battle and Hastings Horticultural Society.

The Church Hall was built by Dean Currie for the Church Lads' Brigade. There was formerly a gymnastic society of which the lecturer was sub-instructor. There were also penny popular concerts for which his father was treasurer. He remembered a man in Battle having a velocipede before bicycles were invented. There was a rhyme about them :

" It is called the iron horse, and it don't take much to feed.
And that is the history of the new velocipede."

Velocipedes were succeeded by tricycles, then by high bicycles, and then by safeties. There were no pneumatic tyres for some time : his own first bicycle had cushion tyres. Bicycles altogether are of quite recent date.

Western Avenue houses were built by Mr. Flint in the eighties. Western Avenue was formerly called Shipman's Lane. Mr. Flint was a grocer whose shop was at the corner of Mount Street.

Battle at one time had a very good band : the bandmaster was Mr. Pepper, the Baker. The Cricket Club is a very old one. The cricket ground used to slope, but was levelled in the nineties by Mr. Relph of Hollington. The Football Club is not so old.

There were severe winters between 1890 and 1896. A special train used to come out from Hastings with skaters for Powdermill pond. One one occasion there had been eight weeks of frost and the ice was 14 inches think.

Music for the dances in the old days used to be provided by a trio of Pepper (violin), Bones (cornet), and Fielding the church organist (piano).

The eldest son of Dean Ferris, who was Dean of Battle, married the daughter of Captain Lamb who commanded a revenue cutter. Captain Lamb and his wife were the lovers of " Lovers' Seat " Fairlight. She was Elizabeth Boyce, and married him without her father's consent, and was disinherited.

Members of the audience contributed the following information. No. 27 High Street was formerly the Bull Inn, built in 1688 it is said from materials from demolished Abbey buildings. The Drill Hall was built in 1859 for the 16th Sussex Volunteers, to whom a silver bugle was presented by the ladies of Battle. The bugle is still in possession of the successor unit. The original Newbury jam factory was a very old building reminiscent of the Gateway : it was a quaint old place with red brick floors upon which the fruit stewed in vats. An Abbey Lodge of Freemasons was founded in 1867, and in 1880 had thirty-one members. Two of the members were Thomas (afterwards Lord) Brassey and William Lamborne. It is strange that both the houses they built, Normanhurst and the Towers, were demolished this year. There used to be a Battle riddle : " Why is Battle like a sheepfold ? " The answer was : " Because there is a shepherd (Sheppard), and a lamb born (Lamborne) every day." Marley Lane was made into a road about 100 years ago ; before that it was so muddy that when Mr. Bodle, great uncle of the present postman, died, his coffin had to be carried over the fields to the church. There used to be an avenue of twenty or thirty trees along the edge of the George meadow, in the shade of which people watched the cricket. They were cut down during the first war.

Considerations of space forbid the inclusion of the many amusing anecdotes told by the lecturer.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Frank R. Williams of Seaford, on February 21st, 1952

SMUGGLING IN SUSSEX

Mr. Williams said that wherever he lectured people seemed to be interested in the subject of smuggling. In the days when smuggling was at its height everyone was involved, and there are few Sussex families who can claim to have had no ancestor who smuggled.

When smugglers became too old to take an active part, they would frequently dress in a white sheet at night and act the part of a ghost. There are many instances of ghostly stories which can be traced to smuggling—when smuggling stopped the ghosts were no longer seen.

Smuggling normally exists so long as there are customs duties to be avoided. Actually, in Sussex, it was the reverse as it originally began with smuggling goods out of the country.

Mr. Williams claimed that there had been more smuggling from the Sussex coast than any other part, though this was disputed by Kent ; but in Kent the English and French coasts are so near that sailing ships could not get across unobserved, whereas in Sussex the coasts are too far apart for sailing ships to be watched all the way.

It is not known when smuggling first started but a document dated 1274 speaks of the smuggling of wool out of the country as being an old established custom.

The conditions in the 13th century were peculiar. English wool was the best in Europe whereas at that time the Flemish weavers were the best in the world. The Government of the day were aware of what was going on and put a heavy 100% *ad valorem* export duty on wool, and made its export illegal except under licence and only through certain ports. In Sussex these were Winchelsea, Lewes (both ports in those days), and Shoreham. (The Woolpack Inn at Herstmonceux was the Inn where wool merchants foregathered on their way to Lewes).

The smugglers operated mainly at night and for that reason were known as " owlers ", even in magistrates' documents. They were organised in large companies or gangs on a strictly business basis. Even the magistrates were involved and convictions were only obtained with the greatest difficulty. In the last year of Queen Elizabeth's reign (1603) out of 450 people arrested for smuggling wool only 14 convictions were obtained.

In 1604 it was estimated that 160,000 sheep were shorn on Rye Marshes but not one ounce of wool saw the English

market. The position became so serious that the Government forbade the sale of wool within 15 miles of the coast—a very limiting factor when there was no mechanical transport.

From 1698 to 1804 the law prescribed that everyone had to be buried in wool under penalty of £5 and undertakers had to give an affidavit that there was no material other than wool in the coffin.

In the 17th century smuggling took a different turn. In order to raise revenue for the Dutch war, an import duty was imposed in 1680 on five luxury articles : silk, lace, tea, spirits and tobacco.

The big organisations were already in existence and the ships which smuggled wool out of the country brought contraband in on the return journey.

Many of the Sussex clergy either participated or took a kindly interest in smuggling and in a number of cases allowed smuggled goods to be kept in the churches. At Broadwater Church, Worthing, there are two large brick built vaulted tombs neither of which, it is said, has ever contained a body. They were built by the smugglers as hiding places for contraband. Doctors were also involved and when necessary had to attend to wounded or injured " owlers ".

The landing of smuggled goods was of course only the first step. Goods had to be carried inland and hidden until they could be put on the market. By bribery coercion or persuasion the owlers got villagers to allow their cellars to be used for this purpose.

Mr. Williams discounted the various legends of long tunnels made and used by smugglers, though there were probably short tunnels in a number of cases connecting one cellar with another and providing ways of escape.

Smuggling though it might bring large profits to some of those engaged in it, was bad for the economic life of the country. The normal farm labourer's wages were 9/- to 12/- per week, and they naturally preferred to work for the smuggling gangs who would pay as much as 10/6 a night with a bonus once a quarter of a dollop of tea. (" Dollop " was an old Saxon word meaning a stone or 14 lb.). In consequence of this bonus, even the poorest cottages in Sussex always had plenty of tea in those days. This helped to bring the price of tea down generally as merchants restricted imports in order to keep prices up. Farm labourers were not much good for their ordinary work after long nights working for the smugglers and in some areas the effect was so serious that the harvests could not be got in.

Some powerful gangs operated in Sussex; the most infamous gang was the Hawkhurst Gang. While their headquarters was in Kent, and their leader, Mr. Kingsmill, was a Kentish man, most of the gang came from Sussex and their buyer, Wm. Perrin, was a shoemaker in Chichester. They were notorious for their cruelty to anyone who opposed them and they did not stop at murder. In 1798 however the leaders were caught and tried at Chichester though, owing to fear of smugglers' cruelty, it was some months before witnesses could be persuaded to give evidence against them. The leaders were however convicted and sentenced to be hanged in the respective parishes from which they came. One of them was hanged at Ninfield.

Another famous gang was the Hastings gang, led by a man named Roper who discovered that hollow masts were as strong as solid masts and used them for hiding contraband. Incidentally practically no smuggling was carried on in the towns of Hastings and Rye themselves as they would not risk losing their Cinque Port privileges. The smugglers went just outside.

The Hooe Gang, another famous one, traded principally in tobacco, a good deal of which was brought into the country in the form of rope, consisting of two strands of hemp and one strand of tobacco. At the Red Lion Inn at Hooe can be seen the double wall space behind some of the bedrooms where the ropes were unravelled. This form of smuggling may well have given rise to the expression "Money for old rope". Also in the roof is an old snuff mill—which was very profitable as snuff attracted a double duty. The Hooe Gang fought the last pitched battle with firearms with the preventive men, in the early part of the 19th century near what is now the site of the De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill.

The last well known case of a daring smuggling raid occurred in 1855 when a ship entered Shoreham Harbour ostensibly carrying a cargo of Portland Stone and moored a few feet from the quay. The same day a circus arrived and advertised a gala performance to which were invited the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the Collector of Customs and his staff. As soon as the performance started the ship was pulled to the quay, the stone removed and twenty tons of tobacco landed and transported to the Downs. When the Circus performance was over the ship was once more lying a few feet from the quay, in its former position, with the cargo of stone.

The sails of windmills were used for conveying warning signals to smugglers, and if a smuggler met a shepherd with

his crook pointing forward he knew that Customs men were about, whereas if it was facing over the Shepherd's shoulder it meant that the coast was clear.

He mentioned one instance from present-day smuggling where nylon stockings were smuggled in by dropping them over the side of the ship in water-tight casks at pre-arranged localities and allowing the tide to carry them in : one of these casks was found by two children who were approached by a man who offered them 10/- for the cask. If he had offered a smaller sum nothing more might have been heard of it, but the spending of the 10/- by the children led to enquiries being made and the discovery of how the smuggling was being carried on.

In addition to wool, there was quite a substantial export trade in guns, and on some of the ships of the Spanish Amada captured by the British, cannon were found which had been manufactured at the Ashburnham Forge and bore the Trade Mark of that forge—a Tudor rose.

PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN TIMES IN SUSSEX AND SOUTHERN ENGLAND

A Series of Four Talks by Mr. G. P. Burstow, B.A., F.S.A.
First Talk given on February 1st, 1952

THE STONE AGE

The period about 6000B.C. (when Britain was separated from the Continent) was known as the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age. The people lived mainly on the sandy ridges ; they were food-gatherers, living by hunting and having no corn and no pottery.

From about 2500 B.C. great changes began to take place : the first settlements were established, and three distinct cultures began to develop, i.e. (i) the Megalithic people, mainly in the south west, who put up the large stone monoliths ; (ii) the Peterborough cult who produced the first pottery, rich in ornament but poor in quality, and (iii) the people who lived in Causeway camps consisting of concentric circles of causeways and ditches—one of the most outstanding examples of such camps being that at Windmill Hill, Wilts. There were a number of Causeway camps in Sussex, the two best examples being those at The Trundle, Chichester, and at Whitehawk near Brighton Racecourse.

Referring to his own excavation work (mainly at Whitehawk) Mr. Burstow gave many interesting details. The audience were surprised to learn that in view of mixed bones, including skull crowns and other portions of skeletons, found in the remains of hearths it was prnbable that the Stone Age inhabitants of Brighton were cannibals. They did not live wholly on meat, however, and their diet included corn, which was ground in primitive mortars consisting of a large piece of sandstone with a slightly hollow surface, a smaller piece of sandstone being used as a pestle. It was not surprising, therefore, that the teeth of a female skeleton found at Whitehawk were all ground down—and this was thought to be due to the amount of grit mixed with the flour. (It is not known apparently whether they suffered from indigestion). Some of the pottery found on the site had imprints of corn grains and from these it has been possible to form a good idea of the earliest kind of grain to be cultivated by Stone Age people. Other pottery found was decorated with finger-nail incisions, probably in imitation of stitching on leather vessels. The knuckle ends of bones were also used for making patterns in soft clay.

Referring to the Long Barrows or burial mounds, Mr. Burstow said there were a number of these in Sussex, including some on Wilmington Down above the Long Man. They had not yet been excavated but were included in the schedule of work to be done in the not distant future. There were probably many burials in one mound, which would be in the nature of a communal graveyard, where the Chief would be buried in the centre with the others around him. It was possible they had some method of preserving individual bodies until they could be buried together in one mound.

One of the most interesting parts of Mr. Burstow's lecture was his description of the Stone Age flint mines. Stone Age man discovered that flints found on the surface did not make such good tools as those dug out of the ground from the narrow seams in the chalk. There were several of these flint mines in Sussex, but probably the best example was at Cissbury Ring, where one part of the site was honeycombed with shafts dug into the chalk—some of them 40 feet deep. From these shafts narrow galleries were dug into the seams of flints. In these shafts and galleries were found the primitive tools with which they had worked—shoulder blades of oxen for shovels and deers' antlers as picks ; there were traces of blackening from the primitive lamps used by the miners ; in some cases skeletons found in the galleries showed where the miners had been overwhelmed by falls of chalk. In one case a boy had just

brought a fish to the miner for his meal when the tragedy occurred.

The last two slides shown by Mr. Burstow were aerial photos of the Stone Age temples at Avebury and Stonehenge, which he suggested must have been built and added to over a considerable period and which were proof of a high degree of constructional skill on the part of their builders.

Second Talk, given on February 29th, 1952

THE BRONZE AGE

While metal had been discovered and used in the Near East much earlier, it was not until about 1800 B.C. that bronze users (known as the Beaker men from the type of pottery they made) came to Britian. No settlement sites of the early Bronze Age had yet been discovered, and such information as was available had been obtained from the round Barrows or burial sites. Sussex was very prolific in Bronze Age remains and there were over 1,000 round Barrows on the Downs.

Crouch burials with typical pottery were typical of the Beaker people, but later on cremation was more generally adopted, the ashes being buried in funeral urns. On one site at Steyning, thirty urns of the late Bronze Age were discovered around a central barrow which had been ploughed up, though some Beaker work was recovered from the site.

Many of the barrows had been rifled in the search for gold ornaments, but other interesting finds are frequently left in them. A large round barrow at Hove (which had been levelled for building development) was the only one on the coastal plain, and had been the tomb of a chieftain. Among the articles found in it were a stone axe, a whetstone, a bronze dagger, and an amber cup—the latter being evidence that the people traded with the Baltic.

After the original Bronze Age settlements of the Beaker people, various new migrations came over from the Continent from time to time, each one distinguishable by its particular kind of pottery.

Bronze Age people who came over from France about 1000 B.C. were the first to develop argiculture on a large scale and large areas in Sussex were cultivated in plainly marked fields. An ancient village settlement was invariably found somewhere near them.

Typical settlements of this period had been partially excavated at Plumpton Plain and were being more fully excavated at Itford Hill near Newhaven. One of the most important finds on the Itford Hill site was some 11½ lbs. of charred barley, specimens of which had been sent to Denmark for expert examination. A number of loom weights had also been found, indicating that weaving had been carried on. All woven Bronze Age material in this country had perished; but contemporary coffins found in peat bogs in Denmark contained bodies and clothing in an excellent state of preservation, and showed that the people of that age were expert weavers. Another Bronze Age body found in a Danish peat bog had a rope around the neck and was in such an excellent state of preservation that a postmortem examination was made. This showed that the hanged man was a vegetarian and that his food included barley of a similar kind to that found on the Itford Hill site.

Bronze Age people were expert craftsmen in flints and some beautifully worked specimens have been found. During that age there were remarkable developments in the design of axe heads and several hoards of axeheads have been found. One such hoard was found at Blackrock near Brighton, while a cauldron excavated at Sompting contained seventeen axeheads. A set of carpenter's tools was found near Newhaven.

Third Talk, given on March 14th, 1952

THE IRON AGE

From 500 B.C. there were a number of invasions of Britain by iron-using Celts, as the outcome of tribal migrations from Central Europe in order to obtain more living-space.

The first invasion was the outcome of a tribal migration of the Hallstadt men, so-called because of a large cemetery of them at Halltsadt in Austria. The invaders built a number of small forts on the Sussex Downs, the first forts to be built for war purposes. Their iron weapons were greatly superior to those of the Bronze Age people they displaced.

The second invasion by the La Tène people about 250 B.C. again had its origin in a large tribal migration in Central Europe. These men built much larger hill-forts, such as those at the Trundle near Chichester, Cissbury, Devil's Dyke, Seaford Head. There was no evidence yet that any of the larger forts near Brighton had been permanently occupied.

The third invasion took place about 100 B.C. when various tribes from the Continent, threatened by the Romans, came over to Britain ; one wave, the Belgi, landing in Kent and spreading to Essex and Hertfordshire. These people were forest dwellers and were expert in felling trees. Somewhat later, another wave landed in Dorset (these founded Maiden Castle near Dorchester), Hampshire and West Sussex.

While East Sussex was not involved in either of these invasions, there are traces of a new type of people about the same period along the Ouse valley up to Lewes.

Mr. Burstow described in detail a number of the most important Iron Age sites and the tools, ornaments, weapons, pottery and coins found in them. The coins were rather barbaric, some of them made of tin. Many of them were rough copies of designs on Greek coins. Much of the pottery and metal work was beautifully decorated and denoted a high degree of artistic craftsmanship.

One of the most prolific sites for prehistoric remains was that at High Down. Excavations at High Down showed that the Early Iron Age men had established a fort in a Bronze Age site : about 300 B.C. the ramparts were strengthened but about 250 B.C. it was occupied by the La Tène invaders. Subsequently a Roman Villa originally built a short distance away was moved on to the site, and after the Romans left the site was occupied by the Saxons, and a Saxon cemetery was discovered, in which a number of well preserved skeletons were found.

Another interesting site was Mount Caburn near Lewes. Originally occupied by an open village, the first rampart and ditch were made about 100 B.C. A great ditch was made about 43 A.D. as a protection against the Roman form of attack but was not effective to prevent the Romans occupying the site. It was subsequently occupied by the Saxons, and later on a Norman castle was built there in Stephen's reign.

Fourth Talk, given on March 28th, 1952

THE ROMAN PERIOD

The invasions by Julius Caesar in the first century B.C. were only raids and permanent occupation by the Romans did not begin until the middle of the following century.

The only Roman town of any size in Sussex was Chichester and even there it would seem that on a small portion only of the area within the walls were buildings of any size erected. These included a temple to Neptune and Minerva.

Chichester was an important road centre and was connected with London by a military road (Stane Street). Another military road ran due east to Old Shoreham. In addition a number of secondary Roman roads had recently been traced. These were probably largely used for conveying corn from the villages where it was grown to London and the other centres where it was consumed.

The Romans were able to cultivate the ground more intensively as they employed a heavier type of plough than the early Britons. Elaborate corn-drying ovens were a normal feature of Roman farms.

Mr. Burstow described in detail the elaborate hot and cold baths which had been found on the sites of some of the better class Roman villas. Good examples had been excavated at Bignor, Angmering, and Highdown. In the course of excavations many samples of Roman pottery had been found, and as it was usual for such pottery to be stamped with the maker's name, it was possible to ascertain its date of manufacture with considerable accuracy.

Coins were also useful for fixing the dates of excavated works. In some cases large hoards of coins, amounting to several thousands, had been discovered. These were probably the remains of Army Treasure Chests. It was interesting to note that in the settled period of the Roman occupation excellent coins were minted but that as the Roman Empire began to break up the coinage was heavily debased.

The period about 200 A.D. was probably one of the most settled periods in the early history of Britain, but about 270 A.D. the first Saxon raids began and the Romans erected a series of forts along the coast such as those at Porchester, Pevensey, Reculver and Richborough, and many of the old Celtic hill forts were refortified.

When eventually the Romans withdrew and the country was occupied by the Saxons, the latter rarely built on the actual sites of the Roman forts or villages, as they were afraid of ghosts. They did not hesitate, however, to use materials from Roman buildings, in building their own farms and churches, and it was not uncommon to find Roman loot, including some beautiful glassware, in Saxon graves.

VISIT TO NORTHIAM

on April 23rd, 1952

At Great Dixter over sixty members were welcomed and taken round by Mrs. Nathaniel Lloyd, assisted by her son and daughter, and by a lady friend. Members were especially interested to note the original Great Hall of Dixter, and also how Benenden Old Hall had been transferred to Dixter and incorporated with it.

At Northiam Church the Rector, the Rev. R. W. Lax West, explained the many points of interest, and showed members the old Communion Plate, the old Church Register, and the valuable painting of the Madonna and Child by an Italian artist.

After tea at the Elizabethan bakehouse at the Hayes Farm Hotel, members visited Brickwall, the fine timbered Elizabethan house with a walled garden, which was formerly a home of the Frewen family, in which much of the original decoration and many of the old pictures remain.

VISIT TO HASTINGS

on Wednesday, 14th May, 1952

Some fifty members were met at the Castle by Mr. J. Mainwaring Baines, the Curator of the Hastings Museum, who described the main features of the Old Town.

After visiting the Castle the party divided ; some visiting buildings referred to by Mr. Baines, others the Museum in the Old Town Hall (which by courtesy of the Corporation had been specially kept open), All Saints' Church, and St. Clement's Church.

VISIT TO SALEHURST CHURCH AND ROBERTSBRIDGE ABBEY

on Saturday, June 14th, 1952

At Salehurst Church some 50 members were welcomed by the Vicar and Sir Herbert Cole. The Vicar drew attention to a number of features of interest, including the beautiful old font, with the ring of salamanders carved on the base, which may have come from Robertsbridge Abbey ; the beautifully worked iron gravestones, probably forged in the nearby iron works at Robertsbridge Abbey ; and the portrait of a 17th century vicar, the Rev. John Lord, from whose diary

Mr. Ward read a number of extracts, recording among other things that Mr. Lord collected church tithes with great assiduity—in fact he would not have got very many had he not done so. After shewing members the original diary and a number of interesting old church registers the Vicar drew attention to the piscina in the south wall of the chancel and the moulded recess in the north wall which may have been a Heart Sepulchre Shrine. Mr. D'Elboux then dealt with the architectural features of the church, pointing out the original 13th century work and the subsequent changes and additions such as the alteration to the clarestory windows in 1861. The fact that the tower is, in effect, within the building and the two aisles are continued beside it forms a constructional feature of which there are only a few other examples in this country.

There was, said Mr. D'Elboux, some doubt about the memorial in the north-east chapel, and he gave reasons why, in his opinion, the chapel and tomb were erected as a memorial to the last male Wigsell and not to a Culpeper, as was sometimes suggested. He drew attention to the fine examples of 18th century mural tablets, signed by a Lewes stonemason, in the chapel, and indicated the evidence of another chapel at the east end of the south aisle, which may have been the Rood Chapel, though it was more usually located close to the Rood. He also pointed out the unusual " bird " designs in the small pieces of original 14th century glass still to be found in two windows of the south aisle. Outside the church he drew particular attention to the fine timberwork of the south porch and the examples of decorative terra-cotta work on tombs, the work of Jonathan Harmer of Heathfield.

Members then proceeded to Robertsbridge Abbey where they were received by Sir Herbert and Lady Cole. Sir Herbert Cole kindly took members through the parts of the Abbey now used as a residence and shewed how the rooms of the old Abbots' dwelling had been tastefully converted to modern use. Dealing with the history of the Abbey, Mr. D'Elboux explained that the first abbey was located near what is now the George Hotel in Robertsbridge, and that traces of what was known as the Chapel Spring still remain. The present Abbey was built in the 13th century, almost at the same time as Salehurst Church. The ruins still remaining are probably those of the Frater (dining room) and the undercroft of the Dorter (sleeping room). The destruction of the Abbey buildings after the Dissolution may have been expedited by the way in which the Sydney family, the then owners, developed the property, first for the manufacture of iron and later of steel. A collection

of cannon balls and other articles made in the forge were on view. The site of the abbey church had not been located until a recent aerial photograph shewed quite clearly that it lay between the visible remains and the river.

EVENING VISIT TO BATEMANS, BURWASH

on Friday, 27th June, 1952

Mr. Woodbine Parish welcomed about 40 members on the lawn where he outlined the history of the house and Kipling's association with it.

It was built in 1634 by an ironmaster who owned the Nether Forge at Burwash, whose name is unknown. The owner of the Upper Forge was named Collins : his memorial in Burwash Church is one of the oldest known of iron in Sussex.

By the beginning of the 19th century, on the decay of the iron industry, many houses, including Batemans, built by wealthy ironmasters, had become derelict farm houses. Batemans was bought by Mr. Macmeikan, who spent a considerable sum on its repair. In 1902 Mr. Rudyard Kipling bought it and lived there till he died in 1935. Mrs. Kipling continued to live there until her death in 1939, when she bequeathed the property to the National Trust.

In the house members were shewn the rooms more particularly associated with Kipling, and their attention was drawn to the numerous indications of his close associations with India and the East. His study, in particular, is a memorial which strikingly combines personal association and literary interest, having been left in precisely the same condition as when he worked in it.

VISIT TO PEVENSEY CASTLE AND WESTHAM CHURCH

on Wednesday, 16th July, 1952

Members were taken round the Castle by Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, M.C., F.S.A., himself a member of the society. The fifty or more members present walked round the outside of the Roman north wall in order to obtain an appreciation of its imposing appearance, and excellent state of preservation. Then by the West Gateway Mr. D'Elboux gave an outline of the early history of the Roman Fort, and of the evidence,

largely in the form of masses of broken pottery, of its occupation in Roman times when it was an important link in the line of forts built to protect what was known as the " Saxon " shore, from invasion.

Moving on to the inner wall and gatehouse members paused to look at the old Elizabethan demi-Culverin, which as Mr. D'Elboux commented might have been installed as a protection against invasion by the Armada. On reaching the inner wall, Mr. D'Elboux explained the various stages in the construction of a Norman Keep on a portion of the Roman wall, the walls and gatehouse of the Inner Bailey, and their subsequent deterioration and decay, largely owing to the difficulty in getting the Exchequer to provide funds for their maintenance and repair.

At Westham Church, members were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Coulthurst, and were taken round the Church by the Rev. Percy G. Langdon, M.A., F.S.A., who has made a special study of East Sussex Churches.

Outside the Church Mr. Langdom drew attention, *inter alia*, to the beauty and strength of the early 14th century Tower with its putlog holes, the Norman masonry and windows in the South wall, the stone stoup outside the West door, the Mass Dial by the side of the little Norman door in the South wall, the dedication cross in the East wall of the chancel, and the " plague stones " in the churchyard where some victims of the plague in the reign of Charles II had been buried.

Inside the Church Mr. Langdon drew special attention to the beautiful timber-work with its King Posts and Queen Posts in the roof of the Nave, the remains of the old Rood Screen which had been restored and re-erected in recent years by the Welby family, the beauty of the 15th century glass in the East Window and the old altar stone which was probably part of the High Altar in the original Norman Church, and which, after being placed in the floor of the Church in 1602 and used as a gravestone, was once more restored to its original purpose as part of the altar in the Lady Chapel.

Lecture delivered by Mr. H. Barry Lucas on September 1st, 1952

SUSSEX IRONWORKS

" It is difficult to realize that only 200 years ago East Sussex was the Black Country of Britain ; that the skies glowed at night from the glare of the furnaces and the valleys reverberated to the clang of the trip hammers." The lecturer

opened with these words, and after referring to the earliest information about the use of iron by the ancients, said that there was evidence that in Britain iron was known to Neolithic Man. It was certainly made on an extensive scale by the Belgic Tribes who lived in the maritime parts of Southern England at the time of the Roman invasions.

All the requirements for smelting iron were present in abundance—unlimited ore in the beds of Wealden clay—unlimited wood for charcoal in the forests around—and the proximity of tidal estuaries, an important factor when roads were practically non-existent.

The ore was dug either in open quarries or from pits and was usually burnt and washed to remove a proportion of impurities. For smelting a " bloomery " (so called because the resultant lump of iron in the hearth was known as a " bloom ") was built up on a clay hearth some 7 feet wide and consisted of alternate layers of charcoal and ore with an outer casing of clay. There was a vent-hole at the top and bellows inserted in pairs to maintain the draught in the furnace. After about twelve hours the iron had melted and sunk to the bottom of the hearth, while above was a mass of molten cinder which could be drawn off.

The discovery of this cinder frequently gives clues to the existence of a bloomery. These were usually (though not necessarily) located near water, which was used for washing the ore and for drinking purposes. Thousands of tons of cinder were used for roadmaking and it was used extensively by the Romans and later ages for this purpose.

Quantities of broken pottery are to be found on bloomery sites, and it is possible from such fragments to determine the dates of such bloomeries within narrow limits. Most of the pottery was usually of rough local make, but fragments of Samian ware, probably used by the overseers, and often bearing the potter's marks, are also to be found.

It is still possible to identify by microscopic examination of fragments of charcoal the species of trees from which it was made.

It was in Tudor times that water power began to be used for driving the water wheels, which worked the bellows at the furnaces and the trip hammers at the forges where the cast iron was converted into wrought iron—the forges usually being located on the same stream as the furnace, though lower down.

The " head " of water was obtained by the construction of dams, known as " bays," surplus water being carried away over spillways. The disadvantage of relying on water power

was that in times of severe drought there was insufficient water for operating the water wheels and they had to be moved by human labour on the treadmill principle.

The furnaces were built of brick or stone, were located below the bays, and were filled from the top from a wooden bridge running from the top of the bay with altarnate layers of ore, chalk (for flux) and charcoal. A hearth lasted for forty weeks, and the fires were never let out. Cinder from these furnaces was much more glassy than that from the older bloomeries. The molten iron was run into moulds. The cast iron bars, if over 1,000 lbs. in weight, were known as " sows," the smaller ones as " pigs ".

Guns were of the most important products of these furnaces—and apart from those required for use in the Home Forces there was a considerable trade in smuggling guns abroad (some of the guns on captured ships of the Spanish Armada were found to have been made in Sussex). There is a record of a complaint made in 1573 by Ralph Hogge, the ironmaster of Buxted, about the sale of cast iron guns across the sea. There was a financial side to this enthusiasm for enforcing the law, since Mr. Hogge only got £8 apiece for his guns, whereas the smugglers got £12—£13. It was very difficult to stop this smuggling, partly because the export of small bore cannon was permitted and once the guns had been exported there was nothing to prevent the bore being enlarged.

The best known and most widely distributed products of the Sussex Ironworks were the iron fire-backs, many fine examples of which are to be seen in the county museums. Many of the earlier ones can be recognized by the hand-stamped designs. Other products included iron gravestones (local examples of which are to be seen in Crowhurst, Penhurst, Salehurst, and Sedlescombe churches), and various domestic utensils.

Transport of fuel ore and iron played havoc with Sussex roads and various Acts were passed putting an obligation on the owners of ironworks to provide annually prescribed quantities of cinder or ore for the maintenance of roads.

The amount of fuel consumed in the Sussex Ironworks was enormous and the woods were eaten up at a great rate. This caused great concern to the Sussex ports, which had a considerable trade in wood fuel with French ports. In 1558 an Act was passed prohibiting the cutting of wood for ironworks more than one foot square within fourteen miles of the sea. While fuel difficulties had some bearing on the gradual

decline of Sussex Ironworks, it was the increasing use of coal for smelting at a lower cost and with increased efficiency and capacity of output that eventually led to their being closed down entirely.

Ashburnham Forge was the last to be closed down, in 1828. William Hobday the last of the Sussex ironworkers, died in 1883.

Mr. Lucas illustrated his talk with a number of "screen" photographs, including one of the Ashburnham Clock on which all the processes of iron smelting were depicted, various examples of pottery recovered from bloomery sites; and a John Wiltman "Token" of 1793 showing a trip hammer forge.

TOUR OF LOCAL IRONWORKS SITES

on September 3rd, 1952

The tour formed a sequel to Mr. Lucas's lecture, and was led by Lieut.-Col. C. H. Lemmon, D.S.O., who gave historical details of Panningridge Furnace and Potman's Forge, while Mr. Lucas dealt with Ashburnham.

At Panningridge Furnace members were shewn the bay, built to retain the water in the furnace pond in 1542 at a cost of £26. It is 400 feet long and 10 feet high. The furnace, erected by Sir Henry Sidney as a subsidiary to Robertsbridge furnace, has disappeared, but detailed records of it, kept by Harry Westall, the clerk of the works, from 1542 to 1549, still exist. The workmen employed numbered 73, of whom no less than 53 were woodcutters. These were paid 3d. a cord for the wood; two colliers (i.e., charcoal burners) were paid 1/10 a load; seven miners, 7½d. a load of 12 bushels (Frenchmen only 4d. a load); two coal carriers (i.e., charcoal carriers), 4d. to 6d. a load; one founder, 8/- a founday (i.e., period of 6 days); and one filler, 6/- a founday. Ore was mined in Link Wood nearby and traces still remain of the mine track to the furnace. The "sows" were taken along a sow track seven miles long to Robertsbridge forge, which can also still be traced. In 1574 the furnace was taken over by John Ashburnham, and was apparently closed shortly afterwards.

At Ashburnham Furnace members were shewn the bay, the spillway, the ruins of the foundry, the channel to the waterwheel, the wheelpit, and the ironworkers' cottages, in one of which William Hobday, the last ironworker in the

Weald, died in 1883. Ashburnham ironworks, the premier of the Weald, were probably the largest and certainly the latest to work. They were established about the middle of the 16th century, and suffered varying fortunes, passing from the Ashburnham family in 1611, but being reacquired by that family in 1680. After a period of depression the foundry began to flourish again in the 18th century and in 1717 the capacity of the furnace was 350 tons per annum, nearly twice as much as any other furnace in Sussex. Towards the end of the century output dropped and the furnace seems to have closed down in 1809, though the forge was not closed until 1828. At the forge members were shewn the pond bay which now carries the road across the valley, and below it the wheelpit in which still remains part of the wooden chute for conveying water to the wheel, and, alongside, a building which originally contained the hammer.

Potmans Forge derives its name from John Potman who in 1376 held 25 acres of copyhold land in Catsfield. The forge appears to have been established about 1579, though there is some evidence that in the 13th century there was a bloomery on the site, which was then called Hammerwyse. The forge was held by various owners and lessees, one of them being Thomas Alfrays who bought it in 1588. He contributed £30 towards the Armada defence and his brass is in Battle Church. The forge was worked for some 70 years and had closed by 1653. Only the bay of the tadpole-shaped pond and some forge cinder remain. The pond was drained between 1793 and 1813.

FIELDWORK DURING THE SEASON 1952

The restrictions imposed by foot and mouth disease bid fair to prevent any excavation during the season. However, access was fortunately permissible to Petley Wood, where a member had found ancient pottery fragments some years before. The result of the season's work was not spectacular, but the fact that Petley had never previously been reported as an archaeological site undoubtedly lent interest to the investigation.

The central portion of the wood (map ref. 51/71 764176) consists almost entirely of pits, and there is no natural surface, a fact which may have caused the locality to be called Pyttlegh, or " pit clearing ". There are two kinds of pits ; large ones 15 to 20 yards across and about 15 feet deep, and small ones

now shewing as shallow indentations 12 feet in diameter. There is a complete and notable absence of spoil banks and iron cinder heaps. The large pits have been worked down to the underlying sandstone and the whole contents carted away, the iron ore for eventual smelting, and the clay for " marling ". The small pits have been worked for iron ore only, and the marl was found to have been spread around on the surface. These two methods of mining are mentioned in " Wealden Iron ". At Petley, small pits are to be found close to the brink of large ones, which suggests that the small pit system was the earlier.

A section trench across a small mine pit revealed the shape of the original pit to have been that of a pudding basin 9 feet deep, 12 feet in diameter at ground level and 4 feet at the bottom, where a small heap of ore was found. After passing through three feet of surface layers of blue and yellow clay, the last six feet had been dug through undisturbed ore-bearing white marl. The shape of this pit disproved the usual assumption that all small mine pits are " bell pits " : indeed it is difficult to see how an undercut pit could be dug in the Hastings beds.

Beginning where the pottery had been found on the edge of a large pit, a trench three feet wide and forty feet long was driven into an artificial mound, and the following layers disclosed : (1) a cap of 10 inches of blue clay, (2) 12 to 18 inches of dark reddish-brown ashes, (3) one inch of yellow clay, (4) 18 inches of jet black charcoal ashes, unburnt charcoal, partially burnt and partially fused ore, (5) a rough floor, of large pieces of ore grouted with clay burnt red, which was accurately horizontal over a distance of 20 feet, (6) burnt ore the size of modern road metalling. A total of 147 shards of pottery was found, all in layer (2), and all dating from the II or early III century, though some may be a little later. Of these, 56 pieces, including 42 of rims and 8 of bases were listed. There were five pieces of rather inferior Samian, and five of patterned thin black New Forest ware (introduced about A.D. 230). The remainder were portions of dishes, platters, porringers and cooking pots in grey fumed or buff-coloured native ware. Of fourteen pieces of charcoal from layer (4), nine proved to be oak, three birch, one alder, and one spindlewood. This would appear to be the first record of alder and spindlewood on an iron site.

A short distance from this excavation, under a few inches of leafmould, a flat heap of roasted ore, measuring some 13 feet square and 22 inches high, was found. The ore was so

brittle that it could be broken with a spade, giving a bright blue fracture which faded in three days. The heap appeared to have been cut through by the excavation of a large mine-pit, evidence that it belonged to the older period ; and it is surmised that it was thus stacked in readiness for removal to a smelting site.

The conclusions reached from the excavations were that the centre of what is now Petley Wood was a place where, in the early III century, iron ore was dug from small mine pits and then roasted on flat stone floors in open bonfires to render it brittle, as described on page 44 of " Wealden Iron ", that the prepared ore was then stacked, and subsequently removed to another place for smelting ; and that later the area continued to be mined for iron ore and marl, dug from large pits.

The Society is indebted to Messrs. Blackman Pavie and Ladden for permission to dig, to Dr. A. E. Wilson, F.S.A., and Mr. N. E. S. Norris, F.S.A., for opinions on pottery, to Sir Edward Salisbury, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, for the microscopic examination of charcoal, and to Dr. J. R. Schubert, Historian to the Iron and Steel Institute, for his visit and advice.

FINDS ON THE ROMAN ROAD TO FOOTLANDS

An account of the examination of this road appeared in the Society's Transactions for 1950-51. While removing cinder for roadmaking later in the year Mr. Wilmshurst, the owner, found a piece of a 12th century pot on the top of the metalled surface of the portion which runs through the Aldershaw. On August 16th, 1952, our member Mrs. Chown found near the spot where the buried road emerges at the east corner of the Aldershaw what is sometimes known as an " Abbey Token ". This is a metal disc which was used to facilitate the reckoning of accounts while Roman numerals were still the only ones used. The specimen found bears the inscription : + IE IOVGE TOVT POVR VOVS CE DII It may perhaps have been made at Tournai in the 15th century.

These two objects separated in time by 300 years, but found not far from each other on the same Roman road, shew the continued use of the road, and therefore suggest that Footlands iron bloomery continued to operate during the Middle Ages.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 886th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Lecture delivered by Miss Dorothy Whitelock, Vice-President of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, on October 14th, 1952

SOME RESULTS OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST

There has been a battle for many centuries on the question whether the Norman Conquest was a disaster or a benefit for England. It has been considered the beginning of law and order ; contrariwise, it has been regarded as the last of the barbarian invasions of England. Nowadays, all scholars realize that the Anglo-Saxons had an advanced and interesting culture, and it is worth while to try to assemble from our scattered and fragmentary sources any evidence as to what happened to the Englishmen and women who lived through the Conquest, and to the culture for which they stood.

The losses at Hastings, and at the earlier battles at Fulford and Stamford Bridge, were heavy. There was widespread mourning, and fear of the conquerors. English women took refuge in nunneries ; castles were built by the Normans to protect themselves, and William established the ' murder-fine ' to protect his followers. By this, if a Norman were found slain, and the slayer were not produced, the eventual responsibility of paying the fine of 40 marks fell on the inhabitants of the hundred where the crime had occurred. Normans were settled in groups in the boroughs.

There was, however, no general confiscation of the lands of the English, but only of those who had fought against William, and later, of those who rose against him. Some Norman barons obtained their lands in England by intermarriage with English heiresses. One finds a Lincolnshire thane, Ulf, who made his will after the Conquest, when about to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, assuming that his own kindred will succeed to his land. As late as 1073 the sons of a Yorkshire notable Carl are still in possession of their land at Settrington, although they had taken active part in the northern rising against William. But by the date of Domesday Book, 1086, only two Englishmen have any considerable holding under the king, and only a small proportion of the pre-Conquest landed classes are named as holding land even in small amounts and as sub-tenants. Some time between the Conquest and 1086 William must have changed his original intent of leaving Englishmen in possession and of ruling to a

considerable extent by means of Englishmen. The cause was doubtless the numbers of risings against him in the years after Hastings.

The problem of what became of the English aristocracy is obscure. Some made careers for themselves in Scotland, Ireland, Denmark and in the Varangian guard of the Emperor at Constantinople. But these would be only the younger men. Many a man of some local importance may lie concealed behind the anonymity of Domesday references to socmen and villains. By the thirteenth century there is in existence a local gentry who in some cases can be traced back to ancestors with English names about the time of the Conquest. A Durham document refers to an English thane as possessing some land by right of his wife's descent from a pre-Conquest holder, whereas a charter survives which shows that technically this very land is regarded as belonging to a Norman tenant-in-chief, whose man the English thane is said to be. In the boroughs, English citizens were not in general displaced, and some certainly were men of substance by the next generation. The peasantry, except in the areas which William ravaged, were probably least affected by the change. The Normans introduced no new system of working the land, the lower clergy remained English, and still met for legal purposes in the accustomed courts.

William claimed to reign as the legitimate heir of Edward the Confessor. He retained the English administrative system ; he employed the clerks of Edward's secretariat, and Edward's moneyers struck his coinage. Law was administered in the courts of the shire, the borough, and the hundred, and it is to the Norman need of ascertaining what was English law that we owe our two most comprehensive manuscripts of Anglo-Saxon codes. William clung to the rights he had inherited from the Anglo-Saxon kings, and his strength and constructive ability enabled him to rule with great efficiency, so that even a Saxon writer who disliked him had to admit ' the good peace which he made in this land ' ; he made no unnecessary breaks with the past. Modifications were introduced, including the much hated forest laws, but when the ordeal of battle was introduced for Normans in England, it was expressly stated that no Englishman was to be forced to undergo it. The most far-reaching innovation was the imposition of heavy knight-service on landowners, lay and ecclesiastical, which brought about the replacement of the freer bonds of loyalty that had bound a Saxon man to his lord by a relationship based on a contract entered into on the receiving of land.

By 1086, the only English bishop was St. Wulfstan of Worcester, and only two of the greater abbeys had English abbots. Many of the others had proved actively hostile to William. Yet he had employed one English abbot, Aethelwig of Evesham, in a position of great power until his death, putting him in charge of all the counties under Mercian law. This abbot used all the resources at his command to mitigate the sufferings of the hosts of refugees after William's harrying of the North and North-east Midlands. On the whole, the Norman bishops and abbots were men of learning and piety. All of them were great builders. The Church in Normandy was full of the energy of a recent monastic revival. They introduced stricter discipline, they built great churches, they brought the new continental learning into England. Some of them were scornful of the English saints and of English scholarship. Yet in many ways, they had to learn from the English. Except in architecture, they had nothing to set beside English work, and this therefore continued in metal-work, in embroidery, in sculpture and in manuscript illumination.

Even English vernacular literature did not come to an abrupt end. Religious prose continued to be copied and read in the cloister right on into the twelfth century, and later prose is based on it. In several houses, the Anglo-Saxon chronicle was kept up in English after the Conquest, at Peterborough until 1155. Legal texts were copied also. But the literature that concerned only the laity was not copied. No manuscripts of Anglo-Saxon verse are produced after 1066, for the Englishman who were interested in it could no longer afford to get it copied. Yet it survived orally, for later on, when English again came into its own, poets are able to compose in a metre developed from the Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse, and to use some of the diction of that verse that had not been in prose use for centuries before the Conquest. And it is probable that prose tales were similarly handed down orally. The Anglo-Norman historians of the twelfth century had access to various earlier traditions in prose as well as verse.

A particularly interesting example of the working together of Englishmen and Normans is seen in the diocese of Durham in the latter part of the eleventh century, where the Norman bishop William of St. Calais worked on excellent terms with his community, trained a school of historians deeply interested in the English past, presented a number of manuscripts whose illumination is derived from Saxon models, and refounded a religious house at Lindisfarne in pious regard

for St. Cuthbert. Meanwhile the holy places of Northumbria were being restored by a Norman knight who had become a monk when moved by the desolation of the North, and two English monks, from Winchcombe and Evesham, who were inspired by reading Bede with a desire to re-establish the sanctuaries they read about. Thus were refounded Whitby, Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, and Bishop William was able to bring monks from these two last houses to make his own see a monastery.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN BATTLE PARISH CHURCH

The Society commemorated the 886th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings by a special evening service at Battle Parish Church on Sunday, 12th October. The Service was conducted by the Dean of Battle, assisted by the Rev. F. Vere-Hodge. The lessons were read by Mr. A. E. Marson, Chairman, and Mrs. Harbord, a Vice-President.

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on December 12th, 1952

The Chairman reported that the membership at the end of the second financial year was 321, and that the balance of funds, including a reserve of £15, was £35 13s. 4d.

Under the rules as amended at the first annual general meeting the President and the five Vice-Presidents remained in office. The other officers and committee were elected as shewn on the next page. A documentary film, " Beginnings of History," was then shewn.

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Trust

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MR. R. H. D'ELBOUX, M.C., F.S.A.
MISS C. A. KIRK
LIEUT.-COLONEL C. H. LEMMON, D.S.O.
MISS M. J. POWELL
MR. L. H. PYKE
MR. W. RAPER
SIR JOHN THORNE, K.C.I.E.

Lecture delivered by Mr. I. D. Margary, F.S.A. on November 1st, 1952

ROMAN ROADS IN THE WEALD

Roman roads were planned as a fine engineering system like the railways to-day. They followed direct routes from centre to centre except where it was necessary to avoid natural obstacles of special difficulty. When deviations had to be made they were usually in short straight stretches, instead of curves. Once the deviation had been made the same general alignment was again followed. It was remarkable how the alignment was maintained when it is borne in mind that the Romans had no maps or compasses, that a large proportion of the country was covered by forests, and that frequently local inhabitants were unfriendly. They may have got an alignment by a series of beacons on the highest hills, and by sighting on the stars at night. The alignment is however so perfect that even where no surface evidence is available probing on the line of the route usually locates the road beneath.

The normal width of the Roman road was 15 to 18 feet, but might at places be 12 feet or up to 30 feet. On each side of the agger, or mound of the road, was a level space bounded by marking out ditches. On what could be described as Class A roads the distance between the two ditches was 83—84 feet, on Class B roads 62 to 63 feet. These marking-out ditches in course of time became filled up with humus which promoted a luxuriant growth of grass, and this has frequently enabled the alignment of a road to be traced. The parching of grass over the hard surface below often affords another pointer to the existence of a road.

As regards materials, the Roman invariably utilized those nearest to hand in the locality, e.g. flints on or near the Downs —iron slag in the Weald from the numerous pre-Roman and Roman ironworkings.

The lecturer then described in detail the system of Roman roads from London to the South, i.e., to Chichester (Stane Street), Brighton, and Lewes, with a connecting road along the Greensand Ridge from Barcombe Mill to Stane Street. These roads were mainly utilized for transporting to London the wheat grown on the intensively cultivated Downs.

Further East was the road from London to Sedlescombe via Maidstone—possibly linking up with Westfield and Ore.

The lecture was illustrated by a number of interesting lantern slides showing the alignment of each road ; places where deviations had been made to avoid serious material obstacles ; and sections of excavations which showed clearly the width and camber of the roads and the materials employed. Of particular interest was a photo of the large scale permanent excavation at Holtye where the road was found intact, with wheel marks on it, also a shallow channel where a stream had crossed the road and a crater-like hole where apparently a large tree root had rotted away. Another photo of special interest showed the remains of a paved ford at Iden Green on the West Kent way, consisting of stone slabs 24 inches by 15 inches and 6 inches thick, probably unique in Britain.

The Roman road from Maidstone to Sedlescombe via Bodiam and Cripps' Corner probably served what were then seagoing ports at Bodiam and Brede. The Roman road excavated by members of the Battle Historical Society at Footlands near Cripps' Corner was probably an occupation road to the local ironworks.

At the end of his lecture Mr. Margary was asked a number of questions about the probable route by which Harold and his army marched to Battle, whether it was via Maidstone on the Roman road for most of the way or by the Lewes road where the total distance was somewhat shorter, but a greater length of ancient trackway from Maresfield was involved. Mr. Margary said he was not in a position to express an opinion though it should not be assumed that the ancient trackway from Maresfield was in a bad condition as it followed the ridge and involved very few water crossings, moreover the Romans had metalled many prehistoric trackways.

"ANY QUESTIONS" QUIZ

Held on Friday, January 23rd, 1953

The team was composed of Mrs. E. Harbord, Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, M.C., F.S.A., Mr. W. C. Allwork, Mr. B. E. Beechey, Mr. E. H. Sinden, and the Chairman of the Society, Mr. A. E. Marson, acted as Question Master. A verbatim report has been separately published ; but to place the information obtained on more permanent record this summary has been included in the Transactions.

First question: What well-known writers can the team mention who have lived in or near Battle ? *Answers:* Sir

James Barrie, when at Brede Place, obtained his inspiration for Captain Hook of " Peter Pan " from a past rector of Brede who was a reformed pirate. Rudyard Kipling of Batemans, Burwash, who put much local history into " Puck of Pook's Hill " and " Rewards and Fairies ". Sheila Kaye-Smith (Mrs. Fry), a Vice-President of this Society. She mentions Battle in " The Children's Summer ". Augustus Hare of Herstmonceux Place, and the house which is now St. Mary's Convent, Baldslow. He bought the statue of Queen Anne, which used to be outside St. Paul's Cathedral, It is still in the garden of St. Mary's. Malcolm Muggeridge. editor of " Punch," formerly of the Mill House, Whatlington. D. K. Broster, authoress of works on 18th century Scotland and the French Revolution. Hesketh Pearson, known to many of the audience. Warwick Deeping, son of a well-known Hastings doctor. He left home to live over a butcher's shop in Sedlescombe, where he wrote " Uther and Igraine," from the proceeds of which he started building Green Gore, Whatlington road, where he afterwards lived. Edward Hervey, curate of Burwash in 1785. He was professor of poetry at Oxford. Coker Egerton, of Burwash, who wrote " Sussex Folk and Sussex Ways ". Alfred Duggan, son of Lady Curzon, author of some brilliant historical novels, who was a committee member of this Society. Patience Strong (Mrs. Williams), poet, a member of this Society, who lives at Whatlington. Malcolm Saville, son of a Hastings bookseller, who writes children's stories. Mary Norton, writer of books for small children ; who wrote " The Magic Bedknob " near Battle. Reginald Pound whose father kept Whatlington Stores and mother was a teacher at Netherfield school over fifty years ago. He became literary editor of one of the London daily papers, and has recently written a life of Arnold Bennett. Marriott Edgar, who lived in the North Trade Road, writer of script for pantomimes as well as serious and comic poetry. He wrote " Albert and the Lions ". Clare Sheridan, of Brede Place, who wrote many books as well as being a great sculptor. Three authors, all of whom lived at the Abbey, were also mentioned—The Duchess of Cleveland, and the anonymous authors of the Battle Abbey Chronicle, and " The Book of Orders and Rules for the better Direction and Government of My Household and Family," written in 1595 and mentioned by Horace Walpole.

Second question: What recollections have the team of the original Mr. Raper of Messrs. Raper and Fovargue ? *Answers:* Mr. Sinden said that one always thought of him as the Grand Old Man of Battle, and mentioned the large amount of work

he did in connection with Battle charities. He was chairman of the first Board of Health (later U.D.C.) and his services to Battle were enormous. He also stressed his personality, his fund of anecdote and quickness of repartee. If he saw a stranger in Battle he would ask him who he was, where he lived, where he came from and what he was doing. One one occasion he went up to quite a well-known solicitor and asked him where he got the trinket he wore on his watch chain. The reply he received was " Oh, that was given me for minding my own business." Mr. Beechey said that he himself had been stopped by Mr. Raper in the manner described, when he first came to Battle. Mr. Allwork recalled that Mr. Raper once asked him in to have a talk. Expecting to leave in about half an hour, he did not get away until 2 a.m., so much had Mr. Raper to talk about. Mrs. Harboard recalled the wonderful children's parties given in the Rapers' house, now the Youth Centre. Mr. Raper said that his grandfather was never at a loss. On one occasion the minutes of one of the organizations he was secretary of got burnt by a taper on his desk. He instructed his clerk to collect the ashes, and he produced them at the next meeting with the words " Gentlemen, the Minutes ".

Third question: What Battle public houses can the team mention which no longer exist, and where were they? *Answers:* The King's Head, Caldbec Hill, about where Mr. Thomas the builder now lives. That was then the junction of the old road from Watch Oak and the Whatlington road. The Rose and Crown, Mount Street, somewhere about where Florence Cottages now are. It had closed before 1798. The Bull, High Street, now Messrs. Woodhams' offices. The Cow, a small inn next door to the Bull, where the Battle Dairy now is. The Lion, High Street, which is now the Food Office. The Eight Bells, the name of which was changed between 1788 and 1852 to the Star. The New Inn (1788) later the Eagle, probably stood where the dyers and cleaner's shop next to Mr. Sheppard's office now stands. The Abbey Hotel was known as late as 1853 as the Half Moon. The White Hart about where Elizabeth Ann's tea room in Upper Lake now is. The Telegraph Inn, now Nos. 1 and 2 Lower Lake, still going in 1853. At Telham, Hemingfold farmhouse was the original Black Horse, while the present Black Horse was formerly the Horse and Groom. The Hop, Telham, situation doubtful. The Barrack Inn, at the far end of the Levels, Whatlington road. Both the Chequers and the White Hart are very old inn signs: the latter was the badge of Richard II.

Fourth question: What is known of the American, Mr. Grace, who rented the Abbey in the early part of this century ; and his family ? *Answers:* The Grace family came from Ireland, where they were small Squireens and had fought against Cromwell. Michael, who rented the Abbey, was the youngest of seven children. He went to Peru to join his brother who had started a business there. They founded a firm, W. R. Grace & Co., Shippers and Bankers. He married the daughter of a Mr. Mason of Edinburgh, who was also in Peru. Later he went to New. York, and then founded another branch of the business in London. He had four daughters who married respectively Mr. Beaumont of Wooton Place, Bucks., The Earl of Donoughmore ; Mr. Phipps, an American (she was married in Battle church), and Mr. Benskin of Frant (second marriage, her first husband, her cousin, having been killed in the first war). The two younger daughters are still alive. Mr. Grace was wonderfully kind and generous. His big shoots on the Abbey estate were renowned. Pheasants were given to all beaters, and distributed among townspeople, while the countryside, after one of his shoots, was more or less alive with pheasants.

Fifth question: When, and by whom was Telham Court built ? What is known of Rose Cottage, the former residence on this site ? Why was Rose Hill renamed Battle Hill ? Who was " Starr " of Starrs Green, and where was the " Green " ? Why was Battle Hill formerly called Spital Hill ? *Answers:* The written evidence on this subject is vague. Horsfield (1835) states that George Worge built Starrs Green House about 1735, that it was in 1835 called Rose Green, and was about to pass out of the Worge family. The area was apparently called Rose Green in 1857, but Starrs Green again in 1870. The present Telham Court (Glengorse School) is not apparently built on the site of Worge's Starrs Green House, which may have stood in the triangle formed by the entrance drives. Telham Court has been known as Quarry Hill House and also the Shrubberies. The present Starrs Green and Starrs Green House seem unconnected with the sites mentioned in Horsfield. Battle Hill was probably called Spital Hill formerly, because the parklands of Glengorse School at the top of it were called in 1858 the Workhouse or Spital Land.

Sixth question: What well-known personalities in Battle can the team mention. *Answers:* Ann Burgess, known as Aunt Ann, who lived at the house which is now Mr. Russell's shop. Caroline Matthews, known as Old Car, of Wattles Wish, a licenced hawker, who peddled brushes, brooms and

crockery with a pony cart. " Funny " Jenner, the Town Crier, who wore a white top hat and also ran a scratch fife and drum band. Hammond, who obtained a grant about 1676 to build Pepperingeye powder works. There is little doubt that he founded Till's, the oldest business in Battle. Other names mentioned were Mr. Schnorr's uncle (Uncle Bogg), Mr. Martin, the lawyer, who lived at Watch Oak, and Mr. Brailsford, chemist, whose shop is now the library.

Seventh question: Where were the Old Workhouse, the last Doss House, the Lock-up, the Pound, and the first Telephone Exchange ? *Answers:* The old workhouse adjoined a property called St. Mary's Cross, and was therefore presumably on Battle Hill, formerly called Spital Hill, probably near the present Railway Hotel. The last Doss House was just below the Chequers Hotel, where Walden terrace now is. It was pulled down within living memory. The Lock-up was behind the Abbey Cinema. It is marked as the gaol on the map of 1852. This Society owns the windows. Each borough probably had its own pound. One was on the bank on the left of the Watch Oak road, another would seem to have been at Pound Field, Battle Hill. The first telephone exchange was at the house which is now Mr. Benson's office, next to the old Guildhall.

Talks on Archaeology by Mr. G. P. Burstow, B.A. F.S.A.

EXCAVATING AND RECORDING A PREHISTORIC SITE

Delivered on January 20th, 1953

The first essential to the excavation of an archaeological site is obviously to locate one. Sussex is very rich in such sites, and any signs of disturbance on the smooth surface of the Downs is probably due to human agency. Such sites are easily located by aerial photography which reveals much detail that is not visible on the ground. Previously sites had to be located by walking over the ground.

Showing a photo of Wilmington Down, Mr. Burstow indicated the different archaeological features which could be identified in this one locality, namely, the Long Man—cut out of the chalk—its date uncertain ; depressions a short distance above—probably bronze age or stone age flint mines ; an ancient Celtic track—probably leading to the site of a Celtic village ; round barrows—grave mounds of various dates—many of them opened by robbers for the gold they frequently

contained, but still containing much of archaeological interest ; and a long barrow—a stone age burial place containing many burials with probably the remains of some Stone Age chief in the middle. Aerial photographs of several other localities were also shown.

Having decided on a particular site to be excavated, the first step is to make a survey, with plane table or tapes and to make a drawing of the site. A long base line, with offsets, should be plotted—any visible disturbances in the surface of the ground should be marked—contour lines inserted where necessary—and a scale of the plan recorded.

Excavation usually involves the destruction of what is being excavated : therefore every detail must be recorded as it is found in a field note book. Wherever possible excavation should be carried out so as to leave a section of the various layers of material through which a section has been cut. This was illustrated by a description and photographs of an actual excavation carried out by the Lecturer at the White Hawk site near Brighton.

Records should be made of every find in each layer. Each find should be numbered and described, including details of the length, breadth and depth of the find, and the layer in which it is found. Where a lot of pottery is found in one place it can be put in one bag as one group. Expert photography is essential and photos should be taken at each stage of the excavations. Great care must be taken in handling finds of bones. Some materials repay an analysis. It is possible to deduce from specimens of charcoal what kind of trees grew in the respective periods, and from specimens of grain and dust the flora of the fields.

After excavation has been completed a final plan should be drawn of the site and the " finds " should be examined and sorted. An attempt should be made to reconstruct what life was like in the prehistoric ages—how prehistoric men and women lived—what they were like. To breathe the spirit of life into the dead bones should be the primary objective of any excavation of prehistoric remains, and without this objective archaeology would be a very dead subject.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT MOUNT CABURN

Delivered on February 13th, 1953

The first inhabitants of Mount Caburn were Iron Age settlers from the Continent who established an unfortified village on the top about 300 B.C. A large number of their

storage pits have been excavated and the finds include some of their typical Haematite red glazed ware. About 100 B.C. they built a rampart and ditch with a gateway as a protection against later invaders from the Continent who first came over about 250 B.C., established the large hill-forts in England (Trundle Hill, Chichester and Cissbury Ring are good examples) and who gradually spread over Sussex in search of iron. A complete change in the type of pottery about this time would seem to indicate that the protection was not effective.

Mount Caburn was not affected directly by the Roman raids under Julius Caesar, but as the Romans conquered Gaul, waves of settlers from the Belgic Tribes came over to southern England and one group, known as the S.E." B " group, came up the Ouse valley and their influence can be traced in the pottery found on Mount Caburn.

The Britons lived in peace there for some ninety years after Caesar's departure but when the Romans invaded England in A.D. 43 the Britons built a very big and steep rampart and a very wide and deep ditch outside the earlier rampart and ditch. The wide and deep ditch was an attempt to foil the form of attack adopted by the Romans of filling up ditches with brushwood, then locking their shields and fighting their way up. The fortifications were not, however, effective.

In the course of the extensive excavations which have been made on Mount Caburn traces have been found of subsequent fortifications. The earlier of these were probably erected in late Roman times against Saxon invaders. It also seems possible from Norman remains found there that the hill was converted into a temporary castle in the Civil War of Stephen's reign.

Lecture delivered by Mr. C. T. Chevallier, M.A. on February 27th, 1953

WHERE WAS THE MALFOSSE?

Mr. C. T. Chevallier questioned the generally-accepted view, put forward 50 years ago by F. H. Baring, that the Malfosse, the ditch or ravine of ill omen into which many Normans fell to their death when pursuing the English defeated at the Battle of Hastings, lay at Manser's Shaw, 700 yards west of Battle Abbey.

Four 13th century Abbey deeds, included in the large collection now in America, but catalogued before sale in

1835, refer to " Manfosse " (probably a corruption of Maufosse, a variant of Malfosse).

Baring had thought that " Manser's " was a corruption of Manfosse," but as " Manser " appears as early as " Manfosse " (both about 1240), this could not be so.

" Manser " then figured in a deed made by William Fitz Manser de Herste, presumably the son of Manassah de Herste, who appears about 1210. Herste was the wooded valley below, later called Sacristans (now Saxon) Wood, into which the shaw descended.

One of the four Manfosse deeds, read with a deed of 1332, links Manfosse with " North rode," which Baring and others presumed to be the North Trade road—as the main Battle to Lewes road is still called for the first three miles—though it runs due west. Indeed, a map of 1724 has " North Road " inscribed on a farm alongside that road.

The lecturer showed, however, that the term " North rode " applied in 1287 to the road running north from Battle, to Whatlington and thence via Bodiam and the Roman road to Maidstone and London. The " North Trade Road," on the other hand, was nowhere so described in any deed, but only as " Hoghe rode," or the King's high road, in a deed of 1324.

The abbreviation of the farm name was understandable, but if the road name were shortened to North road by 1724 (still more, if by 1332), how came the longer name to be revived ?

He submitted that the key to this unusual name lay in three other 13th century deeds, which showed the keen concern of the Abbey to protect its estates at " Northey, Trade Dyke and Trade Bridge " in the Pevensey Marsh, against the great floods which in that century lost King John's treasure in the Wash and obliterated Old Winchelsea. The " North Trade Road " provided far the most level road for hauling timber from the Abbey Woods for these defences, and so in the treeless marsh, presumably, won the name which lingered in the folk memory.

On the assumption that " North rode " was the Whatlington road, the other holdings referred to in the 1332 and kindred deeds fitted in well. All, or nearly all, the features of the Malfosse as described by the chroniclers, such as multiple ditches, a defensible far bank, and a causeway crossing the ravine, apply to the Oakhurst Gill running 1500 yards north of the Abbey—a sufficient distance for the English to suffer " countless casualties in their flight " before they got there.

Unfortunately the causeway, if in the situation suggested by the map of 1724, is buried beneath the higher and wider

embankment of the Turnpike road to London, constructed in 1836 on a line slightly oblique to that of the track leading to the causeway.

Factors of time and visibility connected with the course of the battle suggest that Oakwood Gill was Malfosse. The episode could only have occurred when to excited victors it seemed just light enough to make a heavy charge, but when in fact it was just too dark. On that moonless evening corresponding to October 20th (new style) dusk was about 5.35 p.m. Harold fell about 4 p.m., as time then was roughly judged. The intervening period would be fully occupied by the mopping up on the battle ridge, a running fight back to Caldbec Hill, and final victory on its summit.

On several grounds it is likely that the last stand was made there. It was this hill, and not the battle ridge below, that earned the name Mount of Joy, which it still carries.

That Edith Swan-neck was so early available to seek out Harold's body suggests her capture there, at Harold's assembly post. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says that William had attacked Harold before his army had collected. This implies that troops would frequently be coming up to the assembly point, named the 'har' apple tree, which had no doubt been chosen as a conspicuous landmark. Caldbec Hill was certainly 'har' ('on the boundary'), being in fact at the meeting point of three hundreds as well as of the two roads from London, via Heathfield and via Staplecross, by which the reinforcements would arrive.

We can infer that William himself reached the summit and saw the fleeing English seeking shelter in Oakwood and its gill. Down the slope he set his mounted knights in motion. Very soon, but when it was quite dark, Eustace of Boulogne hastened back to report the disaster in the valley, and to urge that it was death to go on. As he spoke, Eustace was struck down in the dark by an unknown hand.

If before the Malfosse charge began William had not taken his stand at a point where he could be found, Eustace would not have known where to find him. As it was Eustace had only to climb the hill, aided it may be, by a victory fire on that Mount of Joy, to find the Duke there. It is hard to conceive any satisfactory basis for these occurrences other than that William was on Caldbec Hill, and that the Malfosse episode took place at the wood, gill and causeway of Oakwood, down below.

NOTE : *The National Grid reference of the road embankment over Oakwood Gill is TQ* 745171.—EDITOR.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Alfred Duggan
on Monday, March 9th, 1953

THE ABBOT OF BATTLE—*V*—THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER, A.D. 1157

In fulfilment of his vow made before the Battle of Hastings William the Conqueror founded the Abbey of Battle whose monks were to pray for the souls of *all* those killed in the battle.

He not only richly endowed it with lands, but conferred very wide powers and complete independence (under the King) in both secular and ecclesiastical matters. "King William made all these lands free and quit of every custom of earthly service, and of all subjection of bishops, especially of the Bishop of Chichester and from the domination, oppression and exaction of all other persons whatsoever, and confirmed it by his Charter."

There could be no question of the King's power to grant the land or to confer great secular power on the Abbot, but in making the Abbey free of all subjection to the Bishop of Chichester he was wandering out of his province of secular affairs.

But Stigand, the Bishop of Chichester at the time, was not in a position to dispute it. Stigand was Archbishop of Canterbury at the Conquest and had proposed obedience to an anti-pope. William would not recognize his position and was crowned by the Archbishop of York. The Pope relegated Stigand to the position he had previously held, i.e., the Bishopric of Chichester, and Stigand had to acquiesce in William's orders for fear that otherwise he might end his days in a Norman dungeon. Lanfranc, the new Archbishop, and Stigand witnessed the Abbey charter.

The first Abbot of Battle was drowned on his way from France to England and trouble with the Bishop arose when his successor, Abbot Gausbert, a monk from the Abbey of Marmontier, came to be consecrated. Stigand ordered him to come to Chichester for Consecration. Gausbert appealed to the King who ordered Stigand to go to Battle for that purpose. Stigand obeyed and when he got there, the Abbot offered him no hospitality to emphasise that the Bishop was not there of right—a complete victory for the Abbot.

Trouble next arose from the Abbot of Marmontier who sought to bring Battle into subjection to his own Abbey and to require the Abbot of Battle to go to Marmontier whenever he should be summoned there. The Abbot refused to comply and appealed to the King who upheld his independence.

Next the Bishop of Chichester, while accepting the exemption of the Abbey from his jurisdiction, claimed to rule the surrounding parish whose lay priest was appointed by the Abbey—but after a perfunctory appeal to the King he recognized the independence of the Parish as well as of the Abbey.

Abbot Gausbert died in 1095 and in 1096 William Rufus appointed Henry of Canterbury as his successor. There was now a new Bishop of Chichester, Ralph, a much stronger character than Stigand. He ordered Henry to go to Chichester to be consecrated, and Henry, after a fruitless appeal to the Archbishop, gave way and went—a victory for the Bishop.

When Abbot Henry died in 1102, King Henry I did not appoint a new Abbot for some years but appointed Gausfrid as Custos. While he was in charge the Abbot of Marmontier again claimed that Battle was a cell of his French House, contending that William had granted Battle to Marmontier in his original foundation. He was unable to produce any Charter and claimed that one was not necessary when the gift was made by so great a man. Gausfird retorted that the gift of so important a thing could not be confirmed except by a Charter or by the oral testimony of witnesses. Gausfird won his case and Marmontier made no further claims on the Abbey.

Ralph of Caen was appointed Abbot in 1107. He was a very tactful man and kept on very friendly terms with the Bishop of Chichester, who not only came to Battle to consecrate him but in 1123 A.D. visited Battle on the feast of St. Martin and publicly acknowledged the immunities claimed by the Abbey.

Ralph of Caen died in 1124 A.D. and the King appointed Warner (or Gaumier) as Abbot. There was no trouble about his consecration in Battle but shortly afterwards Seffrid succeeded to the Bishopric of Chichester and at once tried to recover lost ground. He summoned Warner to Chichester. Warner went but claimed the independence of the Abbey which the Bishop appears to have recognized for the time being ; but later when visiting Battle a dispute arose in regard to the hospitality claimed by the Bishop and his party. The Abbot stood his ground and sent the Bishop away without any further hospitality. The Abbot however became involved in political difficulties during the civil war in Stephen's reign and resigned in 1138. In 1139 Stephen appointed as Abbot Walter de Lucy, whose brother Richard de Lucy was a very influential nobleman at the King's Court. In 1148 the bishopric of Chichester again became vacant and the Pope

appointed Hilary as Bishop with a special mission to revive any episcopal rights which had fallen into disuse. He at once wrote to the Abbot of Battle claiming the full rights of a diocesan and, *inter alia*, summoned him to attend the synod at Chichester and threatened him with excommunication when he refused to comply.

The Abbot appealed to King Stephen who fixed a day to hear the parties. When that day came, the Bishop for some reason was not present when the case was called, and the Abbot got judgement by default. When Henry II came to the throne Bishop Hilary renewed his attempt to compel the Abbot to recognize his authority but without success. After a lapse of time however the Abbot was summoned by Papal Letter (probably instigated by the Bishop) to appear before the synod, on pains of excommunication. The Abbot again appealed to the King who fixed a day for the hearing.

The Bishop was a clever lawyer but lacking in tact and more than once evoked the King's anger during the proceedings. The Abbot stoutly maintained his case basing it on the rights conferred by the Abbey's original Charter. The King took it on himself to defend the Charter on the grounds that an attack on the validity of the Charter was an attack on his Royal Prerogative. He was also angry when he realized that the Papal summons to the Abbot had almost certainly been instigated by the Bishop, though the latter denied it. After a long hearing in the course of which Thomas à Becket, then the King's Chancellor, summed up the argument very much in the Abbot's favour, the Abbot and the Bishop were ordered to retire. The Bishop was first summoned again to the Royal Presence, and then later the Abbot.

As a result of the decision arrived at by the King the Bishop thereupon recognized the independence of the Abbot in the following terms :

> " Most excellent King : I, Bishop of the Church of Chichester, do entirely liberate and quit-claim the Abbey of Battle, as your own royal chapel—in and upon which I neither have nor ought to have any authority—from all claims and challenges which I have hitherto maintained. In like manner also, I absolve the Abbot as one upon whom I have unjustly imposed the chain of excommunication which I neither could do nor ought to have done ; I protest that, in considerations of his elevated dignity and that of his Abbey, I ought not to demand anything of him except his good will ; and I declare that, from this day, for ever, he is free from all episcopal exactions and customs."

So ended for all time a dispute which had lasted on and off for 90 years and it was not until 1st January, 1846, that, in pursuance of an order in Council, Battle was brought under the full ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishops of Chichester.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Frank R. Williams on March 20th, 1953

SUSSEX CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS

It might well be asked what interest a Historical Society could have in legend and superstitions. But they were usually found to be based on some original truth and if the origins can be traced they help to tell history. Folklore and legend are complementary to history.

For example, there is a superstition that if anyone runs round Chanctonbury Ring seven times the Devil will come out of the trees and give him a bowl of soup. He found out however that there was evidence that in prehistoric times there was a pagan temple or shrine on the top to Chanctonbury. Associated with heathen worship were the ceremonial or ritual dance around the shrine, and the sacrificial feast. These explain how the superstition has grown up. The reference to the Devil in this and numerous other cases can largely be explained by early Christians discouraging heathen worship by attirubting it to the Devil. The game of ring a ring of roses probably had its origin in a ritual dance around a shrine, ending with prostration.

Another legend about the Devil is that he entered Sussex at Seaford and left the gate open and it has been blowing hard there ever since.

Numbers play an important part in superstitions. Seven, which has had a special significance since earliest recorded history, is regarded as a particularly lucky number in Sussex—nine is another lucky number and is of interest as being the number associated with the ancient Celtic or Druidic religion, other traces of which can still be found. Thirteen is regarded as a lucky number in the coastal areas of Sussex, but unlucky in the inland areas.

Among many agricultural customs is the not infrequent practice of dropping a small cake in the first furrow or tilting the first mug of beer at harvest time—in both cases going back to the time when offerings and libations were made to the Goddess Ceres to ensure good crops.

Many superstitions are associated with every period of life. If an empty cradle is rocked before a baby is born the mother will have plenty of children. A new born baby must first be carried upstairs, as a symbol that it will go up and not down in the world. To ensure a healthy life a baby should be taken to the nearest maple tree and passed across the lowest branch nine times. (Mr. Williams remembered an actual case where there was a great outcry in one particular district because it was proposed to cut down a certain maple tree).

The ash tree is often regarded as the holy tree of life—the legend going back to Nordic or Teutonic times. To ensure long life for a baby a branch should be cut off an ash tree, the green end placed in a fire, and the sap oozing out from the other end scraped off with a spoon and given to the baby. Mr. Williams saw this being done in 1934.

There are many customs associated with adolescence. If a young girl wants to be happily married she should wear a silver ring on the third finger of her left hand made from six sixpences given her by six bachelors.

The association of the crescent moon with motherhood is derived from the fact that it was the symbol of Isis (goddess of motherhood) and Hathor (goddess of love). The mediaeval Church adopted it as the symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If young men wish to be successful in courtship they should take with them a stick cut from a tree round which honeysuckle is growing : honeysuckle sticks were frequently hung up in cottages for luck.

Horseshoes or other pieces of old iron are hung up over doors or windows to keep out bad luck, but it must not have been paid for. No evil spirit will ever pass cold iron. The hanging of horseshoes with the horns upward is another association with the crescent moon.

There are many superstitions associated with death. One very common one is that if a person dies in a house on a Sunday there will be a second death in the house within twelve months. This actually happened in Mr. Williams' house, but he does not attribute it to the superstition as the first death was that of a lady aged 88 and the second that of a lady aged 92.

Another superstition which has various forms is that if a shepherd dies he should be buried with a tuft of lamb's wool, either in his hand or on his chest, so that the recording angel will know that he was a shepherd and was unable to go to church as he was looking after his sheep.

Asked by one of the audience what was the significance of the Kipling's invocation of the Oak, the Ash, and the Thorn, Mr. Williams said that the Oak was the sacred tree of the Celts, the Ash of the Teutons, while the Thorn was of universal symbolism. Sussex was a mixture of the lot.

In conclusion Mr. Williams said that it often happened that a custom was common throughout the country but had local variations. He quoted the example of the custom of " telling " bees of the death of their owner. If this was not done they would all die or swarm somewhere else. In Sussex it was the custom to take to the hive the door key of the house and rap three times. In Norfolk it was the practice to ring a bell.

Lecture delivered by Major-General Sir Herbert Cole, K.B.E., C.B., on April 18th, 1953

MANORIAL CUSTOMS

Manors, or something like them, had existed in later Anglo-Saxon times, though there are two schools of thought about the exact degree of feudalism reached. One holds that although the germs were there, they had not progressed very far, and that the Normans introduced not only greater definiteness but also new principles. The other holds that feudalism was almost complete, and that the Conqueror only introduced the idea of " contract ".

However that may be, we certainly find in late Anglo-Saxon England the following hierarchy :

(1) The King—the supreme ruler.

(2) The earls, thegns and ecclesiastical bodies holding their lands direct from the King.

(3) The churls, or owners of a hide of land—a class of free men and a very comprehensive group. The size of a hide varied in different parts of the country, but was generally large enough to maintain a man and his family.

(4) The serfs or slaves—a semi-servile class.

The " tun," not to be confused with " town," had grown up as a community based on agriculture and defence. It consisted of a village with primitive farm buildings and open arable fields divided into strips and shared out : there were also common meadows, pasture, woods, and waste. Each

village, probably founded by a number of kinsmen; developed its own customs. In the course of time inequalities grew up. Maybe one man acquired more strips and became more wealthy : perhaps he rendered services to the village, built a church or provided an oven, and the idea grew that services were due to him in return. Services and obligations also became due for protection and security.

The thegn was responsible, as part of his service to the King, for providing a number of military men, and the duty of militia service due from every Anglo-Saxon man between 16 and 60 began to be associated with the land. So the process of the manorial system developed both from above and below, and its history is that of the passing of the tun into the hands of a single man, the passing of the communal elements into the hands of a lord.

With the arrival of William the Conqueror the whole position was systemised and the idea of contract brought in. With himself as head and owner of all the land, he granted large estates to his nobles and barons, who were called tenants-in-chief and who undertook to support the King and produce a number of knights and men-at-arms, who in their turn granted land to their followers. These mesne tenants might in turn grant part of their estates to freeholders holding in free tenure subject to the custom of the manor. Below them were the serfs called villeins boors (bordarii) and cottars who held 30 acres or less and had to work so many days a week on the Lord's land. From the latter class came the copyholders. The result of this new hierarchy was to downgrade the conquered English by two places in the scale.

William summoned a great " gemot " at Old Sarum in 1086 at which every vassal, whether of himself or his tenants, was required to swear allegiance to himself, in preparation for which the important step of compiling the Domesday Book was taken in 1085.

Domesday, 800 years old, illustrates the amazing permanance and continuity of the English countryside. Almost every obscure hamlet of to-day is mentioned, and in it the owners, tenants, and villeins of every bit of land together with the ploughs, oxen, horses, sheep, pigs, mills and fishponds, and what it was worth.

The factors which led to the decline of the feudal system were the gradual commutation of services for money payments, such as " scutage " in lieu of personal military service ; the Black Death, which destroyed, it is estimated, one-third of the

population ; and perhaps the closer personal touch in this country between the King and the common people, which led to the curbing of the power of the feudal barons. In France it was otherwise, and the Feudal system became one of the causes of the French Revolution.

Manorial customs varied considerably ; but in general there were two tenures—freeholds granted in free tenure on payment of a chiefrent and charges such as heriots, and copyholds held by copy of the court roll. Copyholds could be forfeited for waste and were subject to fines on admission and on the death of the lord, heriots of a best beast or some other property of the copyholder, reliefs on an heir succeeding to a tenant's estate, and an annual payment called a quit rent.

Other feudal terms were :—Fealty—taking an oath to be faithful and observe the custom of the manor. Suit of Court—Jury service in the manorial court if required. Bote—the right to cut wood for the repair of houses (house bote) ; repair of agricultural implements (plough bote) ; maintenance of hedges and gates (hedge bote). Pasturage—the right to feed animals on the waste. Common of Turbary—the tenant's right to take peat for fuel. Common of Estovers—the right to take wood for repairs and fuel. Common of Piscary and Fowling—the right to take fish and wildfowl for food. Common of Pannage—the right to turn out swine. Free Bench—the right of a widow to an interest in her husband's estate with priority over his debts. Gavelkind—descent to all sons or males of nearest degree equally. Borough English—inheritance by the youngest son.

There were many types of service which the lord of the manor had to perform as a condition of holding his land either when the king visited the district or at his coronation ; such were—holding the king's stirrup, providing hawks and dogs for hunting, ships, footmen, butlers, etc. The coronation services are now regarded as privileges, and are decided by a court of claims before each coronation.

The lecturer then gave a few examples of more unusual services in days long past :—Beaumanor, Leicestershire, held by a yearly rent of one red rose garland, one broad arrow, and two rosebuds. Bondby, Lincs.—bearing a white rod before the king on Christmas day. Brookhouse, Yorks.—a snowball at midsummer and a red rose at Christmas. Broughton, Lincs.—attendance at church on Palm Sunday with a new cart whip, and certain ceremonial at the service. Carlcoats, Yorks.—two gloves yearly. Cherburgh, Dorset—one horse comb at Michaelmas. Coperland, Kent—to attend the king

as often as he should pass that way by sea, and hold his head if the sovereign thought it necessary. Eldresfeld, Worcester—to provide the Earl of Gloucester with scarlet hose on his birthday. Hemingston, Suffolk—to appear before the king on Christmas Day to puff, leap, dance and play the fool generally. Isleham, Cambridge—to present the Earl of Arundel with a gammon of bacon on the point of a lance whenever he should pass on his way to the wars. Maryland, in America—King Charles I gave the province of Maryland to the second Lord Baltimore to hold as part of the manor of Windsor. Early payment for the grant was two Indian arrows and one-fifth of the gold and silver ore found in the country.

Many of these tenures became obsolete or were converted to money payments, but it was not until January 1st, 1926, that all copyhold lands were enfranchised under the Law of Property Act, 1922, and most of the Customs of the Manor became matters of history.

VISIT TO HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE AND WARTLING

on May 13th, 1953

In ideal weather, about 90 members were welcomed at Herstmonceux Church by the Rector, Dr. Rosslyn Bruce, who drew attention to some features of special interest, including the Dacre Tomb and the fine brass to the memory of Sir William Fiennes. The Rev. Percy G. Langdon, F.S.A., then explained the various architectural features of interest in the Church.

At Herstmonceux Castle members were shown, by the courtesy of the Astronomer Royal, the quadrangle and a number of the more important rooms in the Castle not open to the general public. One exhibit of particular interest was the fine set of valuable Gobelin Tapestries.

Members later visited Wartling Church where Mr. Langdon explained the architectural features, and the Vicar had made available for inspection Registers dating from the 16th century and the ancient Communion Plate.

VISIT TO WINCHELSEA

on June 18th, 1953

The Mayor of Winchelsea, Mr. Anthony Freeman, had kindly arranged for Mrs. Haywood, the Curator of the Court

Hall Museum, to be the guide, first of all to the Church, then round the Court Hall Museum, and, after tea, the ruins of the Monastery Church at Grey Friars (the latter by special permission of the East Sussex County Council). The friendly and helpful way in which Mrs. Haywood drew attention to the many points of interest in these historic buildings, of which Winchelsea is so justly proud, was very much appreciated and the fine sunny weather contributed to a most interesting and enjoyable outing.

VISIT TO DICKER, BERWICK, AND ARLINGTON

on July 1st, 1953

After a brief visit to Dicker Pottery Works, members proceeded to Berwick Church, where the Rev. P. G. Langdon, who acted as guide, said that the mound in the churchyard was probably a round barrow enlarged by soil excavated from the south aisle at the restoration of 1856. The churchyard was one of the few circular ones in Sussex. Inside the Church Mr. Langdon remarked on the modern paintings which adorn the nave, chancel arch screen, and pulpit, the Saxon font, the marks on an arch where arrows had been sharpened prior to archery practice after the service, and the ancient altar stone of Purbeck marble, one part of which now forms the altar step and another the back of the sedilia. The fine view of the South Downs as seen through the clear glass windows was greatly admired.

At Arlington Mr. Langdon drew particular attention to the surviving portions of the original Saxon church and Norman chapel on the north side of the chancel. Excavations had shown that there had been an earlier building, probably Roman, which had been destroyed by fire. The find of a large Bronze Age urn indicated that the site was prehistoric, and recent aerial photographs shewing some signs of a former grove extending towards the Long Man of Wilmington seemed to confirm the suggestion that the latter was connected with Druidical worship. Other items of interest were the rare 12th century chest with two half lids made of boards rough cut from the tree, an early English sepulchral slab on which the foliated cross had been worn smooth by its use as part of the footway from the chapel (once a school) to the chancel, and a fine 15th century font of local type.

VISIT TO KNOLE PARK, SEVENOAKS

on July 22nd, 1953

About 70 members visited this historic house and saw the magnificent collection of antiques which it contains.

SPECIAL VISIT TO BATTLE ABBEY

on August 10th, 1953

This visit repeated that of April 11th, 1951, an account of which appeared in the Transactions for 1950-51. On this occasion the 70 members of the Society were joined by 35 members of the Northiam Literary and Historical Society, who were later taken round St. Mary's Church by Mr. W. C. Allwork.

MARLING

In the neighbourhood of Battle there are a large number of marlpits. The practice of marling in Britain is very ancient and was mentioned by Pliny. The effects of marling a field were said to last a lifetime. When and why did marling die out ?

The above question was put by a member to the B.B.C. ; and the gist of the answer, which was broadcast in " Country Questions " on Sunday, June 28th, 1953, was as follows :

Marling was much practised in Roman times. When the Romans left, it was discontinued until about the 16th century, when it was revived and widely practised during the two succeeding centuries. At the end of the 19th century it ceased rather suddenly. The reason for marling dying out was doubtless the heavy cost of labour and transport. It is true that the effects last a lifetime ; and with bulldozers and mechanical traction it might possibly be an economical proposition again. Marling was only one aspect of the process of digging subsoil and putting it on the surface : there was also " chalking ". There is one small survival of marling : the treatment of a cricket pitch. Sometimes it makes the grass grow almost too luxuriantly.

MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Arranged by Mr. L. H. Pyke and held on October 7th, 1953

At the invitation of the Battle and District Horticultural Society this Society gave an exhibition at the autumn flower show of objects of local historical and antiquarian interest, most of which had kindly been lent for the occasion. Notable exhibits were several hundred photographs of Ashburnham Place and the objets d'art which figured in the recent sale which were kindly lent by the National Building Record, Country Life, The Sussex County Magazine, and Messrs. Sotheby & Co. The original record of the Manor of Robertsbridge was lent by Mr. R. H. D'Elboux ; Messrs. Till & Co. contributed a manuscript account book of their firm (the oldest in Battle) from 1720 to 1740 ; and the Rev. F. Vere Hodge arranged an exhibit relating to the history of St. Mary's. Miss Austen shewed some glass made at the 16th century glassworks at Brede.

The field work side of the Society's activities was represented by diagrams and photographs of excavations at Footlands and Petley Wood, pottery sherds of the Romano-British period, and specimens of iron ore and cinder. Coronation year was commemorated by souvenirs of former coronations : a sword of honour carried by one of the Frewen family at the coronation of William IV (lent by the Hon. Mrs. Whistler), and coronation mugs from Victoria (1838) onwards. Lastly, a number of photographs depicting ordinary people and life in Battle 50 to 80 years ago proved of great interest to many.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 887th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Lecture delivered by Mr. H. S. London, F.S.A., on October 14th, 1953

THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ARMS OF ENGLAND

The Royal Arms in their full form are made up of several distinct elements which may be used either singly or in combination.

In the centre is the shield, the most important part of all. Above that is the helmet with its mantlings flowing on either side. On the top of the helmet is fixed the crest, i.e., the ornament on the top of the helmet and nothing else. The lion and unicorn standing on either side of the shield are the supporters, a word which sufficiently explains their function. At the bottom is the royal motto and the national badges (roses, thistles and shamrocks). The Garter badge of the premier order of knighthood surrounds the shield.

The motto "*Dieu et mon droit*" was first used by Henry VI and with few exceptions has been used ever since. It recalls that our sovereigns formerly claimed to be Kings of France.

Early heralds were not strong in zoology and only drew two varieties of the big cats. If it was "rampant" as in the Scottish arms it was a lion, if it was stalking its prey as in the English arms it was a leopard. English kings thought it undignified to wear leopards and called them both lions—the English beast was a "lion passant guardant". It is simpler to call the lion of England a "leopard".

Armorial bearings came into use all over Western Europe in the early part of the 12th century. The earliest arms about which there is reliable evidence was a blue shield with small golden lions which Henry I gave to Geoffrey Plantagenet when the latter married Henry's daughter Maud in 1127. From this marriage sprang the whole line of English sovereigns from Henry II to Elizabeth II. Between 1127 and the end of the century various members of the royal family wore one or two lions of leopards. When Richard I came to the throne in 1189 he had a Great Seal cut with one lion rampant but in 1195 he had a new seal made and his shield was charged with three leopards. Those three leopards coloured gold on a red field have been the royal arms of England ever since.

Edward III's Great Seal was the first to show the three leopards on his surcoat and on the trappings of his charger as well as on his shield. It is from that custom of wearing a coat emblazoned with arms that the expression "coat of arms" is derived. The shape and name of the coat changed with changing fashions. The latest version is the "tabord" as first worn by one of Edward IV's heralds. This hardly differs from the tabards as worn by the heralds of to-day.

When Charles IV of France died in 1328, Edward III claimed the throne of France through his mother Isabel, a sister of the French King against Philip of Valois the King's cousin. This led to war between the two countries and in

1340 Edward quartered the Old French Arms (an indefinite number of lilies on a blue field) with the English Arms. Charles V of France reduced the number of lilies to three (known as New France) ostensibly to symbolize the Holy Trinity, but more probably to make them differ from the arms quartered by King Edward. This change was not carried into the English Arms until the reign of Henry IV in 1405. This coat, New France and England, was borne by the sovereigns of England for nearly two centuries.

Edward III was the first King to bear a Crest—a leopard standing on a chapeau. Edward IV added a crown around the chapeau. Henry VIII discarded the chapeau and made the leopard stand on the arched royal crown as it does to this day.

With regard to the royal beasts appearing as supporters in earlier years they were often changed. Henry VII adopted a red dragon and a white greyhound. Henry VIII discarded the greyhound, moved the dragon to the sinister side, and replaced it on the dexter by a lion (one of the leopards with a crown added). It has been one of the royal supporters ever since. Mary I replaced the dragon by a black eagle with gold beak and claws, a Spanish " beast ". When James I came to the throne he replaced the Tudor dragon by one of the Scottish unicorn supporters and the lion and the unicorn have been the royal supporters ever since.

On her accession Mary I adopted the arms of her father, i.e., France and England quarterly. On her marriage to Philip of Spain they were styled king and queen of England and their respective arms were impaled on a single shield. Elizabeth reverted to her father's arms. On Elizabeth's death the throne passed to James VI of Scotland who became James I, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland. He added to the English coat of quartered lilies and leopards the red lion of Scotland, and a golden harp on a blue field for Ireland.

After the execution of Charles I the royal arms were outed by what were known as the State's badges, i.e., the St. George's Cross and the Irish harp. When Cromwell became Protector he used a more elaborate arrangement, i.e., the St. George's Cross for England, the St. Andrew's Cross for Scotland, and the harp for Ireland, with his own arms in the middle of the four quarterings. While avoiding the royal arms he used the royal helmet, crown, and crest, and royal supporters.

When William and Mary succeeded to the throne in 1688, instead of bearing their respective arms impaled on a single

shield, William took the royal arms of England and set in the middle a small shield with his own arms of Nassau.

In 1707 by the Act of Union, England and Scotland were united into the one kingdom of Great Britain. The quartered coat of France and England, the lilies and the leopards disappeared. In its place was substituted a shield of England impaling Scotland in the first and fourth quarters, the French lilies replaced the Scottish lion in the second quarter, and the Irish harp retained its old place.

The next change in the Royal Arms occurred in 1714 when the Elector of Hanover became George I and the arms of Hanover were substituted for the arms of England in the fourth quarter. The Hanoverian Arms included two leopards (originally the arms of Maud, daughter of Henry II) and one lion of Denmark. The present Duke of Edinburgh was a Danish Prince and quarters the three leopards of Denmark on his own shield. The King's style was King of Great Britain, France and Ireland and Duke of Brunswick-Luneburg. These arms of George I appeared at the top of the front page of the *Times* until 1953.

In 1801 consequent on the legislative union of England and Ireland the King's style and arms were again changed. The empty title of King of France was at last dropped and the King was now styled King of Great Britain and Ireland. The French lilies disappeared from the royal arms which now comprised the English arms in the first and fourth quarters, the Scottish arms in the second quarter, and the Irish harp in the third quarter ; with the arms of Hanover, topped with the red bonnet of the Elector, superimposed. A crown was substituted for the bonnet in 1814 when Hanover was created a kingdom by the Congress of Vienna.

When William IV died, Queen Victoria, as a woman, was excluded from the throne of Hanover ; and with the removal of the arms of Hanover the royal arms became as they are at the present day.

In Scotland, ever since the time of James I, there has been continual bickering as to whether the leopards of England or the lion of Scotland should have precedence. In practice both countries go their own way and in the royal arms of Scotland to-day the lion of Scotland takes precedence in the first and fourth quarters, the crest is the red lion of Scotland with its motto "*In Defens*" and the English Garter is replaced by the collar of the Scottish Order of the Thistle. The supporters have also changed sides and hold banners of St. Andrew and St. George respectively.

With regard to decorative use of single beasts, sometimes alone, sometimes holding a shield or banner or vane, the earliest known example is in 1237, in the reign of Henry III, when a stone lion was set up on the gable of the King's Hall at Windsor. They were frequently set up in the 15th and 16th centuries, one prominent example being the beasts set up by Henry VIII at Hampton Court. These particular beasts inspired the decision to set up a row of Queen's beasts outside the Annexe built at the west end of Westminster Abbey for the coronation of Elizabeth II. The ten beasts, selected from some twenty-five beasts used by one or other of the Queen's predecessors were the English Leopard and Scotch Unicorn (supporters of the royal arms) ; a griffin and a falcon, both badges of Edward III ; the black bull of Clarence and the white lion of Mortimer, favourite beasts of Edward IV ; the Tudor dragon and greyhound ; the Beaufort yale and the white horse of Hanover. The yale is rather like a goat or antelope, white with gold spots, one horn pointing forwards and one backwards (indicating its ability to swing its horns about at will). The yale is best known as a supporter of the arms of Sir John Beaufort, a grandson of John of Gaunt, and of his daughter Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII. In the Annexe the yale's shield bore a golden portcullis, also a Beaufort badge and one of Henry VII's favourite devices. Other beasts bore the Tudor rose, the Yorkist white rose in a circle of sun-rays ; the falcon and fetterlock, another Yorkist badge ; and the badge recently adopted for the House of Windsor, a representation of the Round Tower at Windsor within a wreath of oak. The other shields displayed different versions of the Royal Arms together with the arms of Scotland and Wales.

With the various arms and badges emblazoned on their shields the Queen's Beasts neatly and effectively epitomised the Queen's ancestry and the history of the Royal Arms from Richard I to the present day.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN BATTLE PARISH CHURCH

A special service was held in the Parish Church, Battle, on Sunday evening, 11th October, by kind permission of the Dean, a Vice-President of the Society.

The lessons were read by Mrs. Harbord, another Vice-President of the Society, and Mr. Marson, the Chairman. There were special hymns and psalms and the address was given by the Rev. R. C. Vere Hodge.

THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on October 30th, 1953

The Chairman said the Society much regretted the death of Mr. Percy Woodhams, who convened the public meeting which originated the Society, and was its number one foundation member. The present membership was 290, and the balance of funds at the end of the year, including a reserve of £25, was £50 9s. 6d.

The President (Dr. G. M. Trevelyan) and three Vice-Presidents (Mrs. E. Harbord, Miss Hope Muntz, and the Dean of Battle) who were due to retire, were re-elected. Mr. A. E. Marson, having notified that he did not wish to be nominated for re-election as Chairman, the following were elected Officers for 1953-54 : Chairman, Sir John Thorne ; Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. E. Beechey ; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. P. F. Room ; Honorary Secretary, Miss A. J. Crozier ; Committee—Mr. C. T. Chevallier, Miss R. Chiverton, Mr. A. R. Clough, Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, Miss C. A. Kirk, Lt.-Col. C. H. Lemmon, Mr. A. E. Marson, Miss M. J. Powell, Mr. L. H. Pyke and Mr. W. Raper. Mr. A. E. Marson and the Rev. F. Vere Hodge, were elected members "*honoris causa*".

Two documentary films were then shewn : "A Medieval Monastery," and "A Medieval Village".