No. 21

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society, the Sussex Archaeological Trust, the South Eastern Federation of Museums and Art Galleries, and the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Study Group.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

It is regretted that owing to force of circumstances this No. 21 of *Transactions* has to make a very late appearance in an attenuated form.

Interesting lectures not included in this number comprise "Elizabeth Blackwell, the first Woman Doctor" given by Mrs. Freda Bishop on November 24th, 1971, "Gypsum Operations at Mountfield", by Mr. P. J. Dowson, on December 10th, "The Production of a Daily Newspaper", by Mr. R. J. Power-Berry, on January 14th, 1972, "The Beauty of Old Churches", by Mr. Lawrence E. Jones, on January 28th, "A History of Pharmacy", by Mr. K. Clarke, PH.C., on February 25th, and "The Sussex Story", by Mr. H. E. Hinings, on March 24th. A Précis of the lecture of Professor F. Barlow, D.PHIL. Exeter University, written by himself, is included. The full lecture, which was given on October 9th, 1970, arrived too late for inclusion in No. 20, and has been deposited in the Society's library.

During the year the Society sustained the loss of one of its Vice-Presidents, The Very Reverend F. H. Outram, former Dean of Battle, who was first elected a Vice-President in 1966. He will be remembered with esteem and affection.

With 295 names on its list the Society reaches a membership which has only been slightly exceeded before since its foundation.

In addition to the events recorded elsewhere a social evening was held at the Orangery, Ashburnham, on July 5th, 1972 by kind permission of The Rev. J. D. Bickersteth.

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Professor Barlow said that he wished to talk about some of the difficulties he had had in writing his biography of Edward the Confessor. There were firstly the basic handicaps of lack of information and the inscrutability of remote historical figures. The only possible literary form was the well-tried 'life and times', and this he had adopted. Although there were occasions when Edward almost disappeared from the picture,

on the whole it had proved a satisfactory medium. Professor Barlow then passed to the particular problem he wished to discuss in his lecture: Edward's appearance, character and habits. There were four possible sources of information about Edward's physical appearance: the coinage and seal, the frontispiece to a MS of the *Encomium Emmae*, the representation on the Bayeux Tapestry, and the literary description in the *Vita Ædwardi Regis*. The lecturer thought that none of these was trustworthy and that we knew nothing certain about what Edward looked like.

For Edward's character we were not much better off for direct evidence, for the contemporary evaluations of the king were not very informative. But contemporaries did not regard him as in any way peculiar: he was a prince like other princes. So, if we deliberately excluded pre-conceived ideas and interpreted his well-attested actions in an ordinary way, we should be able to come fairly close to the truth. It was obvious from his history that Edward was a warrior king, raised and educated amid warfare and always ready to fight, especially through his captains. It is true that he did not win —except through subordinates—any military glory; but that is the fate of many generals. The next obvious trait is that, even if he was neither clever nor industrious, he was at least shrewd and cunning, and had plenty of worldly wisdom and the will and the skill to survive. These dominant characteristics did not make Edward a particularly attractive man. But he was free of some of the grosser sins of many contemporary princes, such as cruelty.

Finally Professor Barlow discussed Edward's claim to sanctity. The development af the cult which led in the end to the king's canonisation in 1161 was, he thought, not difficult to describe and explain historically. More intractable was the problem of whether Edward deserved canonisation. The lecturer was sceptical about Edward's life-long chastity of which the hagiographers made so much. Edward was not an ecclesiastical reformer; his private life does not seem to have been notably good, never mind saintly. Nothing at all in his historical life seems to have justified his posthumous reputation. In Professor Barlow's view the story of Edward's sanctity is a work of fiction.

(Professor Barlow's full lecture has been deposited in the Society's Library.)

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW IN EAST SUSSEX

Possibly no other enactments have so much affected the lives of our people as the Poor Laws and, by their effects, provided material for novelists, poets and social thinkers. They have affected in many ways our attitude to the problems which are still unsolved, raised by extensive poverty in a rich land.

In East Sussex there was, at times, great distress. In the sixteenth century the one-time busy ship yards of Hastings, Rye and Winchelsea were idle. "Plague, storms, flux and reflux of the sea, depredations of the French", and embargoes on their old exports of wool, chalk and timber, sometimes too great a number of refugees from the Continent were some of the causes of their decline. In the eighteenth century the run-down of the iron industry and its related trades turned prosperity to poverty in East Sussex. With the exception at Ashburnham, the industry was extinct by the year 1800. Throughout the nineteenth century all agricultural workers in Sussex suffered from the general depression.

There was obviously from the fifteenth century onwards much need for relief. Queen Elizabeth's Poor Law of 1601 is often taken to be the origin of our Poor Law System. This was not so. In the preceding one and a half centuries there was considerable experiment in dealing with severe poverty. Although the idea that relief was a matter for Christian giving died hard, it was gradually established that Public Authorities in towns and rural parishes had some responsibility for their unfortunate citizens, the fatherless children, widows, the sick and the aged. In many of the growing towns there were often imaginative schemes for provision of work for the able bodied. The Legislature drew on this widespread experience in the codification of various measures in 1601.

Unfortunately the many changes in English society, with the disruption of the Feudal System, some Enclosure and destruction of villages, wars and a debased coinage were among the causes of an ever-growing number of homeless and penniless people, without rights. The dissolution of the Monasteries dried up their main source of charitable aid.

Though no longer the case, it was still widely held that, as in feudal times, everyone must belong somewhere. But manor rolls were no longer available and very few parishes as yet kept registers. But the beggars were driven from pillar to post,

since no town or country parish would, out of their funds, help strangers. It was the intractable problem of this potentially dangerous underworld which bedevilled the Poor Laws from their inception.

The Law of 1601 contained little that was new, and on two points an admission of defeat. One, that the lusty vagabonds were still abroad; the other, that reliance on Christian charity for adequate funds had failed. In this measure, intended to be temporary but which stayed, with modification, on the Statute Book for 230 years, the "poor" were legally classified as

> Fatherless children, the aged and the sick
> The able-bodied without work
> Lusty vagabonds
> "the poor in very deed".

Proper treatment for each group was laid down. Those unable to work and in need must be properly provided for in housing, food, clothing and medical attention. Those able to work but unable to afford raw materials (wool, flax, leather, iron, wood) must be provided with such, on demand, while those unwilling to work must go for a period, probably three weeks, to a House of Correction. Vagabonds should be moved on, with help, to the next place in the direction of their own place. (Many had no such place, having been born and bred on the road.) The "poor in very deed" must be given help in money.

In most of the towns arrangements were meeting their needs; in the country, the parish Vestry and Churchwardens were responsible for appointing annually a reliable parishioner as Overseer of the Poor. He was to see that all lands and tenements in the parish were assessed and a Poor Rate levied; and to deal with defaulters. Houses of Correction were to be built or an existing building used as such, and the Parish must maintain a good supply of materials for employment. All book entries of the overseer had to be approved frequently by the Churchwardens and Vestry, and all decisions of importance "allowed" by the Justices who, at Quarter Sessions, had to report to the Clerk of the Peace on all these affairs in their villages. The information in due course was reported to Judges in circuit and through them came to the Privy Council and the Commissioners of the Poor. This was the general Elizabethan scheme of Local Government which, when properly worked, had two great advantages: firstly, it did not cost the Exchequer a penny, and secondly, it allowed the King's Council to have a general picture of affairs throughout the land.

The first two Stuart Kings were much concerned about the poor and every encouragement was given to those concerned all down the line to do their whole duty. It was to the benefit of everyone to reduce vagrancy and local poverty; impoverished and discontented people were dangerous. Books of Orders were issued from time to time to the Justices of the Peace on their various duties. Among them, they were instructed to lay in stores of corn in good harvests so that the price of bread to the poor could be kept low when the harvest was bad, a wise policy but open to abuse. Local administration naturally suffered during the Civil War and the Interregnum. The Justices re-appeared with the Restoration, but largely new men in a new age and perhaps lacking in new ideas.

One of the first acts of the new reign was a new Act of Settlement, in 1662, an attempt to settle the many persons still unplaced. Under this Act, any two justices, upon complaint made to the overseers by any ratepayer within forty days from any person settling in a tenement under the annual value of ten pounds, had to have them conveyed to the parish where they were last legally settled, unless they gave sufficient security for the discharge of the parish from the obligation to support them. Henceforward the administration of the Poor Law was entirely parochial, in area and in spirit; with some advantage in understanding and sympathy at times, but with many drawbacks. Very full and illuminating records are in print for the parish of Burwash for the year 1701, how the rate of 1/6d. in the pound was collected and how the disbursements were made; similarly for the parish of Brede, for the latter half of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Orphaned or abandoned infants or children could be a heavy charge. In the early years infants were put out to nurse with parish nurses for a very small fee and with no inspection, but the mortality rate was high, and the Children's Act of 1767 required better pay and regular inspection. In a document in the Society's Library are inquisitions of the Coroner for the Battle area for the year 1809, among them,

at Warbleton—Infant found dead
at Salehurst—Infant found drowned
at Battle—Infant female accidentally smothered.

It was probably the Parish children rather than infants who were sometimes victims of Parish parsimony. They could be legally apprenticed at seven years old. A printed apprenticeship indenture of the thirtieth year of the reign of Charles II reads, in part

"The Churchwardens in the Parish of Dallington in the County of Sussex and Overseers of the Poor for the said Parish by and with the consent of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace—N. Pelham, John Busbridge, Matthew Evanden, have put and placed Thomas a poor child of the said Parish to be apprentice to Richard Morrow, with him to dwell and serve from the day of the date of these presents until the said apprentice has accomplished his full age according to the statute in that case made and provided; during all which term the said apprentice to his said master faithfully shall serve in all lawful business according to his power, wit and ability, and honestly, orderly and obediently in all things demean and behave himself towards his said master, all this during the said term.

Richard Morrow on his side provide for himself, his executors and administrators and their and every of their successors for the time being . . . to provide and allow meet, competent and sufficient meat, drink, apparel, lodging, washing, and provide that he be not in any way charged to the said Parish or parishioners thereof . . . and at the end of the said term shall and will make, provide, allow and deliver unto the said apprentice double apparel of all sorts, good and new, that is to say a good new suit for the Holy Daies and another for the Working Daies."

The apprenticeship was in most ways and still is a good training system, but these young Parishes' apprentices were sent preferably as far away as possible, and may not all have been fortunate in their master, his household or their fellow-apprentices.

A quite serious responsibility for the Parishes were the requisite buildings. They often had to rent, buy or build cottages to be let at a rent that poor people could afford. Many towns and some villages, in compliance with Elizabeth's Act built or made usable Houses of Correction. In this area Rye, Lewes, Battle, Brede and possibly Hastings all had, at some time, buildings so named. The work was usually to grind malt. The rule was "that none shall eat but as they earn". Working hours were from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the winter. Half an hour was allowed for eating and a quarter of an hour to be spent in prayers. They were intended for local lazy people but often discharged soldiers and sailors and others of good reputation and service down on their luck were submitted to this treatment, and sometimes women. Many voices were raised against the system which was modified or abandoned within a comparatively short time. But as late as 1788 James West,

coachman to the Hon. James Murray of Beauport, was sent to the House of Correction in Battle for a month for borrowing a horse without permission and other offences. From the beginning of the eighteenth century many parishes built poorhouses, and, from the middle of the century workhouses, as poverty increased and the poor rate rose. There were some early unions of small parishes for the use of the Poor House, and at first all "chargeable" to the Parish, young, old, sick, well and mad were pushed into what was in effect a prison. These places were not popular; people absconded and they had to have a paid master, whose task was not easy.

The most onerous and at times absurd duty of the overseers was dealing with settlements. In the Middle Ages on the feudal manor everyone, from the Lord to his meanest self, was bound to that manor, and had certain rights and owed certain duties. In theory everyone except outlaws "belonged" somewhere. When all this was done away with it was supposed that the Parish would see everyone's legal affairs settled. A law of 1537 required Parishes to keep registers but many disregarded it, and they were not the whole answer, considering the number of wandering people, some born on the roads. Gradually other conditions established the right to live in a new place paying rates over a period, owning a house worth more than ten pounds a year, service in some public way or some years without having been chargeable or being in the employment of a parishioner. Charles II's law made settlement more difficult in one way, as many applicants hid themselves until the forty days were fulfilled. It all provided much paid work for lawyers, also for coachmen: some of the latter entered into yearly contracts for removals. From Salehurst: "Jas. Smith Expenses for coach hire etc. With Wm. Rush, his wife and two children to Warley in Essex. With orders of removal and on returning, 4 days—£9 17s. 8d."

Militia men's wives were a problem. In 1809: "Wife of Henry Brown in need in Battle. Letter to Mr. Daniel of Colchester to enquire about David Brown's settlement. Cost of postage and payment to Mr. Daniel for his trouble;

	£	s.	d.
Cost of drawing briefs, 2 sheets		13	4
Two fair copies for Counsel		13	4
Fee to Mr. Caulthrop his brief and clerk	2	4	6
Charge in Colchester		6	8
Mr. Daniel's charge and Clerk's journey to Lewes	13	6	2."

And after all, Battle lost the claim and presumably kept Mrs. Brown.

Widows also could be a charge: "Widow Lavenham was removed to Ashburnham from Battle on enquiries made of her father in Brentwood". Another local example in the vestry of Battle Church: "Churchwardens and Overseer of the Parish of Battle in the County of Sussex. We, whose names are hereinunder written, Churchwardens and Overseer of the Poor in the Parish of Seddlescombe in the said County do hereby own and acknowledge John Crisford, Philadelphia his wife, and Philadelphia, Thomas, Samuel, Edward, William and James their children who now all reside in your said Parish of Battle, be our inhabitants legally settled in our said Parish of Seddlescombe and do hereby promise for ourselves and successors to renew this acknowledgment when and as often as the Churchwardens and Overseer of the Poor in the said Parish of Battle shall require.

Witness our hand this 19th day of May in
the year of our Lord 1781.
Churchwardens—John Baker
Wm. Cook
Overseer —George Mantle."

Gradually, the vagabonds were dispersed, no doubt pressed into naval or military service, joining gangs on road works, or canals, or drifting to the new industrial towns of the north, where rules of settlement hardly applied. But in Sussex as in much of rural England towards the end of the eighteenth century and through much of the nineteenth the very numbers of the poor led to some hardening of hearts; the long wars and some bad harvests pushed up the price of bread, a new wave of enclosures led to a further depopulation in places and magistrates, who were often in an anomalous position when fixing wages and allowing the Poor Rates, shifted, or thought they did, some of their own burden.

THE IRON INDUSTRY IN THE BATTLE AREA

The lecturer began by quoting Drayton's poem of wood-nymphs being driven from their ancestral home by the destruction of the woodland and the din of the hammer in the general development of the iron industry. There were three eras—the pre-Roman and Roman, the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval, and that extending from the end of the fifteenth to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Battle is situated on the Wadhurst clay of the Hastings beds, which contains a good iron ore, and the area formed part of the great forest of Anderida, so that the ore and wood for charcoal were both

present for making iron. There is evidence of pre-Roman working at Crowhurst Footlands and Dallington. The first two sites were taken over by the Romans who, in the first century, developed sites such as Bynes Farm and Chitcombe. In the second century Beauport Park, Oaklands Park, and perhaps Petley Wood were established. Of uncertain date, but believed to be of Roman origin are the sites at Pepperingeye, Forewood, New Pond, Westfield, Baldslow Place, Buckholt, Sidley, and Blacklands in Hastings. Battle is seen as the centre of a thriving but small scale industry. In the first two centuries after Christ no other area of England could compare with it.

From evidence found in the Battle area and elsewhere it is possible to build up a picture of the processes involved in the production of iron. At Forewood and Petley, for example, can be seen the pits from which ore was dug. Shaped like pudding-basins, they are 9ft. deep, 12ft. in diameter at ground level, and 4ft. at the bottom. The ore was washed, broken up to a suitable size, and then roasted. Ore-roasting furnaces have been found, for example, at Tiddington in Warwickshire, and locally at Bardown. Evidences of ore-roasting occur at Petley Wood, Footlands, Chitcombe, and Beauport Park. In the first era the industry was at its greatest extent in the first and second centuries A.D.

Although the second era was the longest in term of years, yet in terms of information in the Battle area it is the most silent. That the industry continued in the country there can be no doubt, owing to the various examples of Smiths' handiwork which have survived. At the end of the Anglo-Saxon period the iron industry in the Weald had been almost extinguished. Evidence of the industry in the Weald during the thirteenth century is scanty; but in the fourteenth eight forges were operating in the Weald, and probably more. Probably the most important innovation in the Medieval period was the introduction of water power to work the bellows.

The third era was that of the blast furnace, defined by Rhys-Jenkins as "A furnace of considerable height, fed at the open top and continuously producing metal in a liquid form, which, at the bottom, is tapped from time to time". Iron could be hammered directly from the bloomery; but that produced by a blast furnace was too brittle, and so a process of "refining" was introduced. One result of this was the separation of furnace and forge, with separate wheels for furnace, finery, chafery, and hammer.

Between 1541 and 1578 no less than eight blast furnaces were established in the Battle area, and two more in the first half of the following century. By 1548 20 or 21 blast furnaces and 28 forges were in existence in England, and new furnaces were established in the 1550's and 1560's. Of all these, however, only seven existed outside the Weald. By the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, however, development had taken place elsewhere—in South Wales, the Midlands, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Durham, Hampshire, Forest of Dean, Northwest England, Scotland and Ireland. The number of Wealden furnaces gradually diminished, most of them after the Civil War, with a fall in 1717 from 29 to 14, of which four were idle. In a list of 1790 only two furnaces were mentioned, although Robertsbridge was still active. The last to close down was Ashburnham, the furnace closing in 1810 and the forge in 1828.

The lecturer, in the remainder of his lecture, described in greater detail the process of iron production in the Weald, the dates between which the ironworks in the Battle district were active, their products and output, with extracts from their account books, relating to wages and expenses, together with mention of the relics of the dead industry which can be seen today. The lecture was illustrated with maps and slides. A copy of Mr. Convey's full lecture has been deposited in the Society's library.

VISIT TO ETCHINGHAM CHURCH, BURWASH CHURCH AND BATEMANS

Nineteen members attended this meeting. There is a full description of Etchingham Church in *Transactions* 1950–51 and 6; and of Burwash Church also in the number for 1950–51. The latter was last visited on September 12th, 1951. This was the fifth visit which the Society has paid to Batemans, Rudyard Kipling's house. A short account of the house appeared in *Transactions* for 1951–52, and of Kipling's association with it in No. 7 for 1957–58.

VISIT TO SHEFFIELD PARK GARDENS AND BUXTED CHURCH

Twenty-six members attended. Sheffield Park was last visited on June 28th, 1961, and an account appeared in No. 10 of *Transactions*. Buxted Church, from which the village has been bodily removed, has been visited before by the Society.

VISIT TO EASEBOURNE PRIORY AND PETWORTH HOUSE

Twenty-nine members attended this meeting, which repeated that of June 29th, 1966, of which a full account appeared in *Transactions* for 1965–66.

VISIT TO PENSHURST PLACE AND WADHURST CHURCH

This, the third visit of the Society to Penshurst Place, was attended by 38 members. A full account of this famous house appeared in *Transactions* for 1955–56.

Wadhurst Church possesses a font and a clerestory dating back to the 15th century, the latter having a fine old glass window said to have come from Nuremburg. The building is surmounted by a 13th century spire rising to over 120ft. above ground level.

The district is noted for its iron, which had been used by the Romans and production continued until the beginning of the 19th century when it ceased to exist in Sussex, the last furnace having been lit in Wadhurst. The first cannon were produced nearby, and were used against the Armada, and Sussex iron was used for shoeing horses in the reign of Edward II.

More peacefully, local iron was used for making church bells (one dated as 1496 is in Ardingly Church and is still used), firebacks and tombstones. Thirty-three such tombstones are set in the floor of Wadhurst Church over the graves of ironmasters who had previously lived here, and for these the church is well known.

VISIT TO FIRLE PLACE, FIRLE CHURCH AND ARLINGTON CHURCH

Thirty-one members attended this, the third visit of the Society to Firle Place, a full description of which appeared in *Transactions* for 1955/56. Firle Church contains monuments to the Gage family. Arlington Church was visited for the second time last year and an account appears in *Transactions* No. 20.

VISIT TO WILMINGTON PRIORY AND JEVINGTON CHURCH

Thirty-nine members attended. An account of Wilmington Priory appeared in *Transactions* for 1953/54. Jevington, formerly spelt Gynynton, is a lonely hamlet in a hollow of the downs. Its church is partly Saxon and Norman, and is dedicated to St. Andrew.

THE CELTIC BACKGROUND OF SOME SUSSEX PLACE NAMES

It is usual, perhaps, to regard Sussex as the most Saxon of counties. Its early settlement, the massacre at Pevensey by Ella and Cissa in A.D. 490, and a Victorian tendency to admire Germanic and despise Celtic origins all contributed to the "Clean sweep" theory, the idea that all Britons were either killed or driven into Wales and Cornwall by the invading Angles and Saxons. Scholars now regard this theory as untenable. If a fair proportion of Britons remained in Sussex, some British place names, not swept away with the inhabitants as supposed, must have survived.

The library of our Society contains the Sussex volumes of the Place Name Society, bequeathed by the late Mr. C. T. Chevallier. When these volumes were first published, the critic of the *Daily Telegraph* wrote: "What will probably strike the newcomer to the subject is the obscurity which seems to have settled down on these philological origins, and the very large proportion of conjecture and assumption present in the interpretations of the modern forms of names . . . It is permissible to think that the editors have allowed themselves too free a hand in conjecture, and have relied rather on theory and guesses in the study than on practical acquaintance with the natural features of the spot involved. The labour necessary for such work as theirs tends to the academic outlook . . . The whole work, erudite and laborious as it is, would have been richer for a closer touch with nature and the living word."

An analysis of these volumes VI and VII showed that hardly one of the 292 names examined was allowed to have a Celtic origin; and moreover that 40% of the solutions either depended on personal names which could not be verified, or else two alternatives were suggested, which, in the nature of things, must have been guesses.

For a really good example of armchair etymology and ignorance of the local landscape let us quote the entry for the village of CRICK in the Northamptonshire P.N.S. volume: "Crick is the Old English for crooked, but the name is obscure". Actually the village had been named "Rock" by the Britons because it clustered round the base of a small hill on which still stands a prominent rock visible from a distance. Carrick, Craig, Carreg, and Crick, varieties of the Celtic word for "rock", occur in all Celtic districts.

Authors of books on place names are dogmatic and deny that they employ guesswork. Thus Dr. Reany, referring to journalists and topographers, wrote: "They have no more right to discard etymologies merely because they do not like them, than they have to falsify facts". Undoubtedly guesswork enters into many academic solutions: it is inevitable; for when all available materials to bridge the river of time have been used, and the far bank has not been reached, it becomes necessary to jump the remaining distance. Possible reasons why academic philology is not a completely suitable key to place names may be that it deals with the changes in living languages; whereas place names contain relics of dead and fossilised words; and also because it takes no account of possible corruption at an early date.

Corruptions have nothing to do with "the natural development of language"; but depend rather on the unpredictable habits of human beings: similarly "sound substitution" does not necessarily follow the course which philology dictates. The first soldiers at an Artillery Practice Camp in Wales who, on hearing that the name of the local inn was *Tyn y groes* (House of the cross), promptly called it "The tin of grease" were not employing words which were a "natural development" of *Tyn y groes*, but merely substituting similarly sounding words which they understood for those which they did not; like their Saxon predecessors did when first confronted with British place names.

A good practical example of sound substitution and failure to detect a Celtic origin is afforded by GOMSHALL in Surrey. The P.N.S. solution is *Guman scylfe* (Guma's shelf). The name may have sounded like that to a Saxon; but when its local pronunciation, "Goomp'shal" (with oo as in soot, and a short a), was given to a Welshman he said at once that it sounded like *Cwm y sialc* (chalky combe). Now there is no "shelf" at Gomshall; but there is, not far from the village, a small combe in the North Downs where the chalk is exposed owing to the steep slope. The P.N.S. has examined the top

layer only and postulated a Saxon called Guma, a word which actually means "hero". Other writers believe that the name is Celtic.[1]

Comparatively few Celtic names were, in origin, the names of habitations. The vast majority are river names and names of natural features, some of which were transferred to later settlements nearby.[2] The name GOMSHALL serves as an example of the latter. A typical Celtic name of a natural feature consists partly or wholly of two nouns, the second qualifying the first, with a preposition or definite article between them. Examples are: *Cwm y lan* (Church valley) in Wales and *Park an venton* (Spring field) in Cornwall. In Southern England this article has disappeared; nor in fact is it known what it was; for, as Kenneth Cameron remarks, our knowledge of early British languages is slight. Known words of Celtic languages, more particularly Cornish, can be used as pointers; but it is not suggested that the names examined are directly derived from such words.

Bearing these things in mind, let us now examine a few Sussex names in which there appears to be evidence of a Celtic background.

FINDON. The village is dominated by the hill crowned by Cissbury Ring, an Iron Age fort. *Ffin* in Welsh means "boundary", and *dun* in Gaelic means "hill", pointing to British words, which, separated by the article which has disappeared, meant "Boundary by the hill". The P.N.S. solution is from Saxon words meaning "A heap of wood".

MOLECOMBE, Westhampnett, written *Molecumbe* in 1284 and *Mollecombe* in 1301, appears to mean "Bare valley" (Cornish *mol*, bare, and *cum*, a small valley or dingle, "e" representing the British definite article.

TRULILOWS is the intriguing name of a farm in Herstmonceux parish. This name looks so Cornish that one might suppose that it was a recent importation, were it not known that it appeared as *Trolylowys* in 1522. The P.N.S. makes no attempt to solve it. Pointers may be Cornish *tre* (homestead), *le* (place), and Welsh *lluest* (tent)—"Homestead at the camping place".

MINNIS ROCK at Hastings is a topographical feature, so that a British name might be suspected. The P.N.S. gives the Saxon *Gemaennes* (property held in joint tenancy); but *men* in Cornish means "rock", and *ys* "lower" which would sound like *-maennes,* and may be the real meaning, namely "Lower rock".

GLYNDE and GLYNE GAP, Bexhill. Glyn both in Cornish and Welsh means simply "Valley".

CHITCOMBE, an iron site near Brede. *Chit* is now acknowledged by etymologists to be the "natural development" of *Coit*, which Nennius gives as the British word for "wood". The name therefore means "The wood in the valley".

TOWN CREEP is an area covered by stones on a spur forming a ridge which runs southward from Netherfield. The name has given rise to the legend that the stones are the remains of a British town. *Cryb,* pronounced "creep" in Cornish, means a ridge, while *towan*, sounding very like "town", means a sandhill. There is a sandhill not far from the stones. The Cornish would be *Towan an gryp*, "The sandhill on the ridge".[3]

ROTHER. Do the two rivers in Sussex take their name from Rotherfield, said by the P.N.S. to mean "Open land for cattle", or vice versa? As a general rule rivers give their name to settlements on their banks, and not the reverse. A more appropriate name for rivers running through ironfields would be "Red stream",[4] the pointers being the Cornish *Ruth* (red) and *dowr* (water).

Many names with a Celtic background are hybrids, the first element being the original Celtic name, or part of it, and the second the Saxon addition or explanation because the old name was not understood. Sometimes the two elements mean the same thing, in which case the name is called a "Tautological compound".

BRINFAST farm. Written *Brunafasten* in A.D. 683 shows the Celtic *Bryn* (hill), and the Saxon *fasten* (stronghold).

HAILSHAM in ancient times lay on the shore of an estuary, and salt pans have been found there. *Hayl* in Cornish means "estuary", to which has been added the Saxon *ham* (village or homestead). Hayle is the name of a small town on an estuary in Cornwall.

CHITHURST is a tautological compound—"Wood wood".

PENHURST. The appearance of *Pen*, so widespread in England and Wales, makes it difficult to accept the P.N.S. suggestion that there was a person named Pena. *Pen* may mean head, chief, end, or top. It may indicate the end of a ridge or wood. Actually Penhurst is at the end of a ridge which drops 175 feet from Little Sprays farm.

BODIAM is an interesting name. After the excavation in 1960, which proved that it was a river port in Romano-British times,[5] it seems unlikely to have had such a purely Saxon name as "Boda's farm". *Bod* and *ham* have substantially the same meaning, "settlement or habitation", so that it may be a tautological compound. Bodmin in Cornwall means "House of the monks".[6] On the other hand the local pronunciation is, or was until recently, "Bodjem", and pronunciation often outlives spelling. A possible pointer to an alternative solution is *Bojek*, a "bush grown place".[7]

Julius Caesar records in Book V Chapter 12 of *De Bello Gallico* that some iron was produced near the coast of Britain in B.C. 54. The Wealden iron industry did not finally close down till the early years of the 19th century; so it is reasonable to expect Celtic names in connection with it. "Mine" and "Cinder", one notices, have not their usual English meanings, but mean respectively "ore" and "slag" like the Welsh words *mwn* and *sinidr*. *Horn*, the Cornish for iron, enters into several local names. There is a crossroads called Horns Cross near Catsfield, and another near Northiam, the latter being in the midst of six iron-smelting sites.

ELLENWHORNE, an iron site in Ewhurst parish, means "Iron plot", *Ellen* being the form in which *elyl* (Cornish for "plot") appears in Cornish place names.[8]

HORNCOMBE, West Hoathly, was written *Hornecumbe* and *Hornycumbe* in 1279. Here the E or Y represents the British definite article, and the name means "Iron site in the valley".

BARNHORNE near Wadhurst, on the other hand, is an iron site on high ground, which would be well described by the Cornish *Ban an horn*—"Iron hilltop".

"Moon", the sound-substitution for *mwn* or *mun* (ore) appears in Moonhill, Cuckfield and Moons Wood, Sedlescombe.

The survival for 2,000 years of names connected with the iron industry is, perhaps, the most striking discovery of our investigation.

NOTES

1. Isaac Taylor, *Words and Places*, p. 239.
2. Kenneth Cameron, *English Place Names*, p. 37.
3. *Sussex Notes and Queries*, Vol. XVI No. 9.
4. Austin Farmar, *Place Names Synonyms Classified*, p. 12.
5. *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol. 104.
6. *Atlas of the British Isles*, Edited and published by the Readers' Digest Association, Section four.
7. Morton Nance, *A Guide to Cornish Place Names*, p. 6.
8. Ibid, p. 8.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 906th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

COMMEMORATION LECTURE

The Commemoration Lecture was given in Langton House on October 13th by Mr. H. H. Margary, F.S.A., his subject being "Old Sussex Maps". His lecture was illustrated by slides and his own reproductions of rare maps. The lecturer covered all aspects of map preparation and presentation tracing the process of development from mere indications in the 16th century of the geographical relationship of towns, villages and estates to the 18th century maps which were works of art in their own right, embellished with engravings of architectural, topographical, and other subjects. One map showed the artist's idea of the Battle of Hastings, which was accompanied by a historical note. With the 19th century came the private terriers in greater detail and the work of the Ordnance Survey.

EVENING PARTY

This was held in Battle Abbey on October 14th, the anniversary of the battle, by courtesy of Mrs. Evelyn Webster and Miss J. R. Parker, the Headmistress of Battle Abbey School. One hundred and four members and guests attended. Among the latter was Mr. D. F. Butler, B.Sc., who has kindly restored a number of iron tools and other objects in the Society's museum.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

The Commemoration Service on Sunday, October 15th was conducted by the Dean of Battle, the Very Rev. H. R. Darby, B.A. It was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hastings, Alderman T. Mears and Mrs. Mears, and the Maire of Béthune, M. Paul Breynaert, who had taken part in the twinning ceremony of Hastings and Béthune the previous day. Also attending were representatives of the Souvenir Normand, the Chairman, Mrs. H. J. Wilson and members of the Battle Rural District Council, members of the Battle Parish Council, the Battle Chamber of Commerce, and the Civic Association. The lessons were read by Mrs. E. Webster, senior Vice-President, and Brigadier D. A. Learmont, Chairman of the Society.

The Dean of Battle also preached the sermon from notes prepared by the former Dean, the Very Rev. F. H. Outram, who would have been the preacher but for his sudden death. The theme of the sermon was twofold: the great battles which have changed history and the constant small battles of the individual. The soldier makes his own decisions during the battle, and each of us is continually faced by a choice and endeavours like Joshua to choose the living God, know His ways and serve Him. Of the great battle, whose site our town perpetuates, the opposing armies prayed to the same God for victory, and men on both sides fell in their thousands; but, out of that act of violence, which we here commemorate, has come the fusion of races to engender the British nation, whose character and great qualities have influenced the whole world. Christians commemorate the greatest act of violence in human history, the Crucifixion of Christ, whose death won the salvation of mankind.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on November 10th, 1972

The Chairman, Brigadier D. A. Learmont, C.B.E., presided.

The Chairman's report, previously circulated, was approved. At the end of September 1972 membership stood at 295, an increase of 59 during the year. In his report the Chairman stated that if the Society was to play a useful part in preserving all that it holds dear in the area it covers, and in planning the Battle of the future, more members would be most welcome to increase its influence and prestige, and members were therefore asked to recruit them. Appreciation was expressed to those members who had exceeded the minimum subscription. The winter lectures in 1971–72 had been well attended, no less than seven having been given by members of the Society, which by any standard was most creditable. An interesting programme of visits had been arranged and on the whole well supported, although there was a small loss at the end of the season. Other social activities, however, had enabled the account to be squared. The Society has continued to be consulted by the Authorities in the preparation of the Town Plan, now published after approval by both the County Council and the Rural District Council. The Society had submitted a pressing demand for a "Light controlled pedestrian crossing" at the junction of High Street and Mount Street to the County Council. Members were urged to keep watch on all planning schemes which might spoil the town or affect the conservation of the countryside.

Mr. P. Rees, acting temporarily as Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts. The Hon. Treasurer's statement and report, previously circulated, was approved. The Society had enjoyed a satisfactory financial year, income having exceeded expenditure by £29.25. There was a saving on lecturers' fees because of lectures given by members, and on the hiring of halls by the lectures being given in Langton House. Members had given £36.80 in addition to their subscriptions, without which the surplus would have become a deficit. Thanks were due to the Museum Committee for their gift to our funds. Increase in membership accounted for £36 more in the subscription income. There was a small loss on outings; but this was compensated for by a small profit on social evenings. On October 13th the cash at bank in the general fund stood at £123.05. The Battle Index Fund stood at £4.38. The Guide publication current account at £57.88, and the Guide Publication deposit account at £218.30.

The Chairman, who was not seeking re-election, expressed his sincere thanks to the Officers, Committee, and Members for the help and support they had given him in his term of office.

In the elections which followed, Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon was re-elected President, Prof. D. Whitelock and Major L. C. Gates were re-elected Vice-Presidents, and Prof. Mrs. E. Searle was elected Vice-President in the vacancy caused by the death of Dean Outram, all for a period of three years. The following officers were elected for one year: Chairman, Miss P. M. Ireland; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. E. Stevenson; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. D. Upton; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. C. Avery. Mrs. W. N. Palmer, Miss J. E. S. Robertson, and Mr. E. J. Upton were re-elected to the Committee for three years. Mr. F. Kempton was elected to the Committee for one year vice Miss Ireland. Mr. R. W. Bishop who had held the office of Treasurer for fifteen years was elected an Honorary Member *Honoris Causa* in recognition of his services.

After the Museum Trust meeting Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Mason gave a talk illustrated with slides on Stratford-upon-Avon and the building of Guildford Cathedral.

MUSEUM TRUST

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 10th, 1972

In the absence through illness of the Chairman, the chair was taken by Mr. W. N. Palmer, the Vice-Chairman. The report of the Chairman was approved.

The Museum's income has again been in excess of its expenditure, so the season cannot be regarded as unsuccessful. However, the number of visitors dropped. During the six years from 1966 the attendances have been 7,025; 9,556; 11,913; 12,162; 13,730 and 15,299. This led us to expect a further increase for the year just finished, whereas the actual number was 14,253, a result which is rather puzzling, as local counter-attractions were no more than usual, and the weather, always a potent factor, has, on the whole, been more for than against us.

Sales of our publications continue at a satisfactory level, but those of postcards have been disappointing. The Diorama card is still the most popular.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the job of making the roof weather-proof has, at long last, been undertaken, and will, it is hoped, prove satisfactory.

The collection during the last year has been enriched by a number of gifts and loans, to all the donors and lenders of which we are very grateful. The most important additions are those of the Chown collection of coins, which has now joined those already on display, and Mr. Stevenson's present of another show case, which has enabled us to put on show a number of objects also not previously on exhibition.

Professional advice was sought regarding the measures necessary for the proper preservation of the Bayeux Tapestry prints, and, in accordance with that advice, expert restoration of the prints themselves, their re-mounting and re-framing, had to be undertaken. This was in the nature of a major operation, the total cost of which amounted to £124. The Area Museums Service, however, met half the cost of the fee asked by the restorer, and Hastings Museum defrayed half the balance of the remaining liability, so that our expenses in the connection were only £35. We are most sincerely grateful to both the above named for all the help and generosity they

have shown us, and wish to record a special expression of thanks to Mr. Manwaring Baines of the Hastings Museum, not only for his efforts to afford us the financial help that we were given by his Committee, but also for all the time and advice he himself gave us throughout the proceedings.

In addition, a new aluminium framework, to replace the somewhat dilapidated wooden ones in which the photographs of old Battle are at present displayed, has been made and purchased, the cost being £30.

The Museum was, as usual open every Sunday afternoon thanks to the valued efforts of the volunteers who manned it. This duty has been shared amongst a very small number of members, and any additional volunteers from the Society for what is not an arduous, and can be a very stimulating afternoon, would be welcome.

This report would not, of course, be complete without an expression of thanks to those without whose efforts and devotion the Museum could hardly function at all, especially to our Hon. Secretary, Miss Robertson, Mr. Bishop, our Hon. Treasurer, Prof. Bate, our Hon. Assistant Treasurer, and our Curator, Mr. Mayer.

The Chairman recorded that Mr. Clough was not seeking re-election to the Committee, thus ending his sixteen years of valuable service to the Museum. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Museum accounts which were adopted. The Museum had once again enjoyed a successful financial season, as income had exceeded expenditure by £163.54½. The actual year's cost of running the Museum was £576. The total of balances credit of Museum funds was £1,090.89½.

In the elections which followed the following members of the Committee were elected for one year: Prof. A. E. Bate, Mr. R. W. Bishop, Mr. E. H. Mayer, Mr. W. N. Palmer, Mrs. K. D. Upton, Miss J. E. S. Robertson, and Miss P. M. Ireland. Mr. D. H. Beaty-Pownall was elected to the Committee for one year vice Mr. Clough.

At the first Committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the following appointments were made: Chairman, Mr. E. H. Mayer; Vice-Chairman Mr. W. N. Palmer; Hon. Secretary and Librarian, Miss J. E. S. Robertson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. W. Bishop; Hon. Assistant Treasurer, Prof. A. E. Bate; Hon. Curator, Mr. E. H. Mayer; Hon. Auditor, Mr. J. D. Shearing.

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