BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Transactions
1955 - 1956

Price: 2/6

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Trust

President:
PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, OM., O.B.E.

Vice-Presidents:
MRS. E. HARBORD
MRS. HOPE MUNTZ
THE VERY REV. A. T. A. NAYLOR, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A.
THE HON. MRS. WHISTLER

Chairman:
SIR JOHN THORNE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

Vice-Chairman:
MR. A. E. MARSON, M.B.E.

Hon. Secretary:
MISS K. H. DAVIS, Mus.B. (till September 1956)
MAJOR L. C. GATES (from September 1956)

Hon. Treasurer:
MR. P. F. ROOM

Committee:
MR. C. T. CHEVALLIER, M.A.
MISS R. CHIVERTON
MR. A. R. CLOUGH
MR. D. W. CREW
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 JAMES DOAK (*co-opted*)

CONTENTS

NOTE:—The Society is in no way responsible for the opinions of contributors as expressed in the above articles.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The sixth year of the B.&D.H.S. has been a notable one. The outstanding event was the establishment of a museum, thus fulfilling the second of the two objects for which the Society was formed. Other events were a second visit of the Souvenir Normand on July 6th; the programme of which was similar to that of 1954 as recorded in the *Transactions* for that year; and the visit of the Tenterden and District Local History Society on August 4th. Both these societies were conducted round the Abbey ruins, battlefield, and Museum by members of the B.& D.H.S. A new feature instituted during the year was an essay competition for schoolchildren, in which the Abbey girls secured three prizes, the fourth going to a Glengorse boy. It is now up to the boys to redress the balance in this year's competition. On June 5th the B.B.C. produced a television broadcast about the battle, the first of a series called "Up to Date". Our Society was able to give assistance in the preparation of the broadcast; and in recognition of this the B.B.C. presented us with the model they prepared, which will shortly be on view in the Museum, and also some photographs. Opinions however may differ on whether the B.B.C's presentation did justice to so great a subject.

We record with regret the death of Mrs. Penrose Fry, better known perhaps as the distinguished Sussex novelist Sheila Kaye-Smith, who had been a Vice-President of the Society for five years.

The lecture by Sir Gordon Welch on Sussex Place Names reminded us that a society such as ours should, through its members, do all in its power to prevent the obliteration, alteration, corruption, or removal of ancient place names. Some cases have occurred locally of late: Riccards Farm, for instance, a 13th century name in all probability, has been moved over half a mile from its ancient site to designate some quite new farm buildings, and Panningridge near Ashburnham has become Pannelridge. It may not be generally know that machinery exists for correcting the Ordnance Survey in the matter of names. The Sussex Archaeological Society submits its official set of maps periodically to the Ordnance Survey with suggestions for corrections, in which it is easy for our society to get any observed errors incorporated. On the other side of the picture, it is gratifying to record that two persons

in the neighbourhood have sought the help of our society to verify the historical correctness of the names of their properties.

Owing to the policy that these Transactions shall contain only matter of local interest, the lecture of Mr. G. R. Hughes, C.V.O., on "Treasures of the City Livery Companies" has had, regretfully, to be omitted.

THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The exhibition of objects of local historical interest at the Autumn Flower Show of the Battle Horticultural Society in 1950 led to the calling of a public meeting by the Chairman of the Parish Council at which it was resolved unanimously to form a Historical Society in Battle. It may therefore be said that the origin of the Museum goes back farther than that of the Society itself. The Society came into being on December 13th 1950, with two avowed objects:

(1) The study, discussion, and publication of matters of local, historical, or antiquarian interest.

(2) The acquisition or custody of articles of historical interest pertaining to Battle and district, and provision for their maintenance and exhibition.

In spite of the warning of Mr. L. F. Salzman, C.B.E., F.S.A., in the first lecture ever given to the Society that a museum tended to last only so long as one or two enthusiasts chose to look after it, the establishment of a museum has always remained a cherished aim. Small museum exhibitions were held from time to time in the early days, and from July 30th to August 11th a museum was arranged in the Abbots' Hall of Battle Abbey in connection with the Festival of Britain activities. Much genuine interest was aroused, but the work and expense entailed by the collection and return of the exhibits forced a discontinuance of these temporary efforts. In 1953 a tentative start with a permanent museum was made by hiring a room in the Brewery Yard; mainly with the object of housing the collection of historical and archaeological books which the Society was accumulating by loan, gift, and purchase, and opening a lending library. The tenancy of small rooms in Battle however proved precarious, and the Library as it was called, after being driven from pillar to post, was reduced by January 1956 to having its books and the few museumn objects it possessed stored in an attic.

Shortly after this low ebb in its fortunes a lease was offered to the Society, on favourable terms, of premises suitable for a small museum and library at the Old Church House, Battle, situated actually on the battlefield and not far from the spot

where Harold fell. This proposition was put to an Extraordinary General Meeting and passed with only one dissentient.

Generous help has been forthcoming from various sources. Donations have been received from members of the Society and friends amounting to £65. The Hove Museum made the Society a gift of show cases. The East Sussex County Education Committee made a grant towards the cost of floor covering and heating equipment. Hastings Museum lent a quantity of exhibits of local historical interest, and gave great assistance and much valuable advice. Many private individuals have given of lent exhibits. To those substantial gifts was added the devoted labours of members and friends in interior decoration, fitting up show cases, arranging exhibits and other practical help, which enabled the museum to be opened in time for the Whitsun holidays.

The Museum was opened on Whit Saturday, May 19th, 1956, free to members and at a charge of 6d. per head to the general public. It is obvious that it fulfils a public need, for between May 19th and September 30th, 1956, 4,153 persons had paid for admission. At this rate it is estimated that the running costs should be covered without difficulty.

On June 6th, 1956, the Musuem and Library was formally opened by Mr. J. Mainwaring Baines, B.Sc., F.S.A., F.R.S.A., F.Z.S., Curator of Hastings Public Museum and Art Gallery, and the Society's second object had been attained.

Lecture delivered by Sir Gordon Welch, C.B.E., on Friday, December 2nd, 1955

" SUSSEX PLACE NAMES "

The lecturer began by saying that the background of place names in this neighbourhood was given by the Saxon invasion. Sussex was the name, not of a place but of a people, the South Saxons, who invaded and seized this part of Britain under chieftains whose names would be unknown if they had not been preserved for 14 centuries in place names which we used daily.

Thus the Hastings were a powerful tribe, who were followers of Haesta. They ranked in importance with the men of Sussex and Kent, and there are grounds for supposing that their influence ranged as far as Hastingford beyond Hadlow Down and Hastingleigh, near Ashford. Similar names ending in *-ing* or *-ings* were to be found all along the Sussex coast: Guestling, Brightling, Wartling, Birling (gap), Cooden (originally Coding) and Wilting Farms (Hollington) being local examples.

These names were the oldest relating to the Saxon period. Later names in *-ing* incorporated an element descriptive of the locality, examples being Steyning, meaning the people of the stony place, and Sompting, the people of the marshy land.

At a more advanced stage the *-ing* termination definitely related to a fixed place; Etchingham, for example, probably meant "The land between streams, belonging to the people of a Saxon called Ecci".

When the Saxons arrived they found Roman fortified towns which they called Chesters, from the latin word Castra. When Regnum was captured by Cissa in A.D.477 it was renamed Cissanceaster, now Chichester. Roman roads were called Streets from the Latin word Stratum, a paved way. A local example was Kent Street, Sedlescombe.

Earthworks and hilltop forts were called *burh,* which had come down to us as *burgh, borough* and *bury.* Near Etchingham there was Burwash (formerly Burgersh) on one side of the river and Burgh Wood and Burgh Hill on the other side, while further afield were Cissbury, Chanctonbury and Bury Hill.

Eg, varieties of which are *ea* and *eye,* meant an island, but was often applied to land not entirely surrounded by water, as at a river loop or confluence of two streams. Associated with this word was *ham,* meaning something enclosed or "hemmed in"; which was also used to name land hemmed in by water, as at Etchingham already mentioned.

Ham was the parent word of *home* and *hamlet,* and was also used to denote any settlement or dwelling place, so that it was a very common termination of a place name. *Tun* meant first a hedge, then something enclosed by a hedge, such as a farm, and finally a town, which is the same word.

Whatlington was the farm of the followers of Hwaetel, whose name also appears in Wattles Wish, near Battle, which was Hwaetel's marshy land.

Dene and *coombe* denoted different kinds of valleys; the former one which was long and level, the latter one short and steep. *Ly, ley* and *leigh,* appearing in Hellingly and many other names in the Weald, came from a word meaning originally *light,* and was applied to places in the forest where light could enter; hence a grassy open space in woodland, which would make a comfortable settlement.

The ridge from Fairlight which joined the main ridge at Netherfield was evidently considered an important one, for the name Greatridge occurred near Hastings, and Ore derived from Anglo-Saxon *Ora,* meaning the side slope of a ridge.

Netherfield, incidentally, had nothing to do with *nether*, but denoted a field where there were *nadders*; now-a-days we call *a nadder* an adder.

The Great Ridge threw off a number of spurs, which, if wooded, were called *hyrst*, and if not wooded *hoh*. That was why the village north of the Pevensey levels was called Hooe, and in this largely wooded country we were surrounded by Hursts.

The odd thing about the name Rye was that the initial letter had been left over from the Middle English *Atter Eye*, meaning "at the island". This became *atte Rye* and then the *atte* was dropped, giving the name its present form.

Crowhurst Wood and farm between Netherfield and Mountfield were doubtless named from crows; but Crowhurst village was from *croh*, a corner, which described the situation of the church. *Field* denoted originally a largish open space, probably on sandy soil, and occurred frequently in East Sussex. Ninfield meant open land newly cultivated, and Westfield was west of Guestling.

Sir Gordon said he was sorry he could not agree with *church settlement* as a derivation of Icklesham, because 15 different spellings of the name between A.D.770 and 1724 showed no sign of *eccles*, but pointed to *Icel's ham*. Names containing *Icel* occurred in five other counties. Because Jack Cade was captured near a place called Kattestrete in 1288 and Cartstrete in 1330, the name became varied to Cade Street, but the place was not named after him.

In the discussion which followed, some criticism was expressed of the apparent bias in the publications of the Place Names Society towards Saxon derivations, and the attribution of so many place names to personal names which might or might not be authentic. Several local names were Danish, such as Caldbec, and the many Gylls. Santlache might be Danish also, and have no connection with *lagu*, the Saxon for stream, but refer to a sandy layer or communal sandpit. Creep Wood, standing upon a sharp ridge, surely derived its name from the Celtic *cryb*, which meant ridge, rather than from the Saxon *crype*, meaning a crevice, which was given by the Place Names Society. Two iron smelting sites in the Battle district were called Barnhorn and Ellenwhorne. These are translatable in Cornish, which was probably spoken all over the south of England, as *Iron height* and *Iron plot*. There are also two Horns Crosses in the neighbourhood.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Frank Williams on Friday, December 16th, 1955

"OLD SUSSEX INNS AND INN-SIGNS"

Inns and Inn-signs are a very important element in local folklore. In Roman times there were rest houses about eight miles apart on the great roads. After the Conquest, inns were set up by the Church which were hospitable to all. Many of these church inns still remain: for example, the Lamb Inn, Eastbourne, the Star at Alfriston, the John's Cross Inn, Mountfield, and the Cross-in-Hand near Heathfield, which was the church inn of Waldron; the sign of the latter being a bishop holding a cross in his hand and giving Benediction, and not as now, a man with a flag bearing a cross. These inns were usually associated with a shrine at a crossroads, where sign-posts were also erected by the Church. Besides inns for travellers, there were taverns to provide liquid refreshment for the local people, which were also licensed by the Bishop: the Earl of Warenne at Lewes is an example. Inn-signs, like shop-signs, were a necessity in the Middle Ages on account of illiteracy; thus a bull or bear would be the sign of a book shop or tailor, and there was a shrub in a tub outside every inn, whence the expression "Good wine needs no bush". Inn-signs frequently consisted of the coat of arms or a portion thereof of the local great family, the Abergavenny Arms at Eridge, and the Pelham at Lewes. The Neville (Abergavenny) crest of a Bull's Head also appears at Boreham Street. The ashtree of the Ashburnham family occurs at Ashburnham. In Kent, the White Horse represents the Lucy family, but in Sussex (particularly in West Sussex) it is used because it is one of the supporters of the Fitzalan-Howard (Norfolk) coat of arms. The White Lion, the other supporter, was formerly an inn-sign in Lewes, and is still to be seen elsewhere. The sign of the Ram Inn at Firle is the crest of the Gages of Firle Place; and the Buckle at Bishopstone is the badge of the Pelhams. This may commemorate the repulse of the last French invasion by Sir Nicholas Pelham in 1545; but the buckle badge was originally awarded to Sir John Pelham for having captured King John of France at the Battle of Poitiers.

The Royal Oak at Whatlington used to have a sign shewing King Charles II hiding in the oak at Boscobel. When the lecturer first saw it, it used to have crowns hanging on the ends of the branches. This is a historical commemorative sign. A recent inn-sign of the same class is the G.I. at Hastings.

"George" inn-signs were originally St. George, and subsequently transferred to a King George. "King's Head" inns were mostly kept by Royalists; but during the period of the Commonwealth the head of King Henry VIII, instead of that of Charles was shewn. Examples of punning signs occur at Runtington, where a "runt" is shewn in a "tun"; a runt being a young ox or the odd pig in a litter, and a tun a 240 gallon barrel: and also at Warbleton where a "warbill" (battleaxe) is shewn in a tun.

The origin of "Kicking Donkey" is unknown. There are two inns of this sign in Hastings and one at Witherenden (Burwash). "Chequers" is probably the oldest inn-sign in the world: excavations at Herbulaneum have disclosed a Chequers tavern. The sign indicates that the game of draughts could be played there.

A newly built inn near a housing estate at East Grinstead has been called the "Guinea Pig"; nearby is the Victoria Plastic Hospital of the last war; and the service men there were nicknamed guinea pigs because of the experiments carried out on them. The lecturer stated that the "Swan and Sugar Loaf" at Croydon is so called through the error of a local signwriter. The licence was granted by Archbishop Sheldon to what was then an inn on a country road. The sign should have been the archiepiscopal arms—a silver crozier and a bishop's mitre. The sign writer thought the curved crozier was a swan's neck and the mitre a sugar loaf.

The "Maiden's Head" at Uckfield may have been either a sign of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I. The lecturer was dubious whether the widely accepted interpretation of the "Goat and Compasses" as "God encompasseth us" is correct. "The Cross Keys" is a sign of St. Peter. The sign of the "Peace and Plenty" is the Cornucopia. The "Case is Altered", at Hampstead, is a corruption of "Dick Case is haltered"; Dick Case was a highwayman. The "Elephant and Castle" may derive from the fact that they were the arms of the Infanta of Castile, or may be merely a corruption of the words "Infanta of Castile".

A book on the subject which is well worth reading is "English Signs and Signboards" by Larwood and Hutton. The authors, it may be mentioned, are not the famous cricketers of those names, as might at first be supposed.

Lecture delivered by Mr. E. W. Holden on January 6th, 1956

THE HANGLETON EXCAVATIONS

The ancient village of Hangleton stood at the foot of the downs north of Portslade, and of it nothing remains today except the XI century Church and the early XVI century Manor House, now a hotel. The construction of the Devil's Dyke railway and the golf course had already disturbed the ground under which lay the foundations of the old cottages, and the urban development of Hove was beginning its final obliteration of the site when the lecturer and his wife with the occasional assistance of a few friends began excavating at weekends. The foundations of several cottages were found, all under a "tumble" of flints which indicated that the walls were no more than about five feet high. The walls were entirely of flint, sometimes mortared and sometimes puddled in chalk; the corners, as is necessary with all flint buildings, being rounded. The ground plans were simple, often only two rooms, of which one possessed only three walls, the remaining one having been presumably of wood or wattle. Certain holes suggested that some of the buildings were further supported by timber posts; but there was no evidence of bays or crucks. For roofing, narrow slates were found, of a type quarried in the Ardennes. Clay tiles and Horsham stones were also found, but the quantity of hard roofing material was small, and suggests either that roofs were mostly thatch, or that the site had been robbed. There was no flooring material but only natural chalk. Glass was probably too expensive, so windows would have been shuttered. Doors may have had locks, as one key was found in house 1 and another with part of a lock on another part of the site. A large assortment of pottery was found: though not a single whole vessel. Fragments of cooking pots, bowls, storage jars, jugs and dishes were plentiful, some of them green glazed, while a few bore traces of decoration. The housewives cooked also in bronze cauldrons. A hearth was found in every house; but the most spectacular find was a large domed oven. Other smaller ovens were found. Oyster, mussel, and cockle shells in large quantities shew that home-produced food was augmented by shellfish. Spinning was carried out on the distaff and spindle, and two glass smoothers, the forerunners of flatirons, were found. From many remains it can be assumed that corn was ground in hand querns, the quern-

stones being of volcanic lava of Rheinland origin. This discovery proved that the grinding of corn was not invariably carried out under manorial arrangements. Oxen, cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses were kept, as is known from the large quantities of bones found. The jawbone of a dog of the pointer type was found, also the bones of the now almost extinct black rat.

Written records tell us of the arable land for corn and other crops and sheep pastures appertaining to the village; and there are references to bees, doves, poultry, and the growing of flax and hemp. Hangleton in fact, like most self-supporting villages of the Middle Ages, was engaged in a variety of agricultural pursuits. Imported items such as querns, whetstones and slates, shew that advantage was taken of being near the port of Shoreham to trade surplus products.

Without committing himself as regard dating evidence, the bulk of the pottery, the lecturer said, could be assigned to the late XIII century and early XIV century, with small quantities only of some earlier and later vessels. Unfortunately the only coin which might have been useful for dating purposes, a silver penny of Edward III dated 1351, was found outside the houses. Curiously, a Roman coin was found on the floor of a house. The homesteads of the villeins mentioned in Domesday Book have not been found.

The deduction to be made from the historical information suggests a decline in the prosperity of the village during the first half of the XIV century, which may have been accentuated by the Black Death of 1348-9. In 1428 a taxation return tells us that there were but two householders in the parish of Hangleton. It would appear therefore that the medieval village virtually came to an end during the latter half of the XIV century.

The lecture was illustrated by a profusion of lantern slides, some made by colour photography, which formed a complete record of the excavations and the objects found.

Lecture delivered by Mr. F. W. Steer, F.S.A., F.R.H.S. on Friday, January 20th, 1956

"THE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE AND THE HISTORIAN"

Mr. Steer, who is the County Archivist of Sussex, explained that the modern county archivist is the successor to the Diocesan Registrars and Court Officials of the old days. The county records are stored on steel shelves in hundreds of

boxes in strongrooms which are protected against fire, water, insects and mice. It is true, he said, that Archaeological Societies have laid foundations by writing books on local history; but in reality only the thinnest layer of cream has been skimmed off the vast volume of records. The records of Ashburnham alone filled a furniture van, and they related to twenty-two different counties. Wonderful pictures of life in England in days long past can be obtained from the correspondence of some particular person over a long period; and much light is thrown on the commerce and commodities of some period by the examination of tradesmen's account books and bills. Archives, in fact, form the raw material of historians. Some very ancient documents have survived, such as Saxon charters eleven hundred years old which are held together only by the ink. There are one or two among the Sussex archives which were found among a lot of odd documents.

In conclusion, the lecturer stressed the fact that documents in the county record office were there for the public to use, and he cordially invited the audience not only to come and see the Record Office, but also to use it.

Lecture delivered by Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon, D.S.O. on Friday, February 17th, 1956

"SENLAC—MORE ABOUT THE BATTLE"

The lecturer explained that he was not going to give a detailed account of the battle: that had been done by Lieut.-Colonel Burne in his lecture to the Society on March 2nd, 1951, which was reported in the *Transactions* for 1950-51. He would dealt with points not dealt with by Colonel Burne, and with some which have been misrepresented by earlier writers.

The Sources

Dr. Wilhelm Spatz in his paper "Die Schlacht von Hastings", 1896, lists four main contemporary original and independent sources:

(1) Gesta Willelmi Ducis Normannorum et Regis Anglorum, by William of Poitiers, Archdeacon of Lisieu. Soldier, Chaplain to the Conqueror. Written 1071 to 1076.

(2) Widonis Carmen de Bello Hastingensis. Attributed to Guy, Bishop of Amiens. Said to have been completed before 1068.

(3) A poem addressed to the Conqueror's daughter Adela by Baudri, Abbot of Bourgueil. Composed between 1099 and 1102.

(4) The Bayeux Tapestry. Dating from the Conqueror's reign.

J. H. Round in his "Feudal England" agreed with this list, but Mr. Geoffrey White, in a paper read to the Society of Genealogists in 1950, held that the two poems were based on and partly copied from William of Poitiers, and that the "Carmen" may date from 1125 to 1129. This would reduce the original sources to two, William of Poitiers and the Bayeux Tapestry, to which may be added William of Jumièges who wrote a few sentences about the battle in 1070 or 1071. "If a study of the battle is based solely on these original sources" says Mr. Geoffrey White, "all the difficulties over which historians have wrangled disappear". Later writers on the battle are Florence of Worcester (late 12th century), William of Malmesbury (1125), Henry of Huntingdon (1129), the Chronicler of Battel Abbey (after 1150), and the poets Beniot, Stephen of Rouen, and Wace.

Wace, the best known of the latter, began the Roman de Rou in 1160, nearly a hundred years after the battle, having been commissioned by Henry II; but the King was displeased with his work and gave the job to another poet. However, what displeased Henry II pleased Professor Freeman, for in his ponderous *Norman Conquest* he founded his description of the battle almost entirely on Wace, and even outdid him in poetic phantasy. "The Formidable Freeman", as he has been called, seems to have paralysed independent thought about the battle for many years, and had a profound effect on school history books, with the result that Freeman's ideas still very largely hold the field.

But Freeman obtained the services of a young subaltern of the R.E. to make him a contoured map of the battlefield, who, when he had read the *Norman Conquest* and had seen how Freeman had put the troops in on his map, was appalled by his exaggerated estimate of numbers and lack of military knowledge. In 1907 Major-General James, as he had become, published an account of the battle in the R.E. Journal, thereby leading the revolt against Freeman's teaching. Since then, accounts have been written by General Fuller in his *Decisive Battles of the Western World*, Colonel Burne in his *Battlefields of England*, Mr. Geoffrey White in *The Complete Peerage*, and quite recently Sir Arthur Bryant. These accounts are all based on the three main sources mentioned and differ only in a few details.

The Pevensey Problem

William landed at Pevensey on September 28th, 1066. It then stood on a peninsula along which a Roman road ran to Lewes. William's Reconnaissance recorded by William of Poitiers, evidently showed that the Roman road had become impassible, and that it was useless to make Pevensey his base. The whole of what is now Pevensey Marsh was sea in 1066, with Hailsham a seaside place. The deduction therefore is that the Norman army moved on by sea to Hastings.

Good communications

The news of William's landing sped to Harold at York at the rate of 70 miles a day. This reveals a very efficient dispatch system which is not, however, unusual in medieval warfare.

The Commander's plans

Harold's technique was to effect surprise through speed. He was a Rommel. William is reported as saying that he would fight with Harold as soon as possible. He was a Montgomery. He correctly assessed Harold's impetuous nature and, by destroying villages, drew him down into Sussex before he had concentrated his army. Harold was thereby induced to commit the strategic error of concentrating his forces within striking distance of the enemy, and William surprised him in the act of concentration.

Roads

There were two practicable routes between Hastings and London; but one of them necessitated ferrying over the Brede Estuary at Sedlescombe, which was 200 yards broad as late as Tudor times. To circumvent this, it was necessary to take the other road as far as Caldbec Hill, which thereby became a nodal point which the Norman army must pass.

Caldbec Hill was also the meeting point of other roads, it was within suitable striking distance of Hastings and it was covered by an excellent defensive position on the Senlac ridge. It is easy to understand why Harold should choose it as his rendezvous. The boundaries of three Hundreds met there, and boundaries were often marked in olden times by apple trees. There seems little doubt that Harold did choose Caldbec Hill and that the Hoar Apple Tree grew there.

Foraging and devastating

Medieval armies, when not marching or fighting, had to forage, and it is recorded that the Norman Army was out foraging on the day before the battle and had to be recalled. One might surmise that it assembled on the Baldslow Ridge. Devastation of villages would go hand-in-hand with foraging.

A short extract from the list of devastated villages, given in the Victoria County History, is Ashburnham, Bexhill, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Guestling, Herstmonceux, Hooe, Mountfield, Netherfield, Ninfield, Sedlescombe and Whatlington.

The Battle

William, at the head of his army, halted at *Hecheland* (Heathland), which was the old name for the land on the highest point of Telham Hill near Blackhorse Inn. There he met the scout Vital, put his coat of mail on back to front, and made a speech. Several writers state that the Norman Army on Telham Hill was in full view of the Saxons, but this is physically impossible. The Saxon position came into view on the trackway at a point which is now in the grounds of Telham Court (Glengorse School) about 150 yards from the gate.

William's Command Post was probably just below the tannery where a hillock or excrescence on the slope of the hill is shown up by the railway cutting. This is the only spot that fits the description given by the Chronicler. It is not suggested however that William's ancestry inspired the erection of a tannery there.

The "Shield Wall" is a misleading phrase; this so-called wall was formed by the Housecarls standing sideways as shown in the Bayeux Tapestry with their shields overlapping; a formation designed to give cover from arrows and other missiles.

Crossbows could not have been used in the battle, they were first mentioned about 30 years later.

The Saxon irregular troops have been represented as an ill-armed rabble picked up at hazard. This is not true. The composition and service conditions of the Fyrd are well known. The Housecarls were probably the finest regular soldiers in Europe.

Did the Saxons counter-attack? Was an attack delivered and did it fail, or was it never made? In the second phase of the battle the Saxons swept down the hill, put the Bretons to flight and caused the whole of William's army to fall back, so that, as admitted by the Norman chroniclers, they were within an ace of quitting the field. Yet this has been represented as an undisciplined rush of irregular troops who disobeyed their orders.

If this was Harold's counterstroke, he made it too soon. The Duke restored the situation and the counter-attack was crushed. This would explain why no counter-attack was made when the Normans were subsequently disorganised.

The story that the pursuit continued through the night can be dismissed. The Carmen indicates that the battle was over by sunset and astronomical data and experiment show that on that day it was dark by 6.15.

Mountjoy, or Monjoie, was both the warcry of Charlemagne's army and the cairn of stones they erected as a victory monument. William must have erected a Mountjoy on the highest point of Caldbec Hill where the Ordnance Survey datum stands, for the name has survived to the present day.

Lecture delivered by Dr. A. E. Wilson, Litt.D., F.S.A. on Friday, March 9th, 1956

"THE EARLY SAXON PERIOD IN SUSSEX"

Dr. Wilson said that in the course of one lecture it would only be possible to deal with some of the general considerations involved. To begin with, however, he would emphasise that the district in which the Historical Society were most closely interested was not really a Saxon area as it had been colonised by the Hastingas, who were much more closely related to the Jutes in Kent in matters such as agricultural practice, legal codes, etc.

Without going into Saxon place names in detail it was interesting to note that there were two words denoting a cattle clearing in the forest, i.e. "den" and "fold". Place names in "-den" were found closely grouped in East Sussex, those in "-fold" in West Sussex; though there are two of the latter to be found near Battle, one of them Darvel—Deerfold.

The lecturer then showed an excellent series of slides of jewellery and pottery found in Saxon burials, mostly at Highdown and Alfriston. The examples found in graves of the early Saxon period were mostly of Roman or Sub-Roman types with beautiful and detailed classical designs. This, in his view, was a clear indication that the Saxon invasion did not result in the complete elimination of the Romano-British population (a widely held view) but that there was a large measure of absorption of the previous population and of their arts and crafts.

Jewellery and pottery from later Saxon burials was entirely of Saxon design, much more crude in design than the Roman or Sub-Roman types. Some of the earliest fifth century Saxon jewellery and pottery was identical in design with that recovered from Saxon graves at Galgenberg Stade and Hesse between the mouths of the Elbe and Weser; showing that the families which settled in Sussex came from Lower Saxony.

Other jewellery and pottery corresponded with that made by Saxon Franks who had invaded Roman Gaul. This in his view indicated three main streams of invasion—the Jutes who had colonized Kent and probably Hastingset; the Saxons who had come direct to Western Sussex from around the mouth of the Elbe; and the Saxon Franks who had invaded northern Gaul and had percolated across the Channel. In other words, there was no one main stream of invasion but a filtreation from a number of sources.

The lecturer then referred briefly to the strip system of cultivation adopted by the Saxons and which was first met with at the foot of the downs near Eastbourne, as compared with the large meadow type of cultivation adopted by the Hastingas. For example, maps as late as the latter part of the eighteenth century clearly showed the cultivated strips along the Preston Road, Brighton, and subsequent building development there conformed with these strips.

Commenting on the dispersal of manorial lands, the lecturer pointed out that each manor required arable land, meadow land and woodland. In general these would not be found together. Hence the various parts of a manor were frequently found in widely separated localities.

The lecturer then touched on Alfred's organisation of new towns, or adaptations of parts of old Roman cities, as centres of refuge in time of invasion; and on the arrangements made to support these with supplies and services from the surrounding countryside, termed "burghal hidage".

In conclusion the lecturer showed some typical examples of Saxon architecture in Sussex churches. Good examples were to be found at Bishopstone, Sompting where there is a fine Saxon tower, Worth which still retains the typical Saxon outline, and the finest of all Bosham. So far as he was aware there was no surviving example of Saxon domestic architecture.

Lecture given by Sir John Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. on Friday, March 23rd, 1956

"MORE ABOUT SEDLESCOMBE"

The lecturer reminded his hearers of the ground covered in his first talk on Sedlescombe on January 14th, 1955 (see *Transactions* 1954-55), when he brought the story up to Domesday. Turning to fresh ground—in the early days after the Conquest Sedlescombe was independent: i.e., though under the authority of Hastings Castle, it was separate from

other jurisdictions such as Abbeys and Bishops. It lay outside the *leuga* of Battle Abbey, though bordering on that manor. Later, parts of the parish, but never the whole, passed into the jurisdiction of Battle Abbey, Robertsbridge Abbey and Crowhurst Manor. The first (and principal) acquisition by Battle Abbey was "the fee of Basok": in the early 13th century Robert de Basok de Sedlescombe conveyed to the Abbey a southern portion of the parish, including "Iltonsbath" which occurs up to modern times as describing the lower part of the Street. On the west side of the parish also there were acquisitions: in Henry VIII's grant (1538) of the Battle Abbey estate to Sir Anthony Browne, lands are included (e.g. Well Land and Boland) which are still identifiable as part of Spilsteds Farm. RobertsbridgeAbbey, founded about 1176, obtained part of the northern area of the parish: first through a grant made by the founder Alured de St. Martin and his wife (who was widow of a Count of Eu). The estate belonging to this Abbey included the whole feoff of Footland. The Prebend of Crowhurst acquired some land in the south of the village. Even in comparatively modern documents extensive properties in this part are shown as liable for quitrent to the manors of Battle and Crowhurst.

In early Norman days—before almost the whole of Sedlescombe became subject to outside authorities—it had some importance; it was one of two or three places in the Rape of Hastings where the Lathe Court met.

In Domesday mention is made of a chapel (ecclesiola) in Sedlescombe; and Basok's grant included "a meadow near the Church". In the "Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV" (1291: reign of Edward I), which was a valuation made in order the compute the ecclesiastical tenth conferred by the Pope on the King for his vow of Crusade, Sedlescombe was valued at £4—13—4, which was the same as the figure for Whatlington and less than that for other neighbouring parishes. Sedlescombe perhaps was declining in wealth and importance by this time. In the muster roll prepared for the Rape of Hastings in the French wars (1339), a number of men from Sedlescombe are included. In Cade's Rebellion (1450), men of the neighbourhood were involved, including the two constables of the Hundred of Staple, one of whom was Richard Beche of Sedlescombe.

The lecturer traced the history of the farm of Chittleburch (just south of Cripps Corner) in documents dating from 1291: it still exists under the same name.

Of the old houses in the village (many of which are described in volume 9 of the Victoria County History), a few are

of the 15th century, but most are of the 16th and 17th centuries. Perhaps the main reason for that efflorescence was *iron*. After Roman times the iron industry in this neighbourhood languished for centries: it began to revive about the end of the 15th century: and presently served the needs of war by producing cannon and shot. The lecturer gave details of some well-known Sedlescombe iron-masters, e.g. Peter Farnden (1592-1652), who at one time lived in the heart of the village at Brickwall, and had two wives and sixteen children: a branch of the Sackvilles, which gained a footing in the village when John Sackville in 1589 married Joan Downton, sole heir of John Downton of Hancox: and the Bishops, who lived at Great Sanders and in Horsefield's time (1835) owned one-third of the parish. All these names appear in the Church Plan of 1632, a copy of which hangs on the south wall of the church; and members of all three families are celebrated in memorials in the church and churchyard. The Plan of 1632 is a mine of information for details of the building and churchyard, and of the families of the time.

Of the various parsons, the lecturer made special mention of George Barnsley, who was rector from 1674 to 1706 and again from 1707 to the end of 1723, when he died. He was a pioneer of education, the father of three Church Schools, for in his will he left £500 for the education of poor children, and this was divided between Sedlescombe and Northiam and Burwash (to both of which parishes, in addition to Sedlescombe, he ministered). In 1731 the great Duke of Newcastle executed a document (still to be seen in the Church porch) in which he demised to the School trustees, for a rent of one penny a year, the land on which the school still stands.

Finally, the lecturer commented on the auctioneers' legend that the "Old Manor House" was erected by a local iron-master called Stone. No iron-master of the name is known: but the initials "W.D." on the front of the house warrant the surmise that the builder (in 1611) was William Dawe or Dawes, whose name is inscribed on one of the church-bells as part donor in 1607.

VISIT TO THE HALLS OF TWO CITY LIVERY COMPANIES

on Wednesday, May 23rd, 1956

The first visit of the summer programme, the most ambitious yet undertaken by the Society, proved exceedingly popular. It was the sequel to the lecture of November 18th,

1955, and the lecturer, Mr. G. R. Hughes, C.V.O., met members on their arrival and conducted them around the halls of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and Silversmiths and the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.

Two of the principal rooms at the Goldsmiths' Hall suffered severely in the war, but one of them has been restored with much gold ornamentation, and might in fact be described as a golden room. Other impressions retained of the visit were the magnificent marble staircase, the superb carpets, and the priceless and wonderful examples of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' art to be seen in the cases. It is perhaps not generally known that every piece of silver down to the smallest trinket which bears the London Hall Mark has had it impressed in the building.

At the Hall of the Merchant Taylors much interest centred on the old charters dating back to the formation of the Guild. Also shewn was a list of pupils of the Merchant Taylors' School with commentaries, on which appeared the name of the notorious Titus Oates, partly educated at Sedlescombe, and whose father was Rector of All Saints' Church, Hastings. In the old court, surrounded by the ruins of the older buildings, a plank was taken up to shew the much lower ground level of London before the great fire. The buildings erected after the fire were built upon the heaped rubble of the former houses. The Merchant Taylors' Company very kindly provided tea for members before their return.

VISIT TO PASHLEY MANOR, TICEHURST, AND TICEHURST CHURCH

on Wednesday, June 13th, 1956

The forty members who attended were welcomed on the lawn of Pashley Manor by the owner, Mr. Neil Forsyth, who gave a brief history of the house, pointed out its architectural features, and afterwards conducted the party round the interior. The earliest house appears to have been built on the island in the lake, which was probably made to provide a moat. A family called De Passeley appears in deeds of 1165, 1272, and 1298, in the latter of which Edward De Passeley obtained a grant of free warren (sporting rights) of the Manor. The manor passed into the Boleyn family, the first owner being the great grandfather of Anne, and another her uncle, Sir J. Boleyn. In 1539 the house was sold to the May family whose coat of arms appears on the overmantle in the dining room. The May family refronted the Tudor house in the

Jacobean style, and it is from the early 17th century that most of the house now dates. In 1730 the May family built a Georgian wing which joined the two side wings and thus formed an interior courtyard. This was the last alteration. In 1810 the house passed to a daughter who married into the Wetherell family, by whom it was sold in 1922. For 21 years the house stood empty and became derelict. In 1943, on the death of Colonel Hollish, it was included in the sale of the farm lands to Mr. E. T. King. Mr. Neil Forsyth bought the house in 1945, and by his painstaking restoration, which took ten years to complete, has undoubtedly performed a service to archaeology.

The main east front has three gabled bays, with smaller intermediate bays. The gables, which overhang and are carried on brackets, have richly carved bargeboards. The chimney stacks have diagonal shafts. The entrance hall is lined with moulded panelling of about 1625, with cornice, frieze, and elaborate overmantel. Two other rooms have contemporary panelling. The main staircase, which dates from about 1725, has moulded and twisted balusters and a dado of moulded panels on the side walls.

Ticehurst Church was described by Miss Collingwood. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and is presumably on the site of an earlier church which existed in 1197 at "Haslesse". The present church is mainly of the 14th century. It is built of Hastings sandstone. The north window contains ancient painted glass, mainly of the 15th century, representing the Virgin and Child, St. Christopher, part of a Doom, and St. Mary Salome. Other fragments in a north aisle window shew the coronation of the Virgin. There is a brass of Sir John Wybarne with his two wives dated 1490. The fact that his armour is about 100 years out of date suggests that the brass was taken from another tomb.

According to the Place Name Society, Pashley means "The field of the Paecci (family)", and Ticehurst, formerly Ticcenes Hyrst, means "Kids' Wood".

VISIT TO FIRLE PLACE, FIRLE CHURCH, AND ALCISTON OLD TITHE BARN

on Wednesday, June 13th, 1956

This meeting, which was well attended, was unfortunately marred by heavy rain, which made it difficult to appreciate adequately the exterior beauties of Firle Place and deterred some members from visiting the church and the old tithe barn.

Firle Place, the home of Viscount Gage, has been the home of the Gages for about 500 years—a longer period of time perhaps than any other family in Sussex has lived in the same house, although their association with the county is surpassed by the Ashburnhams, Pelhams, Gorings, and Barttelots. It is recorded on what had been called the apocryphal roll of Battel Abbey that one De Gaugy was a companion of the Conqueror: but it matters little to a family of such proved antiquity whether or not he was an ancestor. It was in the reign of Henry IV that John, the son of John Gage, married Joan, heiress of John Sudgrove of Gloucestershire. His son, Sir John Gage, married Eleanor 2nd daughter and co-heiress of Thomas St. Clere of Firle, and it was soon after this that Firle Place was built, or more probably rebuilt. There are no visible remains of the 15th century house, which may possibly have been built of wood, but we may suppose that Sir John Gage, of whom more anon, rebuilt or greatly altered and enlarged it about 1520. The west end of the south front is all that has survived of this house. It is built chiefly of Caen stone with moulded coping faced with ashlar or coarse stonework and has a low-pitched Tudor facade. The main body of the present house is of various dates between 1727 and 1744 and includes all the north and east fronts which contain the "show" rooms. It shews a general resemblance to a French chateau. The low block on the south front to the east of the Tudor wing seems to be an 18th century rebuilding. It has roofs of Horsham stone slabs. The house surrounds a courtyard entered by a gateway and nestles under the downs near Firle Beacon, one of the highest points in Sussex.

A feature of the interior is the magnificent white staircase. The show rooms contain fine family portraits by famous artists as also a Reynolds of General Skinner and daughter, and a Kneller of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough. The invention of the sandwich by the Earl of that name is commemorated by a painting of a family of Gages all partaking of the novel refreshment in a rural landscape, while another portrait depicts the lady who married four Gages in succession. One of the most famous Gages was John Gage who served with the youthful Henry VIII at the sieges of Tournay and Therouenne. He became a member of the Privy Council and Vice-Chamberlain and Captain of the King's Guard. In 1540 he became Controller of the Household, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Constable of the Tower of London. Henry VIII made him a Knight of the Garter and caused him to be painted by Holbein. Several copies of this picture were made,

for one hangs on the staircase and another in the drawing room at Firle. He was one of the generals in the Scottish campaign which ended with the defeat of the Scots at Solway Moss. He was the custodian of Princess Elizabeth while she was imprisoned in the Tower. He died at Firle in 1556, aged 77. His handsome table tomb and that of his wife, Philippa Guldeford, were seen by members who visited the church. It stands in the Gage Chapel on the north side of the chancel. It is a rare example of a sepulchral monument of the reign of Mary I.

It may not be generally known that the greengage is so named from its introduction into this country by Sir William Gage of Hargrave Hall. Among many relics exhibited in the house are the table and chair constantly used by Napoleon at St. Helena. The curious name Firle is said by the Place Name Society to mean a place covered with patches of oak trees.

The ancient L-shaped tithe barn at Alciston must be one of the largest of its kind, and the arrangement of the timbering which supports the large span of its roof made an interesting study. Ancient and modern were linked by an up-to-date corn drying plant in one wing. Of interest to our Society is the fact that the Conqueror gave the Manor of Alciston to Battle Abbey.

VISIT TO PENSHURST

on Saturday, July 28th, 1956

This meeting was attended by 47 members.

Although the history of Penshurst may be said to be centred about the noble building which is the seat of Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, it did in fact begin many centuries before the arrival of the Sidneys in the locality. Penchester, the former name, suggests a Roman station at a place which already possessed a Celtic name. Penchester church is mentioned in a charter book called "Textus Roffensis" dated 1115; but as this is a copy of an older Saxon record, the foundation of the church may date from the 9th century. Yet, some sort of manor house must have existed before the church, because a Thane was obliged to apply for permission to build a church when the number of his dependents warranted it. The earliest known owners of the manor were the De Penchesters. Stephen De Penchester was Constable of Dover and built Allington Castle. He died in 1299 and was buried in the church, where his mutilated effigy, clad in chain armour, may be seen on the floor of the Sidney Chapel. Thomas Beckett,

within 48 hours of his murder in 1170, instituted a priest called Wilhelmus as rector of Penchester, which was then a "peculiar" of Canterbury. The Albigensian Heresy of the 11th to 14th centuries is recalled by a stone coffin lid, in the church, which bears the pearl cross, and is said to be unique in this country.

In 1339 Sir John de Poulteney, a wealthy wool merchant who was four times Lord Mayor of London, having it is said married the heiress of the de Penchesters, acquired the manor, and two years afterwards obtained a licence to fortify his house. The home which he built, although added to later, has remained essentially unaltered to the present day. The Great Hall is the finest remaining in the country: 54 feet long and 60 feet high, it has a breadth and roof span of 39 feet, which is exceeded only by that of Westminster Hall. In it stand, as they have stood since the middle of the 15th century, the actual tables at which the Lord's retainers ate. At one end is the dais on which the lord himself with his family and guests dined, from which a staircase leads to the large Solar, or withdrawing room which is now the ballroom. In 1393 Sir J. Devereux, who had married Sir John de Poulteney's widow, obtained a second licence to crenellate and made the first important additions. To him may be ascribed the building of the towers and the curtain wall; though Penshurst Place was never fortified to any great extent. Early in the 15th century the House of Pencester, as it was then called, was sold to John Duke of Bedford, brother of King Henry V. He added the building beyond the Solar. In the second half of the 15th century the house belonged to the Staffords, who also owned Tunbridge Castle; but on the execution of Stafford Duke of Buckingham by Henry VIII it reverted to the Crown.

In 1552 Edward VI granted it to Sir William Sydney, Chamberlain and Steward to the Household. His son added the north and west fronts and the King's Tower, on which a commemorative tablet can be seen. These were the last additions. Robert Sydney was created Earl of Leicester by James I, but the title became extinct, and Penshurst descended through the female line to Sir John Shelley, who took the name of Sidney, and it was from him that the present owner, Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, is descended.

Penshurst Place is filled with magnificent furniture, mostly of the 17th and 18th centuries, and with portraits of the Sidney family. The furniture of "Queen Elizabeth's Room" is late 17th century; and the visit of the Virgin Queen to Penshurst must be regarded as highly conjectural. A small

but interesting fact learnt during the visit was that Henry Sidney, Master General of the Ordnance in 1694, instituted the marking of government stores with the "Pheon", or Broad Arrow, which is a component of the Sidney Arms.

VISIT TO AYLESFORD PRIORY AND ALLINGTON CASTLE

on Wednesday, August 22nd, 1956

The Carmelite communities at the Priory and the Castle, each set on a curve of the river Medway, were visited by 47 members of the Society. In an old room, probably a refectory, seven pictures illustrate the history of the Order. The Carmelites have no founder, but trace their origin from the hermits who lived on Mt. Carmel from the time of Elijah. They received their first Rule from the Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1209. When the Holy Land was overrun by the Saracens, a Crusader, Baron de Grey, brought a party of Brethren, sailing up the Medway in 1240 to his manor of Aylesford, which he settled on them. The first Prior appointed was a Kentish Father, St. Simon Stock, who is greatly venerated. From his time the community was granted a Rule more in keeping with their new conditions of life. Their unique habit with hanging scapulary was introduced by him.

When the Monasteries were dissolved in 1538, Aylesford was given to Sir Thomas Wyatt, a brilliant poet and a man of great distinction, who owned Allington Castle. Later, the Church at Aylesford was demolished. During the next 400 years the joint properties passed through many hands, the Priory being converted to a gentleman's residence with ballroom and fine staircase. In 1949 it was bought back by the Carmelite Order who took possession of it with two Fathers and one Lay Brother.

During the past 7 years, immense energy and devotion have gone to restoring the buildings to fit them for a religious community. Amongst the Lay Brothers are many craftsmen and one treasure is a 28 foot long table, with no join in length, made of elm grown in the grounds. The old "Arethusa" was towed up the Medway to be broken-up and its timbers were used to form the splendid roof of the Chapel, formerly the ballroom. Many pilgrims visit the Priory. Stone seats round an open altar allow over 1000 worshippers to attend service. The Pilgrim's Hall is one of the oldest parts of the Priory; it has two open, timbered galleries at successive levels, and a splendid wooden roof. Here, whilst the party had tea, the

Prior addressed them by loud speaker and expressed his pleasure at their visit.

The members then went on to Allington, a fine moated medieval castle, and a site of immense antiquity; possibly a pile village, then a Roman villa. The first castle, built without royal permission, was demolished in 1174. There are still some of the rooms of the unfortified manor that replaced it. In 1283 Stephen of Penchester was allowed to build a crenellated castle. One outstanding feature was the two immense dovecotes, said to be the largest and earliest in England; one is now ruined, the other is a private house. Across the main court was built the first long gallery in England, by Sir Henry Wyatt who bought the castle in 1492. In the great tower is the Royal room with its stone-lion-guarded staircase—safer than cosy perhaps. To this lovely home came Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Wolsey and others. Sir Thomas Wyatt was born here and to him Henry VIII gave the Priory.

The Castle, never inhabited by its owners after 1568, was in turn, manor and farm, getting more and more ruinous till, in 1905 Lord Conway bought and restored it to house his collections. In 1951 its sale was arranged to the Carmelite Order and it now houses a Sisterhood, and the tiltyard grows potatoes. So, by a twist of fate, the two estates which had been united in lay hands in 1568 were reunited under a religious order four centuries later.

This must be the first time that the Society has been the guests of an R.C. community; the spirit of serenity and fervour, and the courteous and clear explanations were much appreciated.

VISIT TO SCOTNEY CASTLE AND LAMBERHURST CHURCH

on Wednesday, September 12th, 1956

The 39 members who attended were welcomed to Scotney Castle by Mrs. Hussey, who kindly acted as guide. Old Scotney Castle, now partly in ruins, and partly roofed but unoccupied, stands on the larger of two small islands formed by the River Beult on the boundary line of Kent and Sussex. It has been suggested that the name means *Payment Island,* and refers to some dues collected at the boundary and river crossing in ancient times. The earliest recorded possessor of the manor was Lambert de Scoteni in 1137. He was the son or grandson of Walter Fitz-Lambert, shewn in Domesday as possessing the Manor of Crowhurst. The Scotenis disappear during the

Barons' War, and the manor seems to have reverted to the crown. In 1310 Scotney is mentioned as being part of the demesne lands of John de Grothurst, whose widow subsequently married John de Ashburnham. Her son, Roger, succeeded to Scotney in 1358. Roger de Ashburnham began building Scotney Castle in 1378, ten years before Sir Edward Dallinridge began building Bodiam. Both men were Conservators of the Peace in Kent and Sussex, a connection which may account for the fact that they built somewhat similar castle in similar situations. It is worth noting that the castle was begun in the year following the French raids on Hastings, Rye and Winchelsea. Both castles have round towers at the four corners; but those at Scotney were less than half the height of the Bodiam towers; and only one now remains. Scotney Castle was rectangular, but not completely square like Bodiam. It is supposed that the original de Scoteni house stood on the smaller island surrounded by a moat, and that Ashburnham built his castle beyond the moat, and by diverting and damming the Beult formed a lake containing both the new castle and the original house.

In 1418, the reversion of the estate was obtained by John Hall, who sold it to Robert Chichele for 200 silver marks. Archbishop Chichele, for whom his brother had presumably been acting, settled the estate on his daughter Florence who married John Darell. Scotney was the home of the Darells for 350 years. About 1630 Thomas Darell rebuilt much of the house. The east range, of which the walls still remain was reconstructed in a style shewing the influence of Inigo Jones; but was never completed to extend the full width of the island owing to the outbreak of the Civil War. In the middle of the 18th century the Darell family was impoverished by a lawsuit over the inheritance; and after John Darell's death in 1775, Scotney was sold to a speculator called Richards, a dancing master of Robertsbridge, who sold it in 1778 to Edward Hussey. Some time after 1817 the castle was abandoned as unhealthy, and in 1837, the grandson of the first Edward Hussey began building the new house on the hill, in which his grandson, Mr. Christopher Hussey, now lives. The Tudor portion of the old castle continued to be inhabited by the estate bailiff till 1905.

While returning through the Warren, where the stone for the new house was quarried, Mrs. Hussey pointed out some casts of the footprints of an Iguanodon similar to those discovered near Fairlight Glen some time back; the earliest remains of the past to be found at Scotney.

At Lamberhurst Church the Society was met by the Rector, the Rev. W. F. Pereth, who gave a description. The church, with arches and windows of the 14th century and a 15th century tower, stands in a lovely situation off the present main road; but, as the Rector explained, on a former road, now abandoned. The roof timbers are original; and a Tudor doorway leads to the rood lift steps. The finely carved oak pulpit dates from 1630: it was originally a "three decker", but the lower, or Parish Clerk's desk, has been removed.

It was at Lamberhurst Furnace that half a mile of iron railings for enclosing St. Paul's Cathedral were made. They weighed 200 tons, cost £11,202, and were said to be the finest iron railings in the world. Removed for no very good reason about 1870, the ship carrying most of them to Canada sank in the Atlantic. Surviving fragments are to be seen at Lewes Castle, Hastings Museum, and a park at Toronto. The great screens in the aisles of St. Paul's Cathedral, also made at Lamberhurst, can however still be seen in place.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 890th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Lecture delivered by Mr. D. Graham Hutton, O.B.E., Economist and Author, on Friday, October 12th, 1956

ANGLO-SAXON INFLUENCES WITH US YET

The Anglo-Saxon period covers the 690 years between the departure of the Romans and the Norman Conquest. The first 200 years of this period has left no written records, but we know something of the next 400 years. We know that wave after wave of invasion from the Vikings, the Danes and the Jutes came over from the Continent; and that these invaders were not mere marauders, but that they settled in the country and played their part in building up the Anglo-Saxon way of life. We can, thus, be described as mongrels living on an island. The result was that this composite community developed a strong individuality. Three notable qualities developed in that mixed and changing society; they were Tolerance, Endurance and Loyalty to their leaders. The legacy of these three great qualities, which have coloured our history and have persisted down to our present day, is one of the greatest debts we owe to our Anglo-Saxon ancestry. Within a few years of the Conquest, when William had trouble with his barons, who started fighting amongst themselves, it was on the loyalty

of the English to his leadership that William relied to restore order. And in our long history we have consistently shown of our best when we have found strong leadership.

Another great and lasting change that we owe to this period was due to the industry of the Anglo-Saxon farmers who changed the face of the countryside. The pre-Roman invaders had cultivated the high ground and eschewed the wooded river valleys. The Romans developed the towns which they connected by roads. The Anglo-Saxon farmers struck an entirely new line. They realised the fertility of the river valleys which they cleared of forests and turned them into agricultural and pasture land. Numerous agricultural settlements sprang up, but they avoided cities "like the plague". They were not a very mobile people and had thus little use for the Roman roads which they left to fall into ruin.

The language of this period has also had a lasting effect. The influence of the Anglo-Saxons on the words and language of later times is profound. The men who fought under Harold would, for example, have understood many of our terms for the simple but fundamental facts of life such as birth, life and death.

These people were classed as barbarians by the Romans, but this term was used in the Roman sense and did not imply that they were without culture. The barbarian world that lay outside the Roman Empire had its own arts and culture which were by no means negligible.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN BATTLE PARISH CHURCH

The customary special service of the Society was held in the Parish Church, Battle, on Sunday evening, October 14th, with the co-operation of the Dean. The special preacher was the Rev. Cecil Cullingford of Monmouth College, who alluded to the activities of the Society in an appropriately historical sermon. The lessons were read by Mrs. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Mr. A. E. Marson, in the absence of the Chairman, Sir John Thorne.

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 2nd, 1956

The Chairman remarked that despite the increase in subscriptions there had been an increase in membership during the year. The present membership was 265, against 224 last year, and the balance of funds at the end of the year was

£64—9—0. A separate banking account had been opened for the Museum which at the moment was overdrawn by £46—12—5.

The most important event of the year was the opening of the Society's Museum. An extraordinary general meeting, held on March 23rd, 1956, decided that the Society should establish a Library and Museum in premises at Church House, Battle. The Museum was opened to the public on May 19th, the Saturday before Whitsun. The number of paying visitors up to the end of September has exceeded 4000.

A new feature was an essay competition for school children for which a member of the Society offered prizes.

An amendment to the Rules was passed, whereby members of the Committee should be elected for three years; and should retire in rotation. This was followed by a Resolution whereby the committee would be elected in three groups, so that the new Rule and the rotation should take immediate effect.

The President (Prof. G. M. Trevelyan) and the three Vice-Presidents (Mrs. E. Harbord, Miss Hope Muntz and the Dean of Battle) who were due to retire, were re-elected and Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, on his retirement from the Committee, was elected as a Vice-President. Sir John Thorne having notified that he did not wish to be nominated for re-election as Chairman, the following were elected as Officers for 1956/57: Chairman, Mr. A. E. Marson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. R. Clough; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. P. F. Room; Honorary Secretary, Major L. C. Gates. The Committee were elected in three groups:—

For 3 years till 1959: Mr. C. T. Chevallier, Miss R. Chiverton, Mr. D. W. Crew, Sir James Doak.

For 2 years till 1958: Mr. W. T. Dunford, Miss M. J. Powell, Lt.-Col. C. H. Lemmon.

For one year till 1957: Mr. L. H. Pyke, Mr. W. Raper, Sir John Thorne.

A documentary film entitled "The Beginnings of History" was then shown.

Printed by
BUDD & GILLATT
NORTH STREET
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA
SUSSEX