

## ACQUISITIONS, 1938-9.

## COINS.

*Donor.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ groat of Edw. III, found at Bierton	Mr. K. G. Sainsbury
Ancient British gold coin found near Marlow .....	Sir James Berry and Mr. W. J. Hemp
Gold half-crown—Hen. VIII found at Longwick .....	Mr. C. O. Skilbeck
DEEDS, &c. 75 various .....	Mr. Robson Lowe
120 „ .....	Mrs. Atthill
3, with seals of Hen. VIII and Eliz. ....	Bucks County Council
Inclosure Acts relating to Bucks—4 vols. ...	Mr. A. J. L. Fergusson

## HARTWELL DEEDS

The recent sale of Hartwell House and its contents dispersed the great collection of deeds and papers which had accumulated during its long possession by the Lee family. It is unlikely that any house in the County retains anything like this collection, and its importance to future historians of Bucks justified an effort to save as much as was possible. An appeal was accordingly made to some of our members, and it met with an amazingly good response; in the end over 900 deeds were secured for our Muniment Room, which now houses an extremely large number of documents of inestimable value for the topographer and genealogist.

It is clearly impossible to do more than outline this mass of material from Hartwell; although a card index has been made it will require considerable time and research to calendar it fully so as to be of ready assistance to the student; the following are merely illustrations of the material available:—

<i>Charters</i>	HARTWELL	11	Edw. iii	Prattespitele to Nich de Lutone
	"	15	"	Green Strethe,, Hugh Martyn
	"	16	"	Le Hangle,, Wm. Frauncys
	"	17	"	,, John de Burgh
	"	2	"	Oxons Crofte,, H. Y. Wysman
	"	6	"	Stonydene,, Matilda de Stande

*Court  
Rolls*

STONE	19	Edw. i	John de Lymbury
"	4, 5, 7	Edw. ii	Robt. de Braci
"	12, 13, 15	"	" "
"	1, 2	Edw. iii	" "
"	4	"	John Alleyn
"	5	"	John de Braci
"	13 to 23	"	"
"	27 to 31	"	Rd. de Bekensfeld
"	34	"	John Bracy
"	12-16	Hen. vii	John Verney
"	37	Hen. viii	Ralph Verney
STONE AND			
HARTWELL	5-7	Eliz.	Ed. Verney
"	44	"	Alexr. Hampden
LITTLE			
HAMPDEN	21	Hen. vi	Thos. Shyngleton
"	21	Edw. iv	Wm. Hampden
"	2-10	Eliz.	Michael Hampden
"	1	Jas. I.	Alexr. Hampden
EAST AND			
BOTOLPH			
CLAYDEN	5	Hy. v	Co heirs of Guy Breton
"	19	Edw. iv	Guy Westcote

*Compotus*

<i>Rolls</i>	STONE	23-26	Hen. vi	Robt. Whetyngham
	"	1	Hen. v	

*Rent*

<i>Rolls</i>	STONE	Hen. iv
	BISHOP-	
	STONE	15 Hen. vii
	HARTWELL	1610

<i>Terriers</i>	BISHOP- STONE EAST CLAYDON 16th century	1561	Master Bosse's land
<i>Wills</i>		1525	Thos. Hampden
		1528	Alice "
		33 Hen. viii	Jerome "
		1570	Michael "

Besides these, and a great number of other charters and rent-rolls there are settlements, evidence as to title, and other documents containing long list of names. Coming to documents of later date there are two very interesting and amusing letters from John Wilkes, written in 1761 and dealing with the Aylesbury election:

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Records Branch of the Society will give early attention to printing a Calendar of all documents and deeds, down to 1750, say; it would be of great value to any compiler of parochial or manorial history in Bucks.

### GAYHURST DEEDS

Whilst the *Records* are being printed the Society has benefitted by the generosity of Sir Walter Carlile, who has kindly deposited a series of deeds relating to Gayhurst which were found in the house.

These will be more fully described in the next issue of the *Records*.

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### OBITUARY

The Society has suffered the loss by death of several members, amongst whom were MISS S. C. WILSON, daughter of the late G. W. Wilson, the author of *Chronicles of Whitchurch*; the REV. O. R. HUGHES, rector of Bradenham; LADY FORSDYKE, of Ashridge; and MR. A. FRANKLIN, of Chartridge.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION.

6th JULY, 1938.

The annual excursion of the above Society took place in weather which proved most favourable, being bright though pleasantly cool, and members and their friends to the number of above seventy attended.

The first place visited was in the far north-west of the county—Castlethorpe, where the church was examined and the following account of it was given, followed by a short comment upon the castle-site in which the church actually stands.

## CASTLETHORPE CHURCH.

The striking peculiarity of this church is the fact that the nave is almost square, whilst the chancel is long and somewhat narrow. The eastern window is of mid-14th century, though the upper tracery is lost in the present circular arrangement. The 18th century made a doorway out of a low side window on the south south side, and plastered the ceiling. The north arcade of the nave is the earliest remaining part, belonging to the late 12th century; on the south the arcade is much later—15th century, to which period the low-pitched roof must be attributed. The font belongs to the late 14th century; a sedilia and piscina remain in the chancel, and the rood-loft stair is on the north side of the chancel-arch. The low panelled screen of early 17th century is noteworthy.

On the north side of the chancel is a large monument to Sir Thomas Tyrell, justice of the Court of Common Pleas, who had obtained a lease of the manor in 1626; he died in 1671. His son, Sir Peter, was made a baronet, but when his son Thomas died in 1714 he left only two daughters, of whom one was the famous Christobella, who married thrice, "for love, for money, and for rank," dying as Viscountess Saye and Sele at a great age.

## THE CASTLE.

Although there is nothing in the way of masonry to be found and the earthworks are obscured, one can still make out the general outlines of this mount and bailey fortress which dates from the 12th century when it belonged to William Mauduit. The inner bailey is fairly complete, except where the churchyard occupies one corner. The outer bailey was protected by a broad rampart, ending in a barbican mount which commanded the entrance to the inner bailey. In 1215 the castle was sacked and destroyed by Fulk de Breauté, and at the close of that century Wm. Beauchamp, heir of the Mauduits, obtained licence to make a wall round his garden and embattle it. This may relate however to the rectangular earthworks which can be seen just on the other side of the railway line.

The Society then passed on to

## HANSLOPE CHURCH,

where the chancel and a nave (probably without aisles), were built about 1170, the aisles being added in the 13th century. The north aisle and chapel were widened in the 15th century, and the west tower and spire were added a little later, and the nave arcades were re-built. The spire had to be almost entirely re-built in the 19th century.

The south wall of the chancel has kept its 12th century design, though restored; there is an external arcading of six bays, separated by half-round columns. The details of this with the corbels deserve attention; an original doorway remains, and a low-side window was inserted in the 13th century.

The nave arcades are of the late 15th century; behind the south pier of the chancel arch the doorway of the rood-stair, now leading to the nave roof, can be seen.

The clerestory windows are of the same late 15th century date; the windows of the north aisle are a little earlier, though the windows next to the porch are of still earlier date but re-set; the west window is of the 16th century.

In the south aisle the windows (going from east to west) are of the 15th, 14th and mid-13th centuries; the windows at the ends (east and west) are of the 16th century. The porches belong to the late 15th century, and the roof of the nave belongs to the same date.

The steeple, so unusual in Bucks, was destroyed by lightning in 1804, so that the present one dates from that period; Lipscomb gives an engaging story of a man named James Cadman who climbed the old steeple for the purpose of re-fixing the weather-vane without any scaffolding.

The interior of the church has suffered severely from the loss of its plaster, and sustained other losses, so that we have more indents than brasses, which is sad—the early 15th century priest in mass vestments would have been interesting. There are several stone coffins and parts of lids, not much later than the original church. On the wall of the stair-turret is the Warwick badge—the bear and ragged staff—which commemorates the long association of that family with the manor; it occurs also on a gargoyle of the nave. Attention was drawn to the two fire-hooks in excellent condition standing in the tower; they may be compared with those preserved at Ivinghoe and Iver.

After leaving Hanslope the Society went directly to Newport Pagnell for lunch, which was served at the "Swan," and after lunch they went to Chicheley Hall, where, by kind permission of Miss Farrar, the house was thoroughly explored, after the following paper had been read:—

## CHICHELEY HALL.

This noble house was built for Sir John Chester between 1698 and 1703; unfortunately, we do not know the name of the brilliant designer. Sir E. Lutyens suggests that he may have been a Dutchman, but Mr. Oswald is not convinced of this and suggests several English names—all guesses. Mr. Nathaniel Lloyd does not hesitate to call it unsurpassed for richness of effect in form and colour. Chicheley came to the Chesters when Sir Anthony, the first baronet (1566—1635), succeeded to his mother, who was Judith Cave, an heiress. The Caves came here when Anthony, a merchant of the Staple in Calais, bought this and other manors from the Crown in 1545. He built the former house here of which little remains, though foundations have been found under the grass towards the "canal," between the ilexes. A Jacobean overmantel was brought to the present house, and bears the arms of Cave quartering Chester; there is also some panelling and a beam with a punning Latin inscription which begins: *Cave ne Deum offendas*—that is a little earlier, being dated 1550. The builder was Sir John, the great grandson of Sir Anthony and the fourth baronet; he only came to live here in 1714. Mr. Oswald suggests that the hall was originally intended to be of one storey, with a room above it, and that the present loftiness is due to the change of fashion which set in with George I, for a great two-storeyed hall; he is inclined to be critical of the proportions of the hall as now laid out. With the staircase everyone must be pleased, the breadth of the treads (oak inlaid with walnut), the shallow risers, which make it so easy of ascent, the three types of balusters, and the outline of brackets on the underside of the treads, all these make for one of the noblest staircases in the county.

Upon the death of the seventh baronet in 1755, the property was left by him to his cousin Charles Bagot, who then assumed the name of Chester. He was a friend of Cowper, who used to come over from Weston Underwood to Chicheley, to visit his old schoolfellow at Westminster, after 1786. He alludes to his visits in his most delightful letters.

It has so happened that the decorations, of the ground floor at all events, have remained almost unaltered since Sir John's day, so that we can see workmanship much as it appeared when Queen Anne was alive. The rooms are not so high that elaborately plastered ceilings were justified, but the woodwork in panelling, door-cases, and applied carving is as handsome as could be wished, and compares well, say, with the somewhat heavy bolection moulding (of exactly the same date), in Winslow Hall, or the impressive grandeur of Denham Place.

A very curious example of woodwork is a room originally a library upstairs, where the presses are concealed by panelling with such ingenuity that their existence would not be suspected.

The woodwork in general is oak; some of the doors have inlaid walnut bands to the panels; some doorcases are walnut-veneered;

some of the carving may certainly be called "the school of Gibbons," if not actually by that master.

Some of the panelling is of elm, inlaid with walnut, producing a very beautiful effect. Many of the mirrors were greatly admired, and a set of chairs, sofa, and screen embroidered in "gros point," attracted much attention.

Captain Anthony Chester, the owner of the house, was present and named the dates of 1719—1725 as those between which the house was built, but the wide glazing-bars in many of the windows pointed to an earlier date.

The beautiful colouring of the brickwork, with the contrasting stone finishings, in the fine setting of the gardens, made the members reluctant to tear themselves away, but the programme called for the next, and final visit, which was to

#### WILLEN CHURCH.

It is to Dr. Busby, the famous and somewhat heavy-handed headmaster of Westminster, that this little church is owing; two of his pupils were Christopher Wren and, closely following him in time, Robert Hooke. After the Fire of London these two joined in partnership, and Hooke took an active part in the construction of the Monument on Fish Street Hill, and many city churches. It appears that he was wholly responsible for this church, which was always attributed to Wren; but his diary (which has never been published in extenso) was the subject of an interesting article in the "Times" of 14th February, 1935; from this it appears that he was discussing plans and models with Dr. Busby from November, 1678, and the date 1680, assigned to the church is correct. The church and all its fittings belong to that period; the fittings are perhaps more dignified to us to-day than the structure.

The room which balances the vestry was originally intended to house the library which Busby left to the church; their number was added to by a later bequest of James Hume, vicar Bradwell, who died in 1734. The books were removed to the vicarage and, in 1848, numbered 620 volumes, mostly dealing with the theology of the 17th century, and of little or no interest to the bibliophile. Even the Foxe's "Martyrs" is of 1641. There is an early edition of Burnet's History, and a "Novum Organum" of 1650. The trustees used, at all events, to check the inventory on the appointment of a new vicar and make him librarian first and vicar afterwards.

Dr. Busby, it should be said, may have been one of the Busby family who began with John, "a rich shepherd of East Claydon," according to Browne Willis. They acquired Marsh Gibbon and Addington. Whether he was closely related to them is not clear.

The visit to this curious little church concluded the day's proceedings, which led the Society through the best part of northern Bucks.