

RECORDS OF THE ARCHDEACONRY OF BUCKINGHAM

AFTER negotiations lasting some fourteen months (having originally been initiated as long ago as 1955, but subsequently dropped), the early probate records of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham were transferred from Somerset House to the County Record Office in November, 1959. They comprise the filed and registered wills and administrations for the period 1483-1858. There are, of course, certain gaps and omissions in the sequence, but, even so, the total bulk of these transferred records is quite considerable, and numbers 135 boxes and 154 volumes. For the present, the existing indexes are being used, but it is intended to compile a rather more comprehensive cumulative index as time (and available assistance) permits.

The deposit of these records (which was finally sanctioned by Order of the Lord Chancellor, dated 17th July, 1959) was conditional upon their reunion with the other (non-probate) records of the Archdeaconry, which were in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. With great courtesy and consideration, the Curators of that Library (with the approval and consent of the Archdeacon) readily agreed to sanction the transfer of those records to this office, in order that they might all be re-united in the county to which they related. As a consequence of this generous gesture, this county is now fortunate in having all the known Archdeaconry records that have been deposited in a public repository (excepting those relating to the Peculiars which have been retained at Bodley) readily available for consultation by students and other interested searchers.

A detailed schedule of these records is in course of preparation, but, in the meantime, a brief list of their contents is appended for the guidance of members of the Archæological Society. They may, of course, be consulted at any time during the normal office hours of the County Council, and the Record Office staff will be happy to give all the assistance they can, if required.

PROBATE RECORDS

149 volumes of registered wills: 1483-1510, 1520-27, 1532-50, 1552-79, 1584-87, 1594-1605, 1611-25, 1633-50, 1686-1858.

5 volumes of registered administrations: 1633-45, 1660-1857.

123 boxes of filed wills: 1506-1858.

12 boxes of filed administrations: 1598-1857.

NON-PROBATE RECORDS

103 volumes and 122 boxes of parish register transcripts, *c.* 1575-*c.* 1840.

52 boxes of bonds and allegations relating to some 14,400 marriages, 1680-1855.

10 boxes of glebe terriers and church inventories, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

16 volumes of visitation records, 1491-1833.

22 Court Act books, 1521-1841; and other Court books, *i.e.*, depositions, fee book, etc., sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

Miscellaneous books and papers including precedents (sixteenth to nineteenth centuries), presentations and inductions (1542-1781), faculties (1723-1831), clergy and churchwardens (1570-1851), presentments (1760-88), ledgers and fee books, etc.

(NOTE: I should personally like to record my gratitude to the Council of the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society, whose ready co-operation in allowing the County Record Office to use a large portion of the muniment room at the County Museum (as a temporary measure) made it possible for these negotiations to be recommenced. I am also grateful to Mr. D. A. Newton, of the Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House; to the Curators of the Bodleian Library, and to Dr. M. W. Barratt, of the Department of Western Mss. there; and, of course, to the Archdeacon of Buckingham and his registrar, for enabling the negotiations, once commenced, to be completed so amicably and smoothly.—E.J.D.)