

OBITUARIES

ARNOLD H. J. BAINES

Arnold Baines, who died in March 2001 in his eightieth year, was a dominant figure in the Society's affairs for over fifty years, both as author and administrator.

He was proud of his Bucks roots, which he traced back for fourteen generations to the north of the county; but the last ten were centred on Chesham which became the centre of his life and work.

Both his father and uncle were schoolmasters in the town and it was at the latter's White Hill school that Arnold's brilliant brain was noticed; it led him by scholarships to Dr Challoner's Grammar School at Amersham and then to Pembroke College Cambridge. Here he gained a First in Mathematics (Wrangler) but, being wartime, he left to join the Civil Service (he would certainly have been unfit for the armed forces) but returned to Cambridge after the war and completed his degree with a first-class in the Mathematics Tripos, part three.

Returning to the Ministry of Food, he rose rapidly, finishing his career as Chief Statistician at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Long before he retired he became involved in local affairs. At various times he served on the County Council, the old Urban District Council and the more recent Chiltern District Council. He served as Town Mayor and chairman, or father-figure, to many local societies. In particular he was an important figure in the Baptist church, both locally and nationally.

For thirty years he contributed regularly to *Records*. His first paper was on a nineteenth-century subject but thereafter it was the Anglo-Saxon period that dominated his work and writings. He added much to our knowledge of that

period but it was mainly in reference to Buckinghamshire and he was little known as an historian outside this particular speciality. His researches into early charters, parish boundaries and place names led to one happy innovation in our Society outings. In 1964 he led members round the original boundaries of Monks Risborough using the tenth-century boundary charter and identifying the then unknown Black Hedge, the 'foul brook', and the 'wealden ridge' (Waldridge). This was so successful that in later years perambulations were made of the boundaries of Linslade, Over Winchendon, Hillesden, Wotton Underwood, Olney and Granborough. Sadly, a return visit to Over Winchendon proved too much for him. Never robust physically, he was now very heavy and even a team of four members were unable to lift him over a high stile.

Arnold served our Council, on and off, for many years and often as Chairman, a role for which he was not ideally fitted. He was a self-absorbed man and a compulsive talker; this meant that although the day's agenda was eventually completed, he was all too easily carried away into fascinating but totally irrelevant anecdotes. But he was a loveable man who served the Society well. He was elected a Vice-President in 1987 and later a Trustee; as one of the Society's representatives on the County Council's Museum Committee he achieved a significant success in persuading the Council to extend their lease of the Museum for another long period of years; this proved to be of immense value during the upsets of the next few years. For this alone his memory will be honoured by a grateful Society.

E.K

MICHAEL REED

Professor Michael Reed, who died in November 2000 aged 70, was a leading figure in the study of the history of Buckinghamshire. His outstanding achievement in this field was *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*, published in 1979, in which, as would be expected of a student of Professor W. G. Hoskins, the development of the landscape is explained through the history of the people who lived in and shaped it. This very readable and judicious book has become a standard history of the county, to which it provides an indispensable starting-point. In 1993 Professor Reed published another, shorter, volume on the subject, *A History of Buckinghamshire*, which treats the history of the county on a largely thematic basis and which acts as a companion volume to the earlier book.

In addition to his work on the topographical history of Buckinghamshire, Professor Reed wrote a number of books about the development of landscapes in Britain as a whole. These included *The Georgian Triumph, 1700-1830* (1983) and *The Age of Exuberance, 1550-1700* (1986), both of which appeared in the series *The Making of Britain, 1066-1939*, and *The Landscape of Britain from the beginnings to 1914* (1990).

Michael Arthur Reed was born in Aylesbury in 1930, the son of a farm inspector. His childhood home was in Fleet Street, Aylesbury, and he attended Queen's Park School and Aylesbury Grammar School. After National Service in the RAF, he read history at the University of Birmingham and then embarked upon a Ph. D. at the University of Leicester under Hoskins. His first profession was that of schoolmaster, teaching at schools in Kent and Yorkshire, but in 1962 he became a lecturer at Loughborough Technical College, later the University of Loughborough, and it was there that he was to spend the remainder of his career. He taught English initially and then Librarianship. He became Senior Lecturer in Library Studies in 1976, Reader in Archives and Landscape Studies in 1984, and Professor of Archives and Topography in 1988. On his retirement in 1995 he was appointed Emeritus Professor. He was also a Fellow of both the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Historical Society.

Michael Reed was a long-standing member of the executive committee of the Buckinghamshire

Record Society. He edited two volumes in that society's publications series, both of which deal with documents of great value to many areas of historical research, including his chosen field of topographical history. The first of these, *Buckinghamshire Probate Inventories, 1661-1714*, which appeared in 1988, contains the texts of 159 such documents held in the Public Record Office. Professor Reed had already worked on probate inventories for the Suffolk Record Society, for whom he had edited *The Ipswich Probate Inventories, 1581-1631* (1981). His second Buckinghamshire Record Society volume was *Buckinghamshire Glebe Terriers, 1578-1640* (1997), containing 146 of these documents held in Buckinghamshire Record Office. This volume must surely have brought these invaluable but under-used surveys to the attention of a wider circle of researchers.

Though never a member of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Professor Reed contributed in many ways to its activities, not least as a speaker. In 1978 his invaluable article 'Markets and Fairs in Medieval Bucks' was published in *Records of Bucks*, volume 20, part 4. It includes what has become an essential checklist of the earliest documentary sources for each market and fair. In 1981, as a result of the publication of *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*, he was invited to lead members of the Society on a perambulation of the Bernwood Forest boundaries, and this was followed in 1983 by a similar event at Whaddon Chase.

Although his career took him away from Buckinghamshire, Michael Reed devoted much of his time, energy and scholarship to the history of his native county, as the list of his publications demonstrates. Moreover, whenever his commitments allowed, he was a regular participant in meetings of the Record Society executive committee, and was often to be seen at that society's annual general meetings, where his genial presence and good-humoured companionship will be much missed. He is survived by his wife Gwynneth, who always accompanied him to the Record Society annual general meetings, and their son Philip.

Roger Bettridge

EDWARD VERE WRIGHT, MBE, FSA, 1918–2001

Edward Vere Wright was a Yorkshireman and amateur archaeologist of distinction. As a young man in 1937 he and his brother discovered the remains of a prehistoric boat on the north shore of the Humber at North Ferriby; he discovered and rescued two further boats in 1940 and 1963. Dated at the time as c. 1900 BC he always argued that they were older, but it was only in 1998 that new techniques seemed to prove – to his great delight – that at least one of the boats was at least four hundred years earlier.

He served in the East Riding Yeomanry and, as a junior officer, persuaded the authorities to discontinue tank exercises around the Sutton Hoo burial

mound! Demobilised a Major in 1947, he joined Reckitt and Coleman rising to be their Overseas Director. He was, for long, a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum.

Moving to Bucks after the war he lived at Taplow then at the Old Rectory (Hall Place) at Beaconsfield. He and his wife Jane both became keen members of the Society; she died in 1993, and was a founder member of the Church Recorders of NADFAS. He was elected a Vice-President in 1987. Belatedly, the University of Hull awarded him an Honorary Doctorate the same year.

E.V.

The Society has also learned with sadness of the deaths of the following members: Mr G. B. Ravens, Mr R. Cockburn, Dr May Reed and Miss E. M. Johnson.