

Reviews

Eynsham under the Monks. By Sir Edmund Chambers, K.B.E., F.B.A. Oxfordshire Record Society, vol. XVIII (1936). Pp. 126; one map.

This book with its wealth of scholarly research and detail is of absorbing interest. To some it may seem dry and dull, but for me it is full of the life of my own country, so I had better confess that I am deeply prejudiced. I spent my childhood on the *brueria* or heath of Eynsham (though I never suspected my home at Freeland of such romance) and since I was 10 I have lived in the heart of the *Heyewood*, now disguised as Eynsham Hall Park. There must be many others who will also feel a new spark of life come to some Eynsham name or stone or field that they have known.

The first deed quoted from the Eynsham cartulary is of 1150, by which the abbot granted to Nicholas, son of Sewolde of Leigh, the land of Frithe, and among a great number of witnesses were Geoffrey Lovell and Robert of Waste Land. Now the village of North Leigh is referred to as Leigh, and the name Lay (which is the same word as Leigh or Lea) is still one of the commonest village surnames in Freeland and North Leigh. The 'land of Frithe' is at Freeland. A few years ago a Lay from Freeland married a Wastie from Handborough. Is my imagination too fantastic when I see the name of Robert of Waste Land? Frith is now become the Thrift, a wood near Freeland.

Sir Edmund leaves one or two queries about Freeland and its neighbourhood. In the boundaries of Wychwood Forest given in the perambulation of 1298 reference is made to 'the house of Walter le Wyneter in Handborough.' The old Handborough boundary ran through what appears to be the village of Freeland. In the Handborough Lane is an old grey house on the Handborough side of the boundary line and there seems good reason to believe it stands on the site of 'the house of Walter le Wyneter.' The boundary then crosses a field to Little Blenheim. Was that the site of the 'grange of Robert le Eyr,' and is the local name Ayres of his kin? Although the next reference is to Blowynd I see no reason to connect this word with Little Blenheim, for local wit has humorously attached that name to other particularly small cottages in other villages. As for Blowynd itself the Eynsham and Handborough Blowynd might be the same, as it was evidently on the boundary. On a map of 1769 now at Eynsham Hall the name 'Blowing Bottom' is given to the dip crossed by the road from Freeland to the Witney-Woodstock road, and 'Blowing Corner' is between the bottom and Cook's corner.

The same map, which is of Eynsham Heath before the enclosure of Eynsham Hall estate, solves a query of Sir Edmund's about the line of the road (now usually called Cuckoo Lane) from Barnard Gate to Northleigh Common. On that map the line of the future park is pencilled in and the eastern boundary follows the line of a road for a long way. That road is now the old cart-road of the Ride and its original line went through Little Green Farm and joined the present last section of the road to Barnard Gate.

The new by-pass road has cut across many old landmarks and this careful study of Eynsham's tenements, roads and fields is now invaluable.

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Many of the names of men in these old records can be connected with families still living near. Lay and Wastie have already been mentioned and Sir Edmund points out Blake and Holloway; John Reyme (1297) reminds me of my old friend Rhymes, there are numbers of Woodwards in the neighbourhood still, I met a de Boo (1297) in Oxford, and 'Helewisa, daughter of Walkelin Waard' makes us think of many of our neighbours called Ward, while Cocus must be Cox.

There are also very human stories among these ancient records. We can picture the horrors of the Black Death when the land of Tilgarsley (Barnard Gate) had to be cultivated by the Abbot because all the men of Tilgarsley were dead. The 'inconvenient' custom referred to by Dr. Plot whereby the inhabitants of Eynsham might cut as much timber on Whit Monday as could be drawn by men's hands into the abbey yard, 'whence if they could draw it out again, notwithstanding all the impediments could be given to the cart by the servants of the abbey (and since that by the family of the Lord) it was their own,' must have resulted in very rowdy scenes and accounts for the absence of any really old trees in the neighbourhood of the village. The record of a King's Bench case of 1356 gives a vivid picture of a quarrel between the abbot and the men of Handborough when the latter 'had entered his ground, he said, in arms, accompanied by their chaplain, and brought with them a number of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, by which his growing wheat, barley, winter-wheat, beans, peas, oats and grass had been consumed and trampled upon during several days to a value of £1000.' This raid seems to have been at Tilgarsley and I shall think of it next time I pass Barnard Gate.

VIOLET STEED.

The Sandford Cartulary, Vol. I. Edited by Agnes M. Leys. Oxfordshire Record Society, vol. XIX (1937). Pp. 177; 2 plates.

Now that the Oxfordshire Record Society is firmly established, it is able to undertake tasks which formerly fell to the Oxford Historical Society; we may assume that for the future the latter Society will confine itself to the Town and University of Oxford, and leave to the county Society the county cartularies. We here have the first half of the cartulary of the Templars who were established originally at Temple Cowley and subsequently at Sandford-on-Thames. This house, or, as it was called, Preceptory, managed the estates of the Templars that were within easy reach in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire. This first volume, dealing only with Oxfordshire, contains some valuable charters which are here presented in good print and paper and are well transcribed. The editor gives indications to help in the dating and when the volume is completed with its index it may be possible to fix the dates within narrower limits. No doubt other Preceptories had cartularies of the properties that were under their control, but none of them survive. This volume was bought by the Bodleian from Anthony Wood, but that secretive person does not mention in his diary the acquisition of this manuscript or of any of the others which he sold to the Bodleian at the same time. The Templars were an aristocratic body and were favoured by the higher aristocracy, so that in this volume there are several charters which throw light on the leading families in the 12th century. There are many charters about house property in Oxford, but the Templars, unlike the monasteries, were so often in need of large sums of money, that by the time of the Hundred Rolls of 1279 they retained practically nothing in the town; they had sold their house property. In 1935 Miss Beatrice

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Lees edited for the British Academy the survey of the lands of the Templars which was drawn up in 1185 and is now at the Record Office, and her notes are of the greatest value for the early history of the Templars. When the Sandford Cartulary is finished, we shall have in these two works all the known records about the Templars in Oxfordshire.

H. E. SALTER.

Cartulary of Osenev Abbey, vol. vi. By the Rev. H. E. Salter. Oxford Historical Society, vol. CI; Oxford University Press, 1936. Pp. 403.

It is a pleasure to be able to congratulate Dr. Salter on the completion of the burdensome task of editing so large a cartulary, and we hope that his work has given him as much satisfaction as it has given his readers. The present volume maintains the high standard set by its predecessors, and contains much valuable material, particularly for the study of place-names and for manorial history. There are nearly two hundred pages of deeds relating to the monastery's property in the bailliwicks of Weston and Hampton Gay, and to scattered possessions lost to Osenev by 1280. Oxford readers will be particularly interested in the Iffley deeds (pp. 135-7), and those relating to Banbury and Woodstock (pp. 146-7, 182) have a special interest for the student of town history. These are followed by an important account roll of 1280 which throws light on the system adopted by the monastery in the 13th century for the management of its property, and by a hundred pages of 15th and 16th century account rolls giving much information about its income and expenditure. The volume concludes with a transcript of the statutes of St. George's College from a Bodleian MS., and with a list of judges delegate occurring in the cartulary. Both sections are headed by interesting notes.

This is the last volume of a series of which Oxford may be justly proud. Many scholars have generously contributed to it, but in recent years its inspiration and the greater part of the labour have been Dr. Salter's, and it is fitting that his should be the concluding work. We look forward to the launching of the new series of the Oxford Historical Society monographs with eagerness.

MARY D. LOBEL.

A History of Chastleton, Oxfordshire. By Margaret Dickins. The Office of *The Banbury Guardian*, Banbury, 1938. Pp. 83; 5 plates. No price stated.

This is essentially a local history and 'tells mostly of people unknown beyond their own parish.' The contents shew that considerable time and trouble must have been spent on its compilation.

After a brief introduction dealing with the name of the village and the ecclesiastical and manorial history, the author devotes separate chapters to genealogical and biographical details of the families of Throckmorton, Ansley, Greenwood, and Catesby and concludes with some fifty-four pages on that of Jones. Brief notes are also given on the church and parish and on the post-Reformation rectors.

The history of the Jones family is largely the history of Chastleton after the beginning of the 17th century, when Walter Jones purchased the manor which continued in the family until 1828. The last of the line, Arthur, left the estate to his kinsman John Henry Whitmore of Dudmaston, Salop, who succeeded to Chastleton and took the name of Whitmore Jones.

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No references to the sources of information are given in the text but the author states in the preface that every fact mentioned has been substantiated by the church registers, deeds and documents in Chastleton House and at the Record Office, Government publications and other reliable sources. The genealogist will regret the omission of precise references in the text. Further there are no chart or key pedigrees which means that anyone reading the book for its full value will have to make his own. The index is fairly adequate but does not include the name of every person or place mentioned in the text. If it is not already in existence, it is to be hoped that a calendar of the deeds now at Chastleton House will be made; this would prove of use and would be a natural corollary to the author's labour in the preparation of this history.

P. S. SPOKES.

The following monographs, articles and notes on subjects of local interest have appeared since the last volume of *Oxoniensia* :—

Leys, Agnes M., *The Sandford Cartulary*, vol. 1. (Oxfordshire Record Society, XIX). See review, p. 180.

Haberly, Loyd, *Mediaeval English Pavingtiles* (Oxford, Shakespeare Head Press, 1937), Price £4 4s. Contains an illustrated survey of decorated tiles now surviving within 15 miles of Oxford. A review copy of this book was not supplied by the publishers.

Antiquaries Journal, XVIII, 75, 'A palaeolithic problem.' [A hand-axe from High Wycombe]; 185 ff., 'A Hallstatt bronze sword from the Thames at Taplow,' by C. F. C. Hawkes; 412, 'Food-vessel from near Henley-on-Thames,' by C. F. C. Hawkes.

Archaeologia, LXXXVI, 65 ff., 'The Astrolabe of Queen Elizabeth,' by R. T. Gunther. [An astrolabe from the Radcliffe Observatory, recently acquired by the Museum of the History of Science].

Berkshire Archaeological Journal, XLI, 82 ff., 'A find of Stuart coins at Childrey Manor, Berks,' by D. F. Allen; 85 ff., 'Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches,' ctd., by P. S. Spokes; 114 ff., 'A schedule of wills proved in the Court of Faringdon Peculiar, 1580-1636,' by Rev. A. L. Browne; 122 ff., 'The Wantage Crosses,' by E. A. Greening Lamborn.

Id., XLII, 20 ff., 'Notes on recent antiquarian discoveries in Berkshire,' II, by F. M. Underhill; 29 ff., 'Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches,' ctd., by P. S. Spokes; 67 ff., 'Norman pottery from Wallingford market-place,' by L. R. A. Grove; 75 ff., 'Early British coins found in Berkshire and in the Silchester district,' by W. A. Seaby.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions, LIX, 185 ff., 'Gloucestershire in the Pipe Rolls,' by F. B. Welch; 205 ff., 'The ancient woodland of Gloucestershire,' addit. notes, by G. B. Grundy; 211 ff., 'Wick Rissington transcripts,' by Rev. A. L. Browne; 321 ff., 'Robert Knolles, vicar of Bibury,' by R.A[ustin].

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- Buckinghamshire Records*, XIII, 252 ff., 'The excavation of a Romano-British pottery site near Hedgerley,' by K. P. Oakley, etc.; 272 ff., 'The pottery from the [Hedgerley] Kilns,' by F. Cottrill; 287 ff., 'Prehistoric pottery found at Iver, Bucks,' by A. D. Lacaille; 300, 'Two mediaeval sites near Great Missenden,' by R. W. T. Cockburn; 301, 'Roman remains at Fingest,' by E. C. Rouse; 302 f., 'Unrecorded trade tokens,' by E. Hollis [Chesham, High Wycombe, Wendover]; 313 ff., 'The excavation of the Cop Round Barrow, Bledlow,' by J. F. Head, etc.
- English Historical Review*, LII, 670 ff., 'Manuscripts of Duke Humphrey of Gloucester,' by B. L. Ullman.
- Id.*, LIII, 221 ff., and 438 ff., 'Greek studies in England in the early sixteenth century,' by A. Tilley. [Contains much Oxford material]; 606 ff., 'Thomas Gascoigne,' pt. I, by Winifred A. Pronger.
- Oxfordshire Archaeological Society Report*, 1937, 3 ff., 'Architectural notes on 1937 excursion (Stone Church; Court House, Long Crendon; Hartwell House; Long Crendon Manor; Aylesbury; Thame Church),' by T. Lawrence Dale; 8 ff., 'The wall-paintings in Shorthampton Church,' by E. T. Long; 13 ff., 'The Lovel tomb at Minster,' by E. A. Greening Lamborn; 21 f., 'Brasses to Canons of Windsor,' by H. F. Owen Evans [Brasses in North Stoke Church and Magdalen College Chapel]; 23 ff., 'Excavations at Chesterton Lane, Alchester, 1937,' by D. B. Harden. [A native Iron Age and Romano-British settlement on the line of Akeman Street].