

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES: 1961

Abingdon, Berks. (1) Sherds of 4th century Romano-British pottery in Roman levels overlying natural gravel at a depth of 6 ft. were found in footing-trenches for a new building on the southern corner of Lombard Street and East St. Helens. Sherds of medieval and later pottery were also found. (National Grid: 41/497970.)

(2). Extended inhumation burials were reported found in extending Gainsborough Green, a housing estate on the Newbury Road half a mile south of Ock Street. The only grave-goods reported were two red and yellow striped beads of typical Anglo-Saxon type. The burials were outliers of the large cemetery excavated nearby in Saxton Road, in 1934-5.¹ (National Grid: 41/489962.)

Brill, Bucks. Two pottery kilns of 14th century date, one previously excavated by Mr. E. M. Jope,² were excavated and sampled by Mr. G. Weaver and Mr. M. Tite for the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art. (National Grid: 42/657143.)

Charlton, Northants. The Iron Age hill-fort, Rainsborough Camp, was excavated by Mr. J. E. G. Sutton and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. A section through the defences brought to light an outer ditch 12 ft. deep, which had been deliberately filled with material from an outer rampart. The inner ditch was 15 ft. deep; the inner rampart, with timber interlacing and stone faces on both sides, had been partly destroyed by intense fire. Structural post-holes, gullies and storage pits were excavated in two areas of the interior. (National Grid: 42/526348.)

Chinnor, Oxon. An extended inhumation burial was exposed in quarrying chalk 25 yards north of the Upper Icknield Way immediately east of the parish boundary. (National Grid: 41/754995.)

Chislehampton, Oxon. Sherds of Romano-British coarse wares were found by Mr. E. V. Roberts in ploughed fields near the parish boundary, 100 yards west of the Thame. (National Grid: 42/598001.)

Dorchester, Oxon. (1) A small excavation by Mr. J. E. G. Sutton north of the White Hart Hotel revealed a Roman pit of 2nd century date dug through undisturbed gravel, immediately below the present ground surface. No traces of the Roman wall or ditch were found. (National Grid: 41/577943.)

(2) Trial-excavations by Mr. J. W. Banks and Mr. C. Cunningham immediately north of the Abbey revealed natural gravel at a depth of 5 ft.; Roman pits and traces of the cloisters were found. (National Grid: 41/579942.)

Great Barrington, Gos. Struck flints including leaf-shaped and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads were reported by Mrs. M. Arkell as having been found at various times, the exact localities being unknown. (Near National Grid: 42/210137.)

¹ E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire*, 1936.

² *Records of Bucks.*, xvi, pt. 1 (1953-4), 39-42.

NOTES AND NEWS

Great Milton, Oxon. Sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery were found by D. Simms in ploughed ground immediately east of the road from Great Milton to Waterstock and just north of the stream by Chilworth Farm. (National Grid : 42/636036.)

Grove, Berks. An extended inhumation burial, revealed in builders' trenches, was reported by Wantage Police. Medieval sherds were found nearby. (National Grid : 41/405906.)

Islip, Oxon. Struck flints including barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, thumbnail scrapers and utilized blades and flakes were reported by P. Gray, S. F. Latham, Mr. J. Leach and B. G. Russell from the site of the Romano-British temple and the south-western slope of the hill. (National Grid : 42/537125.)

J. Krebs also reported struck flints from various localities in ploughed fields: Blades from the site of the Romano-British temple and below the hill to the south-east, bordering the Woodeaton road, and a core-changing flake from between the site of the temple and the Islip-Wheatley road (B.4027).

Kennington, Berks. An iron hunting arrowhead of 15th century date was found by Mr. B. Halcrow to the west of the road north of Radley Large Wood, in which another had been found in 1959 half a mile to the south. (National Grid : 42/523014 and 42/523008.)

Kingston Lisle, Berks. Sherds of Romano-British and Late Saxon pottery were found in Fawler copse. The name Fawler represents the mosaic pavement of a Roman villa.³ (National Grid : 41/321878.)

Lechlade, Glos. A complex of Romano-British field-ditches and a pit containing sherds of Beaker-pottery were found in excavations by Mrs. M. U. Jones. (National Grid : 42/219007.)

Littlemore, Oxon. A Romano-British kiln site of the type familiar throughout east Oxford was found in bulldozing and excavation of footing and drainage trenches on Blackbird Leys housing estate, about 300 yards from the similar site on the former sewage farm in Sandford.⁴ 3rd and 4th century pottery was found in large quantities. (National Grid : 42/553026.)

Long Wittenham, Berks. An extended inhumation burial and sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery were found in laying drains for Wallingford R.D.C., across the well-known cropmarks of a small village.⁵ (National Grid : 41/557942.)

Marston-St.-Lawrence, Northants. Indeterminate struck flints including a scraper and borer were found by Mr. D. J. Barrett in a ploughed field. (National Grid : 42/542424.)

Northleigh, Oxon. Large fragments of Romano-British tiles and sherds of coarse pottery were found by P. C. Hadland on allotment gardens at East End half a mile from Northleigh Roman Villa. (National Grid : 42/401146.)

Oddington, Oxon. Mr. S. F. Merry reported a barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead from the garden of Oddington Grange. (National Grid : 42/545166.)

Oxford, Albert Street. A trial-trench was excavated by Mr. J. W. Banks for the Oxford Excavations Committee on the supposed site of the Blackfriars' Church. A

³ *Ant.*, 1 (1927), 478-9.

⁴ *Arch.*, LXXII (1921/2), 225-42.

⁵ Negatives by the late Major Allen in the Ashmolean Museum, nos. 1416-8, 1441-2, and by Dr. St. Joseph, Curator in Aerial Photography, Cambridge, nos. CD 24, 25, 31-5; DX 77-8; HP 68-9.

NOTES AND NEWS

massive rubble-footing, probably of the south wall, was found, 6 ft. thick and standing on undisturbed gravel to a height of 5 ft. The ground level had been raised 5 ft. with dumps of clay at the time of building. Burials were also found north of the wall.⁶ (National Grid: 42/51230582.)

Oxford, 13-17, Cornmarket Street. Undisturbed loam and gravel extending 24 ft. from the frontage on the east of Cornmarket Street were revealed by contractors' excavations for Messrs. Marks and Spencer at the north-west corner of Market Street. A late Saxon cellar was found 24 ft. from Cornmarket, and many 12th century and later pits further to the east. It is clear that in Saxon times Cornmarket was about 16 ft. wider than at present. Early in the 12th century the frontage on the west was set back 8 ft.,⁷ and that on the east brought forward 24 ft. A large quantity of pottery was recovered from a mid-18th century rubbish pit. (National Grid: 42/51310629.)

Oxford, 54 Cornmarket Street. Pottery of early 17th century date was found in digging a new lift shaft for Barclay's Bank Ltd. (National Grid: 42/51290624.)

Oxford, 124 High Street. In the excavation of footings for an extension of Russell Acott Ltd., on the site of the Bear Inn⁸ pits were found containing pottery of the 11th, 12th and 14th centuries. Two large rubbish pits provided much pottery and glass of the early 17th and late 18th century. (National Grid: 42/51450617.)

Standlake, Oxon. (1) A polished flint axehead was reported by Mr. J. C. Hanson as found following building operations half a mile north-west of the Church. (National Grid: 42/392045.)

(2) Ditches of lanes forming a triangular enclosure and yielding sherds of Roman coarse pottery of 4th century date were found, half a mile south-west of the village, in cuttings dug in advance of gravel-workings by Mr. G. Dawson and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. (National Grid: 42/387024.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. (1) Early Iron Age storage-pits, post-holes and gullies near the four ring-ditches excavated in 1960 were found by Miss A. Hamlin, Mr. M. Avery and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society during gravel-digging by Amey's Aggregates Ltd.⁹ Two pits containing Neolithic flints and crouched burials with Beaker-pottery were also found. (National Grid: 42/406048.)

(2) A section was excavated mechanically through the ditch of the barrow excavated in 1940.¹⁰ Secondary contracted inhumation burials possibly of Bronze Age date were found in the ditch in the course of gravel-digging by S. Smith & Son, and in the vicinity beyond it. Extended inhumation burials, probably Anglo-Saxon, were found in the uppermost filling. (National Grid: 42/409051.)

(3) Flint blades, possibly Upper Palaeolithic, or else Mesolithic, previously unrecognized in the region, were found in a ploughed field on Northmoor Terrace gravel about 470 yards south-west of Pinkhill Farm by Mr. G. I. Churchill. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were also found. (National Grid: 42/433069.)

Waterperry, Oxon. An iron hunting-arrowhead from immediately west of the school was reported by Linda Haines. (National Grid: 42/627065.)

⁶ Cf. *Oxoniensia*, III (1938), 67, FIG. 14, 77-80.

⁷ *Oxoniensia*, XXIII (1958), 1-26.

⁸ H. E. Salter, *Survey of Oxford*, I, O.H.S. (N.S.) XIV (1960), 175.

⁹ *Oxoniensia*, XXV (1960), 135-6.

¹⁰ *Oxoniensia*, X (1945), 21-40.

NOTES AND NEWS

West Ilsley, Berks. A fragmentary barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was found on the Ridgeway a mile north of the village by A. G. J. Weller. (National Grid: 41/474843.)

Wootton, Berks. An extended inhumation burial with an Anglo-Saxon spearhead was found in drainage trenches for a housing estate to the north-west of the Water Works crossroads. No other burials were found. (National Grid: 42/479005.)

Wroxton, Oxon. Sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery were reported by Mr. J. Saunders from a field at the edge of ironstone workings half a mile north of the village. (National Grid: 42/416429.)

DAVID STURDY.
HUMPHREY CASE.

TOMBSTONES AND TILES AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HEADINGTON

During the autumn 1961 the altar-platform and the three steps on which it was raised were removed and the floor of the whole of the chancel lowered and re-paved. In the course of these operations there were brought to light at the east end of the sanctuary four broken grave-slabs bearing inscriptions. The Rev. D. Staff recorded these inscriptions before the grave-slabs were covered over again. The inscriptions are as follows, counting from the north end:

- (i) In memory of | William Absolon 1725 aged 6? years | Here lyeth the body of | Elizabeth the wife of | William Absolon | who died July 9th 1723 aged 63 years | Both under this stone. | Here lyeth husband and wife.
- (ii) In memory of | John Pancutt | who died January 11th 174(1) | aged ?6 years | Also of Katherine his wife | who died September 27th 1739 | aged 26. | Sarah only daughter of (John) and Ann Pancutt | wife of Richard Firth | who died Dec. 25th 1785 the ?? year of her age. | Also of Ann Pancutt | second wife of John Pancutt | who died 17(85) in the 71st year of her age.
- (iii) In Memory of | William the Son of | William and Elizabeth Absolon. | He died September 9th 1750. | aged 68 years.
- (iv) Here lies the body of | Francis Godfrey | Son of Thomas and Alies Godfrey | who died | December the 2, 1741 | aged 24 years.

According to the Parish Register William Absolon, senior, was buried on 8th October 1725, and Elizabeth, his wife, on 22nd July 1723; John Parnkot (as the name is spelt in the Register) was buried 15 January 1742 (according to the New Style); Sarah Firth, aged 43, was buried on 2 January 1785; and Ann Pancutt, aged 74 (according to the Register) was buried on 6 February 1785; William Absolon, junior, on 11 September 1750.

Grave-slab No. 1 was found resting on three older grave-stones which had been removed from the church-yard for the purpose of providing the slab with a foundation. The inscriptions on these three grave-stones are as follows:

- (i) Here lyeth | the body of | John Paine The | Younger who | deceased the 14 day of May 1663.
- (ii) Heare lyeth | the body of | Richard Keates son of | Ffrancis Keates | Deceased March 7 | 1663.

NOTES AND NEWS

(iii) A C | My tyme is spent | My glas is run | and now sweet | Jesus I am com.
These three small grave-stones have been replaced in the church-yard by the south-east corner of the porch.

Similarly two damaged grave-stones were found wedged under grave slab no. iv. The inscriptions on these two stones are as follows:

- (i) Body of | Knight | February V . . . | 1726 | aged 26 years.
- (ii) Ann | Burton | Died August 2 ??? | Aged 15.

There were also found in contact with or close to the east wall of the sanctuary six fragments of medieval decorated tiles, one whole half-tile, all bearing traces of pattern, a broken piece of yellow border tile, and a small indeterminable fragment of a decorated tile. So far as is known, this find furnishes the first evidence of decorated tiles having been laid in the chancel of this church in medieval times. They were found at about 11 in. below the modern floor-level.

The half-tile, on which the pattern is barely discernible, can be identified as half an eagle displayed facing right within a square border, with a five-pointed star or a cinquefoil beside the wing. A half-tile figuring the other half of this pattern, from Old St. Martin's Church, Oxford, is in the Ashmolean Museum. According to Haberly and Hohler other tiles of this pattern are known from Eynsham Abbey, Goring Priory, Pyrton, and Streatley, Oxon., and from Hanslope, Bucks.¹¹ Two of the fragments appear also to have belonged to half-tiles and a third might have so belonged. Half-tiles would have been needed against the east wall of the sanctuary to finish off the paving of it with patterned tiles. Two and probably four of the six fragments of patterned tiles appear from the small portions of pattern visible to be similar to no. xvii or no. xviii in Haberly and the other two to no. xxiv A or no. xxv. The half-tile and these six fragments are all 1 in. thick and are marked on the back with similar keying holes, produced by a jab from a bone or wooden implement of the size of a pencil. The broken yellow border-tile is also 1 in. thick. The small indeterminable fragment is only $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. With the possible exception of this fragment, all the other pieces may be dated 14th century and are probably co-eval with the re-building of the chancel.

A. B. EMDEN.

REMAINS OF A WALL PAINTING AT JESUS (PL. XLIV)

The painting appeared to surround a partly blocked window facing into the Quadrangle on the first floor of one of the Elizabethan ranges. The room in which it was found had undergone considerable alteration. There were two periods of painting. The earlier consisted of a blue ground on the main part of the wall, covered with perhaps a stencil design in black representing some kind of a brocade or foliation. This met a deep border or frieze at the top from the level of the wooden window lintel to the ceiling. This frieze was on a deep salmon pink or pale terracotta colour, and consisted of a trefoil scallop motif below, a guilloche band outlined in black below and white above, and finally a deep portion containing a conventional strapwork design in black with line work in white. This scheme of decoration was entirely consistent with a date probably somewhere in the last quarter of the 16th century, and would therefore appear to be part of the original decoration of the rooms in this range.

¹¹ Lloyd Haberly, *Medieval English Paving tiles*, p. 129; Chr. Hohler, 'Medieval Paving tiles in Bucks.', *Records of Bucks.*, xiv (1941), pt. 1, p. 44, no. W 8; pt. 11, p. 100.

NOTES AND NEWS

This early scheme had been at some time covered with two coats of whitewash, on the upper of which a further scheme had been carried out. There was some evidence of blue and green in the lower part beside the window; and immediately above the centre of the window was a two-headed eagle, possibly with sprays of foliage on either side. It is very difficult to date this second painting, but it cannot well be earlier than the end of the 17th century, and is quite possibly of the 18th century, though early.

In view of reconstruction work it was impossible to save the decoration, but a small area consisting of fragments has been preserved.

E. CLIVE ROUSE, M.B.E., F.S.A.

NOTES ON SOME RECTORS OF APPLETON, BERKS.

INTRODUCTION

Hanging in Appleton church is a list of former rectors which stretches in an unbroken line from the reign of Henry III to the present time. At first sight this seems merely to record a procession of shadowy figures, little more than names; but on closer investigation it has been found that a few of them stand out from the rest, illuminated by the comments of their contemporaries or by modern research.

The earliest known reference to a rector of Appelton appears in a royal command that 'Roberto persone ecclesie Appelton' should be given four deer from the forest of Bernewode.¹² This Robert was the son of Denise de Stokes to whom the Crown granted the manor and advowson about the year 1269.¹³ The advowson descended with the manor until 1638 when William Lenthall (then lord of the manor and later Speaker of the Long Parliament) sold a moiety to Magdalen College, Oxford. The College acquired the whole of it in 1678 and is still the owner.¹⁴

Between 1802 and 1913 there were only three rectors. Seldom can any parish have had so few changes of incumbent in so long a period of time.

NOTES

John BRIGGE (or BRUGGE), M.A. (1393-1402)

Brigge was a fellow of Merton College in 1386, bursar 1390-1, and a Proctor of Oxford University in 1391-2.¹⁵ In 1396 the Bishop of Salisbury ordered an inquiry into Master Brigge's complaint that certain parishioners had, without permission, enclosed parts of the churchyard for use as gardens.¹⁶ The result of this inquiry is unknown. Later, in 1398, the Bishop granted Brigge a licence to be absent from his benefice for two years in the service of the Bishop of Worcester.¹⁷

Thomas BROUNS, M.A. (1402-4)

Brouns seems to have been the only rector of Appleton ever to attain great heights of ecclesiastical preferment. Obviously a man of unusual ability, he held, after his resignation from Appleton, the archdeaconries of Stow and of Berks.,

¹² *Close Rolls, Hen. III.*, 1268-72, p. 201.

¹³ *V.C.H. Berks.*, vol. iv, p. 337.

¹⁴ Cf. Deed in Magd. Coll. archives.

¹⁵ A. B. Emden, *Biog. Register of Oxf. Univ. to 1500*, vol. 1, p. 292.

¹⁶ Reg. Medford, fo. 123.

¹⁷ Reg. Medford, fo. 144.

NOTES AND NEWS

canonries of Lincoln, Lichfield, Salisbury and Chichester, and the rectory of St. Aldate's, Oxford. He apparently enjoyed all these and other offices simultaneously until he became Bishop of Rochester in 1435. In the following year he was translated to the see of Norwich where he settled a major dispute between the Prior and the citizens. He was also distinguished as a lawyer and diplomatist for he was at one time legal adviser to Oseney Abbey (1411), an envoy to arrange a meeting between Henry V and the King of France (1420), a king's envoy at the Council of Basle (1434), a negotiator of peace with France, and of a commercial treaty with Flanders (1439).¹⁸

John WOTTON, M.A. (1407-9)

Before spending the last two years of his life at Appleton, Wotton had been Master of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, London; Canon of the king's free chapel in Hastings Castle; and Canon of Bangor.¹⁹

Denis FRESTON, M.A. (1445-52)

Principal of Beef Hall, Oxford, *c.* 1436-8.²⁰

John WOLLEY, M.A. (1452-3)

Junior Proctor, Oxford University, 1439-40; Principal of Little University Hall, 1444; Principal of St. Andrew Hall, 1449.²¹

William PARKER, M.A. (1492-5)

Parker was also Vicar of Cumnor, 1461-95.²²

John RAINSFORD, M.A. (1558-76)

In March 1568 the Bishop of Salisbury and John Fettiplace, Esq. (patron of the two livings) gave their consent to the union of the rectories of Appleton and Besselsleigh at Rainsford's request, the profits of Besselsleigh being 'too slight to maintain a rector'.²³ It seems, however, that this union had in fact taken place some time before its official recognition, for Rainsford was inducted to Besselsleigh in December 1558 only a month after his induction to Appleton. In 1561 he was described as holding two cures (Appleton and Besselsleigh) and preaching in his churches without a licence; also as 'unmarried, moderately learned, residing in Appleton and hospitable there'.²⁴

William DICKINSON (1620-43)

Dickinson was the son of a cook at Eton College²⁵ and the father of Edmund (born at Appleton in 1624) who eventually became physician and alchemist to the household of Charles II. The king took Edmund into special favour, building a laboratory for him under the royal bedchamber with communication by private staircase. 'Here the king was wont to retire with the Duke of Buckingham and Dickinson, the latter exhibiting many experiments for his majesty's edification'.²⁶

¹⁸ Emden, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 281; *D.N.B.*, vol. III, p. 29.

¹⁹ Emden, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 2091.

²⁰ Emden, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 728.

²¹ Emden, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 2116.

²² Emden, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 1427.

²³ Reg. Jewel, fo. 44 and MS. Wills Berks., 15, p. 968.

²⁴ Corpus Christi Coll. Camb., MS. 9, fo. 194v.

²⁵ Wood, *Athenae Oxon.* (Bliss), vol. IV, p. 477.

²⁶ *D.N.B.*, vol. V, p. 938.

NOTES AND NEWS

The two livings of Appleton and Besselsleigh, united in 1568, became separate again during Dickinson's time. In 1639 he petitioned for a faculty 'to appropriate to the Manor of Tynten' (one of the four manors in the parish) 'now in his possession, the seat where formerly Robert Lambardine sat, and now vacated by the disunion of Appleton and Besselsleigh'.²⁷ It seems from this that he might possibly have used the manor house of Tinteyns as his rectory.

Soon after the beginning of the Civil War (October 1642) the House of Commons sent for Dickinson in custody to answer his parishioners' charges. It is not known what these charges were.²⁸

Zachariah MAYNE (1658-60)

Mayne was a fellow of Magdalen College 1652-60 and a member of the Independent Church 'gathered' there by the President, Thomas Goodwin.²⁹ Oliver Cromwell described him as 'eminently godly, of able parts and willing to perform all his exercises'. He became a preacher in and near Oxford until his appointment as lecturer at St. Julian's Church, Shrewsbury, in March 1657-8, where he contemplated ordination; but it seems that Cromwell's death in 1658 interrupted this plan.³⁰ There is, however, definite evidence that he was admitted to the rectory of Appleton in September 1658.³¹

Mayne published several religious works, among them *St. Paul's Travailing Pangs . . . or a Treatise of Justification* (1662). He was expelled from his fellowship in 1660 and eventually became master of the free grammar school in Exeter where he died in 1694 'well pleased with the great revolution, made by the Prince of Orange whom he did greatly adore'.³²

William WHITE, M.A. (1662-78)³³

White was eminent in his day as a classical scholar, teacher, author, philologist, and collector of books. The son of a Witney weaver, in 1632 he became master of Magdalen College School where he produced some outstanding pupils. The Parliamentary Commissioners ejected him from the school in 1648 whereupon, according to Wood, 'he privately obtained the rectory of Pusey near Faringdon . . . and kept it during the interval by the favour of friends and the smallness of its profits'. In 1622, Dr. Thomas Pierce, President of Magdalen College, a friend and former pupil, 'procured the rectory of Appleton for him, both which livings (Appleton and Pusey) he kept to his dying day and built houses on them'. In the old rectory at Appleton (now Appleton House) there is a square stone in the wall of an upstairs passage inscribed:

1664
Th. PIERCE
P
M C
Wm. WHITE

²⁷ Bodl. MS. Archd. Papers Berks., c. 160, fol. 21.

²⁸ A. G. Matthews, *Walker Revised*, p. 68.

²⁹ Matthews, *Calamy Revised*, p. 346.

³⁰ *D.N.B.*, vol. XIII, pp. 167-8.

³¹ Triers' Admission Books, 1654-9, Lambeth MS. 999, f. 105; Appleton Parish Registers.

³² Wood, *Athenae Oxon.* (Bliss), vol. IV, pp. 413-4.

³³ See Wood, *Athenae Oxon.*, vol. III, p. 1167; E. G. H. Kempson, 'The Vicar's Library, St. Mary's, Marlborough', *Wilts. Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, vol. LI, pp. 194-215.

NOTES AND NEWS

In 1672 White built a new rectory at Pusey where he spent the rest of his life, leaving his curate, Richard Dolphin, in charge of Appleton.

Wood describes White as a 'loyal and pious divine'. It seems, however, that Appleton churchwardens did not always share this view for in 1669 they reported him to the Archdeacon for 'not reading prayers on Whit Sunday in the morning', and for 'not reading prayers on Palm Sunday'.³⁴

Under the name of Gulielmus Phalerius (i.e. William the White-crested) he wrote many educational books and religious tracts among the most important of which was a reasoned plea for Church unity entitled *Via ad Pacem Ecclesiasticam* (1660). Here White expresses the yearning for peace which must have been felt by many of his contemporaries after so many years of bitter religious quarrels. 'When peace and truth cannot be had together,' he says, 'in that case a passion for peace is to be preferred to a passion for truth'; and again, 'Let us have unity of purpose, even if we lack uniformity of worship'.

White died in 1678, leaving ten pounds to be distributed among the poor of Appleton and Pusey on the day after his death. He left his important library of about 600 books to the Mayor and Corporation of Marlborough for the use of the vicars of St. Mary's Church there for ever, directing that the books be 'trussed up into bundles' by his son-in-law, Squire Richard Pusey, and carried by his 'teem' to Marlborough. Since then the library has suffered many vicissitudes, being moved from place to place, neglected and exposed to damp and dust. Early in the present century it was considered valueless and a mere nuisance and was twice in danger of being sold; and during the Second World War it was rescued at the last minute from the salvage campaign. Finally, in 1944, the trustees handed it over to Marlborough College where it is now kept in one of the classrooms. In spite of all this the library has survived intact and in fairly good condition. It includes three incunabula and some unique editions of early 16th century volumes but, curiously enough, none of White's own works.

James FAYRER (or FARRAR), D.D. (1710-1)

Unlike one of his predecessors at Appleton, William White, Dr. Fayrer was evidently far from being 'a pious and loyal divine'. Thomas Hearne, the Oxford antiquary and an outspoken critic of his contemporaries, had no use for him and condemns him in several places in his diary.

'Archbishop Tension had done a great disservice to the University by being a main instrument to bring in Dr. Farrar (a Fellow all guts and no brains) to be Natural Philosophy Professor.'³⁵ Hearne also records scandals surrounding Fayrer and the women bedmakers of Magdalen College. 'Dr. Fayrer left the Rectory of Appleton at year's end because he had rather live a collegiate life, i.e. because he had rather live at his ease and do just nothing at all but eat the Founder's Bread.'³⁶ Even on the day of Fayrer's death (Feb. 23rd 1720) Hearne could not forgive, and wrote in his diary: 'Some years ago he was Rector of Appleton . . . but soon resigned that he might lead a drowsy inactive life in the College . . . He was a very proud haughty man of no learning . . .'³⁷

³⁴ MS. Oxf. Archd. Papers Berks., c. 101.

³⁵ *Hearne's Collections* (Oxford Historical Society), vol. 1, p. 85.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. vi, pp. 90-2.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 132.

NOTES AND NEWS

Fayrer was a fellow of Magdalen College, and rector of St. Martin's (Carfax) from 1693-1720.³⁸

Samuel CRIPPS, D.D. (1711-31)

In his diary for Sept. 22nd 1717, Thomas Hearne wrote: 'This Morning I walk'd over to Apleton in Berks., a mile beyond Cumner. I was at Church there. Dr. Samuel Cripps, Rector of the Place, preach'd. He is a very indifferent Preacher. He was Fellow of Magdalen College, to w^{ch} College the Parsonage belongs. The Parsonage is worth about two hundred libs. per an. The Dr. was first Curate of this Place . . . There is a pretty good Congregation comes to the church now. Yet there are several Sectaries in the Parish'.³⁹

Hearne also records the death of Dr. Cripps on Feb. 7th 1730 (O.S.), this time reserving his typically caustic comment for the widow: 'He was a good, honest, quiet man, and made an excellent Parish Priest, being well-beloved there, and the better because he used to invite his Parishioners in their turns to dine with him on Sundays. He was a good Country Preacher . . . His first wife was a very good woman and is often spoke of there to this day with respect. But his second wife, now a widow, is a miserable, stingy, ill-natured wretch, not at all like the other . . .'⁴⁰

With the exception of Dr. George Knibb who, by his will of 1757, augmented Thomas Lane's educational endowment (1709), Dr. Cripps was the only rector ever to bequeath a permanent charity to the parish. He left £12 yearly, charged to his lands in St. Giles's Fields, Oxford, half for the benefit of Appleton poor and half for the poor of St. Michael's, Oxford. According to his will of 1723, this sum was to be used for 'Cloathing so many of the Poor and Labouring Men or Women . . . the sleeves of the Coates of such Cloathing to be faced with Black'. The recipients must be those who 'constantly keep to the Church and are not Dissenters from the Establishment'. Their names have been recorded regularly since 1732, an occasional comment such as 'Lamprey would not come for his coat, 1792' showing that some were too proud to accept the charity. In 1887 the Charity Commissioners ordered that the £6 should be spent on providing three gowns for three women and three coats for three men and it is still spent thus at the present time.⁴¹

ELISABETH KITSON.

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

A large-scale exhibition, comprising over 160 documents and maps, was held at the County Hall, Oxford, on Friday and Saturday, the 19th and 20th May 1961, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the formal opening of the County Record Office by the Master of the Rolls on the 11th July 1936. The office had, in fact, started work in January 1935, before its formal opening. A full account of its work by H. M. Walton was published in 1938 in *Oxoniensia*, vol. III, pp. 111-122, and this account was reprinted, with additions, in 1948 as a separate pamphlet, copies of which can be obtained from the County Hall, Oxford, price 1s. 0d. The catalogue of the exhibition is a comprehensive account of all the items displayed and of the

³⁸ J. R. Bloxam, *Magd. Coll. Reg.*, vol. IV, p. 131.

³⁹ *Collections*, vol. VI, pp. 90-2.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. X, p. 382.

⁴¹ *V.C.H. Berks.*, vol. IV, p. 340; Appleton Parish Records.

NOTES AND NEWS

history of the County Record Office, with nearly 40 pages of description and with an introduction and index. It, too, can be obtained from the County Hall, price 6d.

The exhibition was viewed by a considerable number of people and was highly praised by all who saw it. Accounts of it were published in the *Oxford Times* for the 12th and 19th May 1961 and in the *Oxford Mail* for the 19th May 1961, and a note also appears in *Top. Oxon.*, No. 6 (Spring 1961).

The exhibition was designed to illustrate the main groups of records of Quarter Sessions, the County Council and other official bodies and of private owners and depositors. Within these groups, the main purpose was to show how the records can be used to illustrate a number of topics, such as agriculture, communications, manorial, military and religious history, education, industry, charities, poor law and crime. There was a central display of royal documents, showing examples of royal portraits, seals and sign manuals from the reign of Henry VIII to the reign of Victoria. The documents ranged in date from about the year 1150 to 1961, and thus gave point to the continuity of the records and administration found at the County Hall. The County Record Office is not a museum and does not seek to emulate the special and valuable work which a museum does, but it is an important and continuing administrative organization charged with the care of the County archives, both ancient and current, public and private. There was also a small exhibition showing the work of the *Victoria County History* and, in the permanent show-case, a few special items relating to Ditchley Park.

June, 1961.

H. M. WALTON.

PLATE XLIV



Wall painting at Jesus College, Oxford.