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**Proceedings at the Annual Spring Meeting at Avening, Doughton,
Tetbury, Beverston and Crudwell**

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING,
AT AVENING, DOUGHTON, TETBURY, BEVERSTON, AND
CRUDWELL.

May 26th, 1914.

THIS district has been visited by the Society on two previous occasions, Avening, Tetbury and Beverston in 1886, and again in 1899. The account of the 1886 meeting will be found in Vol. xix of the *Transactions*, that of 1899 in Vol. xxii.

Thanks to the beautiful weather, and the very kind reception which the Society met with everywhere, the whole day was most enjoyable, and thanks also to motor charabancs, it is possible to see more and to see it more comfortably in these days than formerly. The drives are all through beautiful country, that from Gloucester and Stroud especially so, through the Nailsworth Valley and the Avening Woods.

AVENING.

At Avening the party was received by the Rector, the Rev. E. W. Edwards, who described the church, and gave an account of the work which had been done during its restoration by Messrs. Carpenter and Ingelow, an extract from whose report is given, with four plans, in Vol. xiv, while a very careful account of the church by the President of the Council, the Rev. Canon Bazeley, will be found in Vol. xxii, with three illustrations. It is therefore unnecessary to give another description of the church.

On the south side of the nave, at the east end, is a recessed segmental arch of Norman date, with the chevron, in front of which stood an altar.

There are some slight traces of a similar arch on the other side. There may, therefore, have been two altars and a central door through the pulpitum opening into the chancel, where was the high altar.

In the north transept is the monument of Henry Brydges, fourth son of John Lord Chandos, of Sudeley, who died Jan. 14th, 1615. Henry Brydges, Mrs. Dent tells us in her delightful *Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley*, in his early days led the life of a freebooter, "including in deeds of lawlessness and robbery almost surpassing our modern powers of belief. He left the county for a time and dwelt in Kent; but he eventually married the eldest daughter of Samuel Sheppard, Esquire, of Gatcombe, Lord of the Manor of Avening,¹ and settled down in this retired spot." Sir E. Bridges says that in his time (c. 1815) traditions of his maraudings still hung about the Gloucestershire village, where he lies buried.

Since the last visit of the Society in 1899 the church has undergone a further and very careful restoration. The old pews and gallery have been cleared out, parquet oak flooring has been laid down, and chairs have been provided to replace the pews. While removing the north gallery and the woodwork lining the walls, a quantity of plaster was carried away, disclosing some writing of the time of Elizabeth, which shortly came down, but was fortunately photographed. The pillar supporting the arcade crashed into a grave beneath it, and this damage had to be made good. It is interesting to reflect that this church was consecrated in the presence of Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror.

The parish registers date from 1557.

The plate consists of: A silver chalice, 1562, without its paten cover; a silver-gilt one of 1569, given to the church by the Rev. T. R. Brooke, 1847; a silver paten with no markings; a silver flagon, 1687; and alms bason, 1688, given by Samuel Sheppard, 1688.²

¹ Neither of these statements seems to be correct. In the Harleian visitation of 1623, p. 237, the only offspring given of John Brydges, 1st Lord Chandos, is Edmund Briges. But Anthony Briges of Avenynge, son of Edmund, is mentioned. He was probably the brother of Henry Brydges. In his will, proved 1616 at Gloucester, Henry Brydges is described as of Thornbury, and is mentioned (p. 237) as a younger son of Edmund, and Lord Chandos. As to his marriage, Mr. Arthur Playne informs me that Samuel Sheppard was only thirteen years of age at the time of the death of Henry Brydges, and, moreover, did not acquire the Manors of Minchinhampton and Avening from the Trustees of Lord Windsor till 1650. He left only two daughters, one of whom, Anne, died unmarried, and the other, Isabel, in infancy. In Collins's *Peerage* under Chandos, it is stated that Henry Brydges married Alice, widow of one of the Comptons of Hartpury. Now in the record of the Consistory Court of Gloucester there is an account of divorce proceedings taken in 1531-2 by an Alice Compton against Walter Compton. She must then have been not less than thirty-five. There is no statement as to the result, but in any case, as Walter Compton did not die till June 12th, 1627, Henry Brydges who died in 1615 cannot have married his widow. Besides in Bigland, and in Collins, under Compton, the only wife of Walter is given as Dorothy, daughter of John Higford. Another Walter Compton, but not of Hartpury, married Alice Lytley of Warwick.

² See *Church Plate of Gloucestershire*, pp. 10, 11, and 64.



DOUGHTON MANOR.

DOUGHTON MANOR.

An hour was spent at Avening, and then through Tetbury the party journeyed to Doughton, where they were received by Mr. A. C. Mitchell, of Highgrove, and Mr. T. Knight, the occupant of the fine old Jacobean residence, which was inspected with much profit and pleasure.

This delightful old house is the chief but by no means the only residence of interest in the hamlet of Doughton, about a mile and a half south of Tetbury. It is a large stone building with many gables, the greater part of the walling being covered with rough-cast, and consists of a central block with wings, which are not quite symmetrical, the plan being in the shape of an E. In both material and design the house presents much that is characteristic of late sixteenth century work in Gloucestershire, for although the date is later (about 1630), the general style of the building is somewhat early considering the late date. This was probably due to its isolation. The chimneys have evidently been rebuilt, and have none of the character which is often so delightful in buildings of this period. There is an ugly tablet let into the wall, with the initials of a former owner, who repaired the roofs. Externally the house has suffered very little, and age has given beautiful tints to its sombre gray walls and roofs. Down the centre of the walled garden to the south of the house a flagged path still leads to an arbour and to the site of a gazebo at the south-west angle. The gazebo itself was taken down some thirty years ago, but the platform and steps still remain.

In the interior the arrangement of the east wing is unusual, with its narrow passageway behind the fireplace, which occasioned the interesting roof treatment seen in the view.

Since 1818, when the property passed away from the Talboys family, it has been used as a farmhouse, and was very much altered inside about sixty or eighty years ago.

On the ground floor there was originally a large hall, occupying all the space between the cross wings. This has been divided up, and its fireplace rendered useless. At the east end of the hall is a panellled room, with a fine oak mantelpiece. The little passage already noticed leads from the hall into this room. At the west end of the hall is a stone spiral staircase leading to the first floor. There is also an oak staircase of later date. Beyond the hall, to the west, was a great kitchen, which still has its big open fireplace. Over the kitchen is a very large long room, with a good stone fireplace.

The principal staircase is at the east end of the house. Over the panellled room on the ground floor east of the hall was a similar room of the same size (now smaller), with a fine stone mantelpiece, and arms over it of Talboys and Abarrow.

Over the hall was a "saloon," of which the panelling still exists, the width of the house, but not quite so long as the hall below it. This is now cut up into bedrooms. A nice old fire-place is there still.

"Most of the gables retain their stone copings and finials, and the windows with hollow chamfered mullions, but in all cases without transoms, are well proportioned; the original wrought-iron casements with stays and fasteners can still be seen in several, and they are of simple but good design, and were the handiwork of local smiths. It is no less evident here than in many a Tudor house that no detail, however trifling, was considered too insignificant to be thought out with care and wrought with feeling for the material. Several of the rooms contain fine panelling, mantelpieces, and friezes. The parlour and the room over it are both panelled in oak from floor to ceiling, the latter in particular shows good detail in its overmantel and in the carved oak frieze which runs round the room. The bay window on the east side of this room is blocked up internally, but the floor of the other one is raised one shallow step in height and panelled beneath the window-sills with admirable effect."¹

It is worth notice that in the panelling the mouldings of the horizontal styles are not mitred, but are cut off at the bottom of each panel.

The manor was a subsidiary manor of Tetbury, and as early as the reign of Richard II it belonged to the family of Stonore. In 1496 it was granted in dower to Elizabeth of York, the wife of Henry VII. After that it again changed hands, and in 1591 was bought from Thomas Cripps, of Barracombe, Wiltshire, by John and Edward Seed. But it is with the Talboys family that Doughton is usually associated, as the house was built by Richard Talboys, who was probably a descendant of the Talboys of Whiston, in Wiltshire, but possibly came from Yorkshire. In the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1623 he is described as "of Tedbury," and was High Sheriff of the County in 1653.

The following notes on the family have been abridged from an account kindly furnished by Mr. A. C. Mitchell, of Highgrove:—

THE TALBOYS OF DOUGHTON.

Richard Talboys, of Tetbury, purchased June 21st, 1623, from John Hooper, jun., for £409, a messuage in Doughton, with 4 acres of land. He built the present manor house. He set up the gate-piers in 1641, according to the date inscribed in them.

He further purchased (Jan. 20th, 1652-3) of the Rev. Ed. Alchorne, Lord of the Manor of Weston Birt, and of Ann his wife (only daughter and heir of John Peace, of London) for £1,380 the manor farm and lands

¹ This description is partly taken from Messrs. Garner and Stratton's *Domestic Architecture during the Tudor Period* (Batsford & Co., 1908, 1911, 2 vols.).

of Doughton, subject to the Manor of Tetbury or Upton. They had been granted to Edward Alehorne by letters patent from Queen Elizabeth. By his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir W. Abarrow of Chawford, Hants, Knt., whom he married Dec. 4th, 1632, he had three sons, Benjamin, Samuel, and Andrew, and an only surviving daughter, Rebecca. Mrs. Talboys was buried Jan. 25th, 1650-1. By his third wife, Katherine, he had three sons, William (born 1656), Francis (born 1657), Samuel (born 1662), and a daughter Mary (born 1663). He died, aged 87, Aug. 3rd, 1663.

Benjamin Talboys, born 1634, married 1659-60 Alice, daughter of Anthony Gerrard, Gent., of Broad Town, Wilts. Their children were Richard (born c. 1662), Benjamin, Anthony, Alice and Silvester. He was buried May 8th, 1688, aged 53, and his wife in 1675. He added 56 acres to his Doughton estate.

Richard, married 1688 Alice, daughter of W. Strange, of Blagrove, Wroughton, Wilts. He added 41 acres to his estate in 1702. His two daughters, Alice and Frances, died before him, but his wife survived him. He himself died 1731, aged about 69, and devised the whole of his estate to his nephew Thomas, son of his deceased brother Benjamin (born 1721).

Thomas in 1736 added Shewell's Dufton Moor, 5 acres, to his estate, for £305. He died, a widower and childless, a few days after making his will, Jan. 9th, 1765, and left his estate in trust for Thomas, son of his late kinsman Charles, a boy of eleven, then living with him. The will was disputed unsuccessfully by Alice Browning, his great niece, and great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin, the eldest son of the original owner, Richard Talboys.

Thomas Talboys, aged 11 in 1765, died in 1802, leaving the estate to his son Thomas.

Thomas, born about 1775, had three daughters but no son, and in 1819 sold his manor and whole estate in Doughton (Lee says for £25,000) to John Paul Paul, of Highgrove, Esq., and so ended the connection of the Talboys Family with Doughton, which had begun in 1623, and had lasted for 196 years in succession.

Arms of Talboys at Doughton Manor House (parlour and upper room): Argent, a saltire *gules*, on a chief *gules*, 3 escallops *argent*. Crest: apparently a Talboy.

Arms of Abarrowe (upper room, mantel): Sable, two swords in saltire *argent*, pommels and hilts *or*, between 4 fleurs-de-lys *or*. Crest: on a torse, a squirrel on a floriated mount.

Highgrove and Doughton were purchased in 1860 from Walter Matthew Paul by Colonel E. J. Stracey,¹ and from him in 1864 by

¹ He afterwards changed his name to Clitheroe.

Mr. Hamilton Yatman, from whom they were purchased in 1894 by the present owner, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEETING AND LUNCHEON.

Several other old-fashioned houses at Doughton having had just a glance, the cars were again entered, Tetbury being reached about one o'clock, and a Council Meeting took place at the Town Hall, Mr. Pritchard in the chair, when some nine or ten new members of the Society were elected. Lunch then took place at the White Hart Hotel. Before the company separated, Mr. Pritchard said a letter of regret for non-attendance had been received from the President, the Bishop of Gloucester, and the Rev. Canon Bazeley, President of the Council, was also unfortunately unable to attend. Mr. Pritchard announced that the meeting arranged for Gloucester and Lydney had been changed to a meeting at Warwick on July 21st, 22nd and 23rd, when Leamington and Stratford-on-Avon, and possibly Kenilworth, would be visited.

TETBURY.

The quaint little town of Tetbury lies just within the County of Gloucestershire, close to the Wiltshire border. It was probably a military station of the Britons and of the Romans. Roman coins have been found here, and the remains of a Roman camp existed till the middle of the eighteenth century, when they were removed to make room for "improvements." Fighting took place here in the Civil War of the twelfth century, between Stephen and the Earl of Gloucester in person. A monastery, of which no trace remains, existed here in Saxon times.

In a charter of Ethelred, King of the Mercians, to Aidhelm, Abbot of Malmesbury in 680, mention is made of the gift by that king of fifteen cassates of land, "*juxta Tettan Monasterium*," to the monks of Malmesbury.¹ This may have been founded by Tetta, the mother of St. Guthlac, who died in 714.² At any rate, there was then a well-known monastery in Tetbury. This is the earliest traceable Christian settlement in Gloucestershire, but nothing further is known of it.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor Siward was Lord of the Manor of Tetbury. It was held by Roger de Iveri, a friend of Bishop Odo, of Bayeux, and is mentioned in Domesday as being in the Hundred of Langetrewes. The two manors of Tetbury and Upton contained together 4,570 acres, about the same as at present (4,532 acres), and the population would have been about 282 souls.

In 1145, on the recommencement of hostilities between Earl Robert

¹ Dugdale, *Monasticon Angl.*, vol. i., p. 258, ed. 1819. See also Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, pp. 139-48. These references are given in *Lee's History of Tetbury*, p. 6.

² *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xv., p. 127. Tette is the possessive of Tetta.

of Gloucester, acting for Matilda, and Stephen, Malmesbury was besieged by Robert and relieved by Stephen, and the royal army on its way to besiege Beverston took up its quarters at Tetbury.¹

Roger de Iveri had forfeited his lands by supporting Earl Robert, and they were given by Henry I to his kinsman Guy de St. Valery, whose son Reginald gave Tetbury Church to Eynsham in Oxfordshire. He died in 1166, and was succeeded by his son Bernard, who went to the third Crusade with Richard and was killed at the Siege of Acon. Thomas de St. Valery, who inherited, although he contributed to the king's ransom, gave him such desperate offence that he was deprived of all his lands, and only received an allowance for his sustenance until the sixteenth year of King John, when he was pardoned on payment of a large sum. But his lands had been given by Henry I to William de Braose, who had married his aunt, Matilda de St. Valery, daughter of Reginald.

William de Braose soon quarrelled with King John, and matters were brought to a climax by a taunt from Matilda, when her sons were demanded as hostages, about the murder of his nephew Arthur by John. The accusation was too near the truth to be pardoned, and in spite of all efforts on the part of his powerful relatives to effect a reconciliation, William's lands were confiscated before the close of the year 1208, he himself eventually escaping in disguise to France, where he died in 1212, whilst his unfortunate wife and eldest son, after being kept some time in captivity at Windsor, were starved to death in 1210.

After being given for a time to a cousin, Peter Fitz Herbert, and then to Giles de Braose, Bishop of Hereford, a younger son of William's, then to Henry Fitz Count, illegitimate son of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, then back to the Bishop, and then to Fitz Count again, and then apparently to Hugh de Mortimer, husband of one of William de Braose's daughters, the manor reverted in the sixteenth year of King John to Thomas de Braose, and the St. Valerys were never again connected with it. This was probably the result of a compromise, as Thomas de St. Valery had just been pardoned and restored to favour.

Henry I, in giving Tetbury to William de Braose, gave the town its first charter of privileges, by virtue of which there was a weekly market day on Wednesdays, and one fair day yearly on "Sancti de Mari" (*sic*). This fair became of great importance, and in 1303 the burgesses of Bristol presented a petition to Edward I against Lord Berkeley and his son Maurice, for that he beat and imprisoned divers of the burgesses of Bristol "at the great faire of Tetburie."²

¹ *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. iii., p. 387, and also Lee quoting Seyer's *History of Bristol* and the *Gesta Stephani*.

² *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xii., pp. 276-8. Testa de Nevill, and Lee (Appendix).

In the reign of Henry III a Cistercian monastery was founded here which had a somewhat chequered history. The monks of Kingswood, an off-shoot from Tintern, divided and "swarmed," one half removing to Hasildene, near to Tetbury, after the wars of Stephen and Maud. But owing to want of water, they obtained a grant of land at Tetbury, where was a good spring, and removed there. Kingswood was thus eventually left as merely a grange of Tetbury, much heart-burning being the result. Again the monks of Tetbury became dissatisfied, owing now to want of fuel, which they were obliged to fetch from Kingswood. They accordingly determined to return; but the buildings there not being sufficient for their accommodation, Bernard de S. Walerick, or Valery, the founder of Tetbury Church, obtained a grant of forty acres at Mireford, from Roger de Berkeley, and there erected, about 1170, a new abbey, and transferred the monks of Tetbury thither. After this Tetbury became in its turn a grange of Kingswood. The scanty remains of the monastery are still to be seen in the Chipping.

Charles I visited Tetbury in 1643, and there was fighting here during the civil war of the seventeenth century. Charles II and Queen Katherine were here in 1663, and James II in 1687. A town hall, on three rows of pillars, was erected in the centre of the town in 1655; it was unfortunately altered and enlarged in 1817.

Tetbury was in the Diocese of Worcester from Saxon times until the formation of the See of Gloucester by Henry VIII, in 1541. A church is said to have been founded at Tetbury in 1160, but nothing of this remains. The present tower and spire were probably erected about 1400, but were taken down and rebuilt in 1891. The dedication was to St. Mary Magdalene, and the old church had a south aisle and porch and two north aisles to the nave, with north and south aisles to the chancel, and vestry and several chantry chapels, in one of which Mass was said daily for the souls of King Edward III, Queen Philippa, and several of the de Braose Family.¹ In the eighteenth century this church fell into serious disrepair, and a society was formed to raise funds for pulling it down and building another on its site. This work was commenced in 1777, and the present example of eighteenth-century Gothic was opened for divine service in 1781. Considering the period at which it was built, the general effect of the exterior is not unsatisfactory, and it is far more interesting as a "human document" than many of the nineteenth-century restorations of churches into what the architects thought they were intended to be once. In the so-called "cloisters," or passages on each side, each door gives access to five pews, an

¹ A list of the parsons of Tetbury is given in *Transactions, B. & G. Arch. Soc.* vol. xiv., p. 214, and of the pensions paid to chantry priests in vol. xxix., pp. 125-6.



Photo.

P. A. Lamb, Tetbury.

AN ARCH FROM THE MONASTERY, TETBURY.

TAKEN DOWN BY THE LATE MR. J. T. PAUL, AND RE-ERECTED AT
THE CLOSE, IN 1859.

arrangement which makes the collection of the offertory a troublesome process.

Altogether Tetbury, though without any buildings of great historic or architectural importance, has a number of old houses of considerable interest, both Cotswold and eighteenth century, and presents a delightful picture of an old-fashioned little country town.

As regards the old Priory, a small arch or passage-way with groined roof is the only remaining portion of the original building. Part of the old structure was at one time used as a wool loft, it being appropriated to that purpose when that commodity was the staple trade of the town, and at a later period it was converted into a malt-house, and continued to be thus used until a few years ago, when it was totally destroyed by fire. On the other side of the Chipping, near the modern mansion known as "The Priory," stand the remains of a chapel once belonging to the twelfth-century Cistercian monastery, but now used for domestic purposes.

At the Town Hall the fine old carved beams and pillars were examined carefully.

A walk down Church Street brought the visitors to the parish church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. Here they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Thomson, who gave a cordial welcome to the Society, and Mr. Kitcat continued to afford information on various subjects. Some interest was taken in the book containing the particulars of the society which was formed by the parishioners in 1754 for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for the rebuilding of the parish church. Mr. Kitcat gave information relating to the original church, and mentioned that in 1891 the tower and spire were taken down and carefully rebuilt, at the cost of the late Mr. Hamilton Yatman, of Highgrove, in memory of his son, the expense being over £10,000. Considerable attention had been paid to the decoration of the church during the last ten years, the vestry had been enlarged, and a new organ put in. The handsome candelabra were much admired, and the tablet to the memory of the Saunders Family, which bears the words, "Particulars the last day will disclose," came in for a good deal of attention, as also did the tomb erected by public subscription to the memory of the late Mr. Whyte-Melville, and the massive tombstone of the Johnson Family.

The church contains some interesting effigies taken from the older building, as to which Miss I. M. Roper gives the following information:—

They are of a knight and his lady known from the coat of arms to be members of the Gastrell Family, who died about 1586, but too early to be identified from the Visitations. Although of local workmanship,

the knight was shown in very heavy plate armour even at so late a period, and having the hands conspicuously encased in laminated gauntlets to the elbow. The costume of the lady shows all the details of the Elizabethan period, including the sleeveless gown, ruff, and Paris hood.

The head of a knight lying by the side of the knight's figure is of much more ancient date, going back to about 1300, with the details of the chain mail carved in the Purbeck marble. In the British Museum there is an illustration of a large tomb with the cross-legged effigy of William de Braose, which was in too bad a state of repair to be replaced in the new church of 1781, and this head is probably the only remnant of it.

In the churchyard are two effigies of stone representing fifteenth-century civilians in the customary long gown and hose. They are too weatherworn to show other details, but as there appears to be a sheep represented at the feet of the larger figure it is possible they were memorials to flock masters.

On leaving Tetbury the party journeyed to

BEVERSTON,¹

where the historic castle and the Church of St. Mary were visited. At the castle the guests were received by Mr. Ernest Garlick, the tenant of the Castle Farm, and the Rev. J. N. Bromhead, Rector of Beverston and Rural Dean, acted as cicerone, and gave a most interesting account of the castle and the church. Passing under the ancient barbican of the castle, inspecting the remains of the portcullis and drawbridge, and past the front of the farmhouse, built into the castle, where for so many years resided the late Mr. James Garlick, the well-known agriculturist, and father of the present tenant, the visitors entered the keep and ascended to the garrison chapel. Assembled here, the Rector pointed out that the castle must have been well known by the year 1051. Properly speaking it was not a castle at that time, but was probably a stockaded manor. The castle influenced history a good deal. Earl Godwin, Harold, afterwards king, and Sweyn, brother of Harold, lodged in the castle when they had encamped their force at Uley Bury for the purpose of overawing Edward the Confessor, who lay at Gloucester in the year mentioned above. The castle was besieged in 1145 by the Empress

¹ An account of the history of Beverston was given by Canon Bazeley at the Dursley Meeting in 1886, and will be found in vol. xi. of the *Transactions*, and an account of the building itself in the volume for 1899, (xxii.). By far the fullest account, however, both of the history and of the castle and church is to be found in the *Guide* written by the present Rector, the Rev. J. N. Bromhead, and published by Phillimore, 124 Chancery Lane. There is also an account in Blunt's *History of Dursley*, pp. 107 and 116-119.

Matilda, when it was held by King Stephen. The castle fell into decay and was rebuilt by Maurice de Weare in 1225, and it was sold in 1331 to Thomas, 5th Lord Berkeley. It was rebuilt and enlarged in 1360 out of the ransom money of the prisoners captured at Poitiers. It remained in the family of Lord Berkeley and the younger branches thereof until the end of the reign of Elizabeth, and then it changed hands three or four times, being eventually purchased by the Hicks Family. Lord St. Aldwyn, who was present, would correct him (the Rector) if he was wrong in saying that when his lordship took his title he would have preferred to have been known as Lord Beverston if the then owner of the property would have sold the castle back to him, it having been in his lordship's family until 1842, when it passed to the Holford Family by purchase. In 1644 an attempt was made to storm the castle by Colonel Massie, the commander of the Parliamentary forces, and in May of the same year it fell into his hands, Colonel Oglethorpe, the defender, being taken prisoner whilst courting a young woman at a farm in the neighbourhood. It was interesting to note that the Berkeley salt which was sold six weeks ago at the Ashburnham sale for £5,600, was the identical salt which stood at one time on the table in the banqueting-hall of Beverston Castle. The salt was dated 1502, and was the oldest dated piece of plate in the kingdom. The great square south-west tower probably stands on the site of and more or less represents the original building, which after its reconstruction by Lord Berkeley in 1360, became a place of great strength, defended by four towers, one at each angle, of which only two remain. Between these towers was a curtain wall, and the whole was encircled by a moat. The great tower is in three stories, of which the lowest forms a vaulted entry and guard-room, lighted by an ogee-headed window. The octagonal turret which contains the present staircase is a later addition simply built up against the old wall, and only kept in place now by iron ties. The second story contains a gallery and stairs leading to the rooms behind the western curtain, but is mainly occupied by the larger or garrison chapel. It is a beautiful structure, with a fine traceried window of three lights on the east, an ogee-headed lancet on the south, and a large window which has been altered and filled in with masonry at the west. The stone vaulting is extremely fine with richly-carved bosses. The carved double sedilia and piscina are nearly perfect. Northwards of this and on a slightly higher level is the domestic chapel, so small that not more than ten or a dozen persons could find space within it, but furnished with double squints in the walls on either side, so that five or six times the number could see and hear the service from the large chamber on the south and a smaller one on the north. It was lighted by a rose window, and a

beautiful little doorway opens on to a small spiral staircase rising to the roof. On the east the gate tower alone remains.¹

After visiting the castle the visitors passed over to the church, where the Rector again gave an address, first pointing out what remained of the old Saxon church which originally stood on the site of the present structure. A remarkable sculptured figure of the Resurrection on the south wall of the tower was particularly worthy of notice. The church was rebuilt in 1225 by Maurice de Weare, and of this period the arcade, the south doorway, very elaborately sculptured, and the archway into the vestry remain. It was a late date for work of this character, the Rector admitted, but he adduced cogent reasons for his opinion, referring to the rebuilding of the castle the same year, and the fact that at St. David's Cathedral, so far as the portions rebuilt in 1225 were concerned, were to be seen exactly similar features to those at Beverston. The church was again built in the Perpendicular style in 1360 by Lord Berkeley out of the ransom money already referred to. The screen was original, and dated from 1475. The upper story of the tower was of the date of Edward VI, as was also the beautifully-carved pulpit. The Rector concluded by noticing some curious tablets on the walls of the church, the construction of the modern roof of the nave, and drawing attention to various points of archæological interest.

The visitors having taken a look round the beautifully-kept church, noticing the Berkeley Chapel and its quaint squint or hagioscope, the Rector invited the guests to reach their conveyances by way of the well-kept rectory grounds. Not much time could be spent here, but the visitors had an opportunity of admiring the pretty lawn surrounded by some lovely trees, amongst which a collection of maples were conspicuous, to admire a splendid peep through the trees of the distant country, and to take a last glimpse of the castle from the front of the rectory. A hasty examination was also made of some interesting old prints of the castle, a ribbon map by Ogilby of the roads between Bristol and Banbury, dated 1675, and a stone cannon ball which had evidently been used in one of the assaults upon the castle.

Before entering the conveyances Mr. PRITCHARD voiced the opinions of the visitors in saying how much indebted they all were to the Rev. J. N. Bromehead for the manner in which he had so ably described the church and castle, observing that it was very seldom in the history of their meetings that they came across such a master of mediæval architecture as well as of ecclesiastical architecture. They had all been delighted with the Rector's beautifully clear descriptions, and their visit was quite a red-letter day in that part of the country.

¹ Abridged from the Rev. J. N. Bromehead's *Guide*.

The Rev. J. N. BROMEHEAD briefly acknowledged the compliment, remarking that he had been very pleased to welcome the Society and to do what little he could to make the visit a pleasant one.

The journey was then resumed, this time back to Tetbury, where tea was provided at the White Hart Hotel. Later on the ancient village of

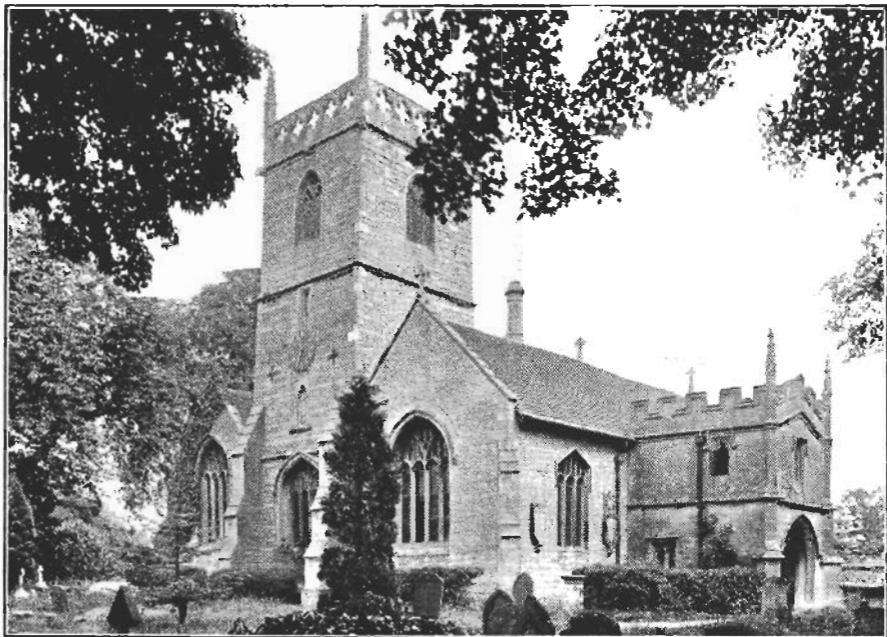
CRUDWELL

was visited, where the party was received by the Rector, the Rev. William Sole, M.A.

A description of the church was given by Mr. Lee Osborn, and special notice was taken of the unique window.

It lies on the main road between Malmesbury and Cirencester, four miles from the former and seven from the latter. It is mentioned in Domesday as Credwell. In 850 it was given by Ethelwulf to the Abbey of Malmesbury, and after the Dissolution was purchased from Henry in 1545 by John, "Count" of Oxford, with other church property. By the end of the century it appears to have passed to Lord Lucas of Shenfield, in Essex, whose descendant built a "very fine schoole house," and endowed it with £20 per annum. Aubrey also mentions a great gate of the former manor house, which he says had been recently pulled down, a large barn, and a spring, which he thought "vitriolate," and recommended his readers to try it and discover whether its effects were medicinal. A similar barn still stands, and the well continues to supply its beneficent waters. There is a list of rectors from 1299, but the place does not figure conspicuously in history. Its attraction is its venerable church, which consists of nave, with clerestory added at later date, Perpendicular south porch with parvise, aisles extending westward to the face of the battlemented and pinnacled tower, that on the south having been lengthened in modern times to form a baptistry, and chancel with north chapel. A Norman doorway on the north side has, in accordance with a common but stupid custom, been blocked up. The nave is divided from the aisles by arcades of two bays only, that on the north being Transitional Norman, that on the south being of fifteenth century, and much loftier. Beside the doorway, two lancets, deeply splayed in the north wall, have been built in, and a Perpendicular window of four lights inserted, one lancet alone remaining. But in that Perpendicular window three lights are filled with contemporary glass, representing five of the seven Sacraments of the Roman Church, with a figure of our Saviour in the act of benediction, a piece of work of almost unique interest. At the western end of this aisle is an interior staircase leading to the upper stages of the tower, which is open to the nave and aisles; the eastern chapel, used as a vestry, contains a fine oak chest

and lancet windows. At the eastern end of the south aisle are two lancet windows, and a piscina with shelf in the south wall. The chancel arch is unusually low, leaving a great space of blank wall above, another indication of the early date of the building. The old rood-screen across the chancel has been removed, but a small portion has been replaced, and some of the old screen divides off the chapel. There is a staircase and door to the rood-loft on the south side of the chancel arch, and there are two large hagioscopes, one in the north aisle and one in the nave. The chancel contains a piscina of Early English date. The lancet windows and priest's door are also noteworthy. There are some fine old pews and bench ends, of which Aubrey remarks: "Here are the best and most substantial seats that I know anywhere, built by one Walton," but unfortunately they are associated with some modern ones of pitch-pine. A noticeable feature of the church is that the walls are not plastered, the stonework being left exposed after the last restoration. The doorway from the porch is beneath a Perpendicular arch, surmounted by a niche. The church is dedicated to All Saints; the tower contains a peal of five bells, the register dates from 1659.



CRUDWELL CHURCH (EXTERIOR).