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Obituary.

FRANCIS WERE.

The death of Francis Were removes from the Society a member who in one particular branch of its varied interests can hardly be replaced. For many years he has been regarded as the authority in all matters relating to heraldry, and his wide knowledge, seldom sought in vain, was always readily given to all inquirers.

Francis Were, son of Thomas Bonville and Frances Anne (Wright) Were, was born at Clifton, on the 19th March, 1841. He was sent first to a preparatory school at Weymouth and from there to Rugby School (1855-59), where one of his hobbies was the collection of coins. When quite a young man he met with a severe accident while riding, and an outdoor life became necessary. In 1863 he began farming in Hampshire and for some years interested himself in agricultural and horticultural pursuits. He was also a good amateur carpenter. In 1868 he removed to Gratwicke Hall, Flax Bourton, where he associated himself with the village life and welfare, being a generous and helpful benefactor in every movement, and was a keen supporter of local cricket. From 1905 until 1909, Mr. Were resided at Callingwood Hall, Burton-on-Trent, with his brother (E. A. Were), the Bishop of Derby. In the latter year he removed to Walnut Tree House, Stoke Bishop, and there spent the rest of his life, dying on the 25th February, 1923, at the age of 81.

Mr. Were joined the Society in 1898, and from the first actively identified himself with its work, being one of the most familiar figures at the Spring and Summer meetings, and the evening meetings held at Bristol. He

was elected a member of Council in 1902, seldom missing its meetings, or those of the committees on which he sat.

The reports of the Society's proceedings for many years were enriched by the descriptions of the heraldry in the churches and other buildings visited which he contributed to the *Transactions*. The most important work which he undertook was the Index to Bigland's *Genealogical Collections of the County of Gloucester*, a laborious task which must have involved many long months of application. The value of Bigland is greatly enhanced by Mr. Were's ungrudging labour. The Index was published by the Society as the second part of vol. 28 of the *Transactions*, occupying over 460 pages of close type. The writer of this note has a vivid recollection of the work entailed by this one part when preparing the general index (vols. xxi-xl).

Though his physical powers were noticeably lessening, Mr. Were was never daunted, and attended the general meetings held last year. He will be remembered for his gentleness, unfailing kindness, and invariable readiness to give of his abundant knowledge.

R.A.

CHRISTOPHER BOWLY.

By the death of Mr. Christopher Bowly of Siddington House, near Cirencester, on 23rd May, 1922, the Society loses one more of the fast dwindling ranks of original members. He became a life member of the Society at its foundation in 1876, and for many years acted as local secretary for Cirencester and district. He was appointed a Vice-President in 1903, and gave constant help as a member of the Council. Mr. Bowly took great delight in antiquarian and archæological studies, being an acknowledged authority on the Romano-British and Medieval periods. For many years he acted as Curator of the Corinium Museum at Cirencester, following in 1879

Mr. (later *Sir*) A. H. Church. During his curatorship he was instrumental in adding many exhibits to the Museum, including an inscribed stone of much interest. During the earlier years of the Society's work Mr. Bowly was a constant attendant at the General meetings and excursions, his tall and upright figure been noticeable in any assembly.

Mr. Bowly was a keen observer of natural history, and at his death was the oldest member of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, having been elected so long back as 1859. In 1919 the Club visited the Roman Villa at Chedworth, where Mr. Bowly referred to the fact that it was the sixtieth anniversary of his joining the Club.

He was a Member of the Royal Anthropological Society, which he joined in 1871.

Mr. Bowly was the younger son of Mr. William Crotch Bowly, who was the eldest brother of Messrs. Edward, David, and Samuel Bowly, the latter being the well known philanthropist and temperance reformer of Gloucester. He was one of the last survivors of the Cirencester Society of Friends, with which his family had always been identified. He died at the ripe age of 85.

E.C.S.