



## “Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

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### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent to the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the Paper.*

*It is requested that all MSS intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

BRONZE CELT FOUND AT WEST HAGBOURNE.—An interesting specimen of bronze celt has lately been introduced to the Reading Museum, by the Rev. Richard Hooper, of Upton Rectory, which was found at West Hagbourne, on Mr. Aldworth's farm, and at a short distance from Hagbourne Hill, which appertains to the same farm, and is referred to here as some remarkable bronze implements were found there, one of which bears so great a resemblance to that found at Hagbourne as to lead to the inference that they are referrible to one series. The celt belongs to Mr. Leonard Slade, of Thorpe Farm, Aston, and is a rather common form, with socket and loop, of the well-known Irish type. It has a somewhat square mouth for hafting, with a moulded lip. An account of the implements discovered on Hagbourne Hill appears in vol. xvi. of *Archæologia*, p. 348. They were taken from what was described as a circular excavation, at the bottom of a pit, about four feet from the surface, and consisted of a celt, similar, as we have said, to the one just described, a looped bronze spearhead, some portions of bronze buckles, a bronze bridle-bit, and two bronze pins, one of which was flat-headed, while the other was looped, with a peculiar curved neck. In addition, it was stated by the workmen that two British coins were found in digging out the bronze articles, one of gold, the other of silver; but as no expert was present during the diggings the association of the coins with the bronze articles has been considered somewhat doubtful. Dr. John Evans, however, thinks that as the bronze implements were evidently “late Celtic,” the coins as described might have been present, but their presence implied that the series might be considered as transitional from the Bronze Age to the time when iron

was introduced. As the chief interest appertaining to Mr. Slade's celt rests in its association with the Hagbourne Hill find, which now forms part of the national collection, I have suggested to Mr. Slade that should he desire to part with it, its most proper resting place would be the British Museum, in order that the series should not be divided.—J. STEVENS, Reading Museum.

**CURIOUS RING IN BLEWBURY CHURCH.**—"The iron ring which remains in the north wall of the chancel at Blewbury was for carrying the "Lenten Veil," which was stretched across in front of the altar during Lent—(on Sundays it was drawn back). The Veil was taken down on Maundy Thursday at Tenebræ, in memory of the rending of the Veil of the Temple. (Mackenzie Walcott.) There are, I believe, many such examples. We have one in our church at Oxted. I found one, or rather the pulley over which the other end of the supporting cord was passed, at Harpley, in Norfolk. The pulley remains in a very complete form in Salisbury Cathedral. I think the ring was generally on the north and the pulley on the south side."—ARTHUR FEARON.

The Rev. J. A. Cree, Vicar of Sunningdale, delivered a lecture on the history of "Bromhall Hut," which is now a farm, but in the twelfth century was a celebrated convent. The lecturer remarked that he drew his facts from the work of Mr. Hughes on the History of Sunninghill and neighbourhood. At the close of the lecture Mr. G. M. Hughes mentioned that at a recent fire in Edinburgh, where the whole remainder of the edition of his book was stored, all were destroyed except about 40 copies, so that if his book could not claim to be a good book, it was likely to be a rare one.

**SILCHESTER (THE ROMAN CALLEVA).**—On the S.E. of the city, a portion of the wall has been dislocated, forming a gap which for many years has been known as "Onion's Hole." Coins, too, found at Silchester, are spoken of as "Onion's pennies." When at Silchester I could obtain no information as to the origin of the appellation.

Lately, however, I met with some observations made by John Alfred Kempe, Esq., more than a half century ago. Alluding to Silchester, he states, "The anonymous geographer of Ravenna gives it a name which I have not yet noticed, *Ard-onion*; this is a pure British compound, and may be read *Ardal Onion*, the region of *Einion* or *Onion*. Now, it happens, by the circumstantial tenacity of tradition, that an arch or cavern in the massive walls of Silchester is called to this day Onion's Hole, and Camden bears testimony that in his time the numerous coins found within its limits were called '*Onion's pennies*.'"

"Onioni denarii quem Gigantem fuisse et hanc urbem incoluisse somniant."

These coins are chiefly, I believe, of the later Empire, and attest the large population of the place at that period. I cannot, however, with the venerable and judicious Camden, esteem the tradition concerning the Giant Onion altogether as a dream. Doubtless he was some great chieftain of the Segontian weald; the lord of Silchester before its siliceous rampire was raised, when its defences were constructed of the earth and felled trees of the surrounding woods. The form of the station shows that its original ground plot was not Roman. *Einion* may, therefore, be compared to one of those beings of primæval times whom the Scripture terms *giants*; a race of more bodily power than man possesses in his civilised condition. The inscription found at Silchester in 1732, by which one Tammonius dedicated an altar to the Segontian Hercules, has confirmed the

account of Neunius that it was the city of that tribe ; it runs to this effect : " Deo Herculi Sægontiacorum, Titus Tammonius, Sanii Tammonii Vitalis filius, ob honorem." This inscription is slightly amplified, but gives that of the fragment met with. " Onion's Hole," more properly speaking would be Onion's pit, or dug-out dwelling.—RICHARD MANN, Bath.

VALUABLE DONATION TO THE READING MUSEUM.—At a recent meeting of the Free Library and Museum Committee, the announcement was made by the hon. Curator (Dr. Stevens), that Mr. W. R. Davis, of Wallingford, had presented to the town the whole of his valuable collection now standing in the Museum. The collection has been added to from time to time ; but the greater number of the articles were introduced as a loan at the time the Museum was opened. Collectively the donation consists of a varied assortment of chipped and polished stone implements, chiefly found in the neighbourhood of Wallingford. In bronze there are local and other specimens of the so-called belts or chisels, from the plain to the socketed forms ; of the same period also a British interment urn, with burnt human bones, found in Wallingford. Among the Roman relics are a valuable series of bronze *fibulae* or brooches, mostly local ; also *armilla* or bracelets, so-called ring-money, bronze statuettes, bronze and silver coins, bronze lamps, and some clay vessels. The later relics include antique keys, and locks of complicated and ingenious manufacture, bronze medals, an elegant bronze spur, found at Wittenham, a peculiar spring apparatus for bleeding cattle, besides sundry vessels for domestic use in the 16th and 17th centuries.

READING GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Coates' History of Reading, p. 317, gives a list of scholars elected to St. John's College, Oxford, but is there any account of other notables educated at the Grammar School, and if so, are these two noticed :—

" Sir Francis Moore, Knt., an eminent person in the time of Elizabeth, of whom the following details are given by Anthony Wood : ' He was born at East Hildersly, or Ilderley, near Wantage, in Berks, educated in Grammar learning at Reading, entered a commoner in St. John's College, Oxford, 1574, or thereabouts, continued there till near Batchelors' Standing, and then he retired to the Middle Temple, where, after severe encounters had with the crabbed parts of the municipal laws, he became a Barrister, and noted for his great proficiency in his profession, and integrity in his dealings. In the latter end of Queen Elizabeth, and beginning of King James, he was several times elected a Burgess to sit in Parliament, in which he was a frequent speaker ; afterwards he was Counsellor and Under-Steward for several years to the University of Oxford, the members of which conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts in 1612. Two years after he was made Serjeant-at-Law, and in 1616, March 17th, received the honour of Knighthood at Theobald's, from his Majesty King James I. \* \* \* \* At length, paying the last debt to nature on the 20th November, 1621, aged 63, was buried in a vault under the church at Great Fawley, near to Wantage.' His son, Henry, was created a Baronet in 1627.—*Burke's Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies, 2nd Edition, 1844, p. 365-6.* Wood does not say that he represented Reading in Parliament, but I take it that he is identical with " Fra. Moor, esq.," elected 39 Eliz., and " Fra. Moore, esq.," 43 Eliz. and again 1 Jas. I.

Griffin Higgs, born at South Stoke, in Oxfordshire, in 1589. His father, also named Griffin, was a son of Nicholas Higgs, whose family belonged to Gloucester-

shire. Educated at Reading, he was entered at St. John's College, Oxford, in 1606, and there, under Richard Tillesley's tuition, distanced all his competitors. His Latin verses, in honour of Sir Thomas White, founder of the College, are still extant. In personal appearance Higgs was as short and insignificant as his name, but he obtained a probationer's Fellowship at Merton College in 1611, and was an efficient Proctor in 1622. While he was a Fellow of Merton, he served two small parishes in the neighbourhood of Oxford. In 1627 Mr. Higgs was appointed Chaplain to Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, sister of King Charles I., and resided at The Hague when performing the duties of his chaplaincy. While there he attained the degree of Doctor of Divinity in the famous University of Leyden A.D. 1629-30. By the influence of Archbishop Laud he was brought to England, collated to Cliffe Rectory on the 15th February, 1629-30, appointed Chaunter or Precentor of St. David's Cathedral, and in 1638 Dean of Lichfield. He was likewise one of the chaplains to King Charles I. He was sequestered 1645 and died 1659, December 16th, and lies buried at South Stoke.—*Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XV., p. 244. R. J. FYNMORE, Sandgate.

BLEWBURY CHURCH.—The restoration of the South Aisle of this noble and most interesting Church has been commenced. The amounts required is £1002, of which £858 has been subscribed. Subscriptions may be paid to the Vicar.

REGISTERS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, READING.—Mr. Crawford has finished his work of transcription, and Vol. I. will shortly be issued. Price to subscribers one guinea.

SILCHESTER.—The excavations at Silchester are in full progress, and a large number of men are employed in the work. The foundations of another house have been discovered, and also a complete pavement, and numerous specimens of pottery and ironwork implements.

LAY SUBSIDY ROLLS.—Mr. Alfred Harrison is about to publish the Lay Subsidy Rolls for the Hundreds of Reading and Theale, which will find a hearty welcome from all who are interested in the antiquities of the neighbourhood. Mr. Elliot Stock is the publisher.

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## Queries.

HUNGERFORD.—Again the curious ceremonies connected with the observance of Hock Tide at Hungerford have come round. The Court Leet and Court Baron have been held, and the tithing men appointed who enjoy certain unusual perquisites of office. Has the origin of these Hock Tide proceedings at Hungerford ever been investigated?—K. M.

HERSEY FAMILY.—Can any one oblige by suggesting a clue to the marriage of John Duncombe, of St. Martin's-in-Fields, London, and Sarah Goldwin, of Banbury, where the marriage bond is filed at Aylesbury, May 26th, 1790.—HERSEY, 51, Sugland-lane, London, N.W.

MARKET AND CHURCH YARD CROSSES.—Will any of your readers kindly inform me of the existence of any church yard and market crosses in Berkshire?—J. DENIS DE VITRE, Christ Church, Oxford.

BLAGRAVE FAMILY.—1—What was the name of the wife of John Blagrave who built Southcote Manor House? He was the mathematician and died 1611. Coates says she was a widow. 2—What was the name of the wife of Joseph Blagrave, the astrologer? 3—Was Joseph Blagrave the son of John Blagrave? —E. A. FRY.

### Replies.

HEDGES.—In the quarterly issue of April of this Journal, an interesting Editorial notice appears concerning Hedges for enclosing fields during the Middle Ages; but there appears to have been an extended use of hedges in the time of the Anglo-Saxons, from the frequent references in Saxon land boundaries of lordships, places, or lands bequeathed by will. In the more populated districts, where places prevail, the boundary lines in a larger measure follow the roads, always called "ways"; but in large open districts hedges more frequently denote the lines. Thus, in the boundaries of Twyford, in Hampshire, in a Charter of Eadward the Elder, of A.D. 900, "*audlang hagan*," along the "*haga*" or hedge is ten times repeated during the course of the boundary. In the boundaries of Bilson, in the Will of Ethelfled, A.D. 972, "along the old hedge" appears. In a Charter of King Ethelred, of A.D. 983, "the old thorn row" is mentioned; and in other Charters we read of "the old thorn," and "the great thorn"; and in a Charter of Æthelwulf, of A.D. 854, "then on to the *haga*," or hedge, appears in the boundary. It is evident from this that, after the removal of forest tracts, the lands parcelled out among the Saxon settlers were divided by hedge-rows and hedges, as at the present time. The hedge-rows were probably left in grubbing the forests; but the hedges, being of thorn, were evidently planted. Indeed the "quick," "quickset," or Whitethorn (*Crategus oxyacantha*) has been the chief agent in the planting of hedges from the time of the Saxons to the present day. It may be observed that "*haga*" the Saxon hedge, is now applied to the berry, the common name for it among Berkshire village lads being "*hagha*," or "*haghaw*." There is another shrub, common in Berkshire hedges, which is similarly associated with Saxon times, the Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), the berry of which is the sloe, provincially called *slan*. Now, *slan* is associated with a verb, meaning *slay*. Thus, the Anglo-Saxon substantive *sla*, verb *slean*, English sloe, old English *sle*, verb *slay*, which suggests the use of the wood for a bludgeon.—J. STEVENS, Reading Museum.

FINCHAMPSTEAD.—The history of this parish is at present receiving attention. Any information respecting it will be gladly received by W. L., of East Court, Finchampstead.

SPARSHOLT CHURCH.—From enquiries which I have made I gather that no such picture exists.—EDITOR.