

Tyrrold, James, 1708	Wastell, Simon, 1658 ;	Winterbourn, Anthony,
Wayn, Jno., 1779	Griffin, 1663	1669
Walter, Ric., 1654	White, Luke, 1657 ;	Wintworth, Philip, 1727
West, Henry, 1654	Jno., 1661 ; Ric.,	Whiting, Thos., 1732 ;
Wattes, Henry, 1656 ;	1676 ; Robt., 1743	Joseph, 1737
Ric., 1741	Weston, Jno., 1663 ;	Wix, Will., 1743
Wightwicke, Ric., 1654	Jno., 1705 ; Gabriel,	Watkins, Thos., 1743 ;
Wilder, Geo., 1655	1783	Jno., 1769
Wilkinson, Humphrey,	*Westall, Will., 1752 ;	Williams, Ch., 1746 ;
1656	Daniel, 1786 ; Jno.,	Jno., 1810 ; Thos.,
Woolford, Robt., 1655	1801	1808
Walker, Jno., 1656	Whicheler, James, 1659	Yeates, Ed., 1724
Woodley, Jno., 1658	Wilks, Thos., 1743	Ward, Joseph, 1798
Wiltshire, James, 1780	Woodward, Dennis,	Westhill, Will., 1796
Wiggins, Wickens, Jno.,	1683—1675	Wallis, Paul, 1792
1756	Warner, Jno., 1744	Waite, Jno., 1798
*Webb, Will., 1742	Whitefield, Will., 1712	Winter, Watson, 1810

History of the Sarsens.

By Professor T. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., F.G.S., etc.

THE following references and quotations are here given with the view of making the History of the Sarsens, or Sarsen Stones, more complete and more easily available, especially by indicating the chronological succession of observed facts and published opinions.

ORIGIN AND CONSTITUTION OF SARSENS.

G. B. Greenough, in his "Critical Examination of the First Principles of Geology," says that the Greyweather Stones, scattered over the southern counties of England, have been evidently derived from the destruction of a rock which once lay over the Chalk. In the Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club, vol. i, p. 99, Sarsens are referred to as "indurated blocks of sandstones and conglomerates." Sir Archibald Geikie, treating of siliceous cements in sandstones, writes, "where the component particles are bound together by a flinty substance, as in the exposed blocks of Eocene sandstone known as 'Grey-weathers' in Wiltshire, and which occurs also over the north of France towards the Ardennes."

In a letter, Sir Archibald has obligingly stated that the first and best account on which the reference to the above was based is by Dr. C. Barrois, Ann. Soc. Géol. du Nord, vol. vi. (1878-9), p. 366.

The Rev. A. Irving, taking it for granted that a large river in Eocene times flowed from a region of Palæozoic rocks in the west, in the direction of the Thames Valley to the east, said that the detritus would be quartzose and felspathic; the felspars would ultimately be decomposed by the agency of carbonic acid, and gelatinous hydrated silica would be produced.

FOSSILS.

Professor John Phillips, in his "Geology of Oxford," 1871, p. 447, states:—"I have never found shells in any of these stones lying in their native beds, and have some scruple in mentioning that they do occur in a layer in one of the blocks at Stonehenge. But, as I did not choose by chiselling that monumental stone to attract attention to it, probably it may for many years to come escape all injury except that which it must suffer from the strokes of time. In the churchyard of Sandhurst, a large Sarsen perforated with pipe-like holes lies at the foot of the old yew-tree there.

LOCALITIES.

Buckinghamshire.—1890. A row of course, gravelly Sarsens lies along the side of the road up to the church at Badenharn. They were placed there by the Rector, who said that such stone underlies the Rectory house and lawn close by; and some blocks of it were still lying about there. In the church tower, up along the re-entrant angles of the buttresses and tower, numerous ordinary fine-grained Sarsens are built in with the flint-work. Professor Prestwich said, June 21st, 1890, that the coarse-grained Sarsens at Bradenham came from the base of the Tertiaries.

In Buckinghamshire Sarsens are known as "Wycombe stones," and in the Bagshot district as "Heath stones."

Oxfordshire.—1871. Professor J. Phillips regarded the Sarsen stones as concretionary portions of extensive sand-beds once overlying the district with its previously excavated Chalk valleys. The loose sands were carried away by denudation, and the solid portions suffered displacement. Some containing flint pebbles and fragments lie on the north side of the Wiltshire downs. Some large Sarsens are found in the drift, for instance at Long Wittenham, near Abingdon. See his "Geology of Oxford and the Valley of the Thames," 1871, pp. 447 and 462.

Berkshire.—1787. Daines Barrington made some remarks on the Greywethers in Berkshire (*Archæologia*, iii, p. 442).

In W. Mavor's "Report on the Agriculture of Berkshire," 1813 at pp. 34, 35. The Sarsen Stones, or Greywethers as the country

people call them, are irregularly scattered over the Berkshire and Wiltshire Downs. They are pretty numerous in a valley near Ashdown Park and on the road from thence to Lambourn.

T. Rupert Jones, in a lecture on the Geology of Newbury, treated of the occurrence of "the great blocks of Druidstone, Greywethers, or Sarsen-stones as the *only* remaining wreck of the Lower Tertiaries of this area;" and further broken up in the gravel of the vicinity.

J. Adams, in a lecture on the Geology of Newbury, referred to a traditional trace of an ancient cromlech near Hangmanstone, for people say that there was a cave made of large stones, but it was pulled to pieces by the farmer.

The Sarsens of Berkshire now existing as relics of pre-historic monuments, especially in Wayland Smith's Cave, and the groups in Ashdown Park, are the subject of a paper by Mr. A. L. Lewis in the *Trans. Internat. Congress of Prehistoric Archæol. at Norwich, 1869*, pp. 37-46. See also Ferguson's "Rude Stone Monuments," 1872, pp. 121, etc.

Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., referring to Sarsen Stones in letters, notes that a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1760 mentions that two Roman millaria or milestones were to be seen near Aldworth; and this statement is confirmed by Hearne, Rowe Mores, and other authors. "These millaria are now to be seen" (says the writer in the *Gent. Mag.*) "between Streteley and Alder, one of which lies a mile from Streteley, and by country people is supposed to be placed by the Giants (as they call them) in Alder [Aldworth] Church." He refers to the monumental effigies of the De la Beche family. A few years ago I investigated this subject for the late Mr. Thompson Watkin, of Liverpool, and found that one of these millaria stood, not so many years ago, between Westridge Farm (two miles from Streatley) and Aldworth, in a bank, and that it was a large Sarsen Stone; and another I heard of as being seen in Kiddington Bottom, one mile west of Streatley. One of these, I learned, had been broken up for road metal, and the other was said to have been taken away by a gentlemen at Wallingford to be placed on his lawn.

Another statement is that many years ago the stone was taken from its original position by the side of the Roman *via* from Westridge to Streatley, and removed to a more convenient spot about a quarter of a mile distant, where probably it still remains. This stone, of gigantic size, was removed by the occupier of the farm at Westridge with a team of eight horses.

There is still a very large Sarsen Stone by the side of the Roman way from Newbury to Streatley, between Hampstead Norris and Aldworth, which was probably used as a milliarium. It is curious that in Brittany and other places on the Continent, as well as in England, where prehistoric stone structures are found, that there are stories of the imprints of giant's hands or feet, as the Friar's Heel at Stonehenge; and there is a story told at Aldworth at the present day, that one of these milliaria (that in Kiddington Bottom), between Aldworth and Streatley, had been thrown hither by one of the Aldworth giants, and that the print of the giant's hand, made when he grasped the stone, may yet be distinctly seen. This corroborates the writer of the account in the *Gent. Mag.* of 1760.

Last year, on going over the Lambourn Downs, I was struck by seeing a huge Sarsen Stone, evidently roughly squared, about 5 feet out of the ground, by the side of the road. It has every appearance of a milestone of the last century; and on examining its face next to the road, I found that a flat face or panel had been cut as if to receive a plate or letters; but neither Mr. Barnes, who was with me, nor myself could trace any letters at all. There is little doubt that this is a Roman milestone, as this ancient road leads direct to Uffington Castle and White-horse Hill. This stone is called "Hangman's Stone," the same story being told about it as of the Hangmanstone near Chaddleworth, and about similar stones elsewhere in England. The stone in Hangmanstone Lane is lying down, but the Lambourn stone is vertical as with ordinary milestones. It is not known as a boundary stone.

There are a great number of Sarsen Stones in the neighbourhood of Ashbury, at the western extremity of Berks, on the northern slope of the Downs, where they enter this county from Wiltshire; and it is singular that hamlets in this parish have the names of Id-stone, Od-stone, and King-stone Winslow, and just beyond is the parish of Bishop-stone (Wilts). Possibly the boundaries of these places were indicated by stones, presumably Sarsens, from their being so abundant at hand.

At Lambourn the boundary wall of the churchyard is built of Sarsens; some of them are 5 feet in height. Others are used as stepping-stones and for margins in the Bourn at Upper Lambourn.

Large Sarsens are still visible close to some old churches, as at Compton Beauchamp, East Shefford, and Marlstone, a tithing of Bucklebury; and they may be remains of material accumulated for pagan temples, at places now occupied by Christian churches.

"There was, and probably is, a row or avenue of Sarsen Stones in Whiteknights Park, Reading, leading to the Wilderness, which were said to have been supplied by the Kennet River Navigation, in early times, from the neighbourhood of Hungerford and Marlborough."—W. M.

J. R. Hedges. There are many Sarsen Stones collected by Mr. Hedges for grotto-work at Wallingford Castle. Some are perforated by rootlet marks.

Numerous Sarsens, small and of irregular shape (probably from the gravel in the neighbourhood), are arranged around a flower-bed at Theale Railway Station.—T. R. J.

Dr. Silas Palmer noted several large Sarsens observable at Hill Green, about 1 mile west of Leckhampstead Street, which is 6 miles nearly north of Winterbourne, 1 mile south-west of Peasemore, and about 2 miles north-east of Poughley in Welford Wood, and 2 miles north-east of the Hangmanstone in Hangmanstone Lane. These are cared for by Mr. Harold Peake, of Westbrook House, Boxford; and Mr. Walter Money regards them as probably remnants of a chambered Long Barrow.

In 1887 a buried or subterranean group of large Sarsens was discovered by Mr. Robert Walker at Middle Hole, a quarter of a mile north-west of Middle Farm, about 2 miles north of Lambourn. Mr. F. J. Bennett (of the Geological Survey) gives the following description in his letters:—

A large leaning or nearly prostrate stone at the top of the group of stones had probably once been verticle, but had fallen down. The stones had been placed in a round pit-like hole, extending at least 10 feet north and south of the central stone (once upright).

A square excavation, more than 20 feet deep, was made, and some hundred Sarsens were taken out, weighing from a quarter to six hundredweight each; and there were left in the hole some stones of from 3 to 7 tons weight. In the hole the stones were in three irregular piles. The central heap rested on a very large flat stone; the others were at the two sides. The intervals were occupied by a stiff reddish clay with pottery, burnt and broken bones, wood-ashes, and burnt earth. There is a large flat stone lying in the valley not far off.

This north and south valley, or rather combe, in which this accumulation of Sarsens was found, has been cut down by denudation through the "Chalk-rock" and the "Melbourne Rock," both

recognizable in the side-slopes, and is floored with "chalk-rubble."

This does not appear to be one of the deep, well-like pits, lined with stones, tiles, clay, or wood, excavated for the purpose of marking boundaries in Roman times. It may have been sepulchral; for Thomas Wright, in his "Wanderings of an Antiquary, chiefly in the track of the Romans in Britain," 1894, pp. 176-178, describes in detail some large circular pits that have been filled with flints, and capped with broad Sarsens, on Aylesford Common; these, he thought, were probably sepulchral, and may have had a chamber opening out of the side at the bottom.

"A trail of large blocks of sarsenstone is prolonged by Hagbourne village to a line about 100 feet lower, on to the outcrop of the upper Greensand. Other slopes along these Downs exhibit similar trails of sarsenstone." (Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., xlviii., 1892, p. 313.)—Prestwich.

At Newbury, Sarsens are frequent in the "pitched" crossings of pavements at openings of yards; some are paved with squared setts. Worn, subangular, small Sarsens are plentiful in the gravel-pit south of the town.—T. R. J.

W. Whitaker refers to the Sarsens at Streatley: Proc. Geol. Assoc., vol. xiv., p. 175.

The Denchworth Missal.

By Henry Barry Hyde.

AMONGST the advantages enjoyed by those who take an interest in tracing out their pedigree are the kindness and courtesy it developes in friends and others who become aware of the object of the search. A friend, knowing my hobby, informed me that he had seen in the City an ancient Missal, in which were recorded many particulars respecting persons of the name of Hyde. In a very short time afterwards I had the pleasure of calling upon the Rev. John C. Jackson, 11, Angel Court, E.C., who most courteously allowed me to inspect the MS. I wanted to see. It far