



## Notes and Queries

### RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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#### Notes.

LONG WITTENHAM.—I have been informed that a barn is being pulled down at Long Wittenham, and that on one of the beams is the date 1410.—WM. J. BETTS, South Moreton, Wallingford, 25th January, 1910.

"THE LAST DAYS OF HURLEY PRIORY."—In my article under the above heading, which appeared in the number of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal for January, 1910, the following "Errata" occur, viz.: Page 109 line 16, *for* Christian *read* John; page 110 line 4, *for* back *read* bell; page 110 line 5, *for* "Joseph Carter, of Reading," *read* "I C" [one initial on one side of a shield with three bells on it, and the other on the other side of this shield]; page 115, *for* 1340 (as John de Tothale's earliest known or probable date, as Prior of Hurley) *read* 1338.—F. T. WETHERED.

AN OLD BERKSHIRE CLUB TOKEN.—I recently became possessed of an old Club Token issued by the Wantage Friendly Society. The token which is of copper, slightly less than a penny, bears on the Obv. "Wantage Friendly Society established APR 6, 1808." Rev.: In the field a Beehive surrounded by bees, around it the inscription "Long may we flourish. Friendship." This Club was known as the Beehive Club, and also as the Old Bear Club from the fact that it held its meetings at that Hotel, which appears to have been the leading hostelry in the town since its establishment in the middle of the 17th century. Some of the Heralds' Visitations were held here, and one Hardman issued a Token from "The Bear" in the 17th century. The members of the Beehive Club went in procession once a year to the Parish Church, when its officials carried flags and staves ornamented with beehives. So far from "flourishing long," however, the Club became extinct some fifty years ago, for being confined almost to the leading tradesmen of the town its exclusiveness led to its extinction, and it was eventually wound up by a man named Ted Pratt.

I also have in my collection two Berkshire Tokens of the 19th century not mentioned in Batty's List. These tokens though less than our half-penny probably circulated as such. (1) Obv.: A sportsman with gun and dog, around it "Wholesale dealer in gun materials." Rev.: "S. Huggins, Blewbury, Gun-maker." The family of Huggins are not now resident in Blewbury, but sixty years ago several members of it were small tradesmen there. One was a boot and shoe maker, another a blacksmith, while a third brother combined the trade of blacksmith with the profession of schoolmaster. Samuel Huggins, the issuer

of the token, was a gunmaker and ironmonger. (2) The second token is a Reading one, issued by Edward Pole. Obv.; The head of Queen Victoria as on the copper coins then current, with the legend "Victoria Queen of Great Britain." Rev.: In six lines "Pole, tea dealer, 16, Duke Street, Reading.—W. H. HALLAM, Lockinge.

EXHIBITION OF ENGLISH ALABASTER WORK, 1910.—It is proposed to hold an Exhibition of English Medieval Alabaster Work in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, from Thursday, 26th May, until the end of June. Apart from the archæological interest of such an Exhibition, the opportunities for comparison and classification which it would offer would be very valuable, and might go far to settle the question of the places of origin of certain well-recognised styles of work. It is therefore of great importance that as many examples as possible should be brought together. It is intended that the Exhibition shall include, (1) adequate photographs of such tombs and monuments as cannot be moved, together with actual examples (within certain limits) of what can be lent; (2) examples or remains of imagery and statues; and (3) the sculptured tables or panels which were so extensively used and exported for the construction of reredoses or the decoration of tombs. As a large number is in existence, both in churches, museums, and private hands, it is obvious that a considerable collection of them would be most useful for comparison, since they range in date over a fairly long period. Where whole specimens are not attainable, it may happen that important fragments will be equally valuable. I shall be most grateful for any help you can give the Society in this matter, either by informing me of any specimens of English Alabaster Work that are known to you, whether in the form of tombs or effigies, imagery or tables, so that as complete a catalogue as possible may be made of all existing examples, or by procuring and forwarding adequate photographs of any specimens in your own neighbourhood. I shall be glad to hear of any examples of which you can obtain the loan to the Society for the proposed Exhibition. All examples so lent, as well as photographs, should be sent in as soon as possible, as their classification and arrangement will take time. The Society will, of course, undertake (if necessary) all expense of carriage, etc. It will be convenient to restrict the Exhibition to works not later in date than about 1550.—C. H. READ, President.

### Replies.

THE HALL FAMILY OF HARPSDEN COURT.—Mr. W. Coleman Hall in the January number of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal asks how he can find out more of the Hall family, once owners of Harpsden Court. They lived near Poole in Dorsetshire, and I have always understood that when they left Harpsden Court they returned to Dorsetshire. The last Hall in this neighbourhood was a nephew of the Hall who sold Harpsden Court. He was a Captain in the "Blues," and after leaving the army lived at Wargrave, in a queer little Australian hut on the border of the river. He lived till he was 92 and was buried at Wargrave. He was a great friend of mine from my earliest childhood. In the Congregational Chapel at Henley-on-Thames were many tablets to the memory of the Hall family. The Chapel has been pulled down and a new one built, but doubtless the tablets have been preserved. A note to the Minister would be advisable as to names and inscriptions. Also the Poole

Church and Chapel records may afford information. Captain Hall always told me that General Lord Essex, the Parliamentary General, confided the besieging of Shiplake Court at Shiplake to his ancestor, who had a private spite against Mr. Francis Plowden, owner of that seat, who was a Roman Catholic.—(Mrs.) EMILY T. CLIMENSON, Shiplake Grange, Oxon.

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### Queries.

**KNAPP FAMILY.**—Mr. Oswald G. Knapp, of Hillside, Castle Hill, Maidenhead, is collecting materials for a general history of the Knapp family, which will be issued in a large volume with views of Seats, Arms, Portraits, etc. He will be glad of any information respecting existing families of that name. This important family history will be especially interesting to residents in Berks and Oxfordshire, as there were several branches in these counties, and also in Bucks. Thomas Knapp of Tylehurst was the founder of the Berks branch, which also extended to Shilton and Blechington, Oxon, and Little Linford and Shenley, Bucks. The Knapps were a wide spreading race, and inter-married with numerous County families in the three shires; their pedigree and family history will, therefore, be of much interest to others, including the following families:—Buckeridge, Bostock, Clarke, Keblewhite, Latton, Loder, Pottenger, Reade, Smallbone, Stampe, Wheate, Wilder. Mr. Oswald Knapp has kindly promised to send to this Journal information relating to these families if such be required.—EDITOR.

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### Proceedings of Societies.

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**BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—Owing to the General Election no meeting of the Society was held in January.

On February 3rd, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ditchfield, gave a lecture on "The Manor Houses of England," illustrated by lantern slides.

On February 22nd, the President delivered an admirable lecture on "An Architectural Account of the Churches of Boxford, Avington, Uffington and Ashbury," illustrated by an excellent series of lantern views. Mr. Keyser kindly consented to publish his lecture in this Journal, and to contribute a number of plates illustrating his paper.

On March 10th, Mr. Mill Stevenson, F.S.A., gave an interesting lecture on "Some Continental Brasses," illustrated by lantern slides.

On April 6th, Mr. R. H. Foster will lecture on "The Roman City of Corstopitum, near Corbridge-on-Tyne," illustrated by lantern slides.

On April 29th, a lecture will be given by the Rev. R. S. Mylne, M.A., B.C.L., F.S.A., on "Bayeaux and Norman Architecture," illustrated by lantern slides. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Society, when officers will be elected and reports read.

**SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**—The 193rd Anniversary of the founding of the Society will be held on St. George's Day, April 23rd, when the members will dine together at Burlington House.