

## Notes and Queries.

### A PALAEOLOGIC IMPLEMENT FROM WOODLEY.

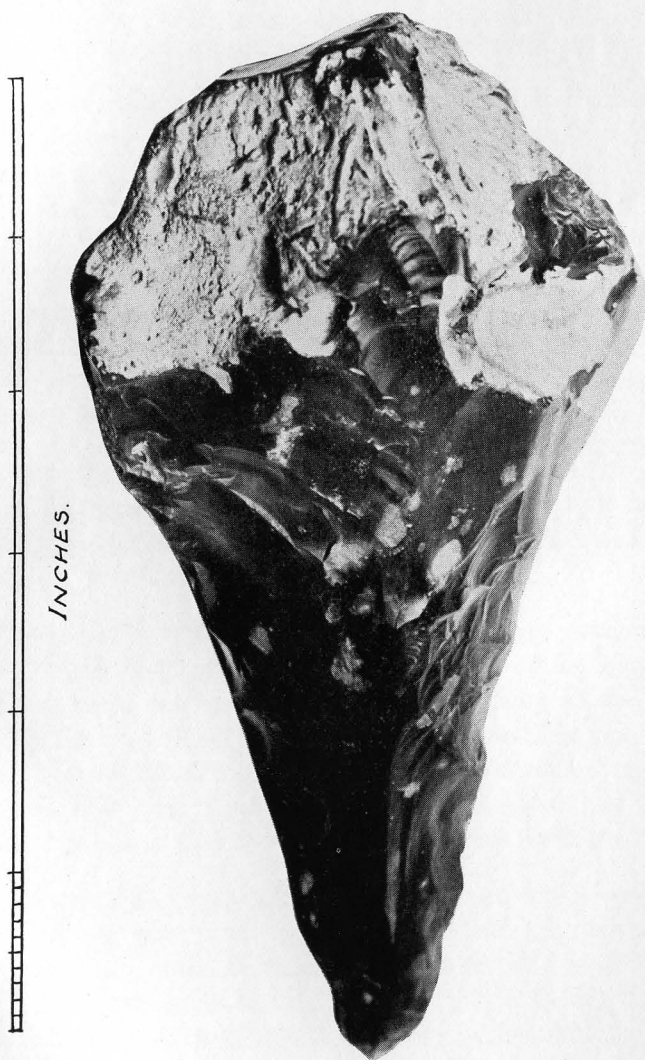
Finds of flint implements in the old gravel deposits of the Pleistocene Age have been numerous in some parts of Berkshire and in the first volume of the *Victoria County History of Berkshire* there is a map giving, with the information then available, the localities in which these relics of ancient man had been discovered up to the end of the XIXth century. Since that date, however, implements have been discovered in other parts of the County. The present writer has found several, of varying forms, but mostly of the St. Acheul type, in the parish of Earley, from the spread of gravel overlying the Reading beds.

The pick-shaped implement illustrated was found a few years ago about three feet below the surface in the gravel pit on the Reading-Wokingham Road just beyond Earley Station in the liberty of Woodley.

The gravel here forms part of an ancient flood-plain of the rivers Thames and Loddon and it was probably not far from this spot that these two streams mingled their waters at the time palaeolithic man lived in the district. Since then not only have the valleys of these rivers been excavated by natural processes to a lower level—at least sixty feet—but their point of junction has shifted north-eastward to near Wargrave.

The writer also possesses another specimen which was discovered a few yards from Loddon Bridge where a surface-water drain was being laid. Both from the level of the gravel bed in which it was found and the abraded condition of the implement itself it appears to have been derived from some older deposit, probably the Earley Station gravel which extends to within a short distance of Loddon Bridge and also covers a large part of Woodley parish.

E.W.D



*A palaeolithic implement from Woodley, near Reading.*

## SHELVINGSTONE PIGHTLE, SONNING.

The tongue of land which lies at the foot of Pound Lane, Sonning, where the two main village streets converge before leaving *via* Charvil Lane to the main Bath Road, is referred to on old maps as "Shelvingstone Pightle." The house erected a few years ago on this site is called "Shelvingstone," the Editor of this Journal having induced Mr. Clement Williams, the owner, to perpetuate this ancient field-name without alteration. "Shelvingstones" is not uncommon as a place-name in and around Avebury and in other parts of Wiltshire; but its occurrence within the confines of the ancient Windsor Forest is, the writer believes, represented by this solitary example. It has been suggested by Hoare, the Wiltshire antiquary, that the Avebury "Shelvingstones" were simply the uprights of a burial chamber of a long barrow. There appear to be no vestiges of such a monolith near the field at Sonning, but the details of the early settlements in this corner of Berkshire are obscure and have yet to be worked out, together with the origin of the name "Charvil." Observations upon this are invited with special reference to "Shelvingstone Pightle."

## PLACE NAMES.

The study of the origin of place names has in recent years been pursued in a learned and scientific manner. That the subject is not free from pitfalls may be gathered from the following. In the woods of the Bulmershe estate, near Reading, there is a small tumulus called "Dumpling's Clump." The name appears on the maps of the Ordnance Survey. So, of course, does the name "Wittenham Clumps" at the other end of the County. Not far away from "Dumpling's Clump," and on the Reading-Wokingham Road, there is a row of cottages known as Ginger Terrace. A mile away, on the Woodley side of the Bulmershe estate, is Mustard Lane. "Dumpling" was the name of a hunter that came to grief in the woods while hunting with the South Berks Hounds in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The horse was a favourite, so it was buried near the scene of its death, and its cairn yet remains. Ginger

Terrace was so named from the fact that the squire who built the houses was passing one day and noticed that quite a fair number of the men who lived therein had fine handsome beards of an auburn hue. He promptly named the row of cottages Ginger Terrace. But no such simple derivation, as far as is known, can be found for Mustard Lane, which is referred to in deeds of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Is its origin so plain as its name would seem to indicate?

#### A NEGLECTED MEMORIAL.

Some time ago an interesting series of readers' notes appeared in a London newspaper on the subject of the removal of tombstones from their accustomed places and the ultimate uses to which many such monumental slabs had been put. By a curious coincidence the writer came across an example of such an undignified removal in Reading.

A few years ago the historic house known as Old Southcote Manor was dismantled. In the process of demolition it became abundantly evident that the proposal to save the house for posterity was a misguided one, since the little that remained of the original structure was too far decayed to be effectively restored without robbing it of its charm and interest. While taking a farewell look round the moated site, when the house was almost dismantled, the writer's attention was drawn by the workman to a ponderous slab of uninscribed white marble.

On this being removed there was exposed to view a black gravestone which at first was thought to be slate; but subsequently this proved also to be marble. It was broken in three pieces, but had been rather clumsily mended. It bore the following inscription :—

“ M.S.

CAROLUS MORUS

publicus auctoritate regia notarius, supremæ curiæ  
Admiralitatis Angliæ pro-registrarius, honestissimus vir  
charitate insignis, et amico fidus, sub hoc marmore, spe

resurgendi sepultus jacet. Vitam hanc caducam, secundo die mensis Octobris Anno salutis restauratae 1675 pro beatiori in coelis mutavit."

The trick of arms surmounting the inscription, a chevron between three heathcocks, was topped by a crest of a blackamoor's head.

The following is a free translation of the inscription :—

" Memoriam Sacram

Charles More

Notary public, Deputy Registrar of the High Court of Admiralty of England, a man of the highest reputation distinguished by his charity and a faithful friend, lies buried under this marble stone in the hope of rising again. He changed this transitory life for a better in heaven on the second day of October in the year of our redemption 1675."

The discovery of this stone gave rise to an interesting hazard whether Charles More was buried at Southcote ; if so, why and what was his connection with the house or family who inhabited the manor house ? The writer was able to " lay the ghost " more or less effectively in consequence of a discovery some years ago of three other monumental slabs, less costly and important, in or about the house. The explanation seems to be this : When the three old parish churches of Reading were restored in the nineteenth century numbers of tombstones were removed from the floors of the churches and sold as paving material. Apparently some were taken to Southcote—where it is commonly believed some old oak panelling was also taken—and used for a variety of purposes. Two such stones the writer located beneath fireplaces at Southcote ; a third formed part of the paving of the conservatory ; while the one under discussion was discovered in a position which was difficult to determine owing to the demolition of the house being so far advanced. The record of the burials of the individuals commemorated have been traced in the respective parish registers. On page 130 of Kerry's *History of the Municipal Church of St. Laurence, Reading*, will



be found a record of the marble slab discovered at Southcote. It was originally on the north side of the altar and Mr. Kerry adds: "Probably buried beneath the new altar pace." Had the reverend gentleman but known it was lying at Southcote Manor House serving the utilitarian purpose of floor paving at the time he was compiling his book; Coates mentions it as "in situ" in 1803.

And now for the individual commemorated. Charles More appears to have belonged to a family of considerable eminence, the Mores of Barnborough, Yorkshire, who derived immediately from Sir John More, one of the justices of the Court of King's Bench in the reign of Henry VIII. One of the sons of this knight was Sir Thomas More, the celebrated Lord Chancellor of England. The arms of the Barnborough Mores, as given in the usual works of reference, are "Or, a chevron engrailed between three moor-cocks sable. The crest, a moor's head and shoulders proper, in his ear a ring, Or."

The differences between this coat and that defigured on the stone at Southcote are not of sufficient moment probably to need much comment. A heath-cock and a moor-cock appear to be interchangeable terms in heraldy. It should be noted, however, that the work upon the slab bears evidence of having been done by a "prentice" hand, possibly the purveyor of the marble. It is in a loose script, the chevron is plain and not engrailed, and the crest depicts the blackamoor's head as "affrontee" and not in profile. This latter is an important distinction. The head of an heraldic moor is almost always in profile with a twisted wreath or torse about the temples.

It may be possible for some one to amplify the heraldic and historic notes about "*Carolus Morus*." The writer was informed quite recently by one who was in charge of the demolition of the house that the memorial still remains there, probably buried, being too heavy to cart away. It is interesting to think what hazards may be made by zealous archaeologists if the marble be again stumbled upon some centuries hence.

## A DERELICT MONUMENTAL BRASS.

A late 17th century monumental brass was recently brought to the Reading Museum, and by the courtesy of the curator, Mr. Smallcombe, I was allowed to copy the inscription. Though the brass is of late date, it is of considerable interest because of the unusual amount of genealogical detail given thereon.

"The Rt. Honble James Bertie Earl of Abingdon and *Ld* Norreys of Rycot, son of Montague Earl of Lindsey (*Ld* Gt. Chamberlain of England) by Bridget his wife Baroness Norreys, sole daughter & Heir to Edward Wray Esq and the Lady Elizabeth Norreys, sole Daughter and Heir to Francis *Ld* Norreys Viscount Thame and Earl of Berkshire ; from whom the Barony of Norreys descending to him. He was for his great Loyalty and Service to *ye* Crown, Created Earl of Abingdon by K.Ch.2 A.D. 1681 He was *Ld* Lieut<sup>t</sup> of this County from the year 1674 to the year 1687 And afterwards *Ld* Lieut<sup>t</sup> and Custos Rotulorum from the 1st of K W. and Qu Ma. A.D. 1688 till *ye* year 1697. And was also Chief Justice in Eyre of all the Kings Forests &c South of Trent.

He married to his 1st wife Eleonora Eldest Daughter and at last sole Heir to Sir Hen : Lee of Ditchley in this County (by Anne his Wife Daughter of *Sr* John Danvers and Sister and Coheir to Hen Danvers Esq Nephew and Heir to Henry Earl of Danby) She dyed 31st May 1691 and left him 6 Sons Mountague (who succeeded him in his Honours) James, Henry, Robt. Peregrine and Charles and 3 Daughters Bridget Anne and Mary, and lyes here Interred with him.

In *ye* year 1698 He took to his 2nd Wife Catherine Eldest Daughter and Coheir to Sir Thomas Chamberlaine Bart and Widow of Richd Visct Wenman and he departed this life at Westmr on Monday 22 May 1699 in the 46th year of his age, to the general Lamentation of his Country of whose Liberty and Religion he was a Constant and Zealous Asserter."

The Complete Peerage, New Ed., states that James Bertie, Earl of Abingdon was buried 29 May 1699 at Rycote Chapel in par. of Haseley Oxon. (M.I.).

The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> JAMES BERTIE Earl of ABINGDON, and L<sup>d</sup> NORREYS of Rycot, Son of Mountage Earl of Lindsey (L<sup>d</sup> Great Chamberlain of England) by Bridget his Wife Baronesse Norreys, sole Daughter and Heir to Edward Wray Esq<sup>r</sup> & the Lady Elizabeth Norreys, sole Daughter and Heir to Francis L<sup>d</sup> Norreys, Viscount Thame and Earl of Berkshire; from whom the Barony of Norreys descending to him, He was for his Great Loyalty and Services to y<sup>e</sup> Crown, Created Earl of Abingdon by K. Ch<sup>s</sup>. A<sup>d</sup>. 1681.

He was L<sup>d</sup> Lieut<sup>nt</sup> of this County from the year 1674 to the year 1687. And afterwards L<sup>d</sup> Lieut<sup>nt</sup> and Custos Rotulorum from the 1<sup>st</sup> of K<sup>th</sup> & Qu<sup>th</sup> Ma. A<sup>d</sup>. 1688. till y<sup>e</sup> year 1697. And was also Chief Justice in Eyre of all the Kings Forests &c. South of Trent.

He married to his 1<sup>st</sup> Wife Eleonora Eldest Daughter & at last sole Heir to S<sup>r</sup> Hen. Lee of Ditchley in this County (by Anne his Wife Daughter of S<sup>r</sup> John Danvers & Sister & Coheir to Hen. Danvers Esq<sup>r</sup> Nephew & Heir to Hen. Earl of Danby) She dyed 7<sup>th</sup> May A<sup>d</sup>. 1691. & left him 6<sup>th</sup> Son. Mounragu (who succeeded him in his Honours) James Henry Rob<sup>t</sup> Peregrine & Charles, & 3 Daughters. Bridget Anne & Mary, & lyes here. Interred with him.

In y<sup>e</sup> year 1698. He took to his 2<sup>d</sup> Wife Catherine Eldest Daughter & Coheir to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Chamberlaine Bar<sup>t</sup> & Widow of Rich<sup>d</sup> Visc<sup>nt</sup> Wenman, and he departed this life at Westm<sup>st</sup> on Monday 22<sup>d</sup> May a<sup>d</sup>. 1699 in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of his age to the general Lamentation of his Country, of whose Liberty and Religion he was a constant & zealous Affection



The reference to a Monumental Inscription doubtless refers to this brass, but how or when it was removed is not known.

It will be noticed that the inscription gives the date of the creation of the Earldom as 1681. This is an error, the correct date being 30 November, 1682.

F.T.

#### VICTORY AT WHITE HORSE HILL.

“The bald announcement that the Air Ministry does not intend to proceed with the purchase of land on the Berkshire Downs is a significant confession that the Ministry, like the War Office, has found public opinion a little too strong for it. The preservation movement may justly inscribe White Horse Hill among the battle honours on its banner, and hope that at least the State will not in future appear among the enemies of amenity. Rejoicing will, nevertheless, be tempered by the knowledge that machinery for preventing similar attacks in the future is ludicrously feeble and that until it has been overhauled there is nothing more to be hoped than that some of the grosser abuses, like this one, may be prevented by an enormous effort of protest.”

—*The Week-end-Review*, November 15, 1930.

#### ROMAN REMAINS AT READING.

There has been an interesting discovery of Roman pottery at the Prospect Park Brick Works, Reading. The date of the fragments is approximately 200 A.D. and they were found near the surface on what is called the Tilehurst ridge. At first, the find was thought to be Romano-British—some of the ware is coarse gritted ware—but this belief has now been abandoned. There is, as yet, no traces of Samian ware nor ornamented pieces; but several of the pots have the typical moulded lip or rim. In some of the fragments were charcoal remains. It seems not unlikely that investigations now proceeding will bring to light sufficient evidence to prove whether on the site was a rubbish heap of shards from a temporary camp or the debris from a Roman villa or more permanent encampment.

Should the find be important the ancient discussion regarding the site of Calleva will no doubt again be raised and the belief of the Rev. Dr. Beeke, in a paper published in *Archaeologia* for 1807, asserting that Reading was the ancient Calleva, may conceivably be argued anew. Dr. Beeke derives the name of the manor of Coley in Reading from Calleva, but little support has been forthcoming for this. What is more important, in the light of the recent discovery, is that a part of Tilehurst is called the City. There is room for considerable investigation here.

#### WATLINGTON HOUSE, READING.

Some of the readers of this Journal may recall that last year a very praiseworthy effort was made to save for posterity a late 17th century house in Reading known as Watlington House. Happily the effort was successful and an appeal is now being widely circulated to raise funds to restore it both for permanent use as a centre of recreational and social activities and to preserve it as a landmark of ancient Reading. The house was built in 1688, by Samuel Watlington, Mayor of Reading in 1695 and 1705, and a member of a family of clothiers of considerable local civic importance in the 16th century when the making of cloth was the chief and most prosperous occupation in that town.

#### BULMERSHE MANOR HOUSE, NEAR READING.

For some time an endeavour has been made to save from demolition another ancient house in the vicinity of the County town—Bulmershe Manor House, in the parish of Sonning. About a third part only of the original house remains, but this has sufficient interest and charm to warrant its preservation. It was built towards the end of the 16th century and for two centuries was the home of a branch of the Blagrove family, some members of which also lived at Southcote in the Kennet valley about five miles away on the western side of the town. At the time of writing it is uncertain whether the house can be saved ; but a vigorous attack is again being launched and it is hoped it will succeed. The owners of the site are the Corporation of Reading who are erecting a new Casual Ward on land adjoining.