

Reviews

THE FAMILY OF SAVAGE OF CO. WILTS., WITH A PASSING NOTE ON THE DORMANT EARLDOM OF RIVERS. By L. G. H. Horton-Smith. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$. Reprint from Vol. 60, No. 158 of "The Wiltshire Magazine," pp. 309-332, July, 1944.

This article deals with the Visitation Family and some nine generations, the material extending from the middle of the 16th to early in the 18th century. The data are derived from the Visitations, wills, codicils and administrations together with the author's own voluminous records of the family. The author seeks the assistance of readers in the solution of certain questions which are listed. Among the 46 families mentioned are the following connected with Berkshire:—Hidden, Clydesdale, Head, Parker and Baily. Edward Savage of Froxfield, Wilts. (who died in 1743) was considered to have been the proper person to claim, and through whom his descendants in their turn were entitled to claim, the dormant Earldom of Rivers.

BOARS HILL, OXFORD. By Mary Bright Rix. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 30 + 3 plates and 1 map. Oxford: Hall the Printer. 3s. 0d.

This booklet is divided into two parts—one deals with "Boars Hill 50 years ago" and the other with "Recollections of Boars Hill." Details are given of the early history, botany, ornithology, roads and tracks and old inhabitants, all in a chatty narrative style.

The hamlet of Boars Hill was discovered as a delectable spot about 70 years ago and then contained the small farm Pickett's Heath, two cottages called Blue Bell, a cluster near Jarn Tree and four or five on Cotmore's Hill with another three or four near the bottom of it. Everyone was a farm labourer or market gardener and nearly all were interrelated. A labourer's wage 50 years ago was 9s. 6d. a week with 2s. 6d. to be paid for rent. Private residential houses began to be built about 1887. Two poets laureate have lived there. Anecdotes concerning Jowett, Swinburne and Mathew Arnold are introduced. In Part II the author is concerned with the local names on the Award Map of 1795 (a photograph of which is included as an end folder), the industry called Slop Work, the Nursing Association and local childrens' games. The title of the Map is "A Survey of Wootton and Boars Hill in the Parish of Cumnor..." and it establishes the various farms to which common land is allotted, earlier enclosures and the extent of Blagrove Farm for some reason not explained.

Details are given of "Slop Work" or the sewing of corduroy trousers for an Abingdon firm done by the women who "finished" the material which they received already cut out and with seams stitched. The author deserves credit for having put on record so much of interest concerning Boars Hill before the facts are forgotten. Her enterprize should be an encouragement to others to do likewise in Berkshire.