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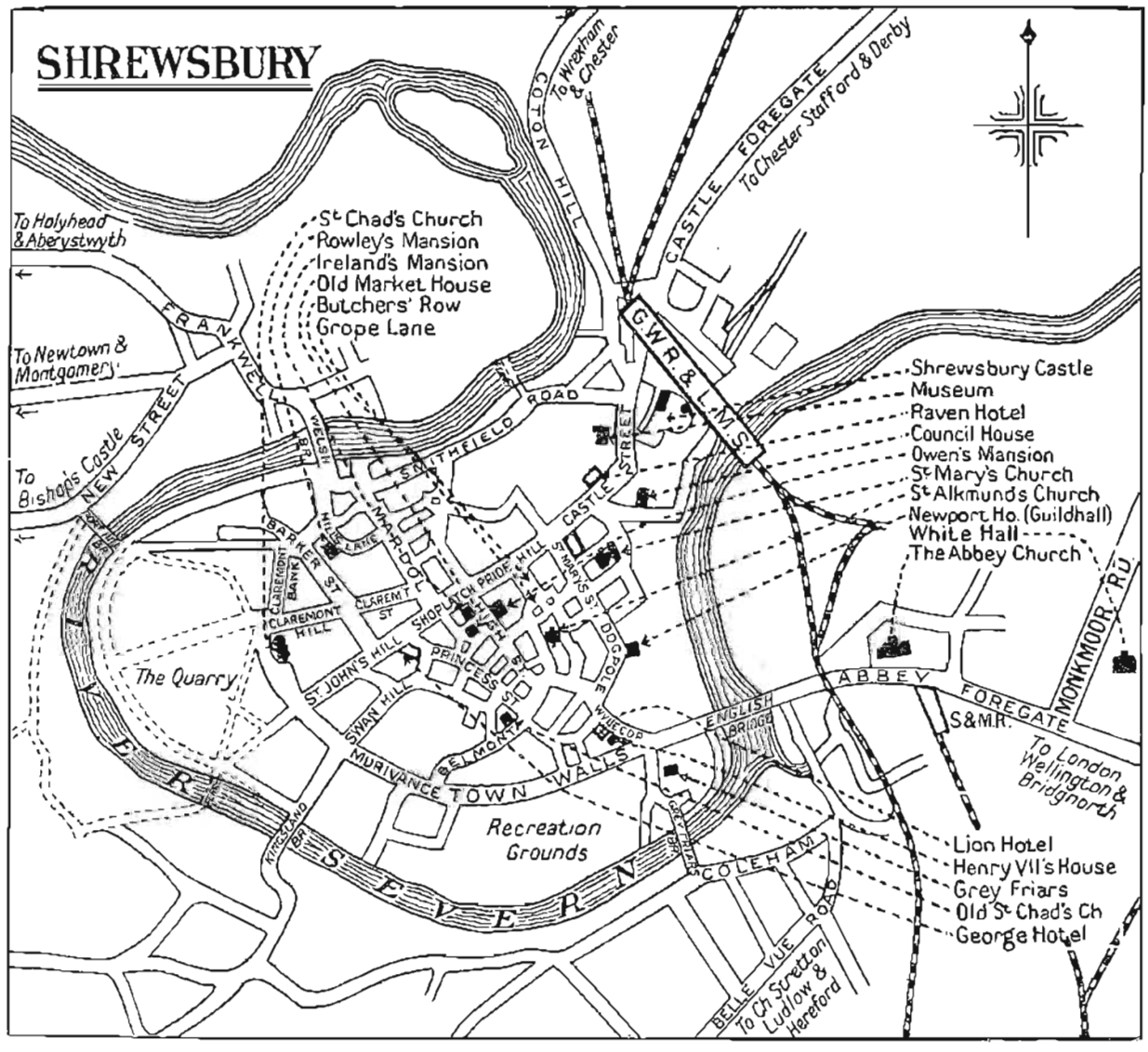

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

THE SUMMER MEETING AT SHREWSBURY[1]

TUESDAY, 24TH JULY, TO WEDNESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1928

President: Professor Sir Charles Oman, K.B.E., LL.D., D.C.L., M.P.
Hon. Secretary of the Meeting: W. C. Soden-Bird.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 24th July, 2.30 p.m. Reception by Mayor and Corporation at the Castle. The Castle. Council House. St. Mary's church. The Abbey church. Whitehall. Evening meeting: Mayoral reception and exhibition of civic regalia.

Wednesday, 25th July. Motor to Buildwas abbey. Madeley Court. Motor to Haughmond abbey. Old St. Chad's church. The Museum. Evening meeting.

Thursday, 26th July. Motor to Stokesay castle and church. Shipton Hall and church. Much Wenlock: priory, guildhall and church. Evening meeting.

Friday, 27th July. Motor to Shawbury church and moated enclosure. Moreton Corbet church and castle. High Ercall church and Hall. Lilleshall abbey. Evening meeting.

Saturday, 28th July. Motor to Condover Hall and church. Langley chapel and manor-house gateway. Acton Burnell church, manor-house and barn. Longnor Hall. Pitchford church, and Hall.

Monday, 30th July. Motor to Boscobel House. White Ladies. Tong church. Shifnal church. Bridgnorth church, castle, etc. Evening meeting.

Tuesday, 31st July. Motor to Bromfield church. Ludlow: castle, Thomas of Canterbury's chapel, Grammar school, the Feathers, Reader's house, church, Broadgate and Ludford bridge. Church Stretton church. Annual general meeting.

Wednesday, 1st August. Motor to Wroxeter, Roman remains and church. Perambulation of Shrewsbury: Greyfriars, town walls, market-house, old houses and Shrewsbury School Library.

[1] The Institute has met twice previously at Shrewsbury, in 1855 (*Arch. Journ.* xii, 380) and in 1894 (li, 402).

Throughout the meeting the Institute was welcomed at the various churches by the incumbents thereof. Since these churches have been described in detail by Dr. D. H. S. Cranage in his work, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire* (1901), only summary accounts of them are here included.

Tuesday, 24th July, 1928

MAYORAL RECEPTION. At 2.30 p.m. the company was received at Shrewsbury Castle by the Mayor (Councillor F. Smout) on behalf of the Corporation of Shrewsbury, and by Sir Offley Wakeman, Bt., on behalf of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

The President (Sir Charles Oman) then gave the following address on the Castle :—

SHREWSBURY CASTLE. It would ill become one who is a stranger in your midst to undertake to lecture you on the history of your own historic castle. Rather is it my duty to congratulate you on having recovered for public use, and rehabilitated for ceremonies such as this, the remains of the splendid buildings which once constituted one of the greatest royal strongholds of England. The last time that I passed this way, I was able to see nothing but your well-known Norman gateway—the rest was closed up and inaccessible. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Society which bought, and the Corporation which rescued from obscurity, so much that seemed lost, and that was in reality only hidden and perverted to modern domestic uses. It is delightful to see these broad and lofty spaces once more revealed.

The fates of the great royal castles of England have been very diverse—often very melancholy. Of all the long list of those which existed in the twelfth century Windsor is the only one which remains a habitual residence of the King. A castle was originally 'a fortified dwelling intended for purposes of residence and defence.' When men set themselves to build places of defence, it is because they know that they are in danger either from a foreign enemy, or from civil strife within the State, or from the uprising of a discontented subject population. All three of these causes operated in the castle-building of William the Conqueror, Henry I or Henry II. The King required strongholds to guard his coast—like Dover, Porchester, or Pevensey—or strategical points within his realm, like Wallingford, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or Windsor. Others were needed to overawe large cities, like those of London, Lincoln, Bristol or York. But others again had their main object as centres of observation placed in the midst of regions where feudal subjects were too strong, and too frequently disloyal—wherever earls or barons were well fortified, the King liked to have a first-class royal stronghold in their midst.

Shrewsbury castle, as every one knows, was originally built by a great feudal lord : but before it was forty years old it had been seized by the Crown, and had become the central point of the King's authority in the Marches. It was suited as such alike by the fact that it overawed a considerable town, by its tactical strength on the high narrow isthmus of the loop of the Severn

by its strategical position as covering one of the great passages of that river, and most of all for its nearness to the Welsh frontier. After Henry I had put down the great house of Montgomery in 1103, and had driven its chiefs overseas, after the famous siege of Bridgnorth, he made it the centre of his power in the West. There was no new earl created for Shopshire for more than 300 years, and its chief castle became the symbol of royal authority among the Marcher lords, as well as the base for all English invasions of Mid-Wales. In that way it corresponded with Chester in the North, and Hereford in the South. The barons of the March were proverbially turbulent and lawless, and their castles were numberless. The Welsh frontier always needed watching, though the Kings of Powys, the immediate neighbours of Shropshire, were far less given to rebellion against their suzerain than their northern rivals in Snowdonia. Yet more than once Powys gave trouble, and its king in his stronghold of Castel Coch, by Welshpool, was very close to Shrewsbury.

Once Shrewsbury fell into the hands of baronial rebels—when in 1138 William Fitzalan of Oswestry got possession of it in the name of Queen Matilda, and held it for a moment against King Stephen, but had to fly, leaving his garrison to bear the brunt of the royal vengeance.

Two generations later the Crown lost Shrewsbury for another short space, during the rebellion of the Barons of the Great Charter against King John. This was in 1215, when it was surrendered without a blow struck to Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales, who was acting as the ally of the Barons. But with John's death, and the pacification that followed, the castle reverted again to the Crown, and retained its old position as the centre of the royal power in the Marches.

The original Norman 'motte and bailey' castle had been repeatedly repaired and altered in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but there is little of its early form to show, except the famous entrance gate. The present remains date mainly to Edward I, who, after his final conquest of North Wales, did not confine his castle-building to the rearing of his magnificent fortresses in the newly subdued land, at Conway, Carnarvon, and Harlech, but took care of the base-positions also. The great hall, the corner turrets, the fragments of the inner bailey and the postern all seem to belong to his work.

Why, it may be asked, did so little addition or improvement follow in later years, so that at Shrewsbury as in so many other places, Edward I is the last great builder? The answer is *not* that Wales had been conquered, nor that the barons of the March had lost their ancient turbulence. As a matter of fact they had not. It comes from a great military change—the fact that the fourteenth century discovered that a system of passive defence behind walls may prolong a war, but does not end it. Protracted local sieges have not the decisive effect on the general future of a war, if one party has got hold of the open country, the capital, and the machinery of government. Success lies with the party that mobilizes first, and compels the enemy to accept a battle in the open field. The beaten foe who shuts himself up in castles has a certain doom, though it may be long delayed. That is why the annals of civil war in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are mainly records of sieges, but those of civil war in the fourteenth and fifteenth

centuries are stories of pitched battles. From Boroughbridge to Bosworth the fate of the English kings and rebels was settled in the open field. The defeated party seldom took refuge in castles—rather it fled over sea to France or Flanders. During the Wars of the Roses there were hundreds of castles in England susceptible of defence—but we can but count a dozen sieges in thirty years of strife. No better example of the rule can be found than the fact that there was no Shrewsbury siege, but a Shrewsbury Field in 1403.

The barons of the fifteenth century rarely spent much money on bastions and gate-houses—they either abandoned their old castles as cramped and uncomfortable quarters, or else they modernized them into spacious mansions of little military value. When Leland went on his antiquarian tours round England in the days of Henry VIII, he reported everywhere famous old castles as far gone to decay, or falling into absolute ruin. And this was not from destructive sieges, nor from deliberate dismantling, but from their neglect and evacuation. The Tudor nobility built comfortable manors, not uncomfortable castles, for their habitual residence.

The king's castles suffered no less than those of the barons. They were so ruinous that their master did not wish to live in many of them. Indeed, Windsor was the only one that remained a habitual royal residence. All the use that they retained was that of administrative centres for the shires: and as the castle of the county-town always contained the king's jail, and often the assize hall of his itinerant judges, these became the only parts of the castle structure that were carefully preserved and kept in constant use. The purely military sections slowly decayed away—for sheriffs were parsimonious, and constables were negligent and often non-resident. In most of the ancient royal castles the jail-aspect prevailed over all others, and finally, when the practical and humanitarian eighteenth century decided that mediaeval dungeons were insanitary, and unsuited to the modern prisoner, the old castles came down, and modern jails, more or less appropriate, were substituted for them. Such was the fate of Chester and Oxford castles, where barely a scrap of the ancient building survives—at Hereford, Gloucester, and Bristol even so much does not exist, and the antiquary searches in doubt for the very site and plan of some of the greatest and most famous of mediaeval royal castles. If Shrewsbury has fared a little better than some others, it still bears out the general rule. The distressing building which dominates the railway station, and displays over its door the bust of John Howard the philanthropist is the heir of the ancient 'gaolia regis' refofmed according to eighteenth-century standards. Some residential scraps survived, probably because the castle occasionally gave shelter to the President of the Council of the Marches of Wales, when he was not abiding in the more familiar Ludlow. But the Council of Wales fell into practical desuetude with the Commonwealth, and Charles II could give what remained of the building to Lord Newport—rather a white elephant (as we should judge) in its then condition. For the castle had been pulled about when it was a royalist headquarters in 1640–45, and dismantled by the Parliamentarians when they got possession of it. Hence the abnormal end of the remnants of the residential buildings, when they were leased in the late eighteenth century to Sir William Pulteny, and remodelled into a large private dwelling house by the architect Telford. Fortunately he did not destroy everything, but rather hid

venerable antiquities, rescued by the piety of your Horticultural Society in quite recent years, and restored, so far as was possible, only yesterday by the laudable enterprise of your Corporation—to whom be all praise and glory for a good deed.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

At 3.15 p.m. the company proceeded to the Council House or Court House, so called from its use from 1571 till the end of the seventeenth century as the place of meeting of the Court of the Marches of Wales (held alternately here and at Ludlow) and as an official residence for the President. It has a richly carved half-timber gatehouse, built in 1620 by Sir Richard Owen of Condover. The house itself, at the further end of the court, was begun in 1502 by Peter Newton. Additions were made in 1571 to meet the requirements of the Council, whose long council-chamber ran the length of the building on the first floor. The house has been almost completely modernised and is now divided into three dwellings. In one of these the old entrance-hall remains.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

St. Mary's church (Fig. 1) was then visited and was described by the Rev. Cyril E. Jarman, M.A., Vicar. The church was collegiate before the Conquest, when it possessed an estate of 1,300 acres for the maintenance of a dean, seven prebendaries and a parish priest. At the suppression of colleges its revenue was only £42, which was appropriated by Edward VI to the foundation of the free school. From a remote period until comparatively recent years it was a royal free chapel and thereby exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop.

The pre-Conquest church underlay almost the whole of the present nave, was 76 by 27 ft., and ended in an eastern apse extending to the middle of the present crossing. The Saxon walls were from 3 to 4 ft. thick, and incorporated re-used material (see *Shrops. Arch. Soc. Trans.*, 2nd Ser., vi, 359).

The Norman church consisted of chancel, transepts, nave and central tower: a western tower was added about 1170. There was a general rebuilding at the end of the twelfth century, when aisles were added to the nave, the chancel extended eastwards and the south porch erected. The chapel of the Trinity, on the south side of the chancel, was built about 1360, and a hundred years later became the chapel of the Drapers' gild; it was repaired in 1582 for the use of the scholars of the free school.

There is an unusal amount of ancient glass: the east window was made by John de Charlton and dame Hawise his consort, and was originally in the church of the Greyfriars, thence removed to old St. Chad's and subsequently given to this church; the window on the north side of the chancel depicts incidents in the life of St. Bernard and came from the abbey of Altenburg; other old glass of the fifteenth century is said to have come from the abbey of Herckenrode in Belgium, or the cathedral of Trèves.

The spire is 220 ft. high, and in 1894, when the summit was under repair, the upper part was blown down and destroyed the nave roof.

South of St. Mary's church is the half-timbered hall of the Drapers' gild, the interior panelled in oak and retaining its original furniture.

SHREWSBURY · ST MARY ·

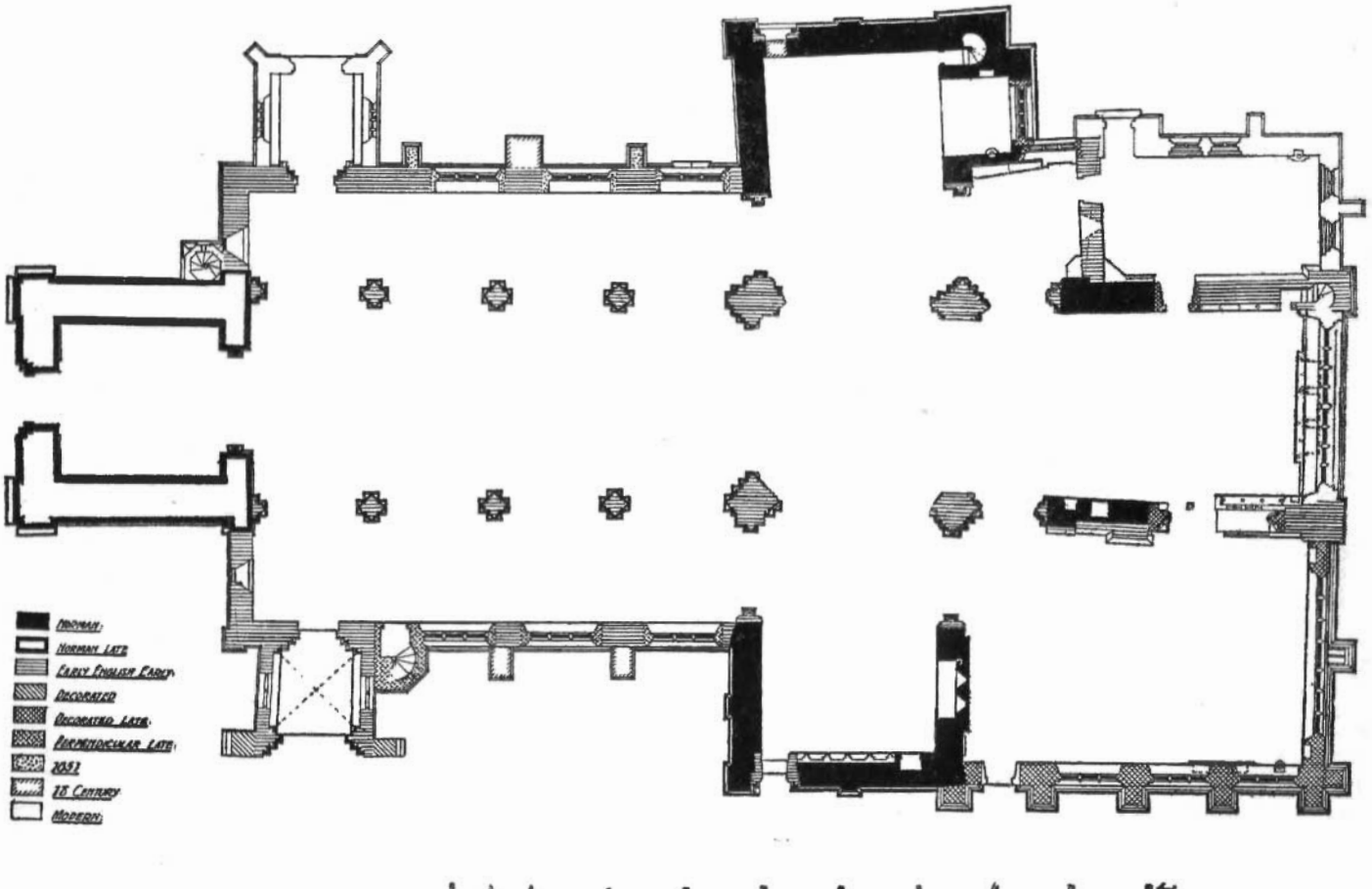

FIG. 1.—ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SHREWSBURY.

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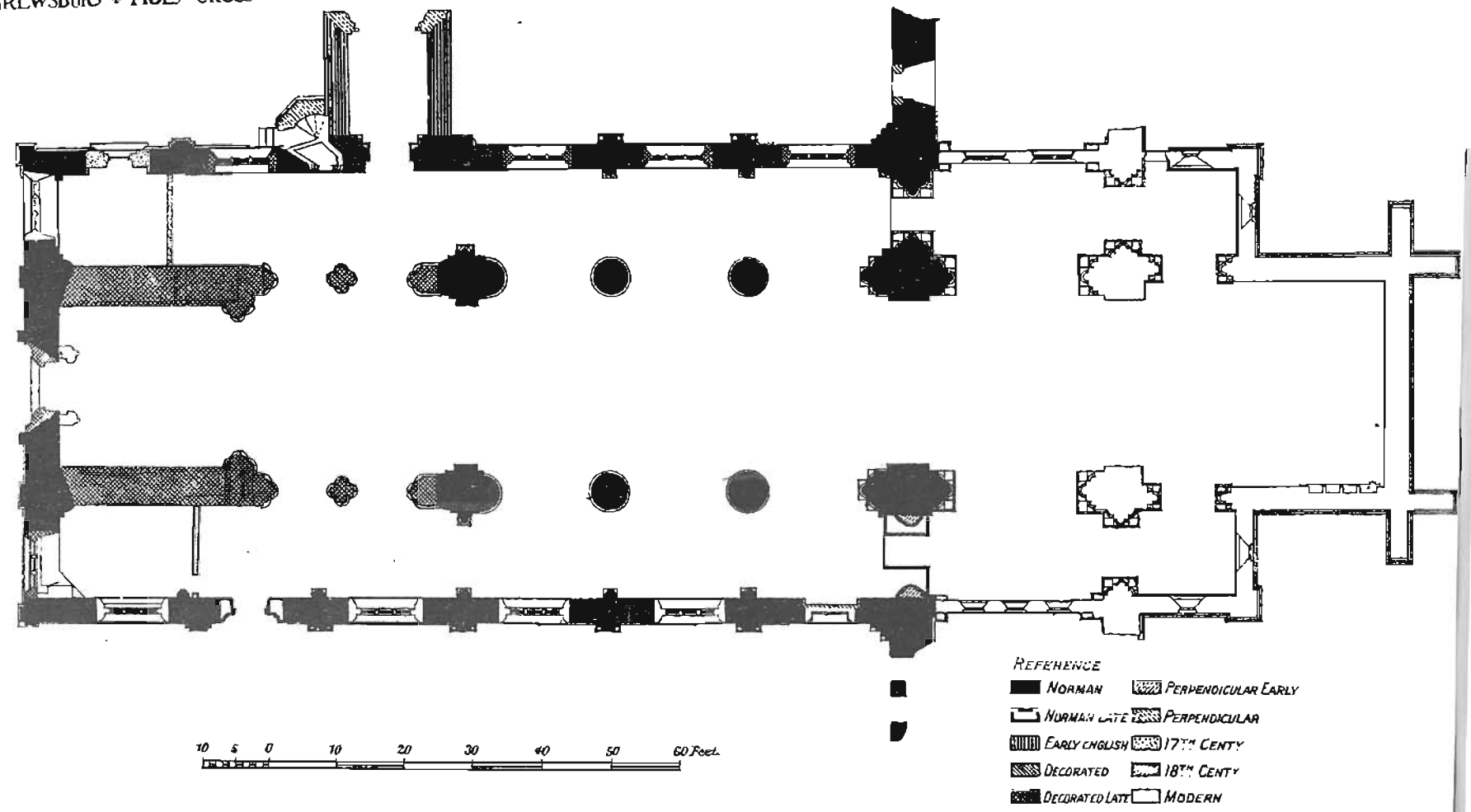
SHREWSBURY · HOLY CROSS



THE ABBEY CHURCH. At 5.0 p.m. the Abbey church (Pl. ii) was visited and was described by the Rev. Prebendary F. A. Hibbert, M.A., Vicar. The mitred abbey of St. Peter in Shrewsbury was founded before Domesday survey by Roger of Montgomery, earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, who richly endowed the foundation and caused the buildings to be erected under the directions of two monks of Seez, in Normandy.

Shrewsbury was one of the places intended by Henry VIII as the site of a bishopric, and part of the revenues of the abbey were destined for the support of the bishop and chapter with his seat in the abbey church. It was, however, granted to William Langley, a Salop tailor, and the general demolition of the buildings ' deemed superfluous ' began. The nave, however, being parochial, was left standing; it was originally seven bays in length, but in the fourteenth century a massive square tower was built on the site of the two western bays and the two bays to the east were remodelled: the remainder, however, are of the original work. There is a large north porch of the thirteenth century with an upper room, much altered in the fifteenth century. The fine chancel was built by Pearson in the last century.

The claustral buildings are all destroyed, but for some unknown reason the fourteenth-century octagonal pulpit of the frater has been allowed to remain. Other buildings of the abbey are incorporated in workshops to the south-west, and the barn of the abbey grange serves as outbuildings to ' Whitehall.'

WHITEHALL. Whitehall, in Monkmoor road, was next described by Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A. Whitehall, which stands on the site of the abbey grange, was built 1578–1582 by Richard Prince, a prosperous lawyer, of stone taken from the demolished monastery. It is a fine stone building with an octagonal turret in the centre and ornamented brick chimneys. The interior has been modernised.

There is a gate-house of the same date still standing, and an Elizabethan octagonal brick dovecot retaining its revolving ladder inside.

The monastic barn serves as out-buildings to the house, and the abbey wall bounds the garden.

RECEPTION. In the evening the company was received in the great hall of Shrewsbury castle by the Mayor, and the civic regalia and charters were described by Mr. R. F. Prideaux, Town Clerk.

Wednesday, 25th July, 1928

BUILDWAS ABBEY. At 10.30 a.m. the company arrived at Buildwas Abbey, which was described by Mr. Brakspear. Buildwas Abbey (Pl. iii) was founded on the south bank of the Severn in 1135 by Roger, bishop of Chester, for monks of the order of Savigny and was hallowed in honour of St. Chad.

In 1149 all the houses of this order were given over to the Cistercians.

It was never a rich house and at the suppression was valued at £110 19s. 3½d., so was dissolved with the lesser houses. It was granted in 1535 to Edward Lord Powis.

There is no evidence in the existing buildings of any work anterior to the union with Citeaux and the general plan is typically Cistercian.

The church is on the south side of the cloister and is 165 ft. in length; it consists of a short presbytery, transepts with two chapels to each and a nave of seven bays with aisles. The whole is standing with the exception of the aisle walls and is of one design, though there is evidence that it was long in building. The tall windows of the presbytery were originally two tiers of ordinary size, having had the wall between them cut away at a later date. The tower over the crossing remains almost to the apex of the main roofs and was possibly never much higher. There is a subvault under the end of the north transept, entered from the cloister—a unique feature, the use of which is not evident. The first pair of piers of the nave is octagonal, but the rest are circular. The west end has no doorway but has two large windows, and externally there is a deeply splayed plinth.

All the arches throughout the church are pointed and the doorways and windows are round headed.

Next to the north transept is the vestry, which is vaulted in two bays.

The chapter-house is entered from the cloister by an archway of four orders flanked by the usual windows, the outer order of which is decorated with chevrons. The chapter-house is lower than the cloister and retains its vaulting in three alleys of three bays resting upon four circular columns.

Next to the chapter-house is the parlour, vaulted in two bays.

Northward is the subvault of the dorter, of which a portion of the south end remains. The east wall of the first three bays was carried on columns and arches, which remain, and formerly opened into an eastern aisle.

Over the eastern range was the dorter, gained by a day stair in the usual position in the northern range and a night stair from the church. It was lighted by small windows, of which there are remains in the east wall.

The rest of the claustral buildings have disappeared but a fragment of the west wall of the cellarium has been exposed by excavation, and there seems to have been a lane between it and the cloister.

Eastward of the dorter range is an arcade of five thirteenth-century arches forming part of the infirmary hall which had an aisle on the south side. There are remains of buildings of the same date incorporated in the present house, which without a plan are difficult to follow but probably in the first place formed part of the visiting abbot's house.

The site of the infirmary gate-houses, guest-houses and other buildings have been lost, but it is hoped that, now this abbey is in the hands of H.M. Office of Works, in time they will be traced by excavation.

MADELEY COURT.

The party then proceeded to Madeley Court, which was described by the Rev. Prebendary W. G. Clark-Maxwell, F.S.A. Madeley Court was formerly a manor-house of the priors of Wenlock, and, at the Dissolution, was assigned as a residence to John Bayley, the last prior. Here he died on Christmas day, 1553, and part of the existing buildings may date from his time. Most of them, however, were built by Sir Robert Brooke, who purchased the manor after Bayley's death. The house is approached by a fine gateway, probably of early seventeenth-century date, flanked by octagonal towers. The carriage-way has been bricked up and the building converted into cottages. The

BUILDWAS ABBEY

GROUND-PLAN.

Plan of buildings (now a private residence) shewing arrangement before alteration – from measurements by Joseph Potter. Archt. 1847.

Aisle

Wall (now destroyed)

Open Court

Building now known as the "Chapel"

Site of Cellarium

Site of Lane

Site of Cloister

Aisle

Wall (now destroyed)

Open Court

Wall (now destroyed)

Building now known as the "Chapel"

Wall now destroyed

Slype

Chapter House

Slype

Dates

Norman

Early English

Buildings shewn in outline mostly Post-Reformation but incorporating parts of apparently E.E. date.

Entrance to Crypt

N. TRANSEPT

Chapel

Chapel

Screen

Screen

Site of Stone Screens 2 ft. High.

Site of Choir Stalls

NAVE

Site of Nave Altar

Pulpitum

CHOIR

PRESBYTERY

Screen

Site of Choir Stalls

Sedilia

Screen

Screen

Screen

Aisle

Chapel

S. TRANSEPT

Chapel

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 Feet

Scale.

THE WATFORD ENGRAVING Co
5. LAMBS CONDUIT St HOLBORN W.C.

Court proper is an L-shaped and many-gabled building, now partly inhabited. On the ground floor is a large dining-room with a great fireplace, there is a fine oak staircase, and many upper rooms, all gradually falling into decay. In the middle of the desolate walled garden is a great square block of stone, on three sides of which are cup-holes, each of which once held a dial.

HAUGHMOND ABBEY.

After luncheon in Shrewsbury, the company proceeded to Haughmond abbey, which was described by Mr. Brakspear (Pl. iv). Haughmond abbey was founded by William FitzAlan of Clun for canons of the order of St. Augustine, but the date is uncertain. It was hallowed in honour of St. John the Evangelist, and was worth £257 13s. 7d. clear, at the suppression.

It was begun on a very modest scale. The foundations of the eastern part of this church have been found; it consisted of a square-ended presbytery, transepts with a single chapel to the east of each and the beginning of an aisleless nave. Between the presbytery and chapels were open arches.

Apparently, before this church was completed the building of the whole abbey was begun upon a larger scale. The new church was built to the north of the old one and consisted of a square-ended aiseless presbytery, transepts with two chapels to the east of each, and a long aisleless nave. A peculiarity of the church is the great rise of the floor from the west to the east owing to the slope of the hill. The lower parts of the walls of the presbytery and southern chapel are actually formed out of the live rock. The great change of level was at the pulpitum in the second bay of the nave and there were six steps from the quire up to the presbytery.

The western processional doorway remains and is of unusual work of late twelfth-century date. The second order of the jambs was cut, in the fourteenth century, into figures of St. Peter and St. Paul.

In the thirteenth century an aisle was added on the north side of the nave. The first two bays were not pierced but the other five bays had arches with bold piers of unusual design. At the fifth bay was a large porch. In the fifteenth century the chapel next the presbytery on the north was rebuilt, together with the east side of the north transepts, but the reason is not clear, though it may have been in consequence of the fall of the tower.

Next to the south transept was a passage or vestry, and adjoining it was the chapter-house, of which the west front remains, of the same twelfth-century work as the processional doorway. The jambs of the openings have also been cut into figures of saints. After the suppression the chapter-house was reduced in size and converted into a room, the ceiling of which, of heavy moulded beams, remains.

The parlour was next on the south.

The rest of the eastern range was placed at an angle towards the south-east and was partly cut out of the rock. In the subvault were the warming-house, a passage, and another large chamber, subdivided in later days. There was a row of circular columns down the middle, somewhat irregularly spaced, which seem to have supported cross beams and not vaulting.

The canons' dorter did not, as usual, abut the church but was southward of the chapter-house, and was reached by a staircase on the west side, though possibly there was a gallery over the chapter-house and a night stair in the transept.

At the south end of the dorter was the reredorter placed diagonally thereto, in a south-west direction, with the drain on the south-east side. The peculiar position of this building may be due to the utilisation of a natural water-course. The plan of the whole eastern range is the most erratic of any known example.

On the south side of the cloister was the frater, built of the same unusual work as the chapter-house entrance, and there was a passage between it and the dorter range. At the west end are remains of lockers and a serving hatch beneath a large window in the gable. The frater was almost on the same level as the cloister, but owing to the fall of the ground had cellarage beneath. In the west wall of the cloister, next the frater door, is a large lavatory, arranged beneath two round-headed arches of the same work as the frater.

There was a western range, now completely disappeared, which was probably the guest-house.

Southward of the frater was a second court, bounded on the east by the dorter range. On the south side was the infirmary hall and the abbot's lodging. The former, of the fourteenth century, remains, more or less complete. At the west end were the screens, behind which in the west wall are two doorways which led to the pantry and buttery, and above is a large window flanked by octagonal turrets. At the north end of the screens is the chief entrance, and at the south end another doorway to a camera adjoining the south-west angle of the hall.

The abbot's lodging is at the eastern end of the hall, at right angles thereto ; it was of two storeys and has the remains of a fine fifteenth-century bay window at the south end.

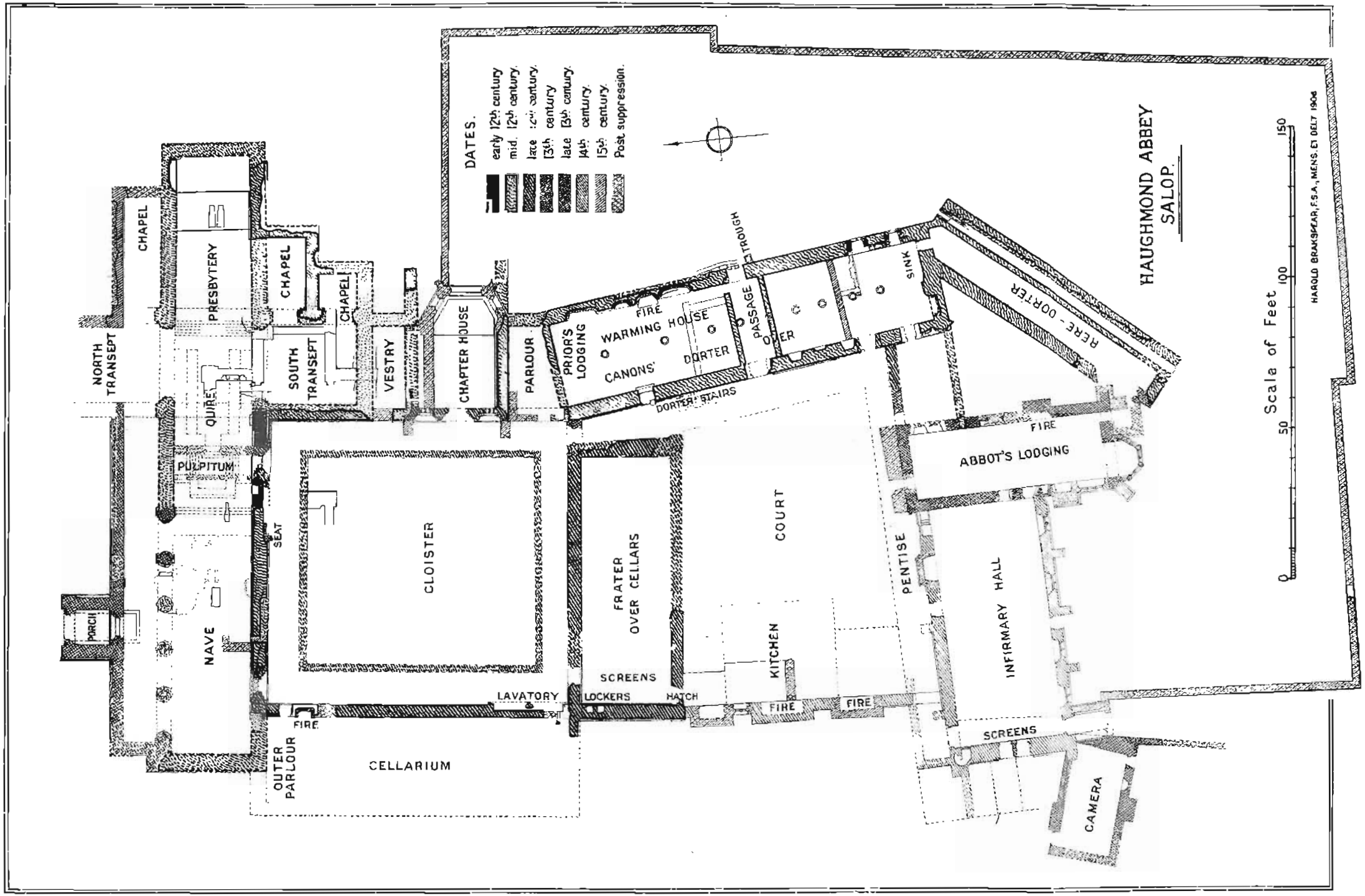
The west side of the court was occupied by the kitchen, of which the breasts of three large fireplaces remain. It was conveniently placed so as to serve the frater, the infirmary, the abbot's lodging and, through the cellar under the frater, the guest-house in the western range.

The buildings round the second court and the chapter-house were converted, after the suppression, into a dwelling-house for the Barker family. This was destroyed in the Rebellion by setting fire to the yule log.

ST. CHAD S, SHREWS BURY.

The company then returned to Shrewsbury, where Old St. Chad's church was described by Mr. Brakspear. Long before the conquest St. Chad's church was that of a college of priests, consisting of a dean, ten prebendaries and two vicars choral, and was possessed of ten hides of land. It was valued at the suppression (1547) at about £50. The tithes were given to the king's school and the college buildings granted to Hugh Edwards.

The church was cruciform with a central tower : in 1393 the roofs and spire, which was covered with lead, were destroyed by fire. In 1788 repairs by underbuilding one of the piers of the central tower were in operation when ' the slight vibration occasioned by the chimes proclaiming their matin tune at four o'clock on 9th July caused the decayed pillar to give way, when the tower rent asunder and with the heavy peal of bells it contained, falling on the roof of the nave and transepts, crushed those parts of the edifice into ruinous desolation, producing a scene of horrid confusion more easily to be imagined than described.'


HAUGHMOND ABBEY
SALOP.
DATES.
early 12th century
mid. 12th century.
late 12th century.
13th century
late 13th century.
14th century.
15th century.
Post suppression.
HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A., MEM. ET DELT 1906
Scale of Feet
0
50
100
150
CHAPEL
PRESBYTERY
CHAPEL
CHAPEL
NORTH TRANSEPT
QUIRE
SOUTH TRANSEPT
VESTRY
CHAPTER HOUSE
PARLOUR
PRIOR'S LODGING
FIRE
WARMING HOUSE
CANONS'
DORTER
PASSAGE
OUTER
TROUGH
SINK
REREDORTER
DORTER STAIRS
FIRE
ABBOT'S LODGING
PULPITUM
SEAT
CLOISTER
FRATER OVER CELLARS
COURT
PENTISE
INFIRMARY HALL
PORCH
NAVE
SCREENS
LAVATORY
LOCKERS
HATCH
KITCHEN
FIRE
FIRE
SCREENS
FIRE
OUTER PARLOUR
CELLARIUM
CAMERA

The only portion of the church now remaining is the chapel on the south side of the quire, which retains the arches from the quire and transept and the sedilia of the former. There is a vice at the south-west angle.

THE MUSEUM. After tea, the Museum (formerly The Schools), was described by Mr. E. T. James, Librarian and Curator. Shrewsbury school, founded and endowed by Edward VI in 1551, was originally established in a timber building, to which a tower, a chapel and a library were added in the reign of Elizabeth. That portion of the present building which housed the library and chapel was begun in 1595 and completed in 1617: the remainder, which lies at right-angles and was occupied by schoolrooms, was built in 1627–1630. The school was removed to its present site across the river in 1882, and the old school buildings were acquired by the corporation in 1885 for use as a public library and museum.

On the upper floor of the building ('Top Schools') is a collection of exhibits from Wroxeter. Special attention was directed to the four military tombstones, which indicate the presence of legionary and auxiliary troops; the great forum inscription; the contents of the two crockery stalls from the forum colonnade, one of them comprising the largest find of the sort yet made in Britain; the fragment of a certificate of citizenship granted to a time-expired soldier, important for the light it throws on the composition of the British army in the reign of Hadrian; and the fragments of a pillar with reliefs of deities, which probably illustrates a form of worship rarely traceable in this country, though not uncommon in eastern Gaul and Germany.

Thursday, 26th July, 1928

STOKESAY CASTLE. At 11.0 a.m. the company arrived at Stokesay castle (Fig. 2), which was described by Mr. Brakspear. Stokesay castle is more correctly a fortified house than a castle. In 1291 one Lawrence of Ludlow procured licence to crenellate, but the house was already built. It consists of a large hall, with open roof and central hearth, is lighted with two-light windows in dormer gables, and is entered by a pointed arch at its lower end. There is a block of buildings at each end of the hall; that at the lower end is of three storeys, with chambers having fireplaces, and that at the upper end contains the solar over a cellar. The kitchen must have been detached but is destroyed. As part of the work, after the licence to crenellate was obtained, a picturesque tower of three storeys was built to the south in communication with the solar, and the court was walled. The gatehouse of this date has been superseded by a half-timber gatehouse of the sixteenth century. The whole building was defended by a moat.

STOKESAY CHURCH. Stokesay church was then described by Mr. Brakspear. The church (St. John the Baptist) was much damaged in the Civil war, the nave being practically rebuilt in 1654. There is a western tower. The south door is Norman. The chancel contains a remarkable seventeenth-century double canopied pew. On the walls of the

nave are life-size figures, possibly representing Moses and Aaron, and texts in seventeenth-century lettering.

SHIPTON HALL AND CHURCH.

After luncheon the party proceeded to Shipton Hall and church, which was described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell. Shipton Hall was originally part of the possessions of Wenlock priory, and passed successively to Sir Christopher Hatton, the Lutwyches and the Myttons. The present house is a fine Elizabethan stone mansion with twisted brick chimneys, built in 1569 by one of the Mytton family in the shape of the letter E, with a square turret rising in the eastern re-entering angle, and a long roof gallery. Possibly it incorporates material from an older building, and considerable additions were made in the middle of the eighteenth century. The house is approached

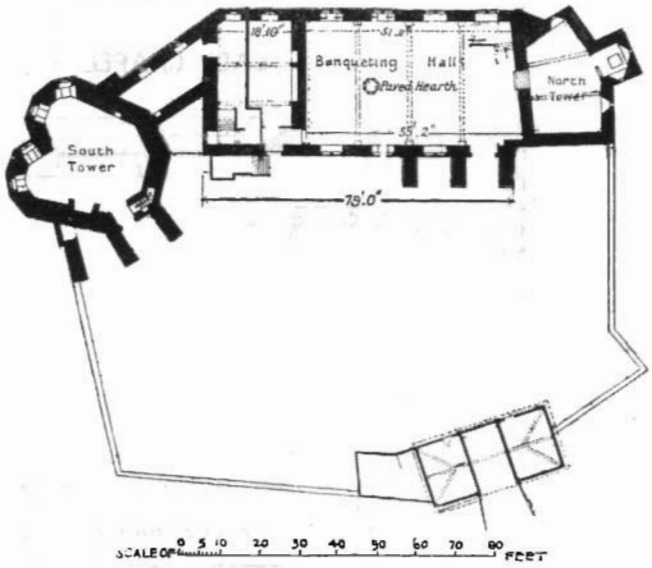


FIG. 2. STOKESAY CASTLE

(Reproduced by permission from J. A. Gotch's *Growth of the English House*)

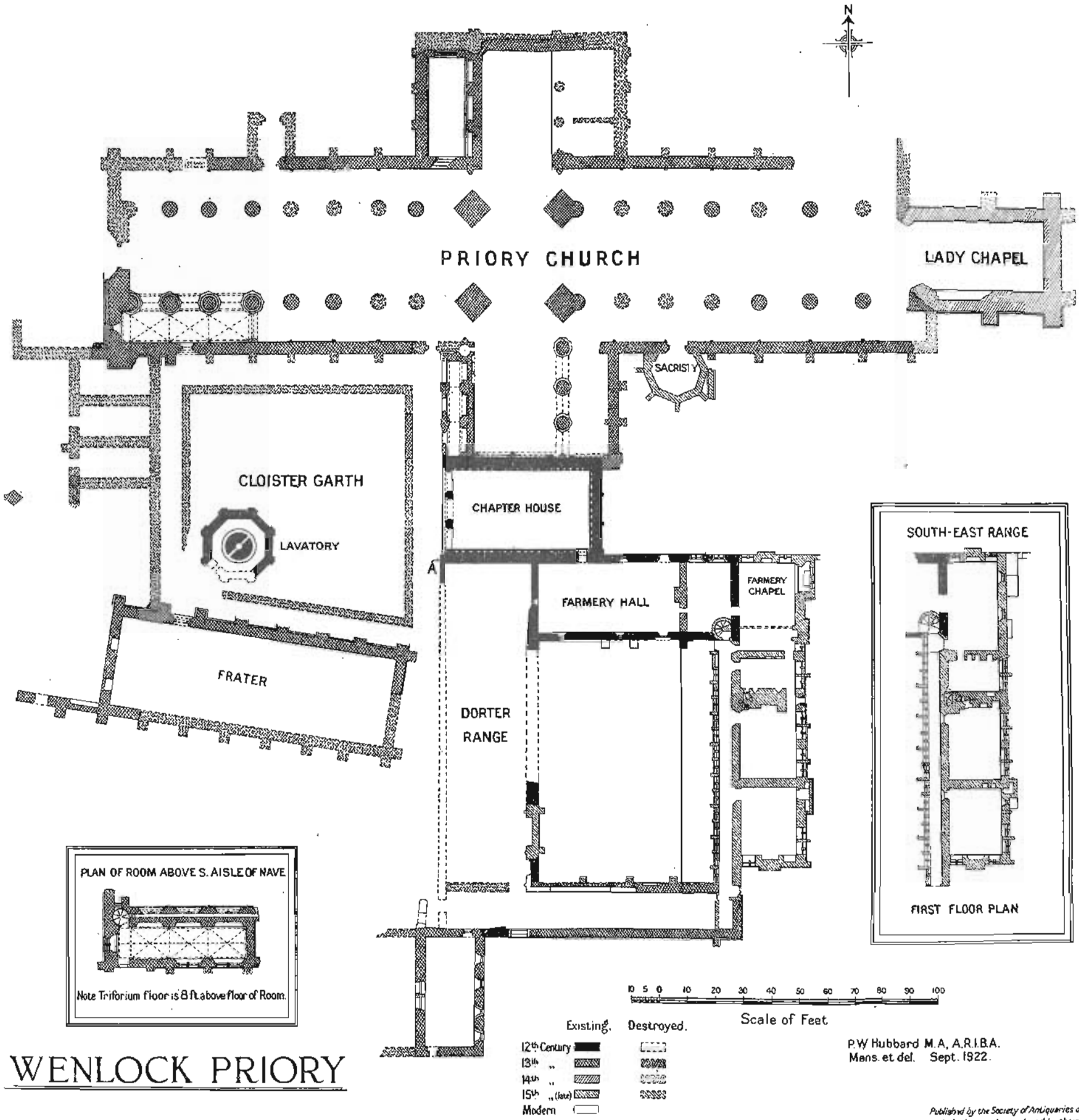
by a rising terraced fore-court, and behind is an old bowling green. The interior contains some fine plaster ceilings, much panelling and a great staircase.

On the rising ground to the east stands a circular dovecot. Its conical roof has gone, but the central post and rotating ladder are still in position.

Adjoining on the west is the church of St. James, with fragments of early glass, a Norman chancel arch and an Elizabethan chancel.

WENLOCK PRIORY.

The party then motored to Wenlock priory (Pl. v), which was described by the Very Rev. D. H. S. Cranage, Litt.D., F.S.A., Dean of Norwich. There had been a monastic house at Wenlock since the seventh century, when a house of nuns was founded by St. Milburge, daughter of Merewald, the founder of Leominster



WENLOCK PRIORY

P.W. Hubbard M.A., A.R.I.B.A.
Mens. et del. Sept. 1922.

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priory, niece of Wulfhere, and grand-daughter of Penda, kings of Mercia. Apparently this lasted until destroyed by the Danes about 874. Before the Conquest a new foundation was instituted by Leofric, earl of Mercia, and Lady Godiva, probably of the usual Saxon character, semi-monastic, semi-secular.

Authentic history begins with the foundation of a great house of monks between 1071 and 1086 by Roger of Montgomery, the first Norman earl of Shrewsbury. It is possible that he intended it at first to be a Benedictine abbey, like his later house at Shrewsbury, but finally he decided to affiliate it to the Cluniac system. Within a few years of its foundation we find it a dependency of La Charité-sur-Loire, one of the five principal daughter-houses of Cluny. It remained an alien priory till 1395, when Richard II declared it to be denizen. Its independence of La Charité, however, was not formally recognised by papal bull till 1494. Unlike the Cluniac house of Bermondsey it was never elevated to be an abbey, though loosely so-called to this day.

In 1901 excavations revealed the foundations of a small building, 38 ft. by 28, which almost certainly was the church of St. Milburge. It was under the later central tower, and had an eastern termination, apsidal inside and square outside. The eastern central apse of Roger of Montgomery's church was also found, and a smaller one on the south side. There is, no doubt, a similar one on the north side. These apses are a few feet east of the later central tower.

The whole church was evidently rebuilt in the early part of the thirteenth century, though it may have been begun at the end of the twelfth. The lady-chapel at the extreme east is a hundred years later.

A unique feature in the church is the upper story to the western part of the south aisle of the nave. This may have been the *scriptorium*. There are few remains of the cloister, but the lavatory, a fine octagonal building, uncovered in 1878, shows clearly its arrangements. It is near the fine doorway of the frater, which, like the kitchen west of it, is ruined, as is the western range. The chapter-house, next the south transept, retains the three arches from the cloister and the north wall, all of late Norman work. The dorter and the undercroft below have gone. East of them there remains one of the finest houses made out of monastic buildings in England. It incorporates the infirmary and the prior's lodging. The original infirmary hall dates from the twelfth century, and has a magnificent addition of the latter part of the fifteenth. The chapel retains its altar. There are some remains of the earlier prior's lodge of the thirteenth century, and of a large hall which may have served for the misericorde as well as the prior's hall. There were evidently two towers at the entrance to the priory; one remains.

MUCH WENLOCK GUILDHALL.

After tea, Much Wenlock guildhall was described by Dr. Cranage. The southern part of the guildhall is medieval, and so is the lower story of the northern part. The upper chamber of the latter was built in 1577. The difference of moulding of the timber-work in this part, and that south of it, will be clearly noticed. The latter must date from the fourteenth century. The whipping-post remains, and also the stocks. In the chamber upstairs there

is a good deal of woodwork of 1589 and later dates. Much of it was collected by the late Dr. W. P. Brookes.

MUCH WENLOCK CHURCH.

Much Wenlock church (Pl. vi) was also described by Dr. Cranage. In pre-conquest times there was no special parish church at Wenlock, though the parishioners were doubtless admitted to the conventual church. This state of things continued till after the foundation of the Cluniac priory, but under the influence of a great religious house a town was growing up, and a parish church was soon founded for its needs. The exact date is not known, but the church in its present condition affords abundant evidence of a Norman commencement. At that time a long, aisleless nave and square chancel were built, probably with the tower at the south-west corner. Soon this tower seems to have been removed, and a fine tower erected at the west end, covering up what is the finest west front in any parish church in the county. The south aisle was built in the thirteenth century, and the lady chapel east of it in the fourteenth. The porch is of early perpendicular date and has an upper chamber. In the fifteenth century the chancel was extended, and later a chamber was built on its north side. This is now the vestry, but may originally have been a *domus inclusa*.

Friday, 27th July, 1928

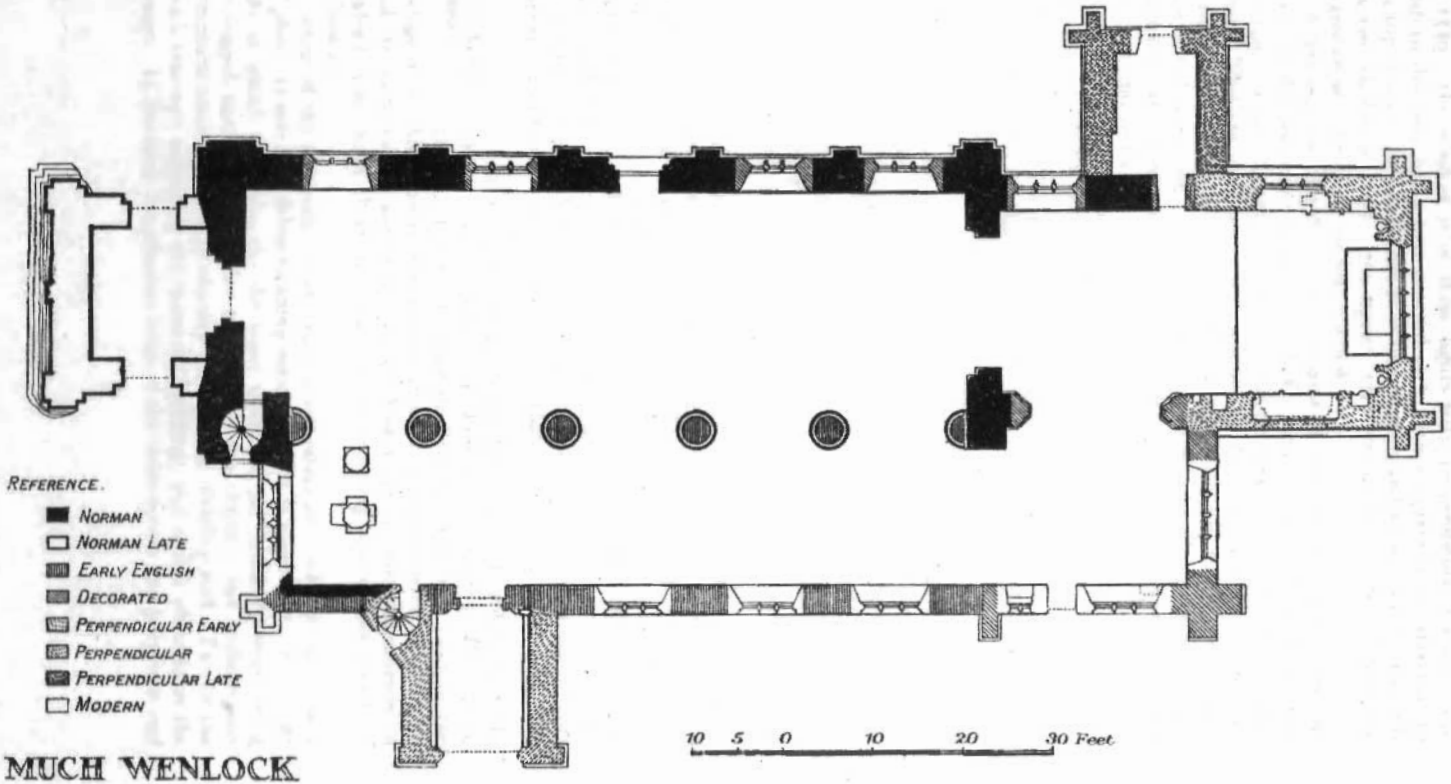
SHAWBURY CHURCH AND MOAT.

At 9.45 a.m. the company arrived at Shawbury church and moated enclosure, which were described by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A. Shawbury church (St. Mary the Virgin) is probably of Saxon foundation, being mentioned in Domesday book, but nothing now remains earlier than the latter part of the Norman period (aisle arcades and south wall). The chancel dates from the thirteenth century, the north aisle and tower and the east window from the late perpendicular period. The font *may* be as early as the eleventh century. The holy water stoup, discovered in 1918, is Norman.

On falling ground to the south-east of the church lies a large rectangular moated enclosure of uncertain date, measuring about sixty yards by fifty. The moat is fed by springs from the hillside, the lower (east) limb is heavily embanked, and the entrance is on the west side.

MORETON CORBET CHURCH AND CASTLE.

Moreton Corbet church and castle, a mile from Shawbury, were next described by the Rev. Edward C. Pigot, M.A., Rector. Moreton Corbet church (St. Bartholomew), founded probably in the twelfth century, consists of chancel, nave, south aisle and western tower. The chancel is Norman, but the east wall was rebuilt in 1778, and the whole was restored and richly decorated in 1905. The nave is divided from the chancel by a plain pointed arch, and has an early seventeenth-century collar-beam roof. The south aisle (the Corbet chapel) is of mid-fourteenth-century date and has a squint to the chancel. It contains two fine table-tombs, (i) of Sir Robert Corbet (d. 1513) and Elizabeth his wife (d. 1563), and (ii) of Robert's second son, Richard, and his wife Mary (1567). The lower part of the tower was built



MUCH WENLOCK

in 1539; the window is of three lights with perpendicular tracery: the western doorway has a four-centred arch with a square label, attached to the top of which are the Prince of Wales' feathers and a rose: in the spandrils are two shields of arms: the upper story was built in 1769. There are fragments of old glass in the east window.

Adjoining the church are the remains of two houses. The older one bears on the doorway the initials S. A. C. 1579. These refer to Sarah and Andrew Corbet (d. 1579), whose son Robert was the builder of the later house. This was begun in 1606 'to gratifie the fancy he had for architecture' (Camden). The house is of brick cased with Grinshill stone, resting on a base of red sandstone. The lower story is Doric and the upper Ionic. On the frieze, alternating with the Tudor rose, lozenges and ox-skulls, are the elephant and castle and raven, badges of the Corbet family. Robert's death prevented the completion of the house, which was defended for the king, but taken by the Parliament in 1644 and burnt.

HIGH ERCALL CHURCH AND HALL.

The party then proceeded to High Ercall church and High Ercall Hall, which were described by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher. High Ercall church, formerly dedicated in honour of St. Edward the Confessor, but now in honour of St. Michael and All Angels, was originally of transitional Norman date, and many details of the aisle arcades are of this period. In the chancel is a free-stone effigy of a knight with curious spurs and a pilgrim's gourd, *c.* 1300. Over the north door is a remarkable eleventh-century tympanum. The church was much damaged in the Civil war, and was practically rebuilt afterwards, affording in its present form an interesting illustration of the re-use of old material, and of seventeenth-century work in the Gothic tradition.

High Ercall Hall, adjoining the church, was built by Sir Francis Newport between 1602 and 1620, as is evidenced by two inscriptions, one still in situ on the north wall of the house, and the other recently built up with other fragments to form a garden wall. It is a good example of a small squire's house of its date, and what is left of it remains practically unaltered. The hall seems to have been laid out originally to form three, if not four, sides of a square, the south wing having disappeared. It was a strong royalist garrison, and finally surrendered in May, 1646.

LILLESHALL ABBEY.

At 3.0 p.m. the party reached Lilleshall abbey (Pl. vii), which was described by Professor Hamilton Thompson, D.Litt., F.S.A. Richard de Belmeis (Beaumes), dean of the college of St. Alkmund in Shrewsbury about 1145, surrendered that church and its lands to the use of a body of Austin canons from Dorchester in Oxford, who built their monastery on a low-lying site in the parish of Lilleshall.

Most of the monastic church remains and offers some interesting features of plan. It was an aisleless building with transepts of three bays, on the east side of which were chapels, the inner chapel of the north transept being prolonged nearly as far as the east end of the church, but without any communication with the presbytery through the dividing wall. Part of the south transept, adjoining the monastic buildings, was walled off to form the vestry. In the nave, foundations both of the choir-screen and pulpitum and

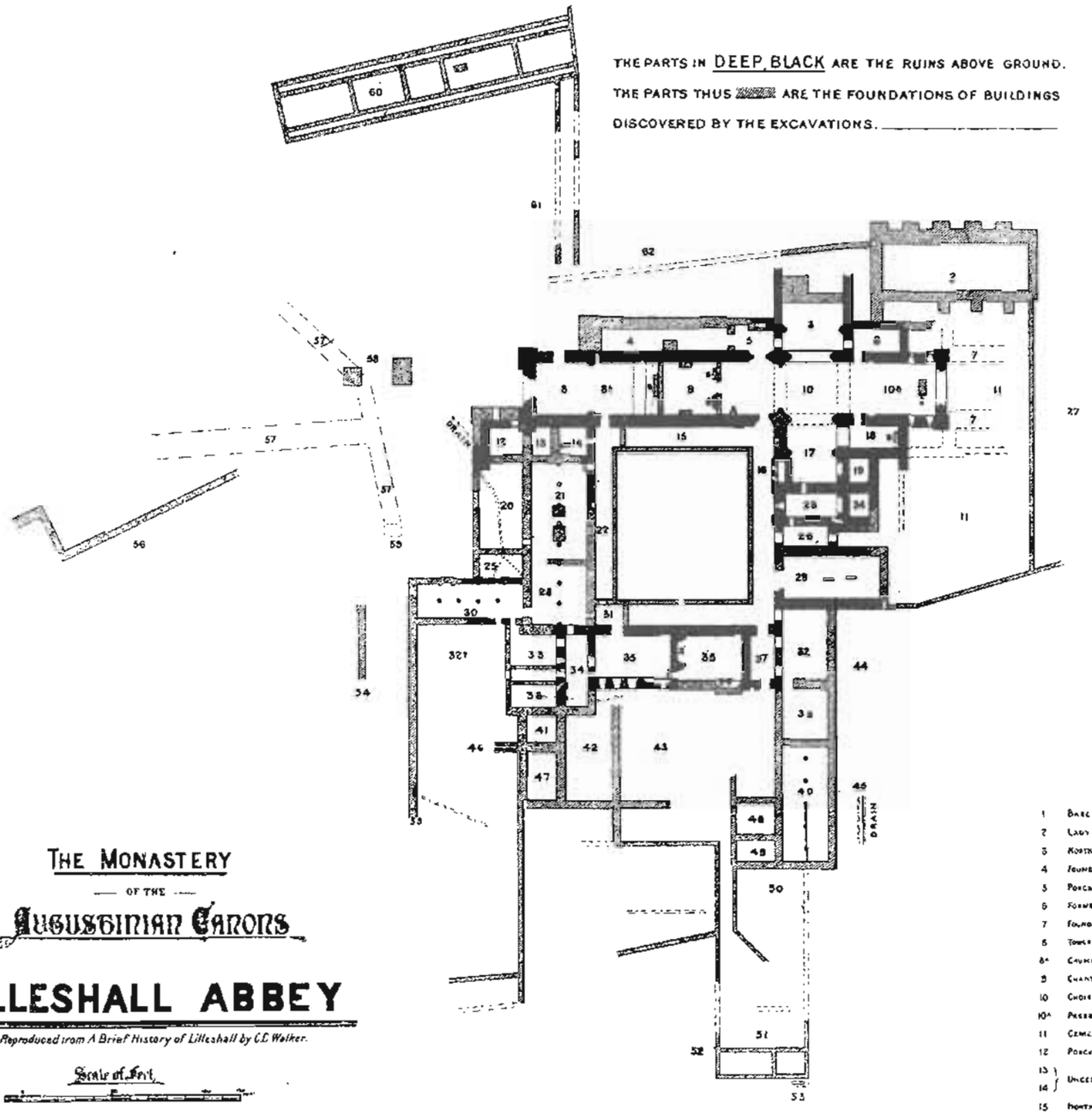
of the rood-screen remain, with traces of the nave altar and of the chapels on each side of the quire doorway. The west end of the nave was divided from the rest of the church early in the thirteenth century, forming a vaulted porch or narthex, above which it was possibly intended to raise a tower. About the same time there seems to have been some project of building a north aisle: in the end, however, a passage appears to have been built outside the north wall and to have formed a means of communication between the west end and the north transept without passing through the intervening screens. The traces of this, however, are not very definite; and all that can be said is that some passage of this kind existed.

The cloister doorway, as well as the west doorway of the church, are beautiful examples of late twelfth-century work, with round heads, delicately cut chevrons and edge-rolls, and jamb-shafts. Large portions of the east and south cloister ranges remain, but were much altered after the suppression of the monastery and are now in a very ruinous condition and difficult to examine. The internal stair to the dorter, between the transept and the site of the chapter-house, is left in the east range, and in the south range the frater is on the ground-floor with the warming house on its east side. A considerable length of the precinct wall remains, but there is no indication of the site of the gatehouse.

SHROPSHIRE CHANTRIES. At the evening meeting in St. Mary's parish room, Shrewsbury, Professor Hamilton Thompson read a paper on 'The fifteenth-century chantry foundations of Shropshire.' He distinguished briefly between the character of the earlier collegiate establishments of the county, such as the colleges of St. Mary Magdalene at Bridgnorth and St. Mary and St. Chad at Shrewsbury, and that of the churches divided among portioners, of which Burford, Holdgate, Pontesbury and Westbury were examples. In the first of these the collegiate organisation was very slight: in the second it was non-existent and there were none of the guarantees of corporate life provided by such symbols as a common seal. In neither was there any obligation of residence upon the members. The chantry colleges of the later middle ages, on the other hand, were corporate bodies composed of a warden and chaplains, bound to continual residence and to the recurrent celebration of mass and the divine office for certain special objects prescribed by their founders. Their life was regulated by a body of statutes which were submitted to the diocesan for confirmation: it had certain common features, and the stipends of warden and chaplains were shares in a common fund. The system was therefore in no small degree a return to early ideals of communities of priests, and the prevalence of chantry colleges from the middle of the fourteenth century onwards may account for the interest in such ideals indicated by the fact that an English translation of the Rule of St. Chrodegang appeared as late as the fifteenth century.

The foundation of the three chantry colleges of Battlefield (1408–9), Tong (1410) and Newport (1432) was then treated at length. Each of these, though somewhat similar in general constitution, illustrated the variety of form which such establishments might assume. In Tong could be seen an example of the process by which a parish church was occupied by a college which appropriated the rectory and maintained the cure of souls. Battlefield was a chantry chapel specially founded for that purpose and staffed by a collegiate

THE PARTS IN DEEP BLACK ARE THE RUINS ABOVE GROUND.
THE PARTS THUS ▨ ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF BUILDINGS DISCOVERED BY THE EXCAVATIONS.



THE MONASTERY
— OF THE —
AUGUSTINIAN CANONS
LILLESHALL ABBEY

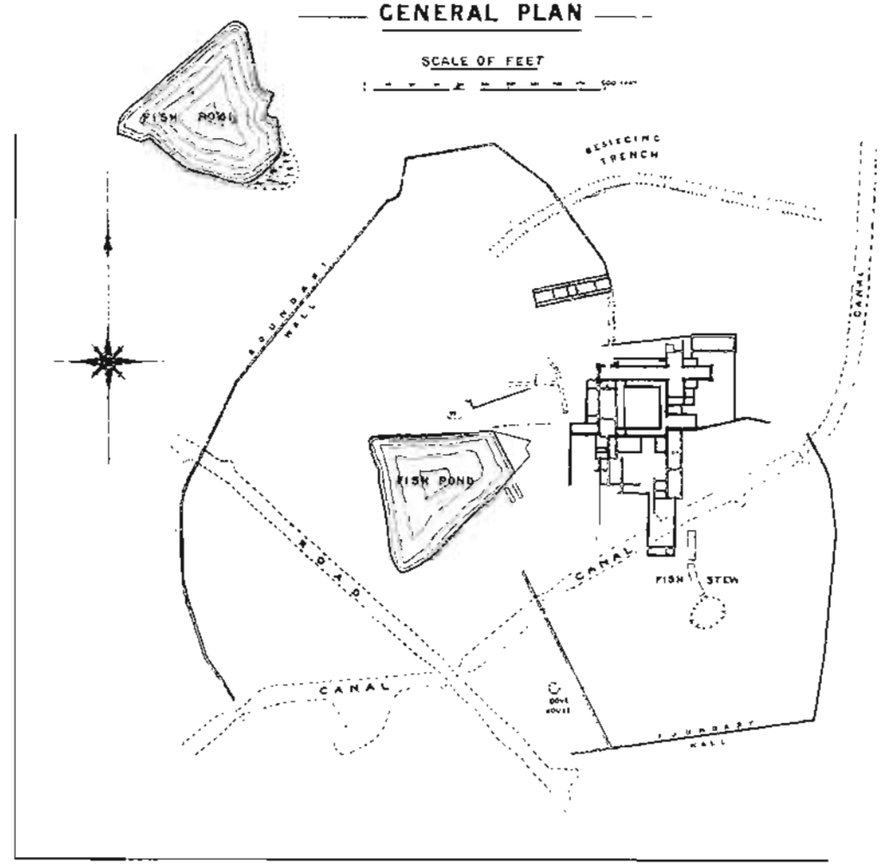
Reproduced from A Brief History of Lilleshall by C.C. Walker.

Scale of Feet

THE WATFORD ENGRAVING Co
5 LAMBS CONDUIT ST HOLBORN, W.C.

GENERAL PLAN

SCALE OF FEET



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body, which thus entered into a new building without parochial rights. The small college of two chaplains at Newport was merely a chantry established within a parish church on special endowments, and without interference with the existing appropriators of the church or the vicar who served the cure of souls. Last of all, this was to be distinguished from a chantry served by several chaplains, such as that of the Palmers' guild in Ludlow church, which had no corporate existence *per se*, but was dependent upon the secular corporation responsible for its foundation and maintenance.

Saturday, 28th July, 1928

CONDOVER CHURCH.

At 10 a.m. the company arrived at Condover church, which was described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell. St. Andrew's church, Condover, dates from the late Norman period and has some good contemporary windows in the north transept. The chancel is modern, the rest of the church is a rebuilding of 1660–1665. The south transept has a half-timbered gable-end with an elaborately carved bargeboard. There are monuments to Roger Owen (1717) by Roubilliac, to Bonham Norton (1641) and to Thomas Scriven (1587). In the vestry is a thirteenth-century chest.

Condover Hall is a particularly fine example of a late Elizabethan stone house. The manor was acquired in the reign of Henry VIII by Thomas Owen, a judge of Common Pleas, who built the house, *c.* 1595.

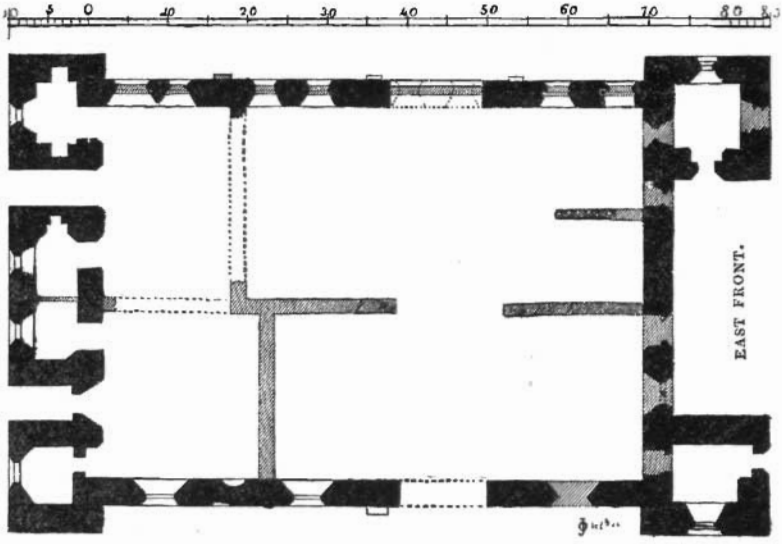
LANGLEY CHAPEL AND MANOR-HOUSE.

The party then motored to Langley chapel, which was described by Prof. Hamilton Thompson. This chapel, now disused, is a small rectangular building with a west bell-cot, situated in a remote valley among the broken hills north of Wenlock Edge. It is said to have been built in 1278 by one of the Burnell family who owned the manor. The fabric is largely medieval and its simple architectural features agree with this date. After falling into decay, it appears to have been re-roofed and repaired in 1601, the date given on the timber roof, by Sir Humphrey Lee. To this date belongs the interesting furniture which includes some rough benches, a handsome manorial pew, and a communion table surrounded on three sides by seats with kneeling-desks. This arrangement was probably intended as a compromise between the puritan custom of receiving the sacrament sitting at a table and the orthodox method of reception.

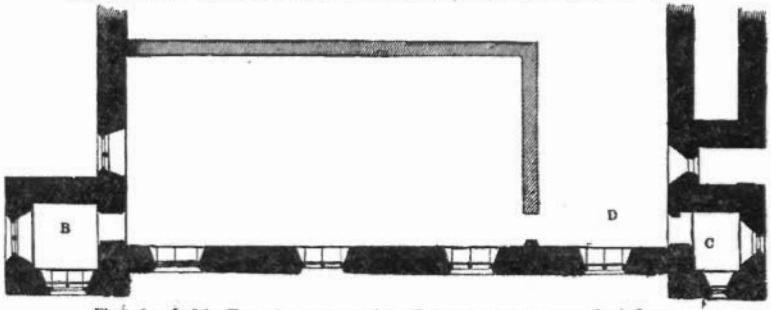
The site of the manor-house occupied by the Burnells and their successors the Lees is a short distance east of the chapel. A portion of the enclosing wall is left together with a fine gateway, built early in the sixteenth century, which received half-timber additions in the reign of Elizabeth.

ACTON BURNELL CHURCH AND CASTLE.

Acton Burnell church was reached at 1.30 p.m. and was described by Prof. Hamilton Thompson. The church of St. Mary consists of a chancel, aisleless nave and north and south transeptal chapels. A modern tower has been built in the angle between the south chapel and the transept. The whole church was rebuilt during the last quarter of the thirteenth century,



GROUND-PLAN The whole interior is now filled with stable and other farm buildings



Plan of part of the Upper Story, shewing the Hall with its entrances and windows.

A. Hall, 50 ft. by 24. B. North-eastern Tower. C. South-western Tower D. Square-headed Window, shewn in woodcut.

FIG. 3. ACTON BURNELL CASTLE
(From Parker's *Domestic Architecture*)

and there can be no doubt that the work was furthered by the lord of the manor, Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells 1275–1292 and well-known as the favourite minister and chancellor of Edward I. The chancel, much restored, has a four-light window with geometrical tracery, shafted mullions and rich mouldings; and this elaboration of detail is continued in the piscina, sedilia and trefoil-headed windows in the south wall. The nave and chapels are treated much more plainly, but the detail of the two-light geometrical windows and the piscinas in the chapels, and of the five-light window with a drop arch, to the soffit of which the head of each light is continued, above the west door, is strikingly excellent. There is a beautiful font, contemporary with the rest of the work, and some remains of mural painting in the south chapel.

The dates 1571 and 1598 occur on the roofs. There is a fine brass of Sir Nicholas Burnell (d. 1382), son of Maud Burnell and her second husband, Sir John Handlo. In the north chapel is the large coloured and gilded monument of Richard Lee (d. 1591) with his wife and family, and another monument of Sir Humphrey Lee (d. 1632) and his wife.

The manor-house or castle is contemporary with the church and was built by Robert Burnell the chancellor, about the same time as his building of his palace and chapel at Wells. It is an oblong building with slender angle towers which rise little above the level of the battlements. The hall, great chamber and chapel were upon the first floor, and the great fireplace of the kitchen remains in the west wall of the ground-floor; but the building is now merely a shell and the internal arrangements cannot be completely traced. The main floor is lighted by several two-light windows with geometrical tracery.

The so-called parliament house, at some distance from the manor-house, was the great barn of the manor and is a fine example of its type. The legend which makes it the scene of the 'parliament' which passed the statute of Acton Burnell in 1283 cannot be accepted. That assembly was not a parliament, and the meeting of Edward I and a body of councillors which issued the mandate more probably took place in the chancellor's neighbouring house.

LONGNOR HALL.

The party then motored to Longnor Hall, which was described by the owner, Major E. R. T. Corbett. The Hall bears the date 1670, and follows the typical plan of its day, with slight modifications needed to obtain space for an exceptionally ample inlaid and richly decorated staircase. Other features of especial interest are the elaborate carvings of the door-cases in the drawing room and staircase hall, and the plaster decoration on the drawing-room ceiling. Except for the substitution of Adam's grates for the open hearths, and the addition of inside porches to two bedrooms, the interior of the house remains practically unaltered. The exterior, however, has been less fortunate, as, during the first half of the eighteenth century, the windows on the ground floor were lowered nearly to the floor level, sashes being introduced in place of the original mullions and transomes. This and a later tampering with the pediment and dormers of the roof detracts from what would otherwise be an almost perfect example of Stuart architecture. The deer-park was one of the thirteen first made in England, and was also one of the smallest.

PITCHFORD CHURCH AND HALL.

Pitchford church was next visited, and was described by Prof. Hamilton Thompson. The church of St. Michael, close to Pitchford Hall, is said to have been built by Ralph of Pitchford before 1252, and the fabric is still mainly of the thirteenth century. The gable end, however, was rebuilt by Adam Ottley in 1719, and the lancet windows in the east wall were made a hundred years later. The most interesting feature of the church is the great wooden effigy of Sir John Pitchford, *c.* 1285, and there are incised slabs of members of the Ottley family, bearing the dates 1529, 1534, 1578, 1587, with makers' names on two of them.

This house, the finest specimen of 'black and white' construction in the county, was built by one of the Ottley family, which acquired the manor in 1473, and was probably begun not long after that date and finished in the course of the following century. It received some structural additions at a later date, but has been lived in continuously since it was built and has descended by inheritance from one owner to the next. The plan consists of a main block running east to west and entered on the north side: at each end this is continued southward at right-angles by east and west wings, so that the house encloses three sides of a square. Internally there are many oak-panelled rooms, one of which has a good plaster ceiling. Traces of the moat which formerly surrounded the house remain, and on the rising ground which commands the house from the south is a curious black-and-white summer-house of the Queen Anne period, built among the branches of a lime tree.

Monday, 30th July, 1928

BOSCOBEL HOUSE.

At 11 a.m. the company arrived at Boscobel House, 24 miles from Shrewsbury, along the Watling Street. The half-timbered building, now a farm-house, was described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell. It was built by John Giffard, a Roman Catholic recusant. Like Madeley Court, it contains places of concealment, one of which, in the time of the Penderels, sheltered Charles II in 1651, after the battle of Worcester. In an adjoining field is the so-called King's Oak, where Charles is traditionally said to have lain hidden on the same occasion.

WHITE LADIES.

'White Ladies,' in the parish of Brewood, next visited, was described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell (Fig. 4). The parish was partly in Staffordshire and partly in Shropshire. In the former was a Benedictine nunnery founded before the time of Richard and afterwards known as the Black Ladies. In the latter was a nunnery, founded about the same time, which has usually been reckoned among the Cistercian Houses, owing to its name; but certain evidence has lately come to light showing that in the early fourteenth century, at any rate, it belonged to the Augustinian order. The precise attribution of these small female foundations is often a matter of uncertainty, but in this case the title of 'White Ladies' may be due simply to the contrast with the Benedictine habit of the 'Black Ladies' of Brewood. The nunnery of Grace Dieu in Charnwood Forest, also of the Augustinian order, styled themselves also

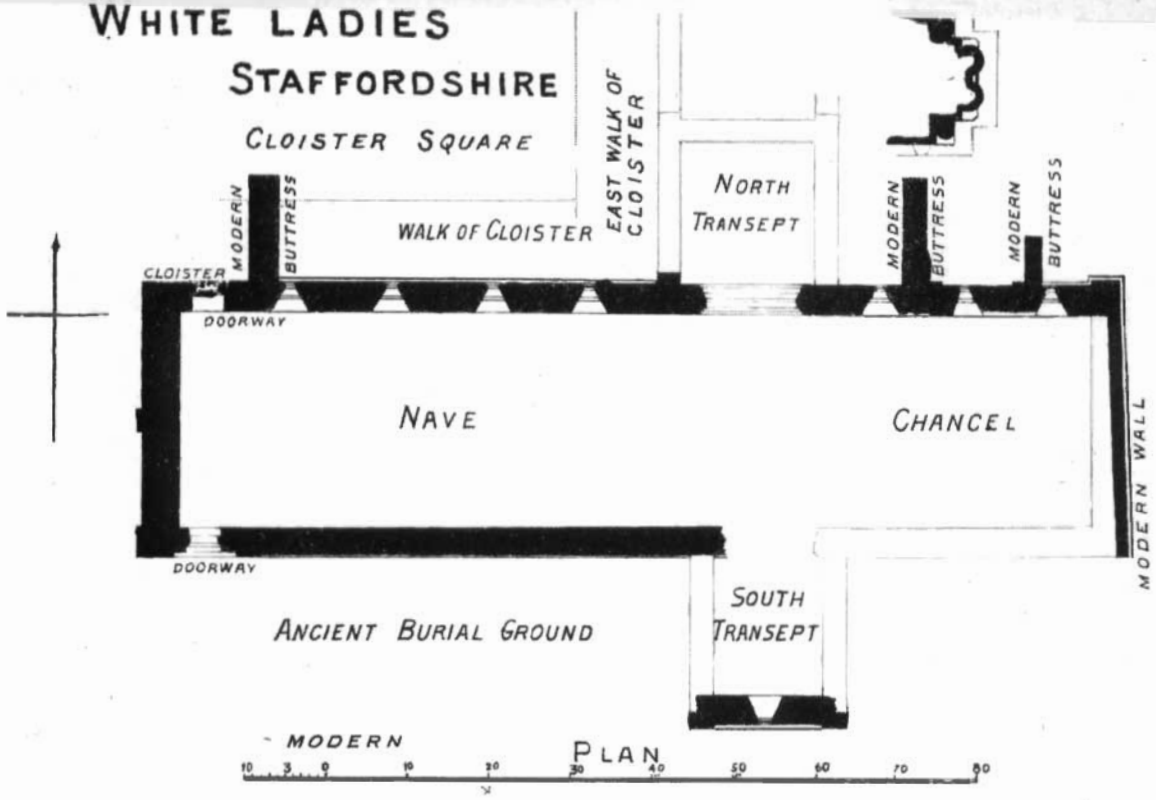

WHITE LADIES
STAFFORDSHIRE
CLOISTER SQUARE
EAST WALK OF CLOISTER
NORTH TRANSEPT
MODERN BUTTRESS
MODERN BUTTRESS
MODERN BUTTRESS
WALK OF CLOISTER
CLOISTER DOORWAY
DOORWAY
NAVE
CHANCEL
MODERN WALL
SOUTH TRANSEPT
ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND
MODERN
PLAN
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

FIG. 4

White Ladies, and it is stated in the Suppression Reports of 1536 that this was the only house of that habit in the kingdom; possibly the White Ladies of Brewood may have come by that time to reckon themselves as Cistercians.

There are records in the Lichfield Episcopal Registers of several visitations of the house, a fact which militates against its being considered Cistercian, as this was an 'exempt order'; there was trouble at one period with some runaway nuns, and Bishop Northburgh found it necessary to issue injunctions against the ladies keeping hunting dogs, which leads one to conjecture that the discipline of the house left something to be desired.

At the Dissolution the house contained but six religious, and was valued at no more than £17 10s. 8d. clear income. After the suppression the site was granted to William Whorwood.

The existing remains consist of portions of the church, an aisleless building with small transepts, about 112 ft. by 27 ft. The north wall of the presbytery remains, with three round-headed windows and pilaster buttresses. There is an arch of two members to the north transept, and the north wall of the nave also stands to its full height and is pierced with four similar round-headed windows and a doorway at the west end. The west end had no entrance but there is a doorway in the south wall immediately opposite that on the north. The south wall of the south transept also remains with a single window. The cloister was on the north side of the nave. There are no indications that any alterations were made to the original church, and nothing can now be traced of the other buildings. The half-timbered house, erected on the site after the dissolution, which is said to have sheltered king Charles, has been entirely demolished; it is shown in Buck's view, about 1730.

TONG CHURCH.

The party then proceeded to Tong church (Fig. 5), which was described by Prof. Hamilton Thompson. The advowson of the parish church of St. Bartholomew, Tong, given to Shrewsbury abbey by Roger de Montgomery before 1094, was purchased in 1410 from the abbot and convent by Isabel, widow of Sir Fulk Penbrugge (Pembridge), in association with two clerks, Walter Swan and William Mosse. On 25 November in the same year licence was granted to these three by royal letters patent to erect the church into a college of five priest-chaplains, one of whom was to be warden, two clerks and thirteen alms-people. The rectory was appropriated to the college, and the cure of souls entrusted to the warden without the ordination of a vicarage.

The church was almost entirely rebuilt at this date, and traces of an older building are slight and uncertain. The plan consists of chancel with vestry on the north, tower between chancel and nave, and nave with north and south aisles prolonged eastward so as to engage the tower. There is a south porch, east of which a small chapel, added in 1515 and called the 'golden chapel,' projects beyond the aisle. This plan with its broad aisles suggests a church originally cruciform with a central tower, which was succeeded by the present octagonal tower with its low spire. Dr. Cranage, however, in his *Churches of Shropshire*, has suggested that the south arcade, which shows some differences of detail from the north, is partly of the thirteenth century, and from the fact that the hood-mouldings of the arches on this side are next the aisle argues that it was the north arcade of a church the site of whose nave is occupied by the present south aisle. It is possible that part

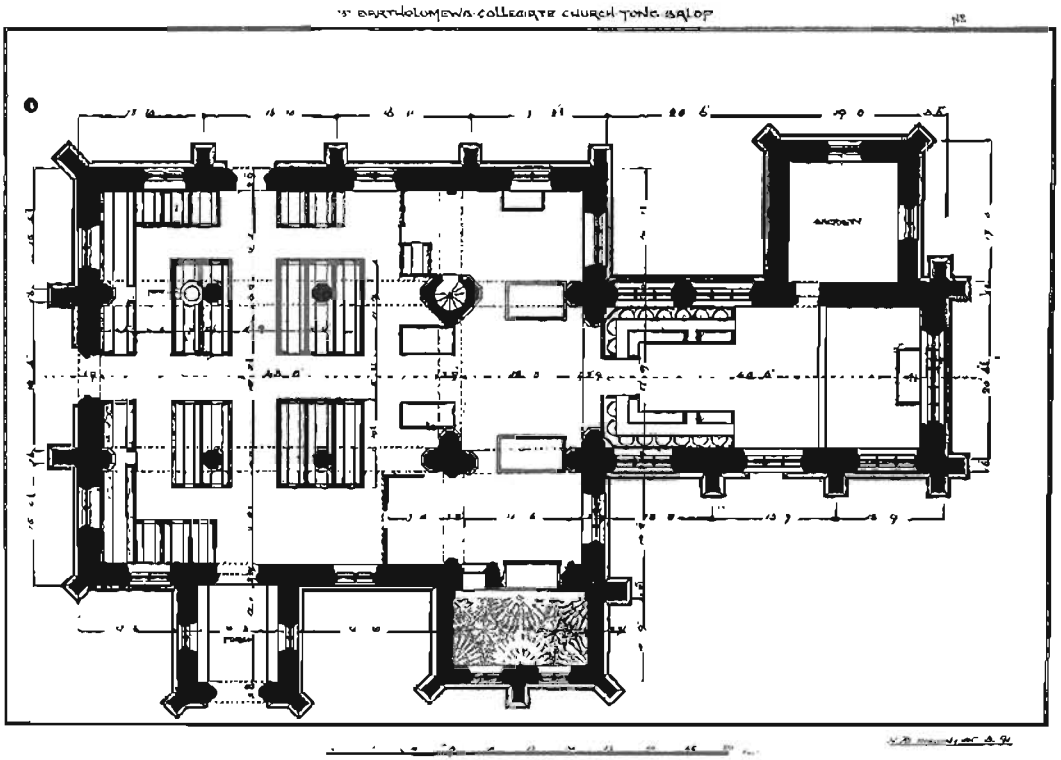


FIG. 5. PLAN OF TONG CHURCH
(Drawn and measured by Mr. Harold Brakspear)

of a thirteenth-century arcade was retained, but it may be noted that the hood-mouldings of the south arcade at Shifnal are also next the aisle, where there is no question that the nave is on its original site.

Apart from the elaborate fan vault of the golden chapel, the architectural details of the church are simple. Its furniture and fittings, however, are of great beauty. The handsome choir-stalls with carved ends and misericords remain together with the rood-screen, and there is a considerable amount of old glass in the east window. The magnificent series of monuments illustrates the descent of the manor and of the advowson of the college as follows :

(1) Alabaster table-tomb with effigies of Sir Fulk Penbrugge (d 1408–9) and Isabel his wife. On her death in 1446 or 1447, the property passed to Sir Richard Vernon of Haddon in Derbyshire, the grandson of her husband's sister Juliana.

(2) Alabaster table-tomb with effigies of Sir Richard Vernon (d. 1451) and Benedicta Ludlow his wife.

(3) Table-tomb with brasses of Sir William Vernon, son of above (d. 1467) and Margaret Twynfen his wife.

(4) Table-tomb between south aisle and golden chapel of Sir Henry Vernon, son of above (d. 1516) and Anne Talbot his iwfe.

(5) Table-tomb of Richard Vernon, son of above (d. 1517) and Margaret Dymoke his wife.

(6) Table-tomb with incised slab of Humphrey Vernon, third son of Sir Henry, and Alice Ludlow his wife.

(7) Brass in floor of the golden chapel of Arthur Vernon, rector of Whitchurch (d. 1515), youngest son of Sir Henry.

(8) Table-tombs of Sir Thomas Stanley (d. 1576) and Margaret Vernon his wife, daughter and co-heiress of Sir George Vernon, and of their son Sir Edward Vernon (d. 1632). On the death of Sir George in 1567 the Tong property descended to Margaret, while the Derbyshire estates went to her sister Dorothy, the wife of John Manners.

In the vestry there is some medieval embroidery and a library presented to the church by Lord Pierrepont.

Mr. Aymer Vallance commented upon the position of the rood-loft stair in the N.W. pier of the tower, and pointed out that the loft covered the upper part of the space between it and the screen.

SHIFNAL CHURCH.

After luncheon, Shifnal church was described by Prof. Hamilton Thompson. The church of St. Andrew has developed from a large cruciform church without aisles, built in the second half of the twelfth cetury : its history closely resembles that of the not far distant church of Gnosall. The north wall of the western part of the present chancel is of this date and retains two round-headed windows with external jamb-shafts and pilaster buttresses. The transepts and west wall are also substantially of this building, and traces have been found of an apsidal chapel east of the south transept. The fine east arch of the central tower remains at the back of the arch which carries the east wall of its successor.

The nave was aisled in the later part of the thirteenth century, when a large south porch was built with an upper chamber which is carried back into

the church over a low vaulted bay in the adjoining aisle, with a screen on the side next the nave. This porch was subsequently enlarged eastwards.

In the next century the crossing and transepts were remodelled and a new tower built upon arches and piers inside the original crossing. At the same time a bay was added to the chancel, with an east window of unusual tracery. It is noticeable that the string-courses of the east wall are continued round the long chapel south of the chancel, the sedilia of which have been cut into by the sill of the window above. This chapel, however, does not appear to have been finished until 1360, to which date belongs the arcade between it and the chancel. It is known as the Moreton chapel and contains a number of later tombs, chiefly of the family of Brigges. After this date little appears to have been done to the building until 1592, when in consequence of a fire, the striking hammer-beam roof was made for the nave and the north transept was partly reconstructed. The north aisle was rebuilt in modern times.

There is an external tomb-recess in the south wall of the chancel, containing a female effigy; and in the north wall inside the church is the effigy of Thomas Foster, vicar, who died in 1526. The church, which had previously been in the gift of the abbot and convent of Shrewsbury, was appropriated in the fifteenth century to the college of Battlefield, when a vicarage was ordained.

BRIDGNORTH. The party then motored to Bridgnorth, where Prebendary Clark-Maxwell acted as guide. 'Bishop Percy's house' was first visited. It was built in 1580 by Richard Forester, secretary to bishop Bonner, and was at one time known as 'Forester's Folly.' Its present name is due to its being the birthplace, in 1729, of bishop Thomas Percy, author of the *Reliques of English Poetry*. It is a handsome specimen of timber architecture and retains (walled up) the great stone fireplace with inscription above it. A square projection at the back of the house contains the kitchen, and a smaller one the staircase, which enclosed a hoist for provisions, and gave access to the upper storeys, the topmost of which formed a long gallery.

THE CASTLE. The company then proceeded to Bridgnorth castle. The existing remains of the castle consist of no more than a considerable fragment of the twelfth-century keep, leaning at a marked angle from the perpendicular, the result of the 'slighting' in 1646. The castle was founded by Robert of Montgomery in 1099. It was captured by Henry I in 1101, and henceforward was retained in the king's hands. The present fragments, however, date more probably from the reign of Henry II, when the castle was once more held against the king, this time by Hugh de Mortimer. In the Civil war the castle and town were held for the king and were captured by the Parliamentary forces in 1646. The platform of the inner ward commands a striking view over the valley of the Severn.

On the way to St. Leonard's church, the following buildings were passed:—

THE TOWN-HALL, which dates from 1653, when it replaced an older structure destroyed in the fire of 1646. It is of timber raised on eleven stone arches, which are now cased externally with brick.

SEVERAL PICTURESQUE TIMBER-HOUSES in the High Street, all dating from

the reconstruction of the town after a fire which virtually destroyed the town in 1646.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, founded in connexion with the chantries of St. Leonard's church, *c.* 1500, and the schoolroom opposite the west end of the church is probably the 'chapel of St. John Baptist in the cemetery of St. Leonard.' The school-house, a brick building with stone dressings, was built by Sir Wm. Whitmore of Apley, in 1629, as a residence partly for the schoolmaster, partly for the public preacher of the town, the division between the two portions being marked by the arrangement of the gables.

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH.

St. Leonard's church was the town church of the burgesses, as distinguished from the castle chapel of St. Mary Magdalene. Though almost entirely rebuilt in 1860, it preserves the ground-plan of the earlier structure, and part of the chancel-walls. The great width of the nave should be remarked, and the pronounced inclination of the chancel towards the south. The church, like the rest of the High Town, was burnt in 1646, and the present hammer-beam roof dates from its restoration in 1662. In the (modern) octagonal vestry is the Stackhouse library containing a Sarum missal of 1512.

Tuesday, 31st July, 1928

BROMFIELD CHURCH AND PRIORY.

At 10.30 a.m. the company arrived at Bromfield church and priory gate-house, which were described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell (Pl. viii). The secular canons of Bromfield, a pre-Conquest foundation, affiliated themselves in 1155 to St. Peter's, Gloucester, and the house henceforward ranked as a cell of that abbey. The present structure (St. Mary the Virgin) comprises the twelfth-century (parochial) nave, a thirteenth-century north-west entrance tower and late thirteenth-century north aisle. The monastic chancel was incorporated by Charles Fox, the grantee, at the Dissolution, into the dwelling-house which he made out of the priory buildings, slight remains of which remain attached to the church on the south. This house was burnt down, and not rebuilt, the chancel being restored to the church in 1672, the date of the chancel roof and of its remarkable painted ceiling.

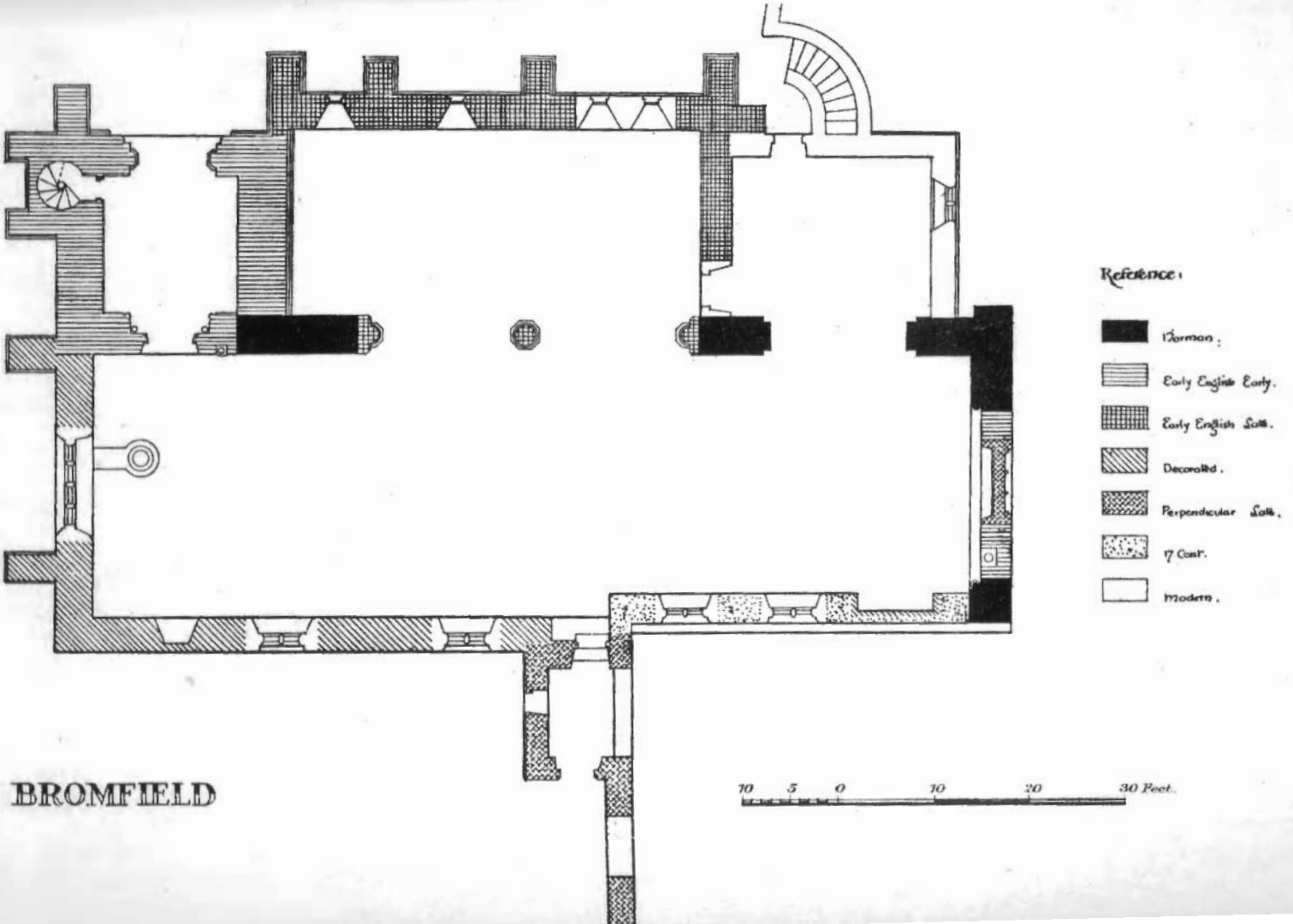
Of the priory buildings, only the gate-house remains, a stone structure with an upper story of half-timber.

LUDLOW.

The party then motored to Ludlow via Oakley Park and Prior's Halton. The town of Ludlow seems to have originated with the founding of the castle, and was set out on a more or less regular plan. The enclosure of the town with walls began about 1233, and there are considerable remains on the north and south.

One of the gates, Broadgate, still retains its thirteenth-century gate-passage with large flanking drum towers which are incorporated in a dwelling-house.

In line with Broadgate is Ludford bridge, a three-arched thirteenth-century bridge over the Teme, which still carries all north-and-south traffic. A second medieval bridge, Dinham bridge, stood on the west side of the town, and its foundations can still be seen in the bed of the river.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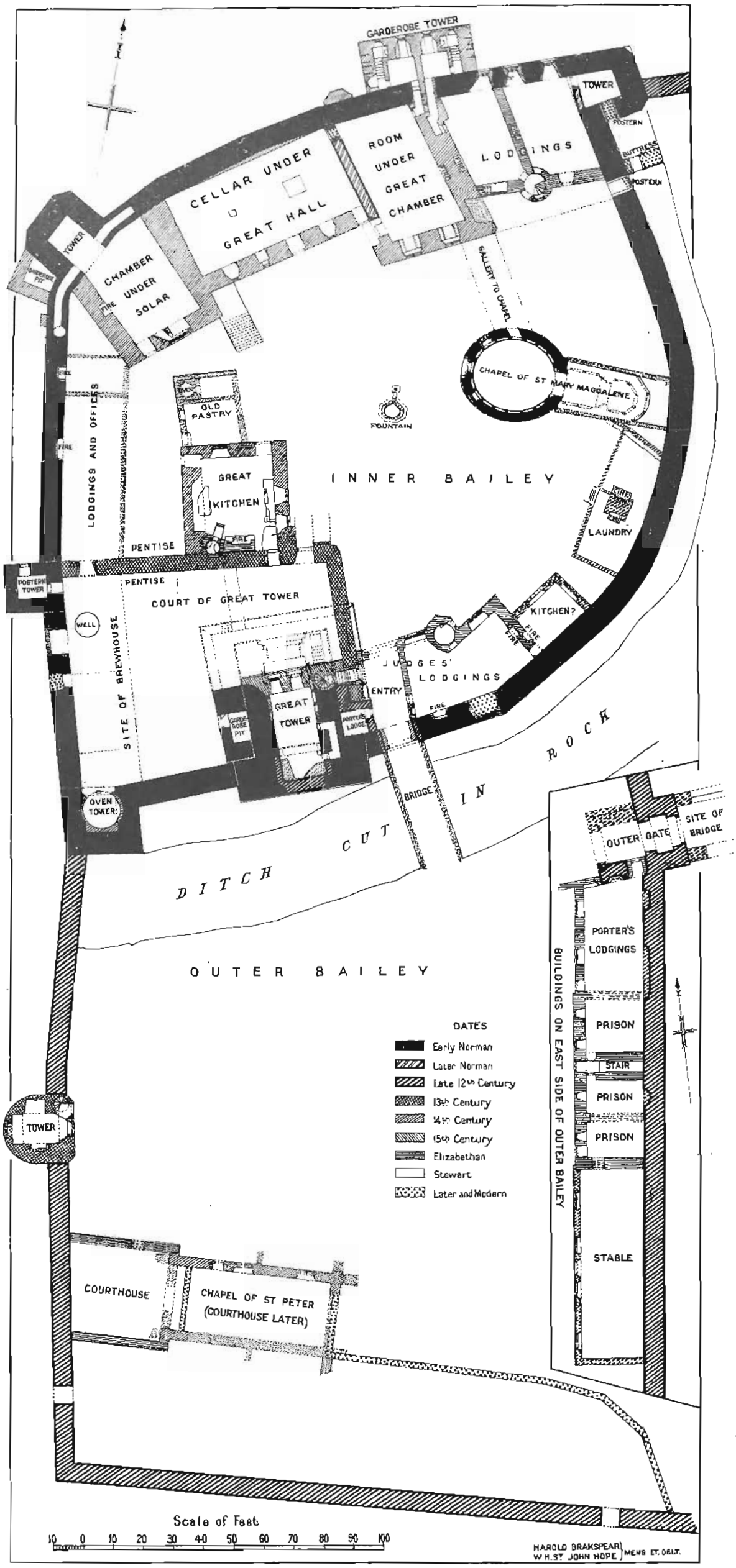
BROMFIELD



LUDLOW CASTLE, SALOP. PLAN OF GROUND STORY OF INNER BAILEY AND OF BUILDINGS IN OUTER BAILEY.

(Reproduced from Archaeologia by permission of the Society of Antiquaries.)

To face page 235.

A hospital of St. John the Evangelist outside Broadgate was founded at the end of king John's reign for a prior and several poor brethren by one Peter Undergod, and was valued at £27 16s. 10d. at the suppression. Some walls of the chapel remain incorporated in a house near Ludford bridge.

There were houses of White and Austin friars at Ludlow but no appreciable traces of them remain.

LUDLOW CASTLE.

Ludlow castle (Pl. ix) was described by Mr. Brakspear. The castle was formed at the north-west corner of the steep, rocky hill upon which the town stands, by cutting two concentric ditches to the east and south to form the inner and outer baileys. Owing to the natural position no artificial mount was required for defence, and masonry curtains formed an original feature of the lay-out.

The founder is said to have been Roger de Lacy, who obtained the manor from Osborne fitz Richard, the Domesday owner. He is credited with the building of the castle during his ownership, but in 1095 he was exiled for rebellion and died abroad. King Rufus allowed his estates to pass to his brother Hugh who died childless about 1110, after which Ludlow reverted to the Crown by escheat, and so remained until king Henry II restored it to Hugh de Lacy, a descendant of the founder. It remained in this family till the death of Walter de Lacy about 1241, when it passed to his sisters, coheirs, and was held by their descendants for some time. One moiety belonged to the powerful family of the Mortimers, earls of March, and they ultimately secured the whole. On the death of the fifth earl in 1424 the castle and earldom went to his nephew Richard, duke of York, who held it through the wars of the Roses. Though dismantled at the Rebellion it was not slighted and its final ruin did not begin until after the abolition of the court of the Marches, when king George I ordered the lead to be removed from the roof. In 1811 it was first leased and then sold by the crown to the Powis family, in whose hands it still remains.

The curtain of the inner bailey with five of its six towers is of the original work. The great tower on the south side was originally a gate-house; it consisted of an outer and inner porch, separated by a pair of doors and closed by a drawbridge. Both porches were decorated with wall-panelling and covered with a waggon vault. There was a dog-legged passage in the thickness of the wall connecting the two porches, in place of a wicket in the doors. Over the gateway was a large hall gained by a straight flight of steps in the east wall and it had at the south end two small flanking chambers from which doorways led on to the curtain. Over the hall was another large chamber but the access to it is not clear; it had wall passages and a vice in the south-west angle up to the roof. On the south side was a building containing garderobes. In the twelfth century the entrance through this tower was done away with, the north and side walls were thickened, a new staircase of entrance was made in the west wall and the tower turned into a keep. A new entrance to the castle must have been formed to the east of the keep, but was altered in the fourteenth century when it was probably defended by a barbican, as beyond a drawbridge there are now no signs of any protection. In the fifteenth century the north side of the keep fell or was taken down, a new north wall was built, reducing the keep in size, and a new vice was made in the north-east angle connecting all the floors from the ground.

At the south-west corner of the inner curtain is a square tower, which was filled in the fourteenth century by a large bake oven. Half-way along the west side is another tower in which is an original postern. At the north-west angle of the curtain is a large square tower with wall passages and an original gardrobe. The fifth original tower is at the north-east angle of the curtain and has a wall passage and access to the curtain of the outer bailey.

The chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, on the east side of the bailey, is only slightly later than the curtain ; it consists of a circular nave with wall panelling, and had a chancel with a semi-octagonal apse, which was pulled down in the sixteenth century and superseded by a timber-built chancel up to the curtain, which in turn has been destroyed.

The domestic buildings were against the north curtain and were entirely rebuilt in the fourteenth century. They consist of the great hall over a cellar and a three-storied block at each end. The hall was entered at the west end by a doorway under a porch, which has disappeared, and was gained by a flight of steps from the bailey. It was spanned by four large principals to carry the roof, of which the two eastern ones were closer together than the others, to support the louvre over the original central hearth. Each bay has a two-light window towards the bailey and a single light in the curtain wall, of which all have stone window seats. In the fifteenth century the middle window on the south was converted into a fireplace. At the lower end of the hall were the screens, and in the west wall is a row of three doorways but not, as usual, for access to the kitchen offices, which were elsewhere. The northern led to a vice to the floor above, the second to the adjoining room and the third was connected by a small lobby to the last, so that the room might not be exposed to the hall when the door was opened.

The three-storied block at the west end of the hall had a cellar on the ground level. Above this was the solar, entered from the hall as just described ; it had a fireplace in the east wall and an entrance, from without, in the porch to the hall. Over the solar was an equal-sized room, with a fireplace, gained by the vice from the screens.

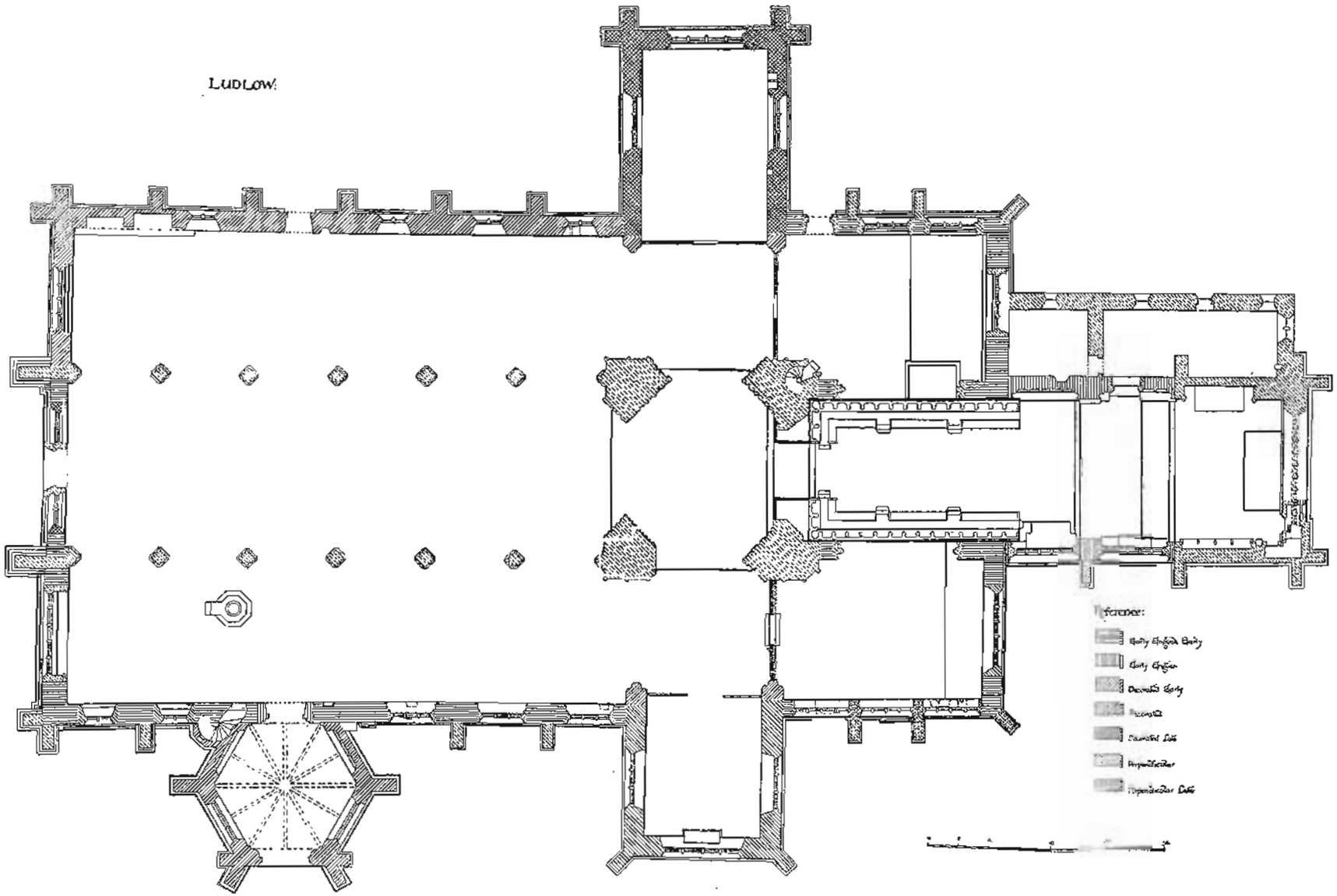
The three-storied block at the east end of the hall had cellarage on the ground level, the great chamber above with a fireplace in the east wall, but the manner in which it was gained from the hall is not evident. Over the great chamber was another room of equal size with a fireplace in the west wall, and next it is an opening into the hall to enable the master to see that good order was kept.

There was a further three-storied block between that with the great chamber and this eastern curtain, which for some reason was rebuilt in Tudor times.

Projecting from the curtain, opposite the wall separating the great chamber from the eastern block is a great square tower containing garderobes on each floor. It is divided into two parts to serve the two blocks and has a dog-legged passage from each room to a square lobby in the tower from which a wall passage leads to the garderobe itself.

The kitchen was a detached building in the bailey at the foot of the stairs to the hall and had a great fireplace in the west wall. The scullery and other offices were against the west curtain.

In Tudor times a two-storied set of chambers was built against the curtain to the east of the keep.



PLAN OF ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, LUDLOW

(Reproduced by permission from Dr. Cranage's *Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*)

The curtain of the outer bailey is of twelfth-century work and the main gate was in the east wall. The remains of this do not indicate any great strength, and defence was limited to the drawbridge. There is a range of Tudor buildings to the south of this entrance, containing stabling and prisons. At the south-west corner of the bailey are the remains of the fourteenth-century free chapel of St. Peter, which in Tudor times was converted into a hall for the court of the Marches. North of this chapel is a tower, semicircular on the outside, which was added in the thirteenth century and unlike any other part of the castle has been much modernized.

OTHER BUILDINGS.

St. Thomas of Canterbury's chapel (below the castle) was next visited with Mr. H. T. Weyman, F.S.A., who acted as guide both here and to all the other monuments in Ludlow. The chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, until recently a furniture-store and coach-house, stood by the Dinham gate, and still contains the moulded ribs of the twelfth-century vaulting and several blocked Norman openings.

The date of the foundation of the grammar school is unknown, but the school was probably in connexion with the Palmers' guild, and the buildings are said to have been originally in the churchyard. About 1525 an existing house in Mill street was converted into the school-house. On the suppression of the Palmers' guild the revenues were allotted by king Edward VI to the old school. The present school is formed out of a hall of the fourteenth century.

The Feathers, where the company had luncheon, is an exceptionally elaborate half-timbered house bearing the date 1603 and said to have been built as a residence for a lord justice of the Marches. It contains much panelling and some fine plaster ceilings.

The Reader's House is mostly of stone, with a fine half-timbered porch bearing the date 'A.D. 1616 Thomas Kaye,' and opening into the churchyard.

The college in connexion with the Palmers' guild was on the west side of the churchyard, and Hosier's almhouses adjoin the site to the north.

LUDLOW CHURCH.

The church of St. Lawrence (Pl. x) is a fine example of the development of a great town church from quite modest beginnings. The original church seems to have been of the ordinary cruciform type without aisles, and was probably built by the founder of the castle.

Late in the twelfth century an unusually wide aisle was added on the south side of the nave, together with the lady-chapel on the south side of the chancel, and a corresponding chapel on the north. Probably the south transept was lengthened about the same time. This was followed in the early years of the fourteenth century by a corresponding aisle on the north, and a six-sided porch was built to the south aisle. The north transept was then rebuilt and followed by the rebuilding of the chancel. In the fifteenth century the great tower was rebuilt, casing up the Norman piers, and this was followed by the complete rebuilding of the nave. The chancel retains its quire stalls and rood screen, and there is a quantity of old glass in the windows. St. John's chapel on the north was re-modelled in the fifteenth century when it was endowed with property for the maintenance of priests in connexion with the Palmers' guild, which is stated at the suppression of

chantries was worth £120, with jewels and money to the value of £200. Most of the glass is ancient. The lady-chapel on the south side of the chancel has a Jesse window of which some of the glass is of the fourteenth century.

This church before 1545 contained at least twenty-two chantry chapels, the sites of which have mostly been identified by Mr. H. T. Weyman.

CHURCH STRETTON. From Ludlow the party motored to Church Stretton church, which was described by the Rev. Prebendary H. T. Dixon, D.D. The Norman church of St. Lawrence consisted apparently of an aisleless nave and a small chancel. Late in the twelfth century a central tower and transept and a larger chancel were built: the upper part of the tower was added in the fifteenth century. There is much seventeenth-century carved oak in the chancel, brought here by a former rector: the woodwork by the font is made out of the Jacobean pulpit. In the east angle of the tower is a figure of St. Lawrence, and over the blocked north door is an early figure and some later decorative carving. There is a remarkable high side-window to the chancel, and in the sill is a piscina which must have served an altar in the rood-loft.

Wednesday, 1st August, 1928

URICONIUM. The morning was devoted to a visit to the Roman town and Saxon church at Wroxeter, 6 miles from Shrewsbury (Fig. 6). The party was received by Mr Donald Atkinson, who, with Mr. Francis Jackson, described the Roman remains with special reference to the *forum*, which he was then in process of excavating. The Roman town, known as Uriconium or Viroconium, covered within its defences, the lines of which are still largely visible, an area of 170 acres and was thus the fourth-largest city of Roman Britain. There are no traces of pre-Roman occupation, and various indications suggest that the site was first occupied as a camp for one (or two) legions. When these were withdrawn, the civil settlement outside the camp continued to exist. Its size rapidly increased, and by the reign of Hadrian it had become, as the recent excavations have proved, the administrative centre of the local tribe, the Cornovii. In 1859–61 the public baths were (and still remain) uncovered, together with a great hall and other buildings, and part of one of the cemeteries was explored. In 1912–14 a series of buildings fronting on the main street, and including a temple and a large dwelling-house, was excavated. The excavations carried out in 1924–7 for the Birmingham Archaeological Society, have revealed a forum and basilica, together occupying an area of about 2½ acres and in plan closely similar to the corresponding structures at Silchester and Caerwent. The forum opened on to its courtyard through a colonnade on three sides, whilst on the fourth it was closed by the basilica, of oblong plan without apses. Beneath the forum were found remains of elaborate public baths which had been begun late in the Flavian period, had never been completed, and had finally been demolished to make room for the forum. The latter was finished, or at least elaborated, in A.D. 130, the date of a very fine

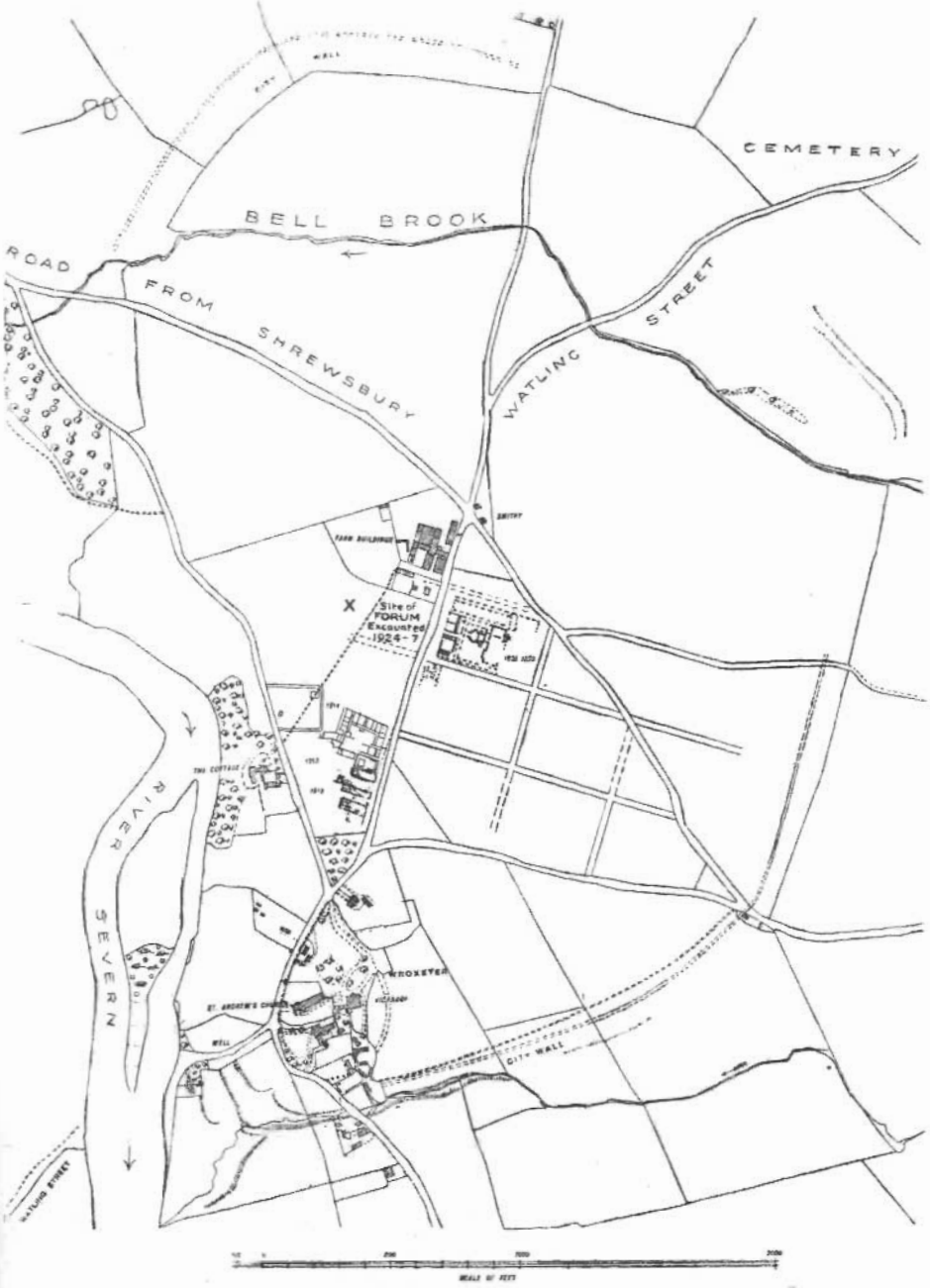


FIG 6. PLAN OF URICONIUM

(Reproduced by permission from plan published by the Society of Antiquaries, London, in 1916, with additions supplied by Mr. Donald Atkinson)

inscription which had been placed above the entrance. After various vicissitudes, the site of the forum seems to have lain desolate during the fourth century A.D., an interesting piece of evidence which confirms the general indication of the 1912–14 excavations, that the late-Roman occupation of the town was poor and unimportant.

WROXETER CHURCH. The parish church of St. Andrew was then described by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell. There was a church here in 1089, and in the north wall of the nave can be discerned some masonry of pre-Conquest date. Fragments of still earlier work are built into the present structure, notably part of the shaft of a cross which may date from *c.* 700. The chancel contains fine late Norman windows, and the chancel arch is of the same date. The massive tower was built after the suppression and is made up of fragments of mediaeval work, traditionally from Haughmond abbey. There is a small Easter sepulchre with ball-flower decoration, and three fine tombs, Sir Thomas Bromley, lord chief justice, and his wife, dated 1555; J. Berker and wife, 1618; and Sir R. Newport and wife, 1570. The church chest has much ornamental ironwork, possibly of thirteenth-century date. The font, like that in Shrewsbury abbey church, was originally the base of a Roman column. At the gate of the churchyard are two Roman pillars with ornamental capitals, recovered from the bed of the Severn nearby.

SHREWSBURY. The afternoon was set aside for independent visits to places of interest in Shrewsbury, the following itinerary being suggested, largely on the basis of Mr. H. E. Forrest's *The Old Houses of Shrewsbury, their History and Associations*, 1921. For plan, see Pl. i).

Start from St Mary's Street, descend Dogpole and Wyle Cop to the English Bridge.

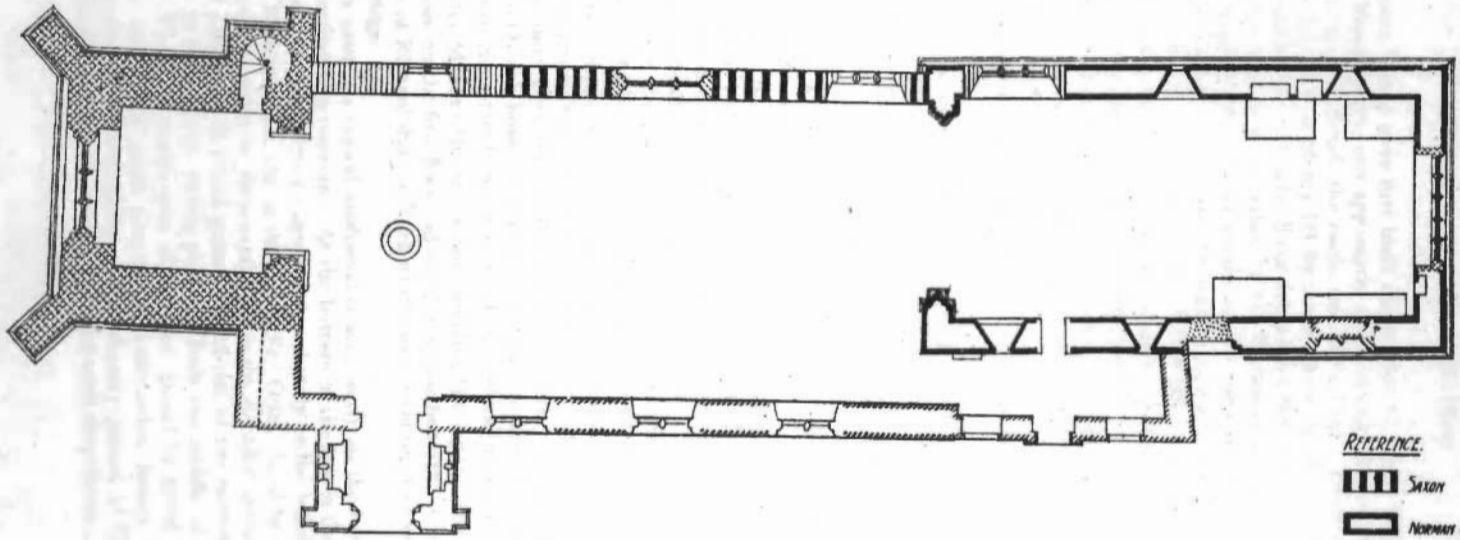
ST. ALKMUND'S CHURCH (behind the houses on the right) stands on the site of a Saxon collegiate church, of which Richard de Belmeis, the founder of Lilleshall abbey, was dean. That abbey was endowed with much of the property of St. Alkmund's. The church was a fine cruciform building, only the tower and spire of which now remain, the rest of the building having been replaced by the present structure in 1794.

NEWPORT HOUSE (left, in Dogpole), built by Francis Lord Newport, earl of Bradford, in 1696, contains a fine staircase and several panelled rooms. It is now the property of the Corporation and is used as the Guildhall.

HENRY VII's HOUSE (in Wyle Cop, right, below the Lion), so called because Henry Tudor is said to have lodged here in 1485 on his way to Bosworth, is a half-timbered house masked by later plaster. The front is pierced by a large square archway leading into a yard on both sides of which stood the wings of the old house.

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE was erected in 1769 and reconstructed and widened in 1927. It replaced a mediaeval structure on one of the piers of which stood the Stone Gate. This fell in 1545 and was rebuilt in 1552.

THE HOUSE OF THE GREY OR FRANCISCAN FRIARS has disappeared, leaving only a fragment of the domestic buildings which have been converted into cottages. These still retain some fifteenth-century traceried windows.


REFERENCE.
SAXON
NORMAN LATE
EARLY ENGLISH.
DECORATED.
PERPENDICULAR.
PERPENDICULAR LATE
CIRCA 1570
18TH CENT.
MODERN.

WROXETER.


10 5 0 10 20 30 40 Feet.

THE TOWN WALLS were first built about 1100 by Roger Belesme, son of Roger of Montgomery, and apparently enclosed only the western sector of the present town between the castle and Wyle Cop. These were supplemented in the reign of Henry III by a wall enclosing all the inhabited area within the peninsular. Nearly all the defences of Shrewsbury were destroyed in 1645 when the town was taken by the Parliamentary forces, but a considerable length of Henry's wall remains on the south and forms a promenade. On this section still stands one thirteenth-century square tower of three stories, sole survivor of the twenty which formerly stood along the walls.

THE SHREWSBURY SCHOOL LIBRARY contains an interesting collection of manuscripts, early printed books and fine buildings.

THE WELSH BRIDGE was erected in 1795, and, like the English Bridge, replaced a mediaeval stone bridge. An embattled gate tower, removed in 1770, stood upon the old bridge.

THE DISTRICT OF FRANKWELL, across the Welsh Bridge, contains several half-timber houses of interest.

ROWLEY'S MANSION, in Hill's lane, is a fine brick house consisting of two wings set at an angle. It was built in 1618 by William Rowley, draper, burgess and alderman, and his warehouses occupied the adjoining earlier half-timber house. The mansion is now much dilapidated: the stone porch at the re-entering angle was removed in 1865 and re-erected in the garden of the Technical school: the interior was gutted about 1830 to adapt it as a grain warehouse, and the fittings were sold.

OWEN'S MANSION, a richly decorated overhanging half-timber house with two gables, was erected by 'Richard Owen the elder, gentleman,' in 1592, as is recorded on a stone lately unearthed and inserted over the doorway. The same date is carved on one of the gables. Note the sunk quatrefoil ornament on the horizontal members of the framing.

The adjoining house appears to date from about 1600.

IRELAND'S MANSION, another half-timbered house, distinguished by four two-storied projecting bays, two of them square and two semi-octagonal, appears to date from the middle of the sixteenth century. In contradistinction to Owen's house, the front of Ireland's is devoid of carving, except for the usual cable-moulding on some of the vertical members.

THE OLD MARKET HOUSE is a stone building bearing the date 1596. It has a large room on the first floor and an open arcade beneath. Under the clock is a figure of Richard duke of York which once stood on the tower of the old Welsh bridge.

GROPE LANE is a typical mediaeval street, nearly all the houses in which have projecting upper storeys. At the bottom of the lane is the Cross Keys, of the late sixteenth century: opposite is a slightly earlier building. Higher up is the Mercers' Hall, and at the top is the 'Oriel,' faced by the Bear inn.

THE CORNER HOUSE IN BUTCHERS' ROW is the so-called town-house of the abbots of Lilleshall, very well preserved and one of the earliest half-timber buildings in Shrewsbury, dating probably from the middle of the fifteenth century. The stout corner-post and bracket should be noted.

There are several other picturesque half-timber houses in the Row, including the so-called dwelling of the chantry priests of Holy Cross at St. Alkmund's. In several are traces of mediaeval shop-fronts.

THE AUTUMN MEETING AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

7TH NOVEMBER, 1928

The members met in the Jerusalem Chamber. In the unavoidable absence of the Dean they were welcomed by the Rev. Canon F. L. Donaldson, the Canon in Residence. Sir Charles Oman, President, responded. Mr. Lawrence E. Tanner, F.S.A., Assistant Keeper of the Muniments, then took charge of the party and described the chief features of the Jerusalem Chamber. He drew attention to the fourteenth-century chimney-piece which until the last few months had been concealed behind a Victorian tiled fireplace. When this was removed the jambs of the original chimney-piece were found behind. Unfortunately, the lintel had been removed. A new lintel has now been inserted and on it have been carved the arms of Abbot Litlyngton (who built the room), the Abbot and Convent of Westminster, Edward III and those of the present Dean, Dr. Foxley Norris. It was in front of this fireplace that Henry IV died. Mr. Tanner also drew attention to the tapestries which had recently been cleaned. The earliest represent the life of Abraham by Bernard van Orley, and were executed at Brussels by W. Pennemaker, *c.* 1540-50. There are also two panels of seventeenth-century Flemish tapestry.

From Jerusalem the members proceeded by way of the Jericho Parlour and ' Samaria,' a small sixteenth-century room recently opened out, to the nave of the Abbey Church, where the join between the work of Henry III and the later fourteenth- and fifteenth-century work was pointed out.

The Chapter House was next visited where Mr. Tanner explained the wall paintings representing scenes from the Apocalypse. These paintings were made under the direction of Brother John of Northampton about 1400. They have recently been cleaned and revealed in much of their original freshness under the direction of H.M. Office of Works. Mr. Tanner pointed out that a few months ago they were practially invisible and that it was now apparent that those on the east wall representing part of a large Majesty or Doom were of earlier date and formed part of a larger scheme which for some reason was not proceeded with. The magnificent thirteenth-century tiled floor was also examined with the remains of the inscription which Professor Lethaby had deciphered as ' Ut rosa flos florum, sic est domus ista domorum,' thus showing that this well-known inscription in reality came from Westminster and was merely borrowed at York.

A visit was then made to the Chapter Library originally part of the dormitory of the monks. It was made into a library by Dean Williams (*c.* 1620), and has its contemporary bookcases. The ' Liber Regalis,' from which the sovereigns of England were crowned from Richard II to Queen Elizabeth, and the thirteenth-century Bestiary were also shown.

From the Library the party returned to the Abbey Church where the fine tombs in the Sanctuary of Edmund Crouchback and Aymer de Valence

were shown. Recent cleaning under the superintendence of Prof. Lethaby had revealed much unsuspected colour. For instance, the face of the little carved figure of Crouchback on horseback in the apex of the canopy of the tomb was found to have pink cheeks and blue eyes. In the same way the large painted figures on the front and back of the Sedilia (*c.* 1308) have been revealed as of exceptional quality and of 'high importance for the history of painting in England.' The most remarkable painting in the Abbey is the thirteenth-century Retable (which was next examined) which was discovered about 1830 forming part of the top of one of the waxwork cupboards. This painting Prof. Lethaby considers to be 'the finest painting of the thirteenth century which exists—a work of supreme excellence in design, the craftsmanship of which seems to surpass the powers of man.' There is some doubt whether it is French or English work. Mr. Tanner pointed out that the central figure of Christ carried a sphere little more than an inch in diameter, but on which was painted the sea with men in a boat, land with feeding sheep, trees, birds and clouds, with sun and moon—a marvel of craftsmanship.

The Confessor's Shrine was next visited. This also had been cleaned and the canopy over it, put up for the coronation of Edward VII, removed. From the Chantry Chapel of Henry V the members were able to look down on the Shrine and see the actual coffin of Edward the Confessor. After examining the other Royal Tombs a move was made to the small Chapel of Our Lady of the Pew which was endowed by the Countess of Pembroke in the fourteenth century. Mr. Tanner pointed out that for many years this little chapel had been wrongly called that of St. Erasmus, and that the late Rev. H. F. Westlake had finally established its proper dedication. The delicate painting round the doorway which had also recently been revealed was much admired.

In Henry VII's Chapel members were admitted within the screen round the tomb of the founder. A year or so ago the figures of the King and Queen were practically black, but cleaning had restored them, and also the great gates to the chapel, to much of their original splendour.

A visit was then made to the Muniment Room from which a magnificent view of the church is obtained. Mr. Tanner showed some of the documents under his care and pointed out the large wall painting of the White Hart of Richard II and the large cupboard of the same date. He also showed the original tiled floor and the chests which formerly belonged to the Lady Margaret, the mother of Henry VII. From thence the members proceeded upwards to the Triforium and were shown the little known but wonderful series of thirteenth-century carved heads supporting the roof of the Triforium and also the 'Censing Angels' in the spandrels under the Rose-window.

The President conveyed the thanks of the Institute to Mr. Tanner, and expressed the appreciation of all present of the fine decoration which had been revealed by the recent work of the Abbey authorities.

[NOTE.—Illustrations of some of the paintings in the Chapter House, as recently revealed, will be included amongst the addenda at the end of the fifth report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) relating to London. This volume, to be published early in 1930, will be entitled *East London*.]

PROCEEDINGS AT OTHER GENERAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS

Wednesday, 1st February, 1928

Sir Charles Oman, President, in the Chair.

The Rev. A. C. Bouquet, D.D., read a paper on 'Turf-cut images in the South of England' with lantern illustrations.

In the discussion there spoke Mr. Ian Hannah and Mr. Garraway Rice.

Wednesday, 7th March, 1928

Sir Charles Oman, President, in the Chair.

Mr. G. C. Druce, F.S.A., read a paper entitled 'Some subjects from the Bestiary'

Wednesday, 4th April, 1928

Mr. H. Plowman, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. R. A. Pelham read a paper on a Fourteenth Century MS. Map of Britain and its influence on Sixteenth-century Cartography, with lantern illustrations.

In the discussion there spoke Dr. Fryer, Mr. Klein, Mr. Crowther Beynon, and Mr. J. G. B. Fox.

Wednesday, 9th May, 1928

Sir Charles Oman, President, in the Chair.

Mrs. Rose Troup read a paper on 'The personality of Bishop Grandisson,' with lantern illustrations.

Wednesday, 13th June, 1928

Sir Charles Oman, President, in the Chair.

Mr. G. F. Lawrence read a paper on 'Antiquities from the middle Thames,' with lantern illustrations.

Tuesday, 31st July, 1928

Annual General Meeting held in St. Mary's Parish Room, Shrewsbury, at 8.45 p.m.

Sir Charles Oman, President, occupied the Chair.

Notice of the Meeting had been circulated to all members with provisional programmes.

The Report of the Council and Statement of Account were circulated to the members present.

Some little discussion took place as to the investments of the Institute being stated in the Balance Sheet at cost price, whereas the present price

of such investments was now lower, and also as to the small sum spent on excavation. The President replied to the criticisms mentioned, and the accounts were adopted.

The President read the Council's report (see p. 248) and same was adopted, with the exception that the name of Mr. Walter H. Godfrey was deleted as a member of the Council, it being reported that he had recently been appointed Secretary in the place of Mr. Hardinge-Tyler who had resigned.

Mr. Hardinge-Tyler was elected a member of the Council in the place of Mr. Godfrey, provided that such election was in order, no copy of the Charter or Rules of the Institute being available for inspection.

Resolved, that a copy of the Charter of the Institute and a copy of the rules be printed and circulated to members.

Resolved, that the President, Sir Charles Oman, be requested to send to Mr. Hardinge-Tyler a letter in appreciation of his services as Honorary Secretary of the Institute for the period of 21 years or thereabouts. The President promised to convey the resolution to Mr. Hardinge-Tyler.

Resolved, that the Institute visit Westminster Abbey to inspect the furniture and monuments at some date to be arranged, this visit having been promised when the Institute visited the Abbey some years ago.

The place of next year's Meeting was considered ; several places including Wells, Peterborough, Canterbury, Hastings, Dorset and East Yorkshire being mentioned. On being put to the vote, it was decided to recommend the Council to visit Canterbury or, as an alternative, East Yorkshire, with possible headquarters at Scarborough.

Wednesday, 7th November, 1928

The President, Sir Charles Oman, who presided, gave an opening address on the new Session.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. H. Godfrey, gave an address on the oak panelling, etc. in the Abbot's Parlour, Thame, illustrated by lantern slides provided by Mr. Edward Yates.

Mr. Plowman, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Clapham spoke at the subsequent discussion.

Wednesday, 5th December, 1928

The President, Sir Charles Oman, in the Chair.

Dr. Cyril Fox, Director of the National Museum of Wales, gave an address on ' Offa's Dyke, a Field Survey,' and described the recent excavations in connection with the earthwork.

Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Gardner contributed to the subsequent discussion.

Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

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1927-8

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