NOTES

A Macehead of Igneous Rock from Ranmore.—This half macehead was found about 1929 by Mr. F. E. Edmunds, of the Geological Survey, on Ranmore Common. When first found it was thought to be of sandstone. However, the implement was sliced by Dr. Dunham, Petrographer to the Survey. His report is as follows:

> "ENQ. 953. The rock is a quartz porphyrite or quartz microdiorite, composed of oligoclase crystals up to 0.6 mm. long, heavily sericitised, lath-shaped hornblende and abundant interstitial quartz. A little micropegmatite is present and some epidote.
>
> "Although I have not been able to match it exactly so far, I think it is very probable that this is from the Pre-Cambrian intrusive rocks of the Leicester district."—K. C. DUNHAM."

The measurements of this interesting half mace are:— Diameter over all, 3.5 in.; thickness, 1.3 in.; aperture, 1.05 and 1.6 in. at surface. It is now on temporary loan to the Guildford Museum pending the formation of a Dorking Museum.

W. F. R.

A Diorite Axe from Kingston.—Mr. H. Cross, F.L.A., reports the following recent addition to the Kingston Museum.

"The undermentioned implement was given to Alderman Finny by the Borough Surveyor for inclusion with other specimens in the Museum.

"Celt: diorite, oblique edge; Neolithic: length 6 in., width at edge 2⅞ in. and thickness 1⅞ in. Found during excavations at Cambridge Gardens Flats, Cambridge Road, Kingston in February, 1949."

It should be noted that this axe has not been sliced. W. F. R.

A Polished Flint Axe from Titsey.—This axe is in very good condition; it was found lying on loose soil in a grass field about half a mile south of the Pilgrim's Way and about one quarter of a mile inside the county boundary between Titsey and Westerham (Grid Ref. 51/524549). The soil had obviously been dug from an adjoining drainage ditch which had recently been cleaned out to a depth of 18 in. A diligent search failed to reveal any other objects of interest in the field or in the ditch excepting a few flakes of flint.

The axe is 17.2 cm. in length and tapers from a width of 6 cm. at one end to 3.2 cm. at the other; its maximum width is 3 cm. It weighs 13 oz. This Neolithic implement is now in the possession of Mr. J. E. Pater of Croydon, to whom we are indebted for the preceding information.

W. F. R.

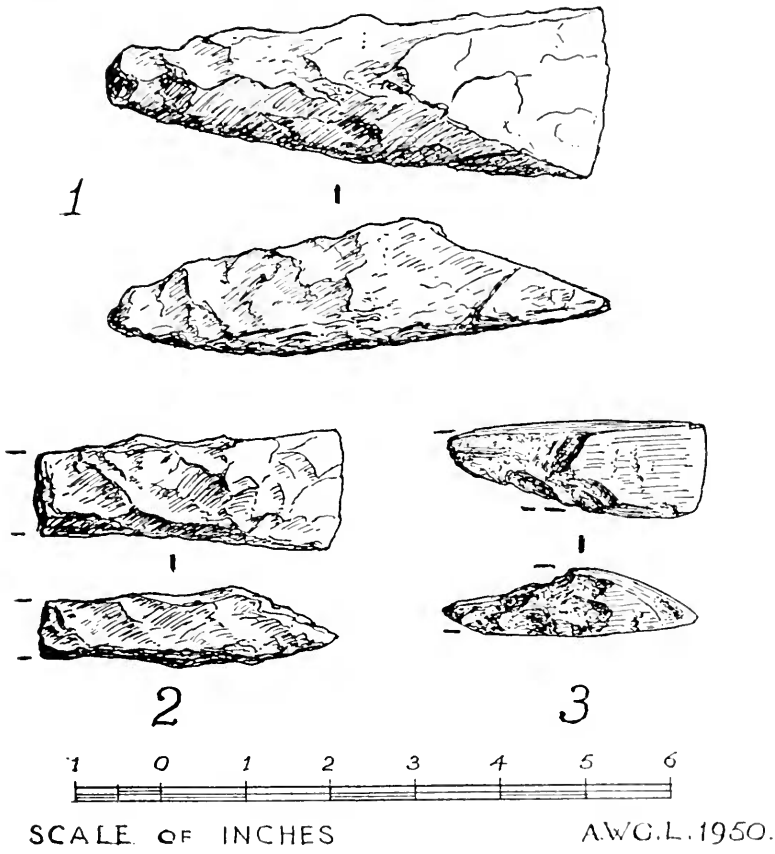
Three Stone Axes from Ashtead.—These three implements were found, ten or twelve years ago, during the making of the garden of a house on the Stag Leys estate, which lies on the south side of the main road between Ashtead and Leatherhead. The site is at the foot of the northern slope of the North Downs, and consists of a chalk subsoil with about a foot of soil covering it. (Map Reference: *Surrey*, Sheet XVIII S.E., O.S. 6 in. map, 173572).

All three implements are of the same type of hard, grey to brown-grey, rock, which has still to be submitted for petrological examination, when it is hoped that it will be possible to state whence it has been derived.

Nos. 1 and 2 are chipped and unpolished; No. 3, a broken fragment, has part of four polished faces surviving, including the cutting edge. The butt of No. 2 is missing, and this implement has, at some date, been subjected to fire.

All three are foreign to the area in which they were found, and are "imports." As, however, they were found during the breaking-up of undisturbed downland, they are likely to have brought here in prehistoric (? Neolithic) times.

A. W. G. LOWTHER.



STONE AXES FROM ASHTEAD.

A Neolithic Flint Mine at East Horsley.—The site is on the 400-ft. contour at M.R. 097516 on Nat. Grid Sheet 170 and is on the edge of a narrow strip of woodland to the west of a dry tributary valley of the River Mole.

It was discovered on 10th June, 1949, and consists of a hollow with two saucer-shaped depressions with flint flakes scattered on the surface.

By permission of Mr. B. A. France, an excavation was commenced on the eastern depression. This is some 18 ft. in diameter, and the western half was opened to a depth of 12 ft. It revealed a stairway cut in the chalk to a depth of 9 ft., at the eastern half of the excavation. See Plate XVIII.

At the bottom of the stair, which cuts through three seams of flint nodules, there is a small platform 6 ft. by 4 ft. The shaft then drops to 12 ft., ending on a thick floor of flint.

The shaft has been disturbed from the west by 14th-century quarrying for flint, as shown by a fragment of bronze belt buckle at 8 ft. in the chalk infilling and identified by A. W. G. Lowther.

The eastern half of the shaft, which appears to have portions undisturbed, will be opened next season.

Trial trenches, 30 ft. north of the shaft, have uncovered an occupation floor on the chalk, varying in depth from 14 to 19 in. below the surface.

Some 715 complete flakes, 14 scrapers, 6 rough choppers, 40 cores and coroids as well as an adze a pick, a Campigny-type flake axe, a backed knife, 2 fabricators, a flake from a polished axe and 2 polishers of carstone have been obtained.

All the flints are patinated from smoky blue to white, and the majority are in mint condition. In one place a patch containing about 300 flakes and fragments indicated a knappers' site.

At the north and east edge of the occupation floor is a rough wall, 2 ft. wide at the base and 1 ft. high, built of nodules and lumps of flint. It is in a large arc 27 ft. long, and overlies flint flakes and also has them banked up against it, which appears to indicate that it was built during the mining period. It was possibly used as a support for branches to form a windbreak. No signs of postholes have been found.

Of the 715 flakes, 10 are core rejuvenation and 91 end in a hinge fracture. This large proportion of hinge fractures has been noted at Grimes Graves and elsewhere, and gives rise to the typical stepped cores of the mining period.

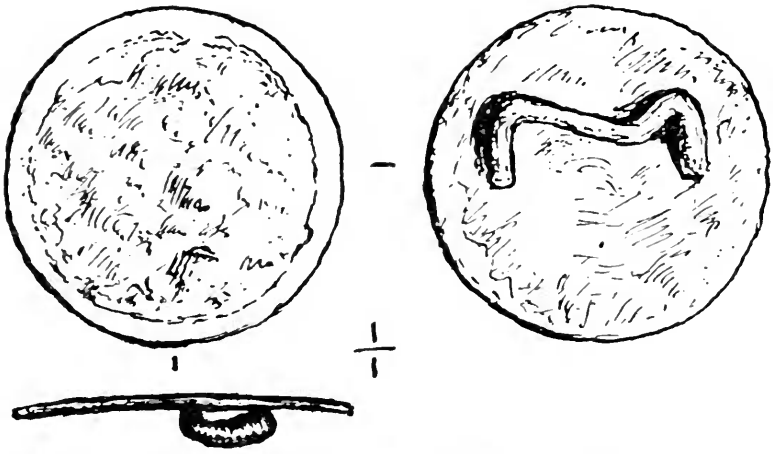
As the majority of the flakes are rough dressings, I think the area was not permanently occupied but only visited when more supplies of flint were required.

It is of interest to note that a 14th-century silver button, with seven raised wavy lines on its face, was obtained 6 in. above the top of the flint floor.

K. R. U. Todd.

[We regret to record the death of Commander K. R. U. Todd while this note was in proof.—Ed.].

Cast Bronze Ornament, of Late Bronze Age date, from St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford.—This object, recently obtained for Guildford Museum by Miss Dance, Archivist and Curator, is of particular interest by reason of the



Ornament of Late Bronze Age date from St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford.

practically identical, but slightly larger, example (also in Guildford Museum) which was found at Farnham and is figured and described in the Farnham volume of *S.A.C.* (pp. 178-9, Fig. 74, Pl. xviii). Both examples have, as regards the disk and the loop at the back, been cast in one piece. While the Farnham specimen still has some remains of an ornamental, openwork, bronze binding round its edge, though none of this remains on the Guildford specimen, there are indications in the corrosion round its edge that it once had a similar binding.

The Farnham disk was found in an urn (of the period of transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age) with a cremation burial. Probably both of them once had some ornamentation covering the central area of the disk, but of this no trace now remains.

A. W. G. LOWTHER.

Iron Age Pottery from St. George's Hill Camp, Weybridge.—The following note arises from the presentation to this Society, by Mr. Tarrant, of a small collection of potsherds found, some years ago, during building operations at the above site. (Mr. Tarrant informs me that this pottery was recovered by his father, and that the pieces presented are all that now remains of a more extensive collection).

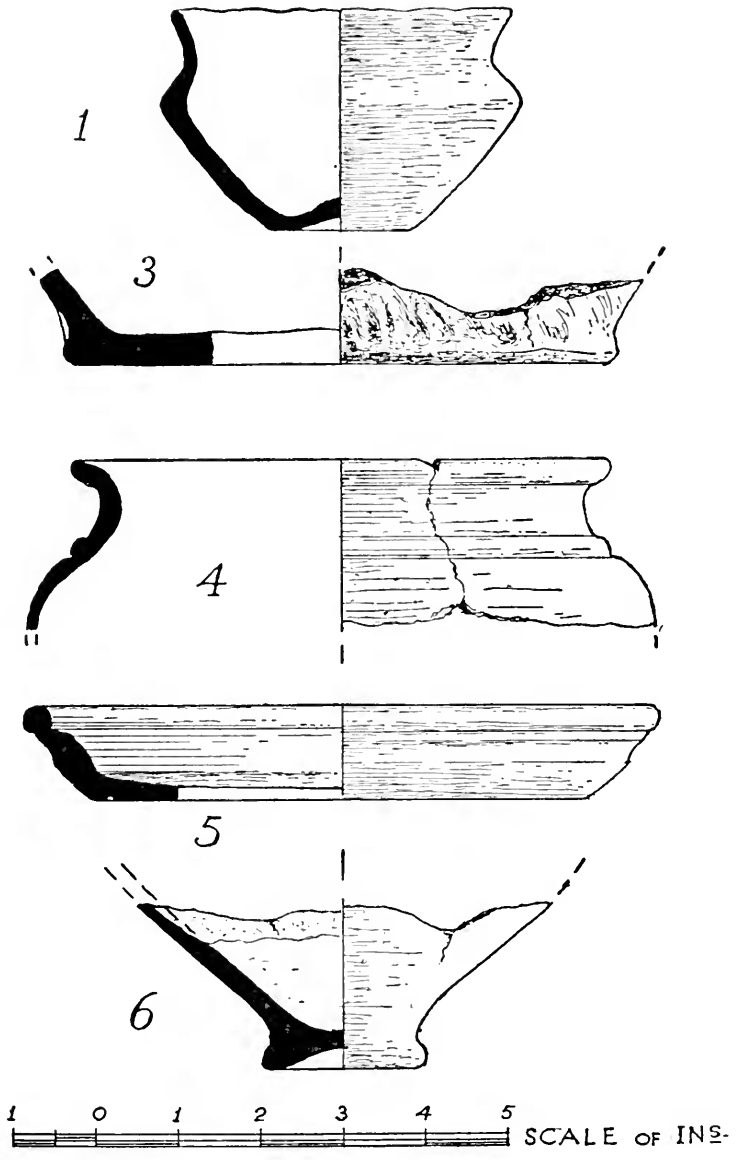
With the pottery here described were a few pieces of Roman ware (large jars, with combed-lattice ornamentation bands), but as the latter is still labelled "Found 1 ft. 6 in. below ground. Close to Keeper's Cottage," it is clear that this Roman pottery is from a separate site (the Keeper's Cottage in question being about half a mile away from the camp) and has nothing to do with the main group. The Roman ware consists of pieces of Late Antonine jars (of about A.D. 200) similar to vessels found at Farnham, in which area they were most likely made.

The pottery from the site of the camp appears to have been found between 1912 and 1914, and it seems likely that it was discovered during, or just prior to, the erection of one or other of the two houses erected inside the camp (in its south-west area) before the latter became a scheduled site. With the pottery were several pieces of iron-stone cinder, evidence of iron-working such as is common to Iron Age sites, and as that found in the earliest and subsequent levels at Purberry Shot, Ewell (*S.A.C.*, L).

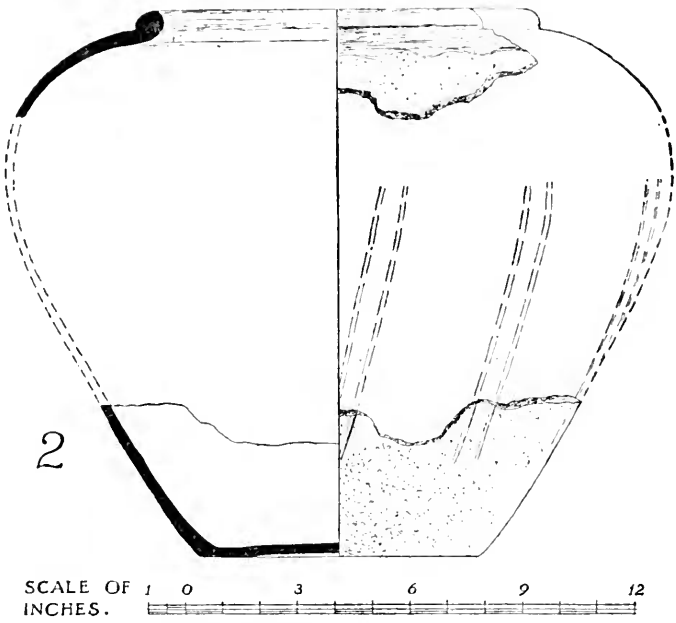
On being cleaned and assembled (as far as was possible), the pottery, apart from a few indeterminate sherds, proved to represent five or six vessels (Figs. 1-6) of which two (Nos. 1 and 3) are typical vessels of Iron Age A date, and paralleled exactly by vessels from Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon (*Arch. Journal*, CII, p. 18, Fig. 3), and Leigh Hill, Cobham (*op. cit.*, Fig. 4), and which can be dated *circa* A.D. 300. The remainder comprised pieces of vessels of native Belgic types of ware, and of much later date—possibly *circa* 75-50 B.C. or later.

In view of the absence of any detailed excavations at this site (such as those at Oldbury, Kent, carried out by Prof. J. B. Ward-Perkins), this small group of pottery is of considerable importance and suggests a sequence of events similar to that which has, by excavation, been proved to have taken place at other of the larger Iron Age camps. This sequence consisted of an original Iron Age A camp, of simple outline and with single bank and ditch defences and which were later (and under the threat of Roman invasion) superseded by more elaborate, multiple defences, erected by the Belgic inhabitants of this later period.

Whether this was actually the case at St. George's Hill has still to be proved, and it is to be hoped that this site will, one day, be the scene of such large-scale scientific excavations as its importance undoubtedly warrants, and which, now that the whole of the un-built-on remainder of the earthwork is a scheduled national monument, is possible of being done.



Iron Age Pottery from St. George's Hill Camp, Weybridge.



Iron Age Pottery from St. George's Hill Camp, Weybridge.

Description of the pottery.—1. Small cup, shouldered and with out-bent rim, of hand-made ware. Of brown-grey paste, containing small white (? calcite) particles. It has a surfacing coat of red-coloured clay, applied to its outer surface and burnished originally to a high polish, some of which remains. The small base has been pushed up from below, forming a "boss," or "omphalos" inside the vessel. This cup is of exactly the same ware, shape and finish as the bowl *A*5 (Fig. 3, *op. cit.*) found at Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon. Date—Iron Age A, of the 3rd century B.C.

3. Part of the base of a coarse, hand-made pot; probably a "situlate" pot similar to *A*1, etc., from Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon, with the ware of which this fragment is in complete agreement. There has been some attempt to make a rough "foot-ring" round the edge of the base, by pressing out the clay with the fingers. Date—as last.

2. Base, and part of the upper part, of a large "bead-rim" jar. Made (as also Nos. 4-6) on a "turn-table" wheel, it is of a coarse, somewhat gritted grey ware. The rim, and a band immediately below, have been burnished and a burnished wavy line is at the bottom of this band. The lower part preserves traces of ornamentation; sufficient to show that the body of the vessel had a series of burnished, slanting lines, arranged in pairs. This pot is very closely paralleled, both as regards its ware and its ornamentation, by the vessels found at Farnham and published in *A Survey of the Prehistory of the Farnham District*, pp. 209-213, Figs. 89-92. The rim, however, is turned inwards more sharply than is the case with the Farnham vessels, and both in this respect and as regards its actual shape (so far as this can be deduced) this jar is a more direct prototype, or forerunner, of the bead-rim vessels of

the Roman Claudian and Flavian) period, of which the later examples were wheel-made in a hard, grey ware, but having only a single girth-groove by way of ornamentation.

4. Upper part of a typical cordoned Belgic pot of brownish-grey ware and with slight traces of external burnishing. (It is possible that No. 6 is the base of this vessel, but, as it may not be, it is here figured separately).

5. Dish, of Belgic type, of brown-grey ware. (Two pieces which, joined, form about a third of the complete dish.)

6. Small pedestal base, of similar ware to No. 4, to which it may have belonged. (Its outer surface is, in part, of a more brown-red colour than that of No. 4, but it appears that this may be due to irregular firing when the vessel was originally made.)

A. W. G. LOWTHER.

Stane Street.—Stane Street, connecting Chichester with London, has long been recognized as a Roman road. It has proved to be one of outstanding interest, attracting to it several of our best-known workers and at least one of our leading authors, Hilaire Belloc, whose chief contribution to its study, *The Stane Street*, while being unreliable in some aspects, is nevertheless most enjoyable reading. Of recent years alignments have been carefully laid down and in this respect there is no one more competent than Mr. I. D. Margary, who has given us recently his extremely important book, *Roman Ways in the Weald*. Mr. Margary has here dealt with Stane Street very adequately, but more than one problem remains still to be solved.

The stretch with which we are here concerned is the continuation of the Pebble Lane straight towards Ewell, which until recent years had caused considerable confusion of thought. S. E. Winbolt, in his book *With a Spade on Stane Street*, cleared much of this confusion, but suggested that further digging was required before the supposed line of the road became engulfed with housing and other developments. Following up this advice in October, 1948, by kind permission of the Superintending Bailiff of Horton Estate Farm, a section was cut at National Grid reference 51/1957/623 034 (6 in. quarter sheet, Surrey 18, S.E.) by Messrs. J. Fox, W. T. Millar, and G. W. Ridyard. This portion of the road runs close to Thirty Acres Barn between the Pebble Lane straight, which ends at National Grid reference 51/1956/474 740 on Surrey 18, S.E., and the section cut at Woodcote Park (see *Roman Ways in the Weald*, by I. D. Margary, p. 71), National Grid reference 51/2059/703 110 on Surrey 19, S.W., where the road was found in good condition, measuring some 21 ft. wide and 10 in. thick. Excavation was carried out at a position which was found by extending the line of the agger, which is plainly visible at the side of Pebble Lane, for 330 metres from the point where the road bends, in the direction of the excavated portion at Woodcote Park.

Fig. 1 shows a half-section of the road completely excavated. No attempt has been made to generalize any layer—the section was fully surveyed horizontally and vertically and gives as true a representation of what was apparent to the eye as it is possible to give. Full excavation of the complete width was carried out down to the surface of the second layer, which was 15 ft. 8 in. wide. Below this only one half of the road was fully excavated—it is therefore only possible to give horizontal measurements from the crown of the road to the outside from layer 2 downwards. There is no attempt at discussion of the varying effects on successive layers caused by incessant use of the road. It is hoped that Fig. 1, which carries full measurements, will be self-explanatory.

A trench, 32 ft. long, 3 ft. wide and 4½ ft. deep for half its width, was cut and the construction of the road was as follows :—

Layer 1.—Beneath 6 in. of top soil was a layer, 4 in. to 6 in. thick, of large flints varying from 3 in. to 6 in. in diameter lying in sandy soil. Towards the crown of the road they had been to some extent scattered by ploughing.

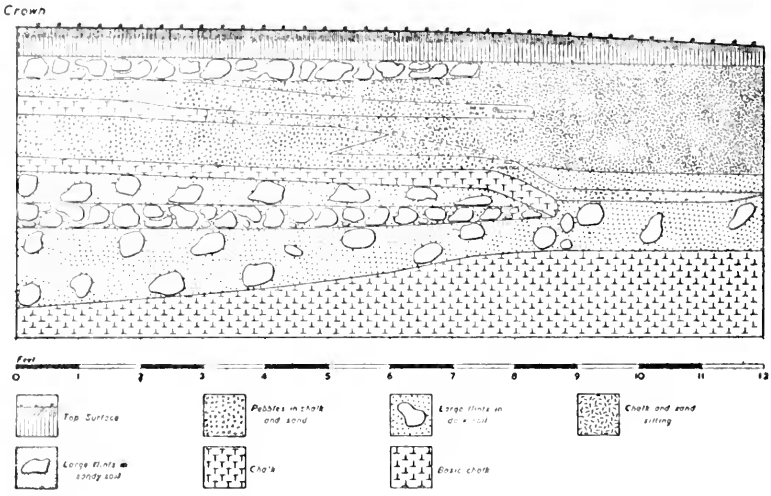


FIG 1. SECTION OF ROAD.

Layer 2.—The second layer was 15 ft. 8 in. wide with a thickness varying from 3 in. to 6 in. It consisted of pebbles of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter packed in a mixture of powdered chalk and sand.

Layer 3.—The third layer was of rammed or rolled chalk 3 in. thick; 3 ft. from the crown of the road the chalk layer altered in texture to a composition of powdered chalk and sand with small pebbles. Thickening gradually, this extended for a further 4 ft., at which point the pebbles began to thin out until at $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the crown they appeared only intermittently.

Layer 4.—The composition of layer 4 was exactly similar to that of layer 2. For the first $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the crown of the road it was 8 in. thick. From there on it decreased abruptly in thickness to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., the layer finally ending at 12 ft.

Layer 5.—This extended just over $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the crown and was an exceptionally fine layer of chalk 2 in. to 3 in. thick. It would not be exact to say that it was rammed. It had all the appearance of having been flattened with a heavy roller.

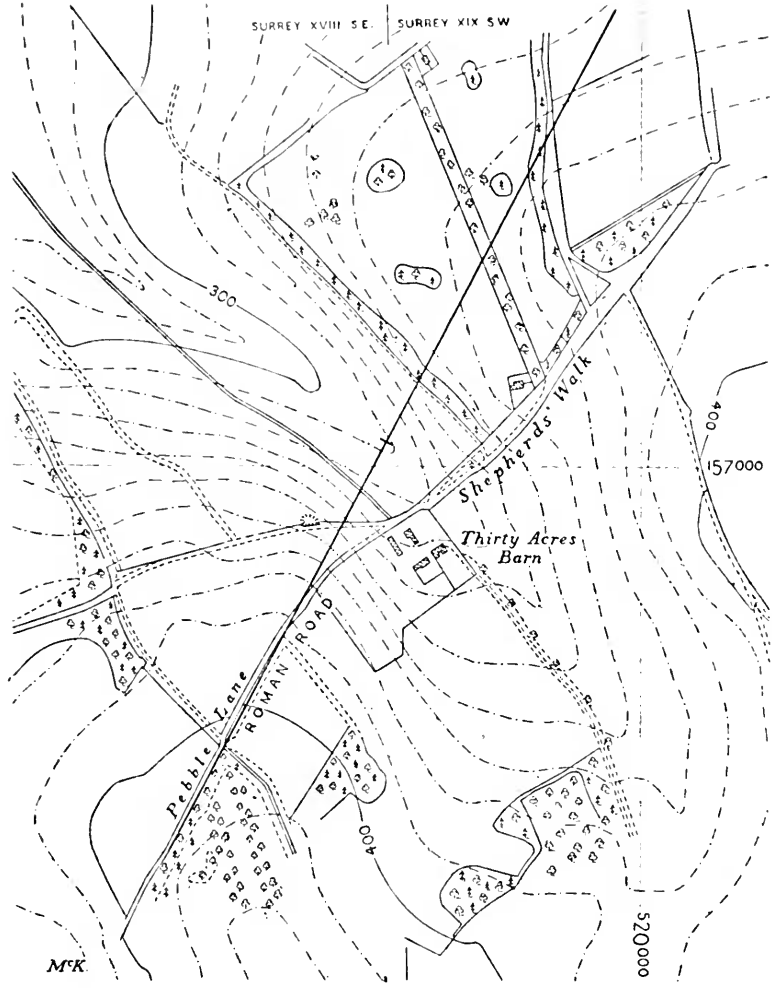
Layer 6.—This was composed of large flints, from 3 in. to 6 in. in diameter, embedded in a dark soil. It can be conveniently subdivided into three portions:—

(*a*) Was 6 in. thick at the crown, decreasing to 4 in. at 8 ft., where it ended. The flints were widely spaced.

(*b*) Was 5 in. thick at the crown, decreasing to 3 in. at $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft., where it ended. The flints were tightly packed.

(*c*) Was the lowest layer of all and rested on the basic chalk. It was 16 in. thick at the crown of the road, decreasing gradually to 6 in. at 8 ft. 8 in., where it thickened abruptly to 10 in. From there on it supported layer 4 to its end at 12 ft. from the crown. It was of similar texture to 6 (*a*).

Wedged between layers 1 and 2, which at 7 ft. from the crown were 5 in. apart, was a filling of the powdered chalk and sand composition described



Scale : Six Inches to One Statute Mile or 880 Feet to One Inch = $\frac{1}{10560}$

1000 Feet 500 0 1000 2000

¼ Mile ½

[*This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map, with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.*

FIG. 2. A PLAN OF STANE STREET SECTION.

in layers 2 and 3. This had inserted itself to within 2 ft. 6 in. from the crown, where layer 1 rested immediately on layer 2. At the outer edge of layers 1 and 2, at 8 ft. 4 in. from the crown, this filling connected with the "petered out" remains of layer 3, forming itself into a complete mass of powdered chalk and sand 21 in. thick. This extended downward from immediately beneath the top-soil to a short layer of dark soil and sand, 3 in. thick, which rested on the extreme edge of layer 4. From the 8 ft. 4 in. point the texture of this 21 in. thick layer altered in so far as there was a thinning out of the small pebbles. At 9½ ft. from the crown the pebbles were no longer visible, and the layer which continued to the edge of the trench had the appearance of containing a mixture of sand and chalk in the proportion of ten of sand to one of chalk. This layer, which for the purpose of further explanation will include both the wedge between layers 1 and 2 and that portion of layer 3 which commenced where the chalk ended, was laminated horizontally from top to bottom, the laminæ varying in thickness from ⅛ in. to ½ in. and each being separated from its neighbour by a wafer-thin layer of iron panning. There is no other explanation for this lamination than that the layer had formed itself naturally and in the following way :

The section cut was sited deliberately at the bottom of a coomb which slopes downwards from south-east to north-west (Fig. 2). The form lines show us that if there were sufficient rainfall—and this we may reasonably assume—a proportion of water would flow down the coomb from the south-east and, with the road at the point of excavation forming an effective dam, would collect, leaving in subsidence the silt that was washed down on the surface of the road. It is noticeable that the layer begins to form on the first road surface, rising and encroaching gradually towards the centre. Probably the first re-surfacing was carried out not so much because the road surface was going into disrepair (although it had started to crumble at its eastern side through the constant effect of the water) as in an effort to save it from being completely overrun by water, which in a wet season would cause erosion on the west side. In due course it must have become apparent that even this new surface, although structurally sound, was in danger (Fig. 1 shows just how far the residue of successive wet seasons had encroached towards the road's centre), so a second and final re-surfacing took place.

Layers 4, 5 and 6 comprised the road in its original form. A re-surfacing, made up of layers 2 and 3, took place at a later date, and finally came the last surface, layer 1, where it may be noted that for the first time no attempt at camber is apparent.

It is regrettable that the time at the excavators' disposal—a few days only between the lifting of a potato crop and the planting of winter corn—did not permit of fuller excavation.

The ditches, if they exist at all at this part of the road, did not come within the scope of the trench. Finds therefore were limited and consisted of a few scraps of Roman tile, a 1st-century linch-pin, and a small piece of metal which has been described by A. W. G. Lowther as a "securing wedge," used where nowadays one would normally use a split pin. This appeared to be complete in itself. The piece of metal came from layer 4, the linch-pin from layer 2 : both are shown *in situ* in Fig. 1. Mr. Lowther has illustrated these two metal objects at Fig. 3.

On the 5th December, 1948, the investigation was carried a step further, when the road was again "found" in a field centred on National Grid reference 51/1957/97 63 Surrey 6 in. quarter sheet 19, S.W.

The field had four "guide furrows" cut across it in preparation for full ploughing. Where these furrows crossed the supposed line of the road they raised themselves as much as 9 in., the four "bumps" lining up where, by measurement, the road was estimated to run. In so far as it is desirable to prove the existence of Stane Street at this point nothing further need be done.

In conclusion, although there are still several unsolved problems regarding one of our most interesting Roman roads, the theory held by several of our

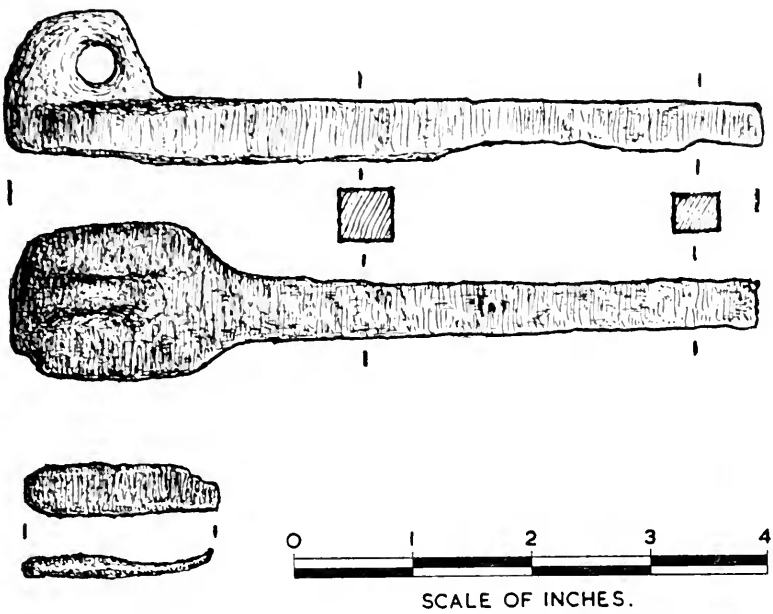


FIG. 3. LINCH PIN AND METAL OBJECT RECOVERED FROM ROAD.

leading authorities that it extends in a straight line from Pebble Lane across this previously unprobed stretch may now be accepted as absolute fact.

J. FOX.

Saxon Spearhead from Cheam.—This relic was found in 1941 by Mr. North of 3, Shrubland Grove, North Cheam, at a depth of about 3 ft. in clay, while constructing an ornamental fish pond. No associated finds were noted. The site is now sealed in by the fish pond and crazy paving.

The site stands upon a hillock some 300 yds. north-west of the London Road (Stane Street) at North Cheam and some 70 yds. to the rear of the Drill Inn on Cheam Common Road (Sheet 170, 1 in. O.S. 1945 Ed., 235652).

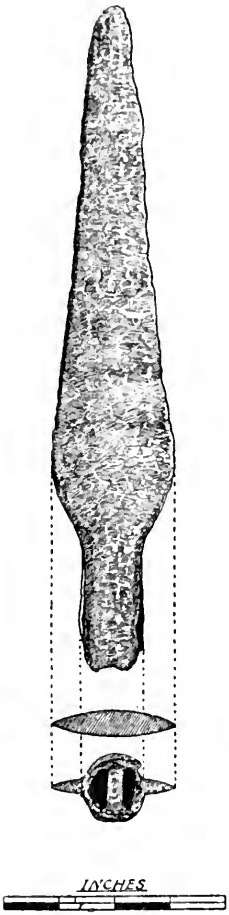
Mr. Lowther points out that the proximity of the find to Stane Street may possibly suggest a Saxon burial of the period of skirmishes between Saxons and Danes as the latter retreated to their ships near London following their overwhelming defeat by Ethelwulf A.D. 851. Several Saxon interments have already been noted between Ashtead and Ewell in the vicinity of Stane Street.[1]

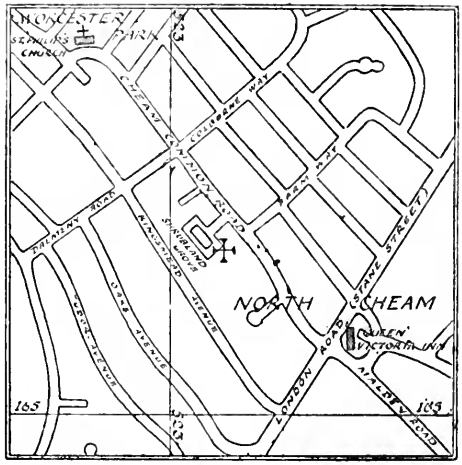
[1] These finds of skeletons are five in number, *viz.*:

(*a*) In the grounds of the "Goblin" factory, adjoining the pre-Roman trackway "Green Lane," south of the Leatherhead-Ashtead Road (6 in. O.S. Surrey, XVIII, S.E.). In 1927 a large pit was found, extending about 6 ft. into the chalk and containing skeletons of bodies thrown into it. No associated finds were recovered but the condition of the bones suggested that they were either of the "Dark Age" period or of mid-late Saxon date.

(*b*) S.E. of Ashtead Park (1910) in a triangular piece of ground, planted with larch trees, just S. of the line of Stane Street.

(*c*) Epsom (1929) in allotments near the N. end of College Road.—A. W. G. L.





Saxon Spearhead, Cheam

The actual burial here, however, was probably ploughed out in the Middle Ages.

The spearhead is described by Mr. Lowther thus :

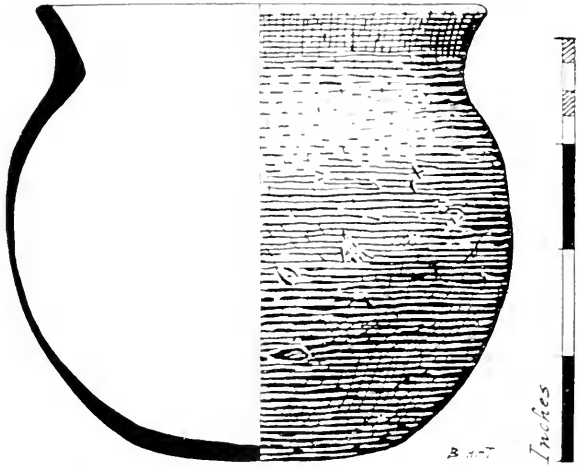
"The spearhead is of the smooth faced, open socketed type, the socket being in two halves connected by an iron rivet which passed through the wooden shaft. It is 12 in. long and 2¼ in. wide at the widest part of the blade. It appears to resemble spearheads which can be dated as mid-Saxon rather than those of the early Saxon period."

L. W. Carpenter.

A Saxon Pot from Thursley.—During 1947 various objects of archæological interest were rescued from builders' trenches in Thursley by the late Mr. W. Featherby, a local resident who proved himself a valuable observer on several occasions : I am much indebted to him for allowing me to publish these finds

Photo by courtesy of J. T. May, Surrey County Journal

(A) Neolithic Flint Mine, East Horsley.
(*See p.* 142)



(B) A Saxon Pot from Thursley.
(*See p.* 153)

(A) Coin of Ptolemy IV (same size), Lingfield.

(B) Coin of Constantine from Ewell.
(See p. 153)

and for his kindness in conducting me about the Thursley district to see its various antiquities.

The material recovered from the building site includes mesolithic primary flakes and cores, pottery fragments of 16th-17th century dates, and, most important, the greater part of the Pagan Saxon pot here figured.

This pot was found at a depth of about two feet in the centre of the foundations for the new house-block nearest to the police constable's house, *i.e.*, the most southerly of the new buildings (map reference: 6 in. O.S. Surrey, Sheet XXXVII N.E., 11 mm. from the bottom inner margin and 81 mm. from the right inner margin). Mr. Featherby observed no significant soil features, with the exception of a thick layer of charcoal, at about −36 in., in the face of a cutting a few yards north of the find-spot. He kindly drew my attention to this, but it was impossible to interpret the layer without much digging (which the building operations did not permit), the only visible section of the deposit being about 3 ft. long, the remainder running under an unexcavated bank. Extensive probing with a trowel did not reveal objects of any kind. There were slight indications that the charcoal lay at the bottom of a shallow pit, but most of the overlying soil formed part of a plough-bank which covered the old ground surface. This argues against a very recent date for the layer, but it might well be the remains of a 16th or 17th century bonfire, for Mr. Featherby has shown me a number of sherds of this date from trenches near by.

The pot is small, hand-made, of a dark brown colour and leathery surface, thin-walled and easily-crumbled; it is, in fact, in no way unusual of its kind. Its most interesting feature is the presence on several parts of its exterior of impressions made by accidental contact with cereal grains. Professor Zeuner, of the Institute of Archæology, kindly undertook to have the impressions examined in order to confirm my identification of them, and brought them to the notice of Dr. Percival of Reading, who reported that they were made by grains of barley. Saxon vessels of this kind commonly bear upon their surfaces traces of plant fragments which were incorporated in the clay before firing, and a wide re-examination of such pots already in our museums (as has previously been urged particularly for prehistoric pottery) might produce interesting material.

BRIAN HOPE-TAYLOR.

Coin of Ptolemy IV found near Lingfield.—A bronze coin was recently found in my kitchen garden at Chartham Park, Lingfield, during ordinary cultivation digging. It is a large coin, in excellent preservation, 39 mm. in diameter, 5 mm. thick, and weighing 2½ oz. Mr. B. W. Pearce, F.S.A., kindly submitted it for me to the British Museum for identification and they report that it is of Ptolemy IV, Philopator, 220-204 B.C. The reverse shows an eagle on a thunderbolt with the letters DI between its legs, and the inscription "PTOLEMAIOS BASILEUS," both in Greek characters. The obverse has a large head representing Jupiter Ammon, quite a striking design of flowing curls and profile. The find-spot was in a remote corner of the garden near the garage, where rubbish bonfires were often made both during and since the war. The likelihood that the coin may be a soldier's curio thrown out with other rubbish during their occupation seems a very probable explanation of its presence there.

I. D. MARGARY.

An unusual coin of Constantine (A.D. 306-337) found at Ewell.—This coin, originally given to me by Mr. Willis, with several others from Ewell (which were formerly in the possession of his father), has, on account of its numismatic interest, been presented to the British Museum, and the following note (and illustration) has kindly been prepared by Mr. R. A. G. Carson of the Department of Coins and Medals:

"The coin (Fig. 2) which has been kindly presented to the British Museum by Mr. Lowther, and which is reported to have been found, *circa* 1860-70, at Ewell, is described as follows : *Obv.* Bust of Roma, helmeted, draped. t.—legend VRBIS [ROMA]. *Rev.* Two soldiers standing, facing, holding spear and leaning on shield ; between them, a standard—legend GLOR [IA EXERCITVS] ; in ex. TR[?P].

The spelling on the obverse legend is an unusual variation of the normal VRBS (*v.* Fig. 1) *cf.* Cohen, "Monnaies frappées sous l'Empire romain," VII, p. 327, No. 2. The blundered legend, and the general style of the coin, suggest that it is a barbarous imitation, and that, despite the mint signature TRP, it is not an issue of the regular mint of Trèves."

A. W. G. LOWTHER.

Compton Church : The Oratory.—Anyone visiting Compton Church for the first time is startled at seeing the parish altar overshadowed by the chapel built above it. It is said there is nothing quite like it at home or abroad, and many suggestions, unsupported by evidence, structural or historical, have been made to explain its original use. My own belief is that this upper chapel originally was the oratory of an anchorite in priest's orders, where he could say Mass daily and the other offices of the Church, and whose cell exists today outside the south wall of the chancel.

During the seven and a half centuries that have passed since the cell and oratory were built much of the structural detail has been lost, but I believe that sufficient evidence remains to prove my suggestion to be true.

It is certain that Compton had its anchorites, but how early and how long is uncertain ; there are no records. The first cell we have knowledge of was outside the north wall of the short Saxon chancel. Remains of it found in 1930, are a cove in the wall outside, 40 inches high and about the same in width, with a semi-circular head and, a few inches above its base, a rectangular opening 12 inches by 8 inches in height and width passing through the chancel wall at a right-angle. Through this opening the anchorite had the altar in full view when lying on the floor of his cell, but after the lengthening of the chancel, before 1180, the altar was moved farther eastward and could no longer be seen from the cell—the cell had become obsolete.

It was established by Mr. P. M. Johnston that the upper chapel was built about 1185, some years after the alterations to the nave and chancel were completed, and the structural evidence supports the view that a new cell was built at the same time outside the south wall of the chancel, where it is now seen.

The new cell is very small, 6 feet 8 inches by 4 feet 4 inches in length and width. There is evidence that it had an upper floor where the anchorite slept. In the south wall of the cell there is a small window with semi-circular head apparently of 12th-century date. It is 32 inches by 8 inches in height and width, and has an inside splay of 18 inches. The rebate outside for a shutter is partly filled in. In the same wall is a blocked doorway with pointed head and without mouldings or decoration. It is old and is built up with old masonry. It is said by Lady Boston to be of early 14th-century date. It opened outward apparently because the ladder to the oratory door prevented it opening inwards to the cell. Through the north wall of the cell there is an opening giving a full view of the parish altar, and farther west is the doorway from the chancel into the cell, with pointed head and without mouldings or ornament to give a clue to its date. It should be noticed that its western jamb is built on the circular moulded base of an early nook shaft—similar to the bases of nook shafts seen near by in the abutment of the vault supporting the oratory. It can hardly be doubted that it is a surviving relic of the original 1185 doorway to the cell.

The only known entrance to the upper chapel or oratory is the one now in use to which there is a modern stair from the cell. It has a pointed head and is without mouldings or decoration. Originally it also would be of 1185 date.

There was an altar in the oratory and in the south wall is an early pillar piscina found years ago plastered over in an early blocked window.

The occupation of the cell by an anchorite, whether in orders or not, continued possibly until the early years of the 14th century. Lady Boston records in her Guide to the church, edition 1933, page 19, that in 1311 a chantry for the repose of the soul of Henry de Guildford and others was founded in the church, and the oratory was taken over for use as the chantry chapel, and the blocked doorway in the south wall of the cell was provided for the use of the chaplain.

The three doorways to the cell, the oratory and to the modern vestry resemble architecturally the chaplain's entrance to the Chantry Chapel, and when it was built they apparently were rebuilt to the same design.

The alteration of the Saxon church was made at two periods separated by a few years. The cost must have been heavy, which I think suggests that it was borne chiefly by one benefactor who was interested that it should be completed as one scheme which included the oratory. Compton therefore has its beautiful church and an anchorite's cell and oratory without rival.

About Anchorites and Ancresses.

To have an anchorite in one's church seems to have been a matter of pride in the Middle Ages. When the incumbent and patron of the benefice had decided on a suitable person, application was made to the bishop for his approval, which he gave only after inquiries and particularly to ascertain that provision for maintenance was certainly made. The bishop or his deputy took the office of inclusion. The candidate passed ceremonially through the door from chancel to cell, and the door was closed on the chancel side and almost never built up. Inclusion was for life. The bishop was guardian to enclosed persons.

The cell was generally outside the chancel north wall, small and single, but might have extra rooms for a servant or disciple, and an anchorite priest had an oratory as at Compton.

On the chancel side beside the door of entrance there was a window with shutter giving a view of the altar; through it the anchorite received Holy Communion. At the back of the cell was a small window giving light, and for the service of food, and a small window barred and curtained through which the occupant conversed with the outside world.

Food was very restricted; there was fuel for warmth and oil for light. Life was spent in prayer and meditation and rigorous discomfort with some alleviations.

References.

Hermits and Anchorites, by R. Mary Clay. Antiquary Books.

Compton Church, with plan, by J. L. André. *Surrey Archæological Collections*, Vol. XII.

Victoria County History, with plan, by P. M. Johnston.

Guide to Compton Church, by Lady Boston. Ed. 1933.

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J. H. Gibson.

Pepys and Guildford.—With reference to the note entitled "Pepys and Brabœuf Manor" on p. 167 of *S.A.C.*, Vol. L, it is desirable, in the interests of historical accuracy, to point out that the inn at Guildford mentioned explicitly or inferentially in all three passages from Arthur Bryant's books on Pepys to which references are given in the note is not, as there implied, the still-existing Angel but the Red Lion; the latter formerly stood on the North

side of High Street, immediately west of the present Market Street. There seems to be no evidence to support the statement that Pepys "frequently stayed at the Angel," or even that he ever did so. His uncle's residence (Brabœuf) is not mentioned in the *Diary* by name, although this is presumably "the house" spoken of as "dull" when Pepys walked to see his aunt "at Katherine Hill."

B. R.

St. George's Church, Crowhurst.—Recent work for the restoration of the church after the unfortunate fire has disclosed an unsuspected holy water stoup in the porch. The find was kindly reported to the Society by the Vicar, the Rev. P. W. Low, who showed me what had been found. The stoup is hollowed out of a single block of local sandstone set into the east wall of the porch close to the church door. The front edge of the bowl is broken away but the rest of it is in good condition. No doubt the heat of the fire (which had been lit by a madman in the porch and burnt fiercely there) was responsible for loosening the overlying filling and thus disclosing the stoup.

I. D. Margary.

A Scold's Bridle or Brank.—In the parish church at Walton-on-Thames, near the west door, enclosed in a small wooden cabinet, is a scold's bridle or brank. It consists of an iron frame to enclose the head of a scolding woman. It was formerly fitted with a flat piece of metal which entered the mouth, and, by keeping down the tongue, acted as a gag. The brank is much corroded and the tongue worn away. An inscription, no longer visible, reads, "Chester presents Walton with a bridle to curb women's tongues that talk too idle."

The story is that a man named Chester "who had lost an estate through the instrumentality of a lying, gossiping, woman" presented the brank to the church. In view, however, of the fact that branks are common in the north-west of England (there are four or five in Chester Museum and some at Shrewsbury), it may be that the reference is to the city of Chester and not to a person. The fact that John Bradshaw, a Cheshire man, was appointed Chief Justice in 1642, and is said to have lived at the Old Manor House of Walton Leigh, suggests the connection and the possible identity of the donor.

J. R. Warburton.

A 1792 Dorking Bequest—The Wheatsheaf Hog.—By her will dated 16th May, 1792, Sarah Philps of Dorking, Widow, bequeathed :—

> "The great Hog stuffed and the Machine and Picture thereof and thereunto belonging To hold to him my said son John Philps his Executors Administrators and Assigns to and for his and their own use and benefit."

The deceased was the widow of Thomas Philps, who died in 1780 and was the proprietor of the Wheatsheaf Inn, High Street, Dorking, and was famous for rearing large hogs. The hog in question, according to Timbs's *Picturesque Promenade Round Dorking* (1822), weighed 104 stone or 832 lb., its length was 12 feet, girth 8 feet, height 18 hands. A broken leg caused it to be killed before reaching maturity– had the animal survived it was estimated that it would have weighed nearly 200 stone. The hog was dressed and stuffed and exhibited to the public upon payment of a charge of 2d. per head. Timbs adds : "This prodigy may be considered as well worthy of the inspection of Agriculturists."

Documentary evidence shows the Philps family to have been residents and traders in Dorking since 1623, and they are variously described as Yeomen, Fellmongers, Woolstaplers, Innkeepers, Victuallers and Hatters and Tailors. They owned at one time considerable property in the High Street, including the Wheatsheaf Inn and neighbouring premises. The male members of the family were active in local affairs and upon eleven occasions were elected Churchwardens.

The last member of the family resident in Dorking, Miss Clara Philps, died on the 19th May, 1949, when a connection of over 320 years came to an end.

E. L. Sellick.