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VOLUME I. NO. 7. JANUARY 1961.

WINTER PROGRAMME, 1961.

For the New Year three meetings have been arranged, including an additional one for February. We have been very fortunate in securing three speakers who are all leaders in their own fields. It is hoped that members will respond by attending in large numbers, to give them the audience they deserve. All meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Court Room of the Town Hall.

Tuesday, 31st January

"Parish Government in the 18th Century : Wigginton and its Records"
 by Mr. F.D. Price, Dean of Keble College.

Although this talk concerns Wigginton, it is just as applicable to any local village. Mr. Price, who spends his vacations in Wigginton, has brought to light many fascinating glimpses of ordinary rural life and conditions as they were two hundred years ago.

Tuesday, 28th February

"The Civil War in North Oxfordshire" by Miss Margaret Toynbee.

Those who came to Edgehill in May, 1959, will have pleasant memories of the last time Miss Toynbee visited us. Edgehill was by no means the only event of significance in this area during the Civil War. The siege of Banbury Castle, and the important Battle of Cropredy Bridge form only part of a subject in which Miss Toynbee is one of the foremost experts.

Tuesday, 28th March

"Barrow Diggers of the 19th Century" by Mr. Humphrey Case, M.A., F.S.A.

Mr. Case is Senior Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum, and this summer headed a joint Anglo-French excavation in Brittany. His account of the beginnings of interest in archaeology and the somewhat surprising methods used is sure to be both interesting and amusing.

PARISH REGISTERS

Mr. Gibson is now copying the registers of the Chapelry of Epwell, formerly in the parish of Swalcliffe. Marriages have been copied completely from 1580 to 1837, and Baptisms and Burials in the two volumes covering the 16th and 17th century. The complete registers of the parish of Swalcliffe itself and the other chapelry of Shutford have already been copied.

The marriages from the first and second volumes of Wardington registers, at present deposited in the Bodleian Library, for the period 1603-1694, have also been copied.

OXFORDSHIRE CLOCKMAKERS

In response to the appeal made on p.67 of the November number information has been given by Mrs. M. Gillett, Bedford, Mr. M.L. Dix Hamilton, Lindfield, Mr. F.D. Price, Wigginton and Mrs. K. Taylor, Elsfield, for which we are most grateful.

Apropos of Dr. Brinkworth's article in this number it may be interesting to note that Thomas Gainsborough's brother the Rev. Humphrey Gainsborough, Congregational Minister at Henley on Thames, 1748-1776, was an engineer of note and the inventor of an unusual kind of rolling ball clock. Humphrey's accomplishments obtained public notice through the efforts of Philip Thicknesse and particularly by a letter about the clock which Thicknesse wrote to the Gentleman's Magazine on 14 November, 1785 under the pseudonym "Polyzena". After Humphrey died Thomas gave the clock to Thicknesse who presented it to the British Museum on 6 December 1788. Unfortunately it has since disappeared but a drawing of it by Thicknesse and later descriptions have been preserved.

Another time-keeping device based on a sundial, also constructed by Humphrey Gainsborough, passed into the possession of Thicknesse, was presented to the British Museum in 1784 and was duly lost.

C.F.C.B.

R E V I E W

OXFORDSHIRE CLERGY, 1777-1869. A study of the Established Church and of the role of its Clergy in local society, by Diana McClatchey, (Clarendon Press, 1960. 45/-).

For all who are interested in the ecclesiastical and social history of Oxfordshire this book is quite unusually rewarding. It covers a century of ferment and change, which transformed a remarkable and largely medieval set-up surviving into the nineteenth century, and realised the Unitarian ideal of a priest resident in every country parish, however small, and comfortably housed in the mansions, which now litter the countryside like white elephants. But the scope of the book is limited to a study of the men who lived in the parsonage houses rather than the priests ministering before their altars. The reader must therefore not be surprised to find little direct reference to the Evangelical and Oxford movements and only rare allusions to the spread of High Church practices, which were beginning to cause alarm in parishes like Bloxham towards the end of the period.

In the earlier chapters the evils of pluralities and absenteeism are carefully analysed. In 1793 it was still considered quite proper that the Master of Dr. Radcliffe's School at Steeple Aston should serve the churches at Duns Tew and Barford St. Michael, and that John Francis, officiating minister at Swinbrook should live at Burford and serve in addition the churches at Shilton and Westwell. Richard Pretzman, rector of Middleton Stoney, survived until 1866, enjoying an income of £4,006 derived from his Church preferments, but giving active unpaid service to the community as a magistrate. Orders in the Church of England were regarded as a profession until a changing climate of opinion, assisted by legislation and fostered by Bishop Wilberforce with his newly founded training college at Cuddesdon, raised them to a vocation. Incidentally a fuller account might have been given here of the Whig reforms in the 1830's, and there is no mention at all of the outstanding services rendered to the Church in this connection by Bishop Blomfield of London. But the zeal and bustling energy of Samuel Wilberforce are evident in all that was achieved for improving the status and sincerity, the income and the influence of the country clergy.

A chapter devoted to educational advance disclosed the astonishing fact that about half the schools in the county were either built or enlarged in the 1840's and 1850's. And these, of course, were all Church schools. Nor was the activity of the clergy as teachers of

their flocks confined to church and day school. Many a village must still retain its Reading Room (a revealing title), where in Unitarian times, as at Deddington, evening classes and libraries were organised and the local clergy were wont to give lantern lectures on any subject from China to Peru. Among other relics of this era can anybody now produce a specimen of the Thanks-giving Papers given to discharged patients to be presented to their own ministers as a token of gratitude to God for the mercies they had received in the Radcliffe Infirmary?

Many other aspects of clerical life in the Oxfordshire parishes are described in this notable book. And there is a sensitive awareness to the deeper issues involved.

(E.P. Baker)

PHILIP THICKNESSE AND THE STEANE CIRCLE

By E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A.

Some time ago I was given a copy of Horace's Odes, edited by David Watson and printed at London in 1709, which turned out to have an interesting local association. For at page 138 is the signature of Philip Thicknesse, the notable 18th century writer and eccentric who was born at his father's rectory at Farthinghoe on 10 August, 1719. He was educated at Aynhoe Free Grammar School and at Westminster. Intended for the medical profession he soon gave it up for the army and eventually, in 1753, became lieutenant-governor of Landguard Fort in Essex.

Thicknesse combined a military career with great interest in the arts. He it was who persuaded the young Gainsborough to leave Ipswich for fashionable Bath, and for some twenty years was his patron.

In 1766 Thicknesse resigned his command and henceforward led the life of a dilettante, with frequent changes of abode in this country interspersed by tours abroad. His signature in my Horace is followed by the words, "Calais, 1771", and I have verified that he was there in that year. (He was not the first or last to pack "the layman's breviary" as a travelling companion.)

Thicknesse married, as his third wife, Ann Ford, a young lady of great beauty, wit and outstanding talent as a writer and

musician. Gainsborough's portrait (now in the Cincinnati Art Gallery) shows her sitting with a guitar in her hand and a viol de gamba in the background.

A constant stream of books and pamphlets poured from Thicknesse's pen : on travel, chess, "singular persons now living", cyphers, man-midwifery, the city of Bath, and his own life. Dr. Johnson told Boswell that he thought them entertaining 'to read once'.

Philip Thicknesse was a man of ability in several fields and he had some admirable qualities. But he was obsessively quarrelsome. Often the issues were trifling. The story of his differences over a long period with Dr. Moore, later Archbishop of Canterbury, is indeed an absurd one. It began when Moore was a young curate staying at Hinton Rectory as the guest of Dr. Greg. "I found him garcon de famille", writes Thicknesse, "much esteemed by my brother-in-law and sister, and much admired, I dare say, by their four daughters, for he was a very handsome young man; and if I mistake not, he admired one of them particularly". It was during the Astrop Wells season and Thicknesse and Moore were the two male players in a game called 'Commerce', in which the forfeit involved one of the female players. "I had an early specimen", acidly and somewhat confusedly comments Thicknesse, "of the great susceptibility so trifling a matter excited in Mr. Moore's bosom, relative to a decision on which neither of us was interested, than on behalf of our fair friends". For years he was at odds with Moore, as prebendary of Durham, Bishop of Bangor and Archbishop of Canterbury, the good man returning soft answers but always to no avail. Dr. Moore on one occasion asked him for "a singular weather cock" and paid a guinea for it. Years later Thicknesse denied that he had been paid. Moore sent another guinea "enclosed between two cards and another very temperate, civil letter accompanying it". It was this letter that Thicknesse took to amuse Dr. Dodd, the famous parson-forgery then in prison under sentence of death.

Philip Thicknesse, indefatigable traveller to the end, died in his eighty-first year on 18 November, 1792, at Boulogne, and was buried there.

Joyce Thicknesse, Philip's sister, married Richard Grey, the young and eligible Rector of Hinton-in-the-Hedges. He was chaplain, secretary and friend of Nathaniel, Lord Crewe of nearby Steane, Bishop successively of Oxford and Durham. Grey became Archdeacon of Bedford and a Prebendary of St. Paul's. These appointments he held without giving up Hinton where he spent most of his time, devoting himself to the care of the parish, to Lord Crewe's interests, and to scholarship. A good many books stand to his credit, most of them skilful

condensations of larger works by other hands. One at least is still useful : his "System of English Ecclesiastical Law, extracted from Bishop Gibson's Codex". Several of his special sermons were published, including one preached on 3 May, 1752, "at the renewing of divine service in Steane Chapel and the augmentation made in the rectory of Steane in order to unite it with the rectory of Hinton". Richard Grey and his wife lie buried at the east end of the nave of Hinton church.

Philip Thicknesse gives a charming account of how this devoted pair first met. He explains that within a mile of Farthinghoe stood a beautiful little church (Steane) and near it the mansion of Lord Crewe. The "proud and stately prelate" was much visited by people of all ranks from far and near and he was affronted when so near a neighbour as John Thicknesse, Rector of Farthinghoe, omitted to call. So he sent his chaplain Richard Grey to find the reason. "And it so happened that before Mr. Grey had seen my father, he had met my sister, an object which attracted much of his attention; and when he came into my father's study, instead of disclosing his business, he asked my father whether a young lady he had seen in the courtyard was his daughter. My father informed him he had two daughters and that possibly it might be. 'Bless me', said Mr. Grey, 'it made my heart leap to see so fine a girl in such a country village'. This offended Mr. Thicknesse much and Richard Grey, quickly noticing it, hastened to explain the object of his visit. And my father, finding him to be an ingenious young man, began to feel as much partiality to the young parson as the parson had conceived for his youngest daughter. Mr. Grey repeated his visits and before my sister was well out of her white frock, she became the Rector of Hinton's wife, where she may be seen at this day, in her eighty-fourth year, with many traces yet remaining of that beauty which so suddenly caught the attention of her departed husband".

Among their circle of friends at Hinton the Greys' numbered Lord and Lady Thanet of Newbottle, a couple not so happy as they were, for while her ladyship was acknowledged a great wit, his lordship was regarded as a great bore, much addicted to the re-telling of lengthy anecdotes. Driven to desperation, Lady Thanet consulted Dr. Grey about a possible separation. He advised against it; but she went. Philip is again our authority: "Her ladyship always called Newbottle, Dullbottle, where she declared, she had often heard the same dull stories told over

and over again so often that it was one of her chief reasons for quitting her lord and mansion".

Lady Thanet once asked Mrs. Grey if her husband also was given to reiterant anecdotage and she admitted that there was just one story he often recounted. It concerned his friend and patron Lord Crewe, who on the death of his beloved young wife Dorothy had erected a handsome monument to her in Steane Chapel and had formed the habit of sitting by it almost daily for hours together. The sculptor had put a particularly ghastly alabaster skull at the bottom of the monument and it worried the old man. One day he said to Dr. Grey, "I wish, Dick, that horrid skull had not been put there". So the Rector, wishing to relieve him, privily sent to Banbury for a carver and asked him to turn the skull into something pleasing. The result was the finely executed bunch of grapes which may still be seen there.

Notes.

1. John Thicknesse became Rector of Farthinghoe, in 1694. He was descended from an ancient Staffordshire family of Balterley Hall. Philip was the seventh son. Among his brothers, also born at Farthinghoe, was George, who became High Master of St. Paul's School and raised it to great reputation; indeed, he has been called the second founder. He was a reformer, too, and "considered boys as rational beings, to be governed by reason, not by the rod". Upon retirement he went to live with an old friend, William Holbech, at Arlescote, a hamlet which lies at the foot of Edgehill. At his own request George Thicknesse was buried on the north side of the churchyard at Warmington and the place left unmarked.
2. Aynhoe Grammar School was founded in 1671 by Richard Cartwright. The endowment, consisting of a yearly rent charge of £20 and a sum in consols arising from the sale of the Grammar School building was applied to the National School built in 1903. The building is now a private house.
3. One of the daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Grey married the Vicar of King's Sutton and became the mother of the poet William Lisle Bowles who was born there. Bowles' work was highly thought of in his day; among his admirers were Wordsworth and Coleridge.
4. At Steane the Elizabethan Manor House stood in a walled park of 150 acres. It was a rectangular building with a balustraded gallery round the inner area. About the middle of the 18th century it was demolished except for the kitchen and part of the interior offices.

5. Newbottle Manor House stood just north of the church and was a hunting seat of the Earls of Thanet. It was taken down early in the 19th century.
6. Astrop, near King's Sutton, was one of the many locally fashionable spas of the late 18th century. It had a recognised season, Assembly Rooms, balls, breakfasts and card parties.
7. Philip Thicknesse's mother Joyce was the daughter of Sir John Blencowe, Justice of the Common Pleas and Baron of the Exchequer. Memorials to members of the family adorn the walls of the parish church at Marston St. Lawrence.
8. It was generally thought that Dr. Richard Grey would have become a Bishop had it not been for his association with Lord Crewe who was regarded by many as a time-serving sycophant. It is true that his lordship trimmed to all the winds of change from the reign of Charles II to that of the first George. But on the credit side it must be remembered that he was a good bishop. There is a portrait of him in the Town Hall at Banbury.

N O T E S

WARDINGTON PARISH REGISTERS, VOL. TWO, fo. 37.

An Account of those that were touched by King James the second at Banbury 7ber ye 3th 1687 for ye distemper called ye Kings evil.

September ye 2d Anno Domini 1687 3 Reg. Jac. 2

A Certificate was then granted to John Davis of Williamscott for Richard the son of the aforesaid John Davis.

Ditto. a certificate granted to William Meacock of Wardington in behalf of James the son of the aforesaid William Meacock

per me, Francis Stanier, Vicar

September 4th An. Dom. 1687 3 Reg. Jac. 2

A Certificate was then granted to Isabell Gre.... of Williamscott to recommend her to his majesties favour to be touched for the evill.

by me, Francis Stanier, Vicar

BANBURY PARISH REGISTER

The Vicar of Banbury has drawn my attention to the following intriguing entry in the parish register:

Baptisms, 1795

"Weithrop, Charles son of Willm. Claridge, labourer,
by Susannah his wife, August 5th.

Note: (in margin) For Charles son of Willm. Claridge etc.
read Charlotte daughter of Willm. Claridge, etc.

This correction was made by me, T.W. Lancaster, Curate, and is attested by Susannah Claridge the mother of the said Charlotte Claridge as witness her hand this 6th November 1815.

Sushanna Claridge"

Unfortunately there seems little likelihood discovering the necessity for making such a correction, no less than twenty years after the original entry.

J.S.W.G.

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 Bodleian Library.
 City Library, St. Aldates.
 County Record Office, County Hall.
 County Library, Norham Gardens.

Shakespeare's Birthplace Library, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warw.
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U.S.A.

California, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino.
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 Cambridge 38.
 Massachusetts, New England Historic Genealogical Society,
 9 Ashburton Place, Boston 8.
 New York, Cornell University Library, Ithaca.
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 Salt Lake City.
 Virginia, Historical Society, 428 North Boulevard, Richmond 20.
 Virginia, State Library (Serials), Richmond 19.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Members, 1960. (Continued)

Obituary. Mrs. N.J. Butters, Mr. R. Rowntree, Mr. H.G. Sears.

We have been sorry to receive the resignations of the followings:-

Mr. & Mrs. L.T. Davies, Mr. & Mrs. P. Hallett, Miss A. Lillie,
Mrs. M.D. Lobel, Mr. A.V. Lovell, Mrs. J.M. Neal, Miss C. St. Leger,
Mrs. H.G. Sears,

The following have not rejoined:- Mr. P. Austin, Mr. L. Baily,
Miss D. Barford, Mrs. W.E. Bennett, Miss A.L. Bennett,
Miss M. Clarke, Miss S.M. Clark, Mr. A.M. Colliard,
Mr. & Mrs. H. Crowe, Mr. S. Crowe, Mr. E.J. Dee, Dr. & Mrs. D. Drew,
Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Fairbairn, The Rev. & Mrs. T.W. Griffiths,
Mr. H.M. Hipwood, Mr. J.W. Hipwood, Mr. J.G. Jenkins, Mr. P. Ord,
Mrs. G.H.C. Sheehan, Mr. P.E. Slinn, Mr. C.J. Smirthwaite,
Miss B. Wheeler, Mr. N. Wilson.

LISTS OF MEN LIABLE TO BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE IN THE MILITIA.

Similar lists are preserved in the Northamptonshire Record Office in Delapre Abbey for many other parishes in the county for the years 1762, 1771, 1774, 1777 and 1781. Names crossed out are of those considered by the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace not to be liable under the 1761 Militia Act. Those who signed the enclosed lists were John Blencowe of Marston St. Lawrence (died 1777), the Revd. Richard Grey, Archdeacon of Bedford, Rector of Hinton, 1720-1771, the Revd. John Spencer, Rector of Chipping Warden, 1719-1773, and Sir John Dryden of Canons Ashby (died 1770). Originally compiled for the purpose of selecting the parish quota of militiamen, these lists are now of great importance owing to the fact that they give the occupation of each man named.

(by P.I. KING - Archivist, Northamptonshire Record Office)

MIDDLETON CHENEY

A list of all the men usually and at this time dwelling within the constablewick of Middleton Cheney between the ages of eighteen and forty five years, November the 20th 1762.

Servants:-

John Samons	William Bull	Henry Hall
James Thornton	John Barrett	Richard Douglas
Michael Wilsdon	John Heyns	William Bonnin
William Ward	Jonathan Bland	John Mees
Samuel Taylor	Edward Bartlett (1)	Thomas Carter
Richard Taylor	George Maltus	Richard Gascoign
Thomas Williams	John Andrews	William Hawkins
John Nuett	Nehemiah Saben	(1) Named crossed out and marked "lame"
John Carter	George Baker	

Farmers Sons:-

John Merivale	John Dumbleton	John Aris
Richard Wise	William Aris	William Merivale
John Knibb	Edward Aris	John Wise

Labourers:-

Samuel Braginton	Joseph Hartwell	William Mold
Samuel Trefus	Thomas Mold	David Barret
William Waters	James Mold	William Larnar
John Clark	William Makepeace	William Robinson
John Hiorns	Thomas Taylor	Thomas Penn
Charles Lock	Robert Chamberlain	

Journeyman Framework Knitters:-

Richard Hitchcox	John Buckingham	Thomas Jeffs
Thomas Buckingham	James Lock	William Blencowe

Master Framework Knitters:-

Robert Golbey	Thomas Lock	Thomas Jones
John Pinfold	Crescent Jeffs	William Gascoign
William Roberts	George Tuckey	

Cordwainers:-

John Wise Thomas Gulliver Edward Upstone Southam Pratt

Blacksmiths:-

Daniell Pinfold Richard Pinfold Thomas Pinfold (1)
 (1) Name crossed out and marked "deaf"

Masons:-

Thomas Wilkins (1) Samuel Golbey James Bull
 (1) Name crossed out and marked "infirm"

Weavers:-

William Golbey James Simkins

Wheelwrights:-

John Webb (1) Thomas Williams
 (1) Name crossed out and marked "lame"

Shagweavers:-

William Chamberlain John Middleton

Carpenters:-

Thomas Williams John Walker

Flaxdressers:-

William Shelswell James Golbey

Staymakers:-

Samuel Lock John Lock

Maltsters:-

William Knight William North

Husbandmen:-

John North Thomas North

Woollcomber:-

Richard Williams (1)
 (1) Name crossed out and marked "infirm"

Cooper:-

Benjamin Lord

Tanner:-

John Drayson

Whittawer:-

Thomas Broof

Baker:-

John Evans

Butcher:-

Owen Buckingham

Clockmaker:-

Thomas Pinfold

Gentleman:-

John Wilkins

Hogdealers:-

Richard Watts George Watts

(No occupation)

Matthew Neal (1)

(1) Name crossed out and marked "dischar(g)ed from the
 Light Horse"

Constable:- William Cooper
 Headborough:- Thomas Evans
 Churchwardens:- Robert Penn William Williams
 Overseer of the Poor:- William Williams at Pool
 Surveyors of the Highways:- Thomas Golbey Thomas Herbage
 William Buckingham
 Officer of Excize:- John Pearson
 Lame:- Abel Williams William Baker William Cook
 Thomas Treadwell

Apprentices:-

John Lamprey Thomas Herbage Robert Penn
 Richard Wilkins John Bateman Pierpoint Gascoign
 John Golbey William Guy

Poor men with three children born in wedlock:-

Joseph Miller Samuel Pettifer Richard Stanley
 Thomas Elmer John Pinfold William Lawrence
 Samuel Hartwell William Nicolls William Hartwell

With three children born in wedlock:-

John Smith, Woolcomber Richard Pinfold, blacksmith
 Thomas Holmer, taylor Edward Johnson, joiner
 Richard Williams, wheelwright Jonathan Dumbleton, schoolmaster
 Richard Wadup, frame knitter Matthew Wise, baker
 Thomas Roberts, ditto John Rodnight, glazier
 Robert Gascoign, ditto Richard Golbey, wheelwright
 Richard Simonds, shepherd John Stanley, taylor

Note: The whole of the lame, apprentices and poor men are crossed through, as are John Smith and Richard Williams.

November 29th 1762 verified upon oath

Jno. Blencowe D.L. Ri Grey J Spencer

In the original which is arranged in three columns the totals of each column are 51 50 & 44. Marked on the outside 116.

(To be continued)

