

PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS.

THE  
North Staffordshire Field Club.

Founded 1865.

TRANSACTIONS

AND  
ANNUAL REPORT,  
1917-18.

Edited by  
J. T. STOBBS, F.G.S.,  
AND  
H. V. THOMPSON, M.A.



VOL. LII.

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1918.

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## COUNCIL FOR 1918-19.

*President :*

W. T. BOYDON RIDGE, B.Sc.

*Vice-Presidents :*

## THE PAST PRESIDENTS.

VERY REV. H. E. SAVAGE, D.D.    A. R. P. PIERCY.  
 E. B. WAIN, M.Inst.C.E.        H. H. GODDARD.  
 A. F. WENGER.                    J. A. AUDLEY, B.Sc.  
 REV. S. W. HUTCHINSON, M.A.    THE LADY FARRER.

*Hon. Treasurer :*

J. R. B. MASEFIELD, M.A.

*Hon. Secretary :*

H. V. THOMPSON, M.A.,  
 Central Technical School,  
 Stoke-on-Trent.

*Sections :*

A. ZOOLOGY .. ..	Chairman—	J. R. B. MASEFIELD, M.A.
B. ENTOMOLOGY .. ..	"	F. D. BOSTOCK, F.E.S.
C. BOTANY .. ..	"	W. T. BOYDON RIDGE, B.Sc.
D. MICROSCOPY .. ..	"	A. H. JOHN, M.B., B.S.
E. GEOLOGY .. ..	"	F. BAKER, F.G.S.
F. METEOROLOGY .. ..	"	GRAHAM C. LAWSON.
G. ARCHÆOLOGY .. ..	"	C. LYNAM, F.S.A.
H. PHOTOGRAPHY .. ..	"	E. B. WAIN, M.Inst.C.E.
I. SKETCHING .. ..	"	J. H. BECKETT, A.R.I.B.A.

Members wishing to join any Section should inform the Chairman.

*Local Secretaries :*

BURSLEM ..	H. J. STEELE.	NEWCASTLE ..	W. H. EARL.
CHEADLE ..	J. R. B. MASEFIELD.	STOKE ..	S. A. H. BURNE.
HANLEY ..	B. BRYAN.	STONE ..	A. HUNTBACH.
LEEK ..	R. S. MILNER.	TUNSTALL ..	E. B. WAIN.
LONGTON ..	E. P. TURNER.	UTTOXETER ..	T. S. WILKINS.

*Elected Members of Council :*

(To retire in 1919.)	(To retire in 1920.)	(To retire in 1921.)
F. W. ASH.	MISS BICKLEY.	H. W. DALTRY.
REV. E. DEACON.	REV. L. K. CLARK.	R. C. FRAIN.
G. A. MITCHESON.	G. E. PHILLIMORE.	MRS. A. H. JOHN.
	T. C. WARRINGTON.	T. PAPE.

## COMMITTEES FOR 1918-19.

*Finance Committee :*

THE PRESIDENT. THE HON. TREASURER. THE HON. SECRETARY.

*Library Committee :*

THE PRESIDENT. THE HON. EDITOR.  
 THE HON. TREASURER. F. BARKE, F.G.S.  
 THE HON. SECRETARY. J. H. BECKETT, A.R.I.B.A.  
 THE HON. LIBRARIAN. W. H. EARL.  
 C. LYNAM, F.S.A.

*Natural History Museum Committee :*

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 E. D. BOSTOCK, F.E.S. W. T. BOYDON RIDGE, B.Sc.  
 C. LYNAM, F.S.A. A. SCRIVENER.  
 W. D. SPANTON, F.R.C.S.

*Publication Committee :*

THE PRESIDENT. E. D. BOSTOCK, F.E.S.  
 THE HON. TREASURER. WHEELTON HIND, M.D., F.G.S.  
 THE HON. SECRETARY. C. LYNAM, F.S.A.  
 THE HON. EDITOR. A. SCRIVENER.  
 F. BARKE, F.G.S. T. S. WILKINS.

*Hon. Librarian :* *Hon. Editor :* *Hon. Auditor :*  
 A. HUNTBACH. S. A. H. BURNE, M.A. J. C. BLADEN, C.A.

*Collector :*  
 W. H. EARL, C.A.

## EXCURSIONS, 1918.

- 1.—Saturday, April 27th—WOLSTANTON, DIMSDALE HALL AND CHESTERTON.  
Leader—MR. C. LYNAM.
- 2.—Wednesday, May 29th—MOW COP AND MORETON OLD HALL.  
Leaders—MESSRS. J. H. BECKETT AND J. T. STOBBS.
- 3.—Saturday, June 29th . . . . . SWYNNERTON.  
Leader—THE PRESIDENT.
- 4.—Saturday, July 20th—SUNGBOROUGH AND CANNOCK CHASE.  
Leaders—MESSRS. A. HUNTACH AND J. R. B. MASEFIELD.
- 5.—Thursday, August 15th—MUCKLESTONE AND DISTRICT.  
Leader—MR. P. W. L. ADAMS.
- 6.—Thursday, September 5th—STANTON AND DISTRICT.  
Leader—THE REV. E. DEACON.
- 7.—Saturday, October 5th . . . . . PRESTBURY.  
Leader—MR. J. H. BECKETT.

## EVENING MEETINGS, 1918-19.

- Thursday, November 14th.—Stoke-on-Trent.  
 Tuesday, December 10th.—Stoke-on-Trent.  
 Saturday, January 18th, 1919.—Leek.  
 Tuesday, February 11th.—Stoke-on-Trent.  
 Thursday, March 13th.—ANNUAL MEETING.—Stoke-on-Trent.

*All the Meetings at Stoke-on-Trent are held at the Central Technical School, near the Railway Station.*

# GENERAL ACCOUNT.

1917.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.	To Balance in Bank .. .. .	22	5	8
	„ 574 Subscriptions at 5s. .. .. .	143	10	0
	„ 29 Entrance Fees at 5s. .. .. .	7	5	0
	„ Sale of <i>Transactions</i> .. .. .	6	9	11
	„ Sale of <i>Jubilee Volumes</i> (from Nov. 5th, 1917) .. .. .	1	10	2
	„ Bank Interest .. .. .	6	0	

£182 6 9

1917.		£	s.	d.
Mar. 14.	By Sub., Folk Lore Society .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Sub., Palæontographical Society .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Sub., Parish Register Society .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Sub., Ray Society .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Sub., Wm. Salt Archaeological Society .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Caretaker, Library .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Fire Insurance .. .. .	1	5	0
	„ Adie, Printing .. .. .	7	8	5
	„ Bagguley, Printing .. .. .	0	13	6
	„ Mort, Printing <i>Transactions</i> .. .. .	72	14	3
	„ Mort, for Overprints .. .. .	5	2	3
	„ Hopkin & Williams, Dye .. .. .	2	0	11
	„ Mandley & Unett, Maps .. .. .	0	6	5
	„ Loan to Jubilee Volume Account .. .. .	9	19	0
	„ Hughes & Harber, Vellum Resolutions .. .. .	1	1	0
	„ Donation to Museum .. .. .	5	0	0
	„ Donation to Library .. .. .	5	0	0
	„ Postage, <i>Transactions</i> and <i>Jubilee Volumes</i> .. .. .	5	5	4
	„ Hon. Treasurer's Postage Account .. .. .	0	7	0
	„ Hon. Secretary's Postage Account .. .. .	5	15	1
	„ Collector's Commission .. .. .	9	15	0
	„ Cheque Book .. .. .	0	2	6
	„ Bank Charges .. .. .	0	4	0
	„ Balance in Bank .. .. .	44	1	1

£182 6 9

## CROXDEN ABBEY PRESERVATION FUND.

1917		£	s.	d.
Jan.	To 10 War Savings Certificates .. .. .	7	15	0

# FIELD CLUB MUSEUM.

1917.		£	s.	d.
Jan.	To Balance in Bank .. ..	10	4	3
	„ Donation .. ..	1	0	0
	„ Donation from General Fund .. ..	5	0	0
	„ Bank Interest .. ..	0	3	5
		£16	7	8

1917.		£	s.	d.
Mar.	By Spicer, Preserving Goosander .. ..	0	18	0
	„ Balance in Bank .. ..	15	9	8
		£16	7	8

## GARNE MEMORIAL FUND.

1917.		£	s.	d.
Jan.	To Balance in Bank .. ..	8	1	2
	„ Queensland Dividends .. ..	2	0	0
	„ Bank Interest .. ..	0	0	11
		£10	1	

1917.		£	s.	d.
April.	By 10 War Savings Certificates .. ..	7	15	0
	„ Balance in Bank .. ..	2	7	1
		£10	2	1

## DALTRY MEMORIAL FUND.

1917.		£	s.	d.
Jan.	To Balance in Bank .. ..	10	11	8
	„ Donation from General Fund .. ..	5	0	0
	„ Bank Interest .. ..	0	3	7
		£15	15	3

1917.		£	s.	d.
Oct.	By Heap, Bookbinding .. ..	2	8	2
	„ Mort, Printing .. ..	0	12	5
	„ Book purchased .. ..	0	6	0
	„ Balance in Bank .. ..	12	8	8
		£15	15	3



# JUBILEE VOLUME ACCOUNT.

1916-1917.				1916-1917.			
To	Donation, Mr. W. D. Spanton	..	20 0 0	By	Mort, Printing	..	104 1 3
„	Donation, General Fund	..	25 0 0	„	Bank Charges	..	0 2 0
„	Sub. and Sales (to Nov. 14th, 1917)	..	48 15 9				
„	Loan from General Fund	..	9 19 0				
„	Bank Interest	..	0 8 6				
			<hr/>				<hr/>
			£10 3 3				£104 3 3



## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Elected

- 1973 Blagg, Miss M. A., F.R.A.S., Greenhill, Cheadle, Staffs.  
1886 Bonney, Prof. the Rev. T. G., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.,  
F.S.A., 9, Scroope-terrace, Cambridge.  
1899 Dawkins, Prof. W. Boyd, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.S.A.,  
Fallowfield House, Fallowfield, Manchester.  
1903 Hardy, Sir Reginald, Bart., M.A., Dunstall Hall, Burton-  
on-Trent.  
1908 Lodge, Sir Oliver, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., Mariemont, Edg-  
baston, Birmingham.  
1917 Lynam, C., F.S.A., F.R.B.A., Cliff Bank House, Stoke-on-  
Trent.  
1872 Nevill, The Most Rev. S. T., D.D., Bishop of Dunedin,  
Otago, New Zealand.  
1917 Spanton, W. Dunnet, F.R.C.S., Ripon Lodge, Hastings.  
1887 Wragge, C. L., F.R.G.S., F.R.Met. Soc., Waiata, Birkenhead,  
Auckland, New Zealand.

## LIST OF MEMBERS

ELECTED DURING THE SESSION.

- Adderley, F., 77, Weston-road, Meir, Longton.  
Allen, B. J., Caverswall-road, Blythe Bridge, Staffs.  
Ashton, A. W., D.Sc., Pool Field House, Keele-road, Newcastle,  
Staffs.  
Ashton, Mrs. A. W., Pool Field House, Keele-road, Newcastle,  
Staffs.  
Beechener, W. H., 7, Smith-street, Hanley.  
Bennett, Miss F. E., 272, Waterloo-road, Burslem.

- Bennett, J. B., 272, Waterloo-road, Burslem.  
Bertram, Miss F. E., 1, Gladstone-street, Hanley.  
Blake, Miss E. M., L.L.A., 187, Meir-road, Normacot, Staffs.  
Boulton, D., Buxton House, Liverpool-road, Kidsgrove.  
Powditch, Miss E., Triscombe Cottage, Trentham-road, Longton.  
Coe, Mrs. J. W., Copeland-street, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Cooke, J., 97, Lichfield-street, Tamworth, Staffs.  
Dean, Rev. A., 51, Turnhurst-road, Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Devereux, P. S., Sunnyside, 159, Cauldon-road, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Dodd, W. H., 52, Eaton-street, Hanley.  
Drinkwater, Rev. W. F., M.A., Fulford Vicarage, Blythe Bridge, Staffs.  
Emery, W., 9, Catherine-street, May Bank, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Harrison, C. K., 81, Newcastle-road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Lamouth, Miss K. O., 242, Waterloo-road, Burslem.  
Masefield, Mrs. C. J. B., 3, Norham-road, Oxford.  
Morris Eyton, C. E., Wood Eaton Mines, Stafford.  
Morrison, Miss E. D., King's Chambers, Wolfe-street, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Pennell, A. H., Moss Side, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Skinner, F. J., The Board of Agriculture, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.  
Solon, Miss M., The Villas, London-road, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Stafford, Lieut.-Col. the Rt. Hon. Lord, D.S.O., Swinerton Park, Stone.  
Stedman, Miss D. E., Orme Girls' School, Newcastle, Staffs.  
Stedman, W., Yarnfield, Stone, Staffs.  
Stringer, F. S., The Views, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Wood, Miss D., Croxden Abbey, Rocester, Staffs.  
Wood, Miss E., Croxden Abbey, Rocester, Staffs.

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Total number of members, corrected to March 31st, 1918=595.

# REPORT.

*Read at the Fifty-third Annual Meeting, held at Stoke-on-Trent, on  
March 14th, 1918.*

The Council is again able to report that it has been possible to carry on the work of the Club during the past year, both in regard to the excursions and evening meetings, in spite of increasing difficulties.

The Excursions, all of which were favoured with the proverbial "Club weather," proved most attractive, and great credit is due to the respective leaders for the care they exercised in their arrangements. In the Rev. F. Deacon the Club has acquired a new leader who admirably fulfilled his duties. The average number of members attending the excursions was 40.

The Council particularly requests that no member or members shall bring the same resident in the district, as a visitor, to more than one excursion in any season—and that in all cases the names of visitors shall be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary.

The attendance at the Evening Meetings has only averaged 27, but this is in no small measure due to the prevalent restrictions in railway and other facilities. Ten papers and addresses have been given at these meetings—Mr. T. Pape's scholarly contribution on Heraldry has revealed a field for study hitherto somewhat neglected by the Club.

The Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1917, show a credit balance of £44 1s. 1d., against £22 5s. 8d. on December 31st, 1916—a most satisfactory position in view of the heavy increase in printing expenses. Unfortunately, very few members have made use of the draft order on banks, issued with the last volume of the *Transactions*. The Council has authorized the

formation of a Standing Finance Committee, consisting of the President, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary.

Owing to the continued scarcity of paper it is proposed that the restrictions in the size of the *Transactions*, as sanctioned last session, shall remain in force for the current year. The Council recommends that in future all papers and reports for publication in the *Transactions* shall be type-written before they are handed over to the Hon. Editor.

The Garner Medal has been handed to Mrs. C. J. B. Masfield in recognition of the researches in Staffordshire Archæology and History, and in particular for the work on Staffordshire Brasses of her husband, the late Capt. C. J. B. Masfield, M.C.

The number of honorary members has been increased to nine by the inclusion of Mr. W. D. Spanton and Mr. C. Lynam, who, for fifty-two years, have loyally and whole-heartedly furthered the best interests of the Club.

Thirty-two new members have been elected, while there have been 10 deaths, 37 resignations and, in addition, seven names have been deleted from the list under *Rule VII.*, thus bringing the total membership to 595, a decrease of 22.

By the death of Mr. W. Wells Bladen (elected 1875) the Club has lost a member who, for many years, did yeoman work as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor: Mr. W. S. Brough, joined in 1867, was President in 1877 and in earlier years took an active part in the life and work of the Club: the recent loss of Mr. G. M. Cockin (1912) has removed a valuable member from the more southern part of the County: the untimely death of Capt. Charles Masfield (1900) has deprived the Club of one who was destined to take a large share in its growth and development: Sir Henry Wiggin, Bart. (1908), took much interest in the Meteorological Section, supplying annual rainfall reports from Walton Hall.

Honours of a very diverse nature have been bestowed on members of the Club during the past year. Brig.-Gen. W. N. Congreve has been awarded the K.C.B. and promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General: Major F. H. L. Meynell has been made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, while the late

Capt. C. J. B. Masefield and the Rev. J. Reay, c.f., have both been awarded the Military Cross. Lord Faringdon has become a Companion of the League of Honour: Mr. Graham Balfour has been elevated to a knighthood: the Geological Society of London has bestowed the Prestwich Medal on Prof. Boyd Dawkins, and Mrs. F. J. Harrison and Mr. J. Russell have been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

The Council has accepted with great regret the resignation of Mr. H. H. Goddard who, as Hon. Librarian since 1908, has done most valuable and conscientious work in connection with the Daltry Library: the Council has much pleasure in announcing that Mr. A. Hartlath has consented to fill the vacancy.

A valuable collection of books has been given to the library by the late Mr. W. Wells Bladen and a complete duplicate set of our *Transactions* (with the exception of the issue for 1869) is now available.

A Library Sub-Committee, comprising the Hon. Librarian, the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. J. T. Stobbs, has been appointed by the Council to purchase new books to the value of £3 per annum—this sub-committee having power to approach the main committee if further funds are needed.

Messrs. T. C. Cantrill and G. M. Cockin have given their series of Neolithic Flints [see *Trans. N.S. Field Club*, Vol. LI. (1917), p. 97] to the Field Club Museum and other additions have been made during the past year.

# ANNUAL ADDRESS.

BY THE PRESIDENT—A. HUNTBACH.

*Read March 14th, 1918.*

When the Norman Duke crossed the Channel, backed by an army eager for the spoils of war and surrounded by relatives who trusted to be amply repaid out of the booty which it was hoped to obtain, England was apparently composed of a large number of separate towns, manors and villages, each almost a law unto itself. However, the country had passed through the tribal stage and had developed from a land of petty states to a nation. Some of the towns had charters, at this time nearly, if not more than, a century and a half old, for Edward the Elder, who died in 925 A.D., had made a decree that forbade the transaction of business outside the gate of a town, if the process involved injury to the town—*i.e.*, to prevent evasion of the fees payable to the town. Stafford, Tamworth, Edisbury and Runcorn are specially mentioned in this statute.

The temptation to keep our outlook on broad lines is great, but I propose, as far as possible, to restrict consideration to the area within the old manor of Tunstall.

At a time when there was no manor of Tunstall and when the country was on the eve of an upheaval, such as seems likely to occur in parts of Russia in these days of her trial, Wlstanctone (Wolstanton) was held by Algar up to his death in or about 1062; he was a member of one of the three great Saxon families with which the Royal house was intimately connected and he had substantial claims to the crown should a vacancy occur.

Barcardeslim (Burslem) was held by Aluuard or Uluiet; Riseton (Rushton) by Uluiet; Dulmesdene (Dimsdale) by



Gladwin and Godwin; Turvoldesfeld (Thursfield) by Bernulf and Clotone (Knutton) by Godwin.

All these individuals were freemen and each probably possessed villeins or husbandmen, bordars or small-holders, from whom their lord required a certain amount of labour in addition to their rent, and lastly serfs, who were engaged in all classes of service from the meanest to that of chief of the guard.

In less ordered times the lord of a manor could not leave his domain without the consent of his court, but in the more settled state existing at this period, it is almost certain that the lords had thrown off this restriction; the other inhabitants were part of the manor and had to remain on it.

Soon after the Conqueror had ascended the throne he issued a proclamation that all land belonged to the Crown and *ipso facto* all land was at his disposal.

The owner of a manor not only possessed the land but also the individuals engaged and employed on it, and to the barons and certain overlords William granted, in addition, the power of life and death: thus the former owner, under the new system, became part of his own estate and was entirely dependent on the caprice of his new lord. The lord of many manors frequently transferred the former owner to another manor, when he could so far trust him as to make him his chief tenant there.

On vulnerable frontiers, such as Cheshire, the King gave sovereign powers to an Earl Palatine, and although the Earldom did not embrace the district we have under consideration but only the Honour, we find that a rent or perhaps rather an insurance premium was payable annually. This was not a universal custom, but the overlordship of a powerful baron (when it could be obtained by a small annual payment) would give an added feeling of security to a petty landowner, surrounded on all sides by men whose land-hunger was only bounded by the amount they could obtain.

Whilst William retained the possessions of the Saxon royal families and those of rebels, he parcelled out in vills a large portion of the land amongst his relatives and followers "to you and your heirs so long as no breach of the peace occurs." By



# THE CHURCH DEDICATIONS OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

## PART I.

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BY THE REV. F. J. WROTTESELEY, M.A.

---

*Read February 12th, 1918.*

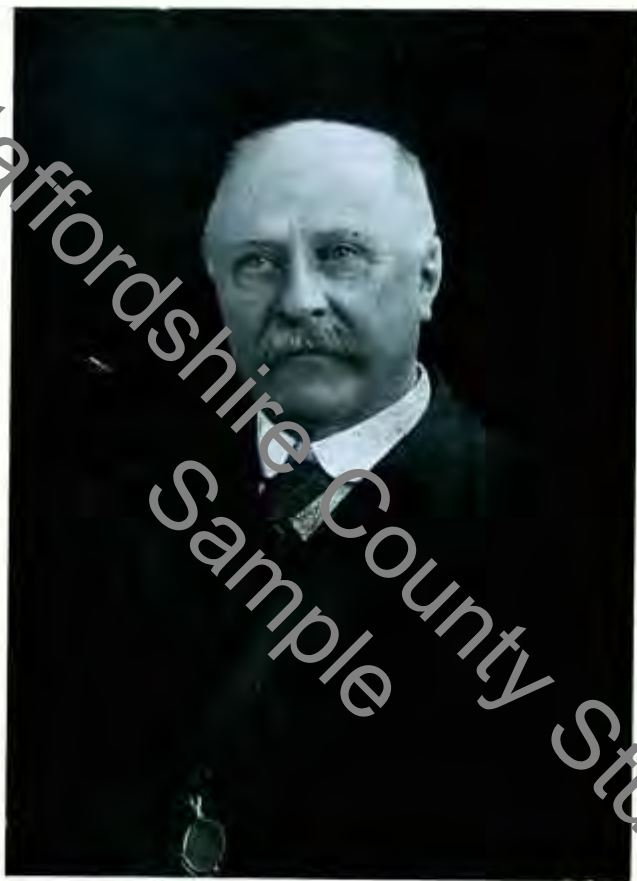
In taking for my subject the Church Dedications of Staffordshire I am quite aware that many may affect to think that the subject is not such as to appeal to them, but I trust that when they have heard what I have to say, they will alter their opinion and come to the conclusion that after all, the subject contains more of interest than they could have thought possible. If away from home, the very sound of the dedication name may call up visions of some much-loved church, whether in crowded city or in quiet village, whether venerable with age or newly built. Churches, however widely they may differ, are yet alike in their purpose, and also alike in this, that, though they are all dedicated to God, they each bear the stamp of some saint of God. From the dawn of English Christianity to the present day, the great majority of our churches, if not associated directly with one or all of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, have been dedicated either to All Saints or All Angels or to the Saints of Scripture, or to those who have gained for themselves a niche in the great Catholic Church, Bishops, Soldiers, Saints, Virgins or Confessors. Some well-known, some half-known, some unknown, and of these one would like to know more as to what manner of men they were. Thus a good deal of history, a good deal of theology and a great many personal experiences will be found underlying their dedications. The subject is inexhaustible, for each dedication name, if we could only trace

it, would carry us far beyond the particular church to distant lands and far-past centuries. As Archbishop Benson said in a sermon preached at S. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, the church of Rahere, "The continuity of good may be carried back even beyond the pale morning of Norman progress." The spirit, too, of the age may be traced by its choice of patron saints. The two great works on the subject are Bacon's *Liber Regis* and Ecton's *Thesaurus*. These are a reproduction of the MS. returns made in 1534 by Henry VIII.'s Commissioners on the eve of the Reformation, in respect of the names, conditions and values of all the churches and benefices throughout England. In Ecton's volume the dedications were revised by Browne Willis, but he is not always quite trustworthy. Where the patron saint is unknown a slight clue may be found in the date of the parish feast or wake; but Henry VIII. in the *Primer* of 1539 ordered all feasts of Dedication to be kept on the first Sunday in October and no patronal festival was to be kept as a holy-day. It was Henry VIII.'s policy to diminish the number of Saints' Days, but custom was too strong, for most parishes clung to their feasts, as shown by the continuance of the wakes. Also in 1751 the New Style, or Gregorian Calendar, was adopted, which with its loss of eleven days caused confusion among our parish feasts. When we ask why a church should be called by any particular name, a varied number of answers may be found, as, local influences, foreign connections, force of old associations, favourite legends or personal predilections. In regard to these dedications we may look on them first as "*personal*," such as was the Church of S. Cyprian at Carthage, which was actually built on the site where S. Cyprian was martyred in A.D. 258; secondly we have "*proprietary dedications*" where a church was called by the name of the holy person who built it and in connection with whom it obtained local celebrity. In England are to be found a large number of these dedications, "though the names were bestowed not by the founders themselves, but by other people in honour of the founders." Whole chapters of history are embalmed in our church dedications, but, unfortunately, historic continuity has not always been

preserved as they have undergone from time to time a ruthless change. In the Middle Ages, when a church was enlarged or re-built, it was re-consecrated, and then a fresh dedication often took place. The Reformation and after, was the great period of change, but even before the Reformation there was a tendency towards superseding purely local saints by the favourite names out of the Service books—the Catherines, the Margarets and the Georges, while the post-Reformation dedications were either in favour of purely Scriptural saints, or of direct dedications to the Blessed Trinity or to the Saviour or to the non-committal dedication to All Saints. Had the Church of England followed the advice of Archbishop Wulfred (A.D. 816) that the dedication name should be inscribed on every altar, many of the old dedication names would have been preserved for us. In many cases of a compound dedication, one or other of these names has been dropped; these compound dedications arose from the fact of the chancel being dedicated to one saint, and the rest of the church to another. But here let me remind you of the great principle laid down by Hooker that “Churches were consecrated unto none but the Lord only,” and our way of speaking of a church dedicated to a particular saint is but a shorthand way of expressing that it is dedicated to God in memory of such and such a saint or event.

For the purpose of distinguishing the dates of the different churches I speak of pre-Reformation churches as A, post-Reformation churches up to A.D. 1800 as B and from 1800 to present date as C.

**THE HOLY TRINITY.**—A great many churches are dedicated to the Trinity in Unity, or to the Second or Third Persons of the Godhead, but these are not, as might be expected, the most numerous. In Staffordshire there are 19 to the Holy Trinity, 21 to Christ Church, 6 to S. Saviour, against 36 to All Saints, 48 to the Blessed Virgin Mary, 24 to S. Peter and 19 to S. John. This is due probably to the increasing belief in the intercessory power of the Saints. Of the churches dedicated to the Holy Trinity only two are ancient, Eccleshall and possibly Berkswich. Very few churches in England were dedicated to the Holy Trinity



W. Wells Bladen

Very truly yours  
W. Wells Bladen

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## In Memoriam.

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W. WELLS BLADEN.

*Died April 12th, 1917.*

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William Wells Bladen was the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Bladen, and was born at Wolverhampton on May 9th, 1847. His parents soon afterwards removed to Hanley, and he was educated at the late Mr. C. M. Osmond's School at Shelton, where he had, as contemporaries, many of the best known North Staffordshire men of his generation. In 1864 Mr. Bladen entered the ironworks of Messrs. Pease at Darlington, and it was during this period of his life that his latent fondness for Natural History and Nature Study was developed, whilst rambling round the country-side and fishing in the Tees. He returned to North Staffordshire in 1874 and next year joined the Field Club, of which, in course of time, he was to become such a prominent member.

Mr. Bladen was a zealous churchman and took an active part in Diocesan work. He was, for many years, warden of Christ Church, Stone, and took a keen interest in the Church Schools: he was also, for 30 years, Hon. Secretary of the Stone Nursing Association, besides holding other public offices in the town.

He married, on August 9th, 1877, his cousin, Miss Edith Bladen, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bladen, of Glasgow, who predeceased him.

Mr. Bladen was an enthusiastic field naturalist and a keen observer—always taking notes of what he saw and heard, so that few days in the year passed without some fresh addition to his records. He paid particular attention to the colour, size



and variation of birds' eggs, and had a collection of clutches, containing one or more eggs of the Cuckoo, which is probably unique and is now in the Hon. N. C. Rothschild's Museum at Tring. Mr. Bladen contributed a translation of Dr. Rey's paper on the variation of the Cuckoo's eggs to the *Zoologist* for 1899 (p. 176) and also a series of chatty papers on local wild birds, entitled "Bird Notes," to the *Transactions* of the Field Club.

He was elected President of the Club in 1895 and took as the title of his presidential address "Cuckoos and their Foster-parents": in the same year he led the Long Excursion to the Norfolk Broads. In 1899 he became Joint Hon. Secretary with the late Rev. T. W. Daltry, and on the death of the latter in 1905 he carried on single-handed the duties of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor until 1915, when illness compelled him to relinquish his office. The Garner Medal was awarded to him in 1906 for his work in promoting the interests of the Club and for his contributions to the study of local Ornithology. He was appointed delegate to the British Association in 1913 and was also for a number of years Chairman of the Meteorological Section.

During the 42 years Mr. Bladen was associated with the Club he led, either singly or jointly with other members, no less than 19 excursions, and on these occasions he spared no pains in obtaining the best local talent to show and explain to the members every interesting fact relating to the flora, fauna, geology and archæology of the district.

Though his sudden illness put an end to all active work he still retained his interest in the Club which had been so much to him.

It is a somewhat difficult matter to apprise, at its true worth, Mr. Bladen's share in the development of the Club, as his continuous and consistent work was not always apparent at the time, and it was only when he was precluded from participation in the meetings and excursions that the members realized fully how much its prosperity was due to his efforts.

Mr. Wells Bladen contributed the following papers to the *Transactions* of the Field Club :—

- Stray Notes on Birds. 1884. p. 45.  
List of Birds in whose nests the eggs of the Cuckoo are found. 1890. p. 67.  
The Cuckoo and its Foster-parents. Vol. XXX. (1896). p. 23.  
Osseous Remains at Stone. *Ibid.* p. 108.  
Jackdaws with Domed Nests. Vol. XXXII. (1898). p. 55.  
The Mole Cricket in Staffordshire. *Ibid.* p. 70.  
The Terraces and Earth Works at Stone. *Ibid.* pp. 133, 140.  
Accounts of Overseers of the Poor for Stone. Vol. XXXIII. (1899). p. 133.  
Jackdaw with Domed Nests, II. Vol. XXXV. (1901). p. 52.  
Notes on the Folk-lore of North Staffordshire. *Ibid.* p. 133.  
Bird Notes, chiefly taken at Stone. Vol. XXXVIII. (1904) to Vol. XLIX. (1915).



### In Memoriam.

CAPT. C. J. B. MASEFIELD, M.C.

*Died of Wounds, July 2nd, 1917.*

Charles John Beech Masefield was born at Abbots Haye, Cheadle, on April 15th, 1882. He was the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. B. Masefield, and the eldest grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Blagg, of Greenhill, Cheadle.

He was educated at Mintholme House School, Southport, and at Repton School, Derbyshire, under Canon W. M. Furneaux, the present Dean of Winchester. While at Repton he gained the Howe Prize for English Verse in 1899, with a poem on the Italian Painters, and the Aylmer Prize for Divinity in 1898. He left Repton at the end of 1899, and was immediately articled to his father. Being admitted a solicitor in 1905, he practised in Derby and later in Wolverhampton, but on his father's retirement from the Firm of Messrs. Blagg, Son and Masefield at Cheadle in 1912, he became a partner in it and came to live at Hanger Hill, Cheadle, close to his parents' residence at Roschill. On June 9th, 1910, he married at Great Malvern Priory Church Miss Muriel A. Bussell, youngest daughter of the late Rev. F. V. Bussell, vicar of Balderton, Notts. His only child, a son, was born in the following June, at Wolverhampton.

Mr. Masefield's first serious essay in authorship was in 1908: this was a work of fiction, entitled *Gilbert Hermer*, and was published by Blackwood. The scene is laid in the immediate neighbourhood of Cheadle, which he called "Cradleby"—Hales Hall being thinly disguised as "Adams Hall"—and his hero lived in one of the characteristic old toll-gate houses. He had previously written an article called "A Day in a Solicitor's Life" which was published in *The Treasury*, September, 1903. Subsequently he brought out two small volumes of poems, *The Seasons' Difference and other Poems* in 1911, and *Dislikes: some Modern Satires* in 1913. He has left many other poems



R. T. M.

Ever yours  
Charles J. D. Mansfield.

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in MS. form, and it is hoped to collect and publish these shortly. Some have already appeared in a little volume called *Soldier Poets*, 2nd Series (Erskine MacDonald).

Speaking of Rupert Brooke, Julian Grenfell, Charles Masfield and "other soldier-poets of the new school," Dr. C. H. Poole, in a recent paper,<sup>1</sup> says "They, too, have sent forth to us their messages of consolation and peace, tinged with a hope of triumphant victory. Bright in the radiance of eternal youth, the poets I have mentioned and their messages will ever live, age will not mar, nor time lessen the power of their fascinations over us."

He joined the North Staffordshire Field Club in 1900, led several excursions,<sup>2</sup> and read papers on Staffordshire Monumental Brasses<sup>3</sup> and Medieval Cheadle.<sup>4</sup> Largely through his initiative a fund was raised by subscription among the members of the Field Club for the restoration of brasses in the Churches of Audley, Clifton Campville and Norbury—the work being completed in March, 1911.<sup>5</sup>

He was a Vice-President of the Field Club, a member of the Publication and Wall Excavation Committees and also of the Archæological Section. His researches in Staffordshire Archæology and History were recognised by the Club in the posthumous award to him of the Garner Medal this year (1918).

Before leaving Wolverhampton he also compiled *The Little Guide to Staffordshire* (1910) as one of Methuen's Series. This was indeed a labour of love with him, for he was deeply attached to every inch of Staffordshire, but it entailed real hard work, as he visited every parish *but one* in the County. He very much wished to write *Highways and By-ways of Staffordshire*, but Messrs. Macmillan were not willing to bring it out, saying that the series was not a sufficiently paying venture "even for more attractive counties"!

As further evidence of his wide interests in life, it may be mentioned that he gave valued support to the Miners' Higher Education Movement in North Staffordshire. He frequently took part in their meetings at the Cheadle branch, and his loss will be greatly felt.

He was gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the 5th North Stafford Regt., July 26th, 1915, and left for training, August 3rd. He was gazetted Lieutenant, May 19th, 1916, and served as Assistant Adjutant for some time at home, under Lieut.-Col. A. E. Blizzard. He left for France, June 16th, 1916, but before this he had crossed over with drafts of men in December, 1915, and March, 1916. He joined his battalion in France just after that fateful but glorious attack on the Somme, on July 1st, 1916—only to find so many of his former friends, including his cousin, Lieut. W. A. Bowers, had fallen. He himself passed unscathed through that summer and autumn, writing most interesting letters home: he had a slight attack of trench fever in September, and then was summoned home at the end of October on account of his uncle's sudden death, which left him the sole survivor of his firm. In these sad circumstances he naturally tried to demobilize, but the War Office would not agree to this and, after three months' special leave, spent in very hard work at his office, he rejoined his Regiment on February 10th, 1917. He was with Col. Blizzard again at Brocton and at Lincoln, till he was once more sent out to France on May 5th. He was gazetted Acting-Captain, May 24th, while commanding a Company, and took part in a most successful raid, June 14th-15th, for which he was awarded the Military Cross, although he never knew this. The official notice of the award stated that—"During a raid upon enemy trenches, he led his company with great dash and skill under heavy trench mortar barrage, attacking a party of the enemy single-handed and killing two of them at close quarters. At least fifty of the enemy were killed and three prisoners taken, after which he successfully withdrew his company, having shown conspicuous gallantry and good leadership throughout." The Divisional G.O.C. sent him his "heartiest congratulations and gratitude." He was reported by the War Office as "Missing" after an action on July 1st, and it was ascertained, after an interval of two months, that he had died of wounds the following day, while a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. His friends have been assured by the enemy authorities that he was buried with full military honours in the



Parish cemetery at Le Forest. The Colonel of the Battalion wrote : " He was a splendid officer . . . . extremely gallant and a great favourite with both officers and men," while other letters from his brother officers show that in the Army he had won the same high esteem of his comrades, which he had enjoyed in his native County.

A Memorial Service was held in the Parish Church at Cheadle on September 12th, 1917, and was largely attended by members of the North Staffordshire Field Club—a most inspiring sermon was preached on this occasion by the Rev. G. W. Philips, Rector of Checkley, a personal friend of the deceased.

This short memoir may be fitly concluded by quoting Charles Masfield's last lines of poetry :—

" Peace. After all you died not. We've no fear  
But that, long ages hence, you will be near—  
A thought by night—on the warm wind a breath,  
Making for courage, putting by old Death,  
Living wherever men are not afraid  
Of aught but making bravery a parade.

Did they not rise mortality above  
Who staked a life-time all made sweet with love? "

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1 *Why should we read Poetry?* N. Ling & Co., 1918.

2 *Trans. N.S. Field Club.* Vol. XLIV. (1910), p. 180 ; Vol. XLVI. (1912), p. 221 ; Vol. L. (1916), p. 150.

3 *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVII. (1913), p. 157 ; Vol. XLIX. (1915), p. 99.

4 *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII. (1914), p. 142.

5 *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII. (1914), p. 15.

## REPORT OF SECTIONS.

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A.—ZOOLOGY.—CHAIRMAN—MR. J. R. B. MASEFIELD, M.A.

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### MAMMALIA.

Badger, *Meles taxus*, L. Reports of Badgers are generally received from the northern portion of our County. On 24th May, 1917, I received a note of one, weighing 30 lbs., dug out and unfortunately killed at Whitgreave, near Stafford.

Stoat, *Putorius ermineus*, L. Mr. B. R. Pemberton reports a pure white Stoat killed on the moors, near Leek, last autumn.

Bank-Vole, *Eutamias glareolus*, Sch. This species has been far too abundant during last autumn and threatens our crops, whereas the Field-Vole, *Microtus agrestis*, L., seems to have suffered from the hard winter of 1916-17 and decreased in numbers.

Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, L. Miss V. Monckton sends me an interesting account of an attack, which she recently witnessed, made by a wild Rabbit on a Squirrel. The Squirrel, when chased, ran up a tree, against which the Rabbit stood up full length, but was unable to follow. On descending the tree the Squirrel was again chased across the open until it took refuge up another tree. Miss Monckton suggests that the Rabbit mistook the Squirrel for its natural enemy the Stoat. However, a nest of young ones near at hand may have accounted for the Rabbit's unusual behaviour.

Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, L. During the winter of 1917, on two bright sunny days, I had the opportunity of observing a fine Fox at very close quarters. On each occasion the Fox, when disturbed, stole away out of the wood, the undergrowth of which was dry dead bracken. The way in which the bright colouring of the Foxes harmonized with the various shades of the

sun-lit ferns was most striking, and, if the animals had remained curled up on the bracken, it is probable that they would have quite escaped detection.

Chartley White Park Cattle, *Bos taurus*, L. It will be a welcome surprise to all who are interested in the Zoology of our County to hear that the resuscitation of this breed of cattle is practically assured.

Through the patriotic efforts of the Duke of Bedford, Sir Claud Alexander, Bart. and others, a nice white bull calf, with correct markings, has been produced by judicious crossing of the few remaining animals with Longhorn blood. A short time ago several animals, originally from the Chartley herd, were found at Needwood, belonging to the late Mr. F. A. Brace. A fine bull and other animals from this herd were purchased by Sir C. Alexander and Mr. G. Dawkins, and the above-mentioned bull (now two years old) has been bred from them—true in colour and points with the Chartley breed. Further breeding is progressing and there seems but little doubt that the old true type of Chartley White Park Cattle will be preserved. A society has just been formed by Sir C. Alexander for the preservation of all the original breeds of British White Park Cattle and it has already been joined by a number of well-known scientists and others interested in the subject and promises to have most successful results.

#### AVES.

The dearth of our so-called "Resident birds" during the past year must have been apparent to every observer of wild life. The severe spring of 1917 destroyed the wild birds in incalculable numbers, according to reports from all parts of the country, and this destruction appears to have been general. Mr. B. Bryan, now serving his country in France, reports the same loss of bird-life there, especially amongst the Redwings and others of the Thrush family. Mr. C. E. Morris Eyton suggests that the absence of Fieldfares and Redwings during the past winter (1917-18) may have been due to their destruction for food in Northern Europe, during migration. In my last Zoological Report I ventured to suggest that we might have trouble



# JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

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## EXCURSIONS.

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### 1.—PIPEGATE, WILLOWBRIDGE AND ASHLEY.

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*Saturday, April 28th, 1917.*

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LEADER—MR. W. T. LOYDON RIDGE.

The opening excursion of the season was favoured with the usual "Club weather" and on alighting at Pipegate Station the members at once made their way to the outskirts of Willowbridge Wells, where the leader gave a short address. He stated that the place owed its name to the large number of sulphurous springs, as no less than sixty of these had been noted within an area of ten square yards. In the 17th and 18th Centuries the waters were highly esteemed on account of their curative properties, and Dr. Plot, who visited the district in 1686, quaintly remarks:—"It cures many diseases by its balsamic virtue and great subtilty and volatility, easily permeating the closest texture and most inaccessible parts of the body, when once heated by the stomach if taken inwardly, or by the external heat of the skin, if applied outwardly by way of a bath." The discovery of the medicinal value of the waters by Baroness Gerard of Gerard's Bromley was attributed by Dr. Plot to her "exquisite sagacity and perspicacious insight into the hidden recesses of Nature."

The road led through Willowbridge Woods, which have suffered heavily from the recent demand for timber, and here Mr. Ridge addressed the party on the ecology of the district, tracing the steps by which the once dominant type of forest vegetation became converted into heather moor. He stated that the rain soon washed away the nutriment necessary for the trees from the light sandy soil of the Bunter deposits, and gradually a moss, lichen and liverwort association of plants appeared. These, as they decayed, added to the humus, which consequently became of an acid nature, eminently suitable for the development of the heather, ling and bilberry. The horizontal and interlacing roots of these plants, together with the "cement" formed by the humus dissolved in the rain water and the sand, formed a layer through which neither roots nor seeds could penetrate to the subsoil. Thus the trees failed to reproduce themselves and the area became deforested.

The main geological features of the neighbourhood and the effect of the Glacial Period on it were pointed out by the leader as the party proceeded along the path to Ashley. On arrival at Ashley the Church was inspected, particular interest being shown in the monuments to the Kennersley family by Chantrey and Noble, and in the magnificent Gerard tomb. This is an alabaster altar tomb of large dimensions, the canopy reaching nearly to the roof of the Meynell Chapel, and was erected to the memory of Sir Gilbert Gerard, Kt. (*obit* February 4th, 1522), Master of the Rolls to Queen Elizabeth, and his wife, while the effigies of several of the Lords Gerard of Gerard's Bromley also appear on the tomb. Mr. T. Pape called special attention to the Gerard coat-of-arms, on which is quartered the arms of the Washington family through the marriage of Sir Gilbert Gerard with Anne Ratcliffe of Winnersley, Lancs., the heiress of the Butler, Lawrence and Washington families. Only two other members of the peerage, namely, Earl Ferrers and Lord Dartmouth, both of whom are intimately associated with Staffordshire, are entitled to quarter the Washington arms.

It is interesting to note that the two recumbent figures on the tomb wear wedding rings on the fourth fingers of the right

hand, whilst underneath the tomb is a monument to "Lawrence," Lord Charles Gerard's black servant, who died April 16th, 1668. His marriage certificate is said to be in the register of Eccleshall Church, and some of his descendants still live in the Potteries. Mr. Pape also mentioned that the Parish register, dating from 1668, contains some interesting entries. Under the date May 22nd, 1641, the rector, Dr. Lightfoot, stated that "the most gracious King Charles passed through this village of Ashley to Stone with a great army of soldiers."

Mr. J. H. Beckett has previously dealt with the architectural features of the Church in his series of *Old Church Towers of Staffordshire* [q.v. *Trans. N.S.F.C.*, Vol. XII. (1907), p. 111.]

Tea was provided at the Peel Arms, after which, on the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, a sympathetic vote of condolence was passed to the family of the late Mr. W. Wells Bladen, who was Joint Hon. Secretary for ten years and Hon. Secretary for eight years to the Club.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ridge terminated the proceedings and the members walked leisurely back to Pipegate by road and lane.

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## II.—MADELEY, WRINEHILL AND BETLEY.

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*Saturday, May 19th, 1917.*

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LEADER—MR. F. BARKE.

Mr. Barke took charge of the party at Keele Station and led the way to Madeley Heath in somewhat unpropitious weather, which, however, rapidly cleared up.

The first halt was made at Heleigh Castle and on the summit of the hill the leader gave a brief account of the geology of the western border of the County. Mr. C. Lynam, who had scaled the steepest slope of the hill, dealt with the history and features of the Castle, of which only portions of the keep, the outer wall and the well remain. He mentioned that a Parliamentary Commission sitting at Stafford in 1645 appointed three of their members to undertake its destruction for "feare lest an enemy should possess himself of it." An account of the Castle and its connection with the Audley family by T. J. de Mazzinghi is to be found in the *Transactions* of the Club for 1880 (p. 35).

The party then walked through Wrinehill, where a very large glacial boulder was noticed in a stable yard on the west side of the road, while the apple, pear and plum trees were all seen to be in full bloom together—a very rare occurrence.

At Betley the members were met by the Vicar, the Rev. Sir Robert Boughey Bart., who conducted them through the grounds of Betley Court after which Mr. G. F. Fletcher-Twemlow invited the party inside to see a particularly fine oak staircase. The Court was built by one of the Cradock family in the 18th Century of blue and orange coloured bricks (the colours of the then owner, who was a member of Parliament) and subsequently passed to the Tolletts. After lunch at the Black Horse, the President moved votes of thanks to Sir R. Boughey, Mr. G. F. Fletcher-Twemlow and to the leader for their respective shares in the interests of the excursion. Mr. Huntbach then proposed a vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Sir H. Wiggie, Bart. who had taken a great interest in the Meteorological Section of the Club. He also announced that the late Mr. W. Wells Bladen had given a large number of valuable books to the Daltry Library.

A move was then made to the existing portion of Betley Old Hall, now a half-timbered and picturesque old farmhouse with high gables. The Hall was formerly the seat of the Egertons, a family which has been associated with Newcastle-under-Lyme for many centuries, but the property was sold by them to the Tolletts in 1718. The chief feature of interest, inside the Old Hall, is a room wainscoted in dark oak containing a fireplace,



## EVENING MEETINGS.

### I.—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

*Thursday, November 15th, 1917.*

The first meeting of the winter session was held in the Assembly Hall of the Central Technical School, the President (Mr. A. Huntbach) being in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write a letter of congratulation to the Cardiff Naturalists' Society on the attainment of its Jubilee. A letter was also sent to Mr. A. F. Wenger, Vice-President, to wish him a speedy recovery from his illness and to congratulate him on his 80th birthday.

Messages of condolence from the Club were sent to Mr. H. Brindley on the death of his uncle, the late Mr. W. S. Brough, to the family of the late Mr. R. Stubbs, and to Mr. W. Morton Philips and Mr. J. P. Holdcroft, on the loss of their sons in action.

The following resolution, adopted at a Council Meeting held on November 9th, was submitted to the Meeting and unanimously passed, viz.:—"That this meeting, in recognition of the long and valued services of W. D. Spanton, Esq., F.R.C.S., and C. Lynam, Esq., F.S.A., hereby elects them as Honorary Members of the North Staffordshire Field Club."

Three papers were communicated as follows:—

1. "Notes on the Dry Valleys and Underground River Courses of the Staffordshire Moorlands," by Mr. J. Clark.
2. "The Church of S. Giles, Cheadle, destroyed 1837," by Mr. J. H. Beckett, A.R.I.B.A.
3. "Croxden Abbey and Musden Grange," by the Rev. F. A. Hibbert, M.A.

All the above papers are printed in this volume (pp. 25, 35 and 41).

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. Clark and the Rev. F. A. Hibbert their papers were read by Mr. F. Barke and Mr. H. V. Thompson. The papers were fully appreciated by the members present and appropriate votes of thanks were passed to the respective authors.

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## II.—STONE.

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*Tuesday, December 18th, 1917.*

It had been decided by the Council to arrange for an evening meeting in the "Provinces" and consequently this one was held in the Congregational Schoolroom, Stone, the Chair being occupied by the President.

The following resolution proposed from the Chair, was passed *nem. con.*:—"That this meeting of the North Staffordshire Field Club, whilst welcoming any scheme for the better utilization of the Common Plots at Stone, would deprecate any interference with the Motley Pits and earthwork terraces which mark the site of an early settlement. No harm is anticipated so long as these are included in the Cow Pasture, as at present, but, if ploughed up or cultivated, all traces would soon be obliterated."

Mr. J. R. B. Masefield reported that, in answer to his appeal on Miss M. A. Blagg's behalf, she had received valuable information from several members of the Club in regard to meteors observed in the district.

Mr. T. Pape then read a paper on "The Borough Seal of Newcastle-under-Lyme" (*v. supra* p. 53) and was followed by the Rev. J. W. Dunne, who chose as the title of his paper "Five Staffordshire Parsons" (*vide* p. 65). Hearty votes of thanks

were passed to the authors of the two papers for the interesting local information they had laid before the Club.

The exhibits included a series of brass rubbings shown by Mr. W. Bowman and a specimen of a Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum*, Temminck, by Mr. W. Beech.

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### III.—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

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*Thursday, January 17th, 1918.*

The President in opening the proceedings at the third winter meeting referred to the sudden death of Mr. G. M. Cockin, which had deprived the Club of a very valuable member. It was announced that in place of the paper which he was to have read at the next meeting one would be communicated by the Rev. F. J. Wrottesley on "The Church Dedications of Staffordshire."

The congratulations of the Club were sent to Mrs. F. J. Harrison, Prof. Boyd Dawkins and to Mr. J. Russell, M.B., on the public recognition of their work in various spheres.

Mr. J. R. B. Masefield was then called upon for his paper on "The Nesting Birds of Staffordshire." He prefaced his remarks by reference to the effect of the severe weather last winter on bird-life and called attention to the fact that some species had entirely disappeared, while others, which could formerly be counted by the dozen, were now seen only occasionally and in very small numbers. The danger to agricultural and garden crops, due to the concomitant increase in insect-life, was also mentioned. Mr. Masefield stated that another cause contributing to the present shortage of birds was the ill-advised action of the Board of Agriculture in urging the formation of sparrow clubs whereby, owing to the great similarity of unfledged birds to each other, many species, other than those of the House



Sparrow, had been destroyed. A large number of lantern slides were exhibited to illustrate the paper and in most cases a picture of the nest was thrown on the screen: its formation and most likely situation being carefully explained. Details, gathered from personal observations, of the habits, haunts and characteristics of each species were given, thus adding greatly to the interest of the paper, which was much appreciated.

Mr. W. T. Boydon Ridge gave an address on "The Plant Distribution in North Staffordshire," being one of a series of papers-dealing with the Flora of the north of the County. Mr. Ridge dealt with his subject from an ecological standpoint, tracing the relation between plants and the habitats in which they occur and explaining why certain plants, whether native or alien, are only found in certain areas. He stated that climate was the dominant factor in the world-wide distribution of plants, but that soil, more than anything else, determined the types of plant-life over smaller areas. Mr. Ridge proceeded to illustrate his remarks by lantern slides, showing the plant formations, which characterize some of different geological origin, and the various associations of plants constituting these formations were described in detail. The causes, natural and artificial, and effects of deforestation were then discussed, particularly in relation to the North Staffordshire area.

Much interest was aroused by the statement that the old pit-mounds in the district could be made useful and much less unsightly if planted with suitable types of trees. On the proposition of Mr. J. A. Audley, seconded by Mr. J. T. Stobbs, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ridge.

Among various exhibits were the remains of a Little Auk, *Mergulus alle*, L., and a specimen of *Neuropteris heterophylla*, Bgt., from New Haden Pit, Cheadle, both shown by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield; a series of birds' skins and moths, collected in France by Mr. B. Bryan; a photograph of a prehistoric cave painting from Rhodesia by Mr. J. T. Stobbs; sketches by Mr. J. H. Beckett, and a very fine series of Washington medals and coats-of-arms containing the Washington crest by Mr. T. Pape.

## IV.—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

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*Tuesday, February 12th, 1918.*

Mr. A. Huntbach presided at the fourth evening meeting, which was held at the Central Technical School, Stoke.

On a motion from the Chair, Mr. J. T. Stobbs and Mr. H. V. Thompson were appointed deputy-editors in the continued absence of Mr. S. A. H. Burne on active service.

Annual Reports were submitted from the Zoological, Entomological, Botanical, Geological, Meteorological and Archæological Sections.

Mr. J. H. Beckett, on behalf of the Rev. F. J. Wrottesley, then read part I. of a paper on "The Church Dedications of Staffordshire," which is printed *in extenso* (p. 77).

An animated discussion ensued and the Rev. Sanford W. Hutchinson, supported by the Rev. J. W. Dunne, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the author of the paper and also to Mr. J. H. Beckett, for acting as deputy.

A series of original sketches was shown by Mr. J. H. Beckett.

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V.—ANNUAL MEETING.—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

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*Thursday, March 14th, 1918.*

The fifty-third Annual Meeting was held at the Central Technical School, Mr. A. Huntbach, the retiring President, being in the Chair. The Hon. Treasurer submitted his financial statement which showed a balance in hand of £44 1s. 1d., and the accounts were duly passed. The Annual Report from the

Council was read by the Hon. Secretary and adopted. Mr. W. T. Boydon Ridge was then formally proposed from the Chair as President for 1918-19: Mr. W. D. Spanton seconded the nomination, which was supported by Mr. F. Barke and Mr. J. A. Audley, and Mr. Ridge was thereupon unanimously elected. The other officers of the Club were re-elected *en bloc* and Mr. H. V. Daltry, Mr. R. C. Frain, Mrs. A. H. John and Mr. T. Pape were elected to serve on the Council for the period 1918-21.

The Garner medal was handed to Mrs. C. J. B. Masefield in recognition of the researches into Staffordshire Archæology and History and, in particular, the work on Staffordshire Monumental Brasses of her husband, the late Acting-Captain C. J. B. Masefield, M.C.

A "Critical Note on Staffordshire Ornithology" (*v.* p. 97), by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain was taken as read. Mr. J. T. Stobbs made a few remarks on "Additional Erratics from the Woodhead Coal of Cheadle, North Staffordshire" (*vide* p. 93), being a continuation of the joint paper given last year (*Trans. N.S. Field Club*, Vol. LI. (1917), p. 23) by him and Mr. J. H. Lister. On the proposition of Mr. J. K. B. Masefield, seconded by Mr. F. Barke, a vote of thanks was accorded to the authors.

The Annual Address (*q.v.* p. 15) which dealt with the Manor of Tunstall, was then given by Mr. A. Huntbach who, at the conclusion, introduced Mr. Ridge to the Chair. Mr. Ridge opened his year of office by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Huntbach for his address and for his zealous work as President; the motion was seconded by Mr. C. Lynam and heartily endorsed by the Meeting.

On the proposition of Mr. F. Barke, supported by Mr. T. Pape, a vote of thanks was passed to the officers of the Club and to the retiring members of the Council.

Among the exhibits were specimens of the earliest geological maps of England by Mr. J. T. Stobbs and Mr. J. A. Audley; micro-sections of erratics from the Woodhead Coal by Mr. J. T. Stobbs; raised contour maps of the Potteries area by Mr. W. J. B. Blake; a replica of the German "Lusitania" medal and a series of dye-stuffs and explosives from coal tar by Mr. H. V. Thompson.