



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

## Miscellaneous Notes

### JOHN BOWRA : LAND SURVEYOR AND CARTOGRAPHER

A PREVIOUS note under this heading (*v. Arch. Cant.*, Vol. LIII, p. 137) concluded with a conjecture that many other John Bowra maps lay buried in lawyers' and estate offices in various parts of Kent and Sussex. That this was indeed the case is now shown by the valuable collection of maps of properties in West Kent recently presented to the Kent Archæological Society by Mr. John Knocker, of Tonbridge. Among these are nine John Bowra maps of various dates between 1748 and 1780, the year in which he died.

The K.A.S. having kindly permitted me the loan of these maps I am able to list them briefly as follows :

1748. A Map of Land lying in the Parishes of Leigh & Tunbridge, Hadlow & Frant in the County of Kent belonging to Mr. John Oliver.

The area surveyed covers some 135 acres and includes Hayman's Farm, Hawkenbury Wood, and several other small holdings of fields and woods. Names of neighbouring landowners are given as Wm. Perry, Esq., Dixon, Doct<sup>r</sup> Budgen, Lord Abergavenny, Widow Buss, Hutton, Esq.

1754. Land in Tudeley, Caple, and Brenchley in the County of Kent Belonging to Widd<sup>m</sup> Simmons.

The survey includes a number of fields, some 36 acres in all, with names of tenants—Thos. Towns, Mills, Hollamby, Mapesden, Hartrige, Elcock, W<sup>m</sup> Driver, Widd. Buss, Capt. Markibs.

1755. Land in the parish of Ightham in Kent belonging to Mr W<sup>m</sup> Kipping.

This is a survey of some 22 acres, bordered by the property of Will<sup>m</sup> James, Esq. The road from Basted to Borough Green is shown, with some cottages at Borough Green. John Dorman and Mrs Pollard are given as neighbouring owners.

1757. Land lying in the Parish of East Peckham in the County of Kent belonging to Mr John Cheesman.

The plan covers about 35 acres of Plain Land, Rough & Wast, and depicts the situation of a few cottages. Neighbours are Mr Thos. Kippings, Mr Thos Martin, Mr John Simmons, Thos. Gardiner, Thos. Bishop, Sir W<sup>m</sup> Twisden.

1759. Land in the Parish of Yalding in the County of Kent belonging to Mr William Fleet.

Fields, orchards, and woods, some 17 acres. Bounded by Yalding Leese, Madam Austin's land, Mr Mason's land, Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Ling's, Sir John Shaw's, Plumber Esq<sup>r</sup>'s, Mr John Simmonds.

1761. Land lying in the Parish of East Peckham in the County of Kent belonging to Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Curd.

Plain land, Rough & Waste, 3a.5r.5p. Farm House and cottages shown. Adjoining properties held by Esau S. Simmonds, Selby Esq, Wid<sup>m</sup> Thomson.

1769. A Map of the Bank Farm lying in the Parish of Tunbridge in the County of Kent Belonging to Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Children.

Plain land, woods, shaws, and waste, 75 acres. House, garden, and Filberd Plot indicated. In a field named Hazemead a tree is depicted: "The leaves of this tree is of all colours."

Boundaries: Stony Fields, Mr Skinner, occupier.  
Nizel's Hoath, Mr Geo. Children  
Thomas's Wood,  
Land belonging to Mr "John" Children, sen<sup>r</sup>  
Kent's land Farm, Mrs Streatfield's

1776. Land lying in the Parishes of East Peckham, Tudeley and Hadlow, in the County of Kent, Belonging to Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Stanford and Mr J<sup>no</sup> Hatch.

Plain land, Rough, Shaws & Waste, 40 acres. Owners of adjoining properties, Widd<sup>w</sup> Kipping, Lady Twysden, Mr Thos. Martin, Mr Samuel Mills, Mr John Cheesman, Stephen Craddock, late Thomas Lambard, Esq<sup>r</sup>.

1780. Land in Tudeley and Waternbury in the County of Kent belonging to Mr Isacc Hatch.

Plain land, rough and waste, 5 acres. House and garden shown. Neighbours, Mr Ambrose Mercer, Lord Le Despencer, Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Cheesman.

*N.B. Derivation of the name BOWRA.*

Enquiries have often been made to the writer of this note about the origin of this name, which is uncommon, and in this form seems to be almost entirely localized in West Kent. The following note, therefore, may not be without interest.

The name Bowra (locally pronounced Boarer) is a variant of the Wealden name Borer or Borrer, which is believed to be entirely of Kent or Sussex origin and not originally to be found in any other English county. There are many spellings: Borrer, Boreer, Boorer, Borer, Boarer, Bourer, Bowrah, Bowrer, Bowra, etc., the last form having been adopted by Thomas Bowra, chirurgeon, of Sevenoaks, some time late in the seventeenth century. He changed it from his previous spelling of Boorer or Bowrer, forms which he seems to have used alternately as fancy dictated. Thomas Bowra, who was born in East Grinstead, Sussex, in the time of the Commonwealth, came as an immigrant into Kent as a young man, and died in Sevenoaks in 1690. The relatives he left behind him in Sussex continued to retain the various old forms of spelling, but the Kentish form thus became Bowra and has since remained so.

In the *Sussex Archæological Collections*, Vol. VIII, p. 274, some account is given of the Borrer family, and the name is there derived from OE *boehr* = hill, with the suffix -er, with which so many surnames, often through an intermediary stage of *atte*, are formed. But on the question being referred some years ago to the late Professor A. Mawer, author of *Problems of Place-Name Study*, he gave the authoritative opinion that the derivation was OE *būr* = dwelling, bower, and -er. (On the suffix -er, particularly in Sussex, v. Mawer, *Problems of Place-Name Study*, p. 68.) This would give the meaning of a man who either

builds, lives in, or perhaps serves in a bower. If the former, "builder" is possibly the nearest equivalent and the name becomes cognate with Bowerman and probably Boorman.

The *S.A.C.* article quoted above also gives the following :

Ricardus atte Boure was M.P. for Horsham borough 1320 and was perhaps ancestor of the Borers who were so early settled in that neighbourhood. Temp. Edward III Robert atte Boure occurs in a Subsidy Roll for the Hundred of Framfield, and William atte Boure and John atte Boure for the Hundred of Hartfield . . . John Bourer and Alice his wife in 1383 founded a Chantry, which was formerly at the end of the north aisle of the church of Pagham, in the rape of Chichester. . . .

Bowrah, in many Sussex parish registers, is, or was, the synonym for Borer.

CECIL A. V. BOWRA.

#### "MAD THOM'S" PARDON.

AN interesting document which lately came into my possession, and is now in the library of the Kent Archaeological Society, is the Free Pardon granted to William Courtenay in 1837 by Queen Victoria. It must be one of the earliest documents signed by the Queen, as it is dated a little over three months after her accession, and the seal used is that of her predecessor, William IV. It reads :—

"Victoria R. Whereas William Courtenay was at the Summer Assizes 1833 holden in and for the County of Kent convicted of Perjury, and sentenced to be Imprisoned Three Months and then Transported seven years for the same we in consideration of some circumstances humbly represented unto us are Graciously pleased to Extend our Grace and Mercy unto him, and to Grant him Our Free Pardon for his said crime.

Our Will and Pleasure Therefore is that you cause him the said William Courtenay to be forthwith discharged out of Custody, and for doing so this shall be your Warrant. Given at our Court at St. James's the third day of October 1837 in the First year of our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command, J. Russell.

To our trusty and well-beloved The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum for the County of Kent, and all others whom it may concern."

This document recalls a curious incident in Kentish History, when in 1832, an eccentric person known in London by the name of Thompson was staying at the Rose Inn at Canterbury as "Count Rothschild." This name he afterwards changed to "Sir William Honeywood Courtenay, Knight of Malta," and later, when he appeared as a candidate for the first election under the Reform Bill, "Lord Viscount William Courtenay of Powderham." He was really John Nichols Thom, the son of a Cornish publican, and was on the verge of



PLATE I. FIG. 1. EARLY BRICK WALLING  
Off Clarence Street, Dover.

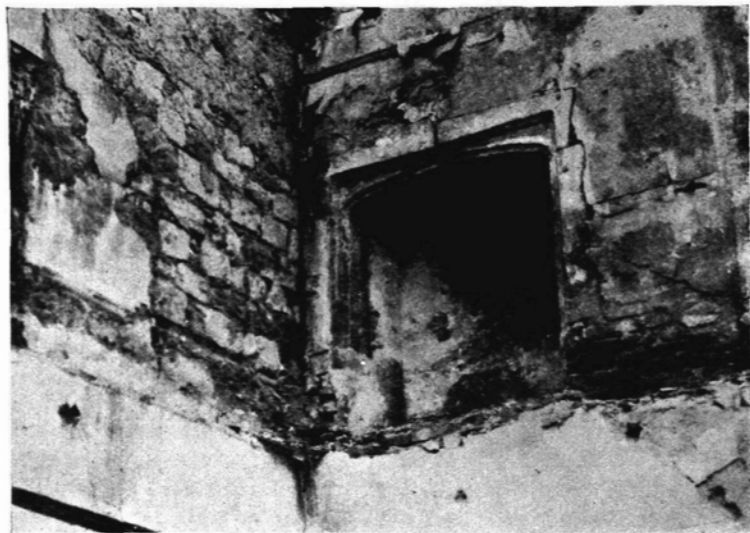


PLATE I. FIG. 2. 16TH CENTURY FIREPLACE,  
Bench Street, Dover.

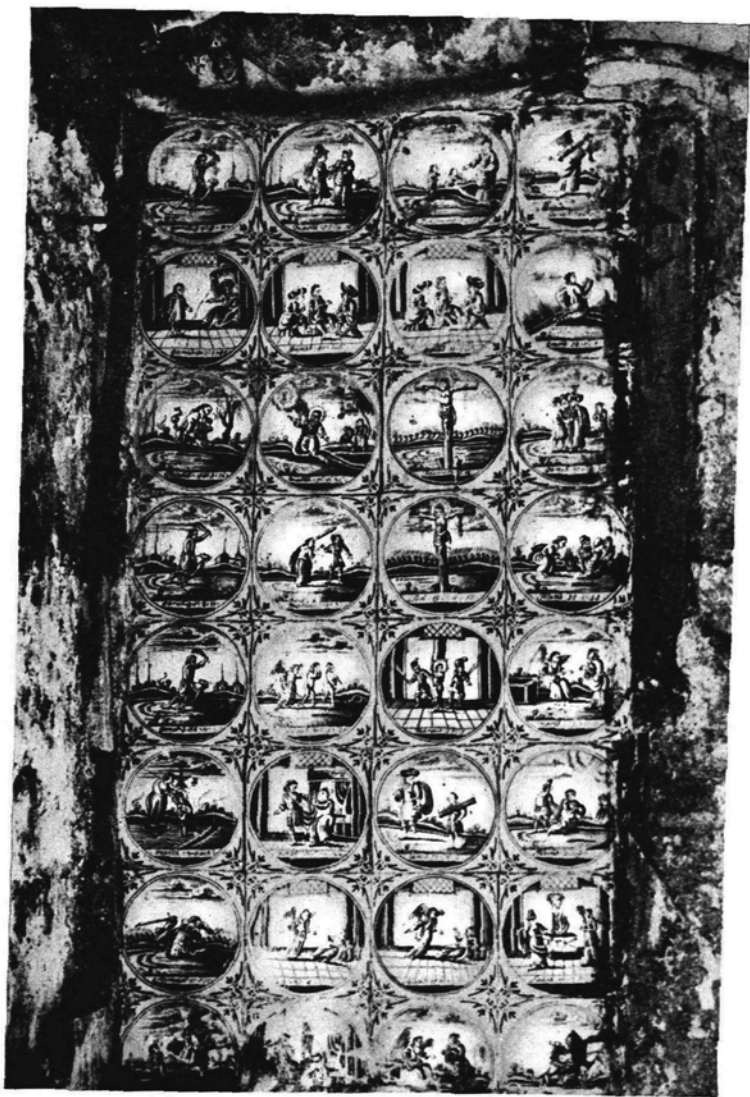


PLATE II.

PANEL OF PUCE DELF TILES,  
Snargate Street, Dover.



PLATE III.

STOOP IN WALL,  
Snargate Street, Dover.

madness, a swindler and impostor. He wore a beard and side-whiskers, with long moustaches, and dressed in a crimson velvet costume said to have cost £200, with gold tassels, epaulettes, and a sword. A trial for perjury resulted in his being detained for several years in Barming Asylum, from which he was released by the above-mentioned pardon, although sentenced to transportation for seven years. Had this pardon not been granted, the tragedy of 1838 would have been averted.

After asserting to some dissatisfied peasants near Canterbury that he was their Saviour (indicating the marks of the nails made on his hands when he was put upon the Cross) he prepared a demonstration, possessed himself of pistols, a cavalry sword, and a white and blue standard with a rampant lion thereon, and then anointed some of his followers to make them invulnerable. He then headed a procession which wandered aimlessly for some days around Goodnestone, Newnham, Throwley, Selling and Sittingbourne, but after a time a Hernhill farmer applied to the Authorities to arrest the men who had left his employment to follow Courtenay. A constable with a warrant for his arrest was shot and thrown into a ditch by Courtenay. After this murder, Courtenay administered a sacrament in bread and water to his followers. The ignorant peasants reacted emotionally to all his extraordinary statements, including his promises of 40 or 50 acres of land to each, taken from the estates of the gentry. They were parading one day with firearms and clubs, when 100 men of the 45th Foot appeared from Canterbury, and eight persons, including Courtenay, were killed in a fight which followed, the bodies afterwards being taken to the Red Lion Inn on Dunkirk Hill. Courtenay was buried at Hernhill, and his grave was watched to prevent exhumation by his followers, and for this reason no mound has ever marked its position.

JOHN W. BRIDGE.

#### SOME STRUCTURAL OR ORNAMENTAL ARCHITECTURAL DISCOVERIES AT DOVER

THE four photographs reproduced record details of some interest which have been exposed through enemy action. Thanks are due to the kindness of the Borough Surveyor, P. V. Marchant, Esq.

Pl. I. 1. Section of early brick walling (15th-16th c.) in a passage by 35 Clarence Street. Similar bricks are used in the walls of No. 35. Size  $7'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}''$ . These walls have since been destroyed.

Pl. I. 2. Sixteenth century fireplace on the first floor of Guildhall Vaults, Bench Street.

Pl. II. Panel of puce Delf tiles (scriptural subjects) found behind a cupboard at Milestone Cafe, Snargate Street.

Pl. III. Stoop in wall lined with Delf tiles exposed at Milestone Cafe, Snargate Street.

W.P.D.S.



## A PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION SITE ABOVE ELHAM

MR. N. E. TOKE writes that it seems worth recording that he and Mr. T. N. T. Vachell came upon such a site before the War. The occupation area covered two fields on either side of a footpath leading from Elham Station eastwards towards Acrise on the flat summit of the high ground, and beyond the chalk pits shown on the 6 in. Ordnance Map of Elham. On these two fields—then arable—almost every piece of flint bore signs of working; and there were literally hundreds of flakes, scrapers, axes (roughly chipped into very serviceable edges but with rough butts), flaking tools, choppers, a few saws, numerous arrow-shaft scrapers, rough lance heads, borers, and large rough celts which might have been used for cultivation, but scarcely any arrow heads. There was no pottery but he found round stones which bore marks of the fire, and had evidently been used as pot boilers. He records only one large celt which showed signs of grinding.

Mr. Toke noted that the absence of well made arrow heads was curious as he has found good specimens in the valleys, notably on the Folkestone Golf Course beside the stream which runs through it; and also at Hougham.

The worked material did not occur for more than about 200 yards on either side of the path though it extended laterally north and south of it for some way.

## LAMBETH PALACE—THE NAME

MR. TORR's footnote to his article "A Canterbury Pilgrimage in 1723"<sup>1</sup> repeats the statement, now apparently gaining ground, that the name of Lambeth Palace is a modern usage: one high authority recently spoke of it as an example of Victorian snobbery. These ideas should be modified.

A roll of household accounts among the Lambeth Library manuscripts, dated 1445-6, gives details of repairs to the buildings "in Palacio Lamheth."<sup>2</sup> This was the official designation of the Manor House, foremost among the many manors of the primacy throughout Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

The same phrase is used in the Latin writings of men like Erasmus, who meets Archbishop Warham "in his own palace at Lambeth,"<sup>3</sup> or in the description which Alexander Aless, Rector of the University of Leipzig, gave to Queen Elizabeth of his visit of Anne Boleyn's execution and his rush to Cranmer's "palace" to learn the truth.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, 1944.

<sup>2</sup> *Story of Lambeth Palace*. D. Gardiner (Constable, 1930), p. xiv.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 72:—cf. Knight, *Life of Erasmus* (1726), p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Foreign Papers*, R.O. 1303 (September 1st, 1559), and cf. Gardiner, p. 87.

Englishmen, Sir Thomas More for example, spoke of the Archbishop's "place" at Lambeth. The Bishop of Rochester's London residence, close at hand, was also known as "La Place," but here, too, the name at times alternated with "palace." Under King James, Archbishop Abbot's house was called "Lambeth Park,"<sup>1</sup> and under Charles I, in popular parlance, "The Archbishop's Palace."<sup>2</sup>

The old style of address, "From our Manor (or Manor-house) of Lambeth," however, persisted until Laud's time. One historian thinks he was the first to substitute "Lambeth House" alternatively with this time-honoured phrase.

After Laud's execution, the Survey of 1647<sup>3</sup> relates to "the Scite, circuite and precincts of y<sup>e</sup> Pallace of the late Archbishop of Canterbury called Lambeth House" and now confiscate to the Parliament. Then came the episode of the appropriation of Lambeth (or Canterbury) House for the detention, under appalling conditions, of Royalist and other prisoners.<sup>4</sup> When the King came again it is hardly surprising that a name of such melancholy association should have been gradually superseded. A petition by Archbishop Juxon's heir in 1663 heralded an enquiry into the state of "Lambeth Palace."<sup>5</sup> Queen Catherine of Braganza's river parties, about 1670, provisioned "sometimes at Vauxhall, sometimes at Lambeth Palace," where Archbishop Sheldon now resided.<sup>6</sup>

Sancroft sometimes wrote from "Lambeth House," but his Jacobite acquaintances in France reported him at his "Palais de Lambeth."<sup>7</sup> A letter of Edmund Gibson's, who was then Librarian to Archbishop Tenison, in 1703, is dated from "Lambeth Palace,"<sup>8</sup> and so throughout the eighteenth century, when, for instance, under Secker's kindly sway, both his ward Catharine Talbot and her correspondent, the blue-stocking Elizabeth Carter, knew no other address.<sup>9</sup>

Thus, when Queen Victoria ascended the throne, the name "Lambeth Palace," at once ancient and modern, had long since taken its place on the roll of London's fame.

DOROTHY GARDINER.

<sup>1</sup> *Cal. D.S.P.*, Ja. I, 1611-1618, p. 523.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Ch. I, 1634-1635, p. 186.

<sup>3</sup> *Surrey Archæol. Coll.*, vol. xli (1894-5).

<sup>4</sup> Gardiner, *loc. cit.*, pp. 154-171.

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. D.S.P.*, Ch. II, 1670, p. 685.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 175.

<sup>7</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.*, vii, p. 149b.

<sup>8</sup> Gardiner, p. 217.

<sup>9</sup> Letters between Mrs. E. Carter and Miss C. Talbot (1808), Vol. I, p. 430, Vol. II, pp. 133, 173, etc., etc. The Rev. Montague Pennington's ed. of the *Works of Miss Catharine Talbot*, 1809. His account of her Life, pp. vii-xxxvi.

## AN EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY WALMER WILL

IN Vol. LIII of *Arch. Cantiana* (1940) extracts from the eighteenth century wills of two spinsters were printed. Their interest was in the bequests to various relations of family and personal possessions which "had been handled, handed down, worn or slept in". The present will carries on this reverence for silver plate and clothing, which presumably was still to be worn; and of its disposal to many of her own and younger generations.

The will is that of Mrs. Mary Marsh, *née* Prescott, wife of William Marsh of The Wick, Castle Road, Walmer, and widow of Laurence Baker of Guston. It was proved at Canterbury on April 10th, 1806. The material bequests are as follows:—

To my niece Catharine, wife of William Boys of Reach in St. Margaret's at Cliffe, yeoman, all the furniture of my best parlour, my gold watch, my plain gold ring marked L.M.B. and my stone mourning ring which I had in remembrance of my late husband, also six silver table spoons marked MT, six silver tea spoons, tongs, and sugar basket; also my silver pepper caster and punch ladle, each marked L<sup>BM</sup>, one pint silver pot marked VI, and two silver table spoons marked L<sup>BM</sup>.

To my sister in law Angiller Prescott, widow of my late brother John Prescott, all my body linenry and all my under petticoats, my half mourning cotton gown and coat, and one of my black Russel<sup>1</sup> petticoats.

To my nephew John Prescott all my back chamber furniture, also my Cyprus chest of drawers.<sup>2</sup>

To my nephew William Prescott my mahogany desk and bookcase and all the books that shall be therein (except four books of Pamela [Samuel Richardson's novel]); also my mourning ring that I had in remembrance of my late brother Samuel Prescott.

To my great niece Mary the daughter of my said nephew William Prescott and Ann his wife the said four books of Pamela. Also my silver tankard marked MG and MP, my silver cup marked MG and MP, six silver tea spoons marked MP, one pair of silver buckles, and my easy chair.

To my nephew Samuel Prescott my clock and also my desk that is in my dressing room.

To my niece Mary the wife of Morris Wellard my mourning ring and my garnet ring.

To my niece Angiller the wife of John Pain my plain gold ring and girder ring.

To Susannah Holtum, daughter of John Holtum of Ash (nephew of

<sup>1</sup> Russel or Russels was a woollen fabric much used long before this date. N.E.D.

<sup>2</sup> A huge chest of Cyprus wood (*Cupressus*) formerly looked on as a fixture, used to be in Marston Hall at Martin but was sold by a late owner.

my late husband) and of Mary his late wife deceased, all the furniture of my best chamber.

To my great niece Angiller Prescott daughter of my nephew John Prescott and Hannah his wife my walnut tree drawers that are in my dressing room, also one silver milkpot marked L<sup>B</sup>M, and one pair of silver buckles marked MB.

To my great niece Mary Prescott Wellard, daughter of Morris Wellard and Mary his wife, one pair of silver salts marked MG.

To my great niece Mary Prescott, daughter of my nephew Samuel Prescott and Susannah his wife, my silver pepper box marked MM and GM, and one pair of silver buckles not marked.

To my great niece Mary Prescott Pain daughter of John Pain and Angiller his wife, six silver tea spoons, five of them marked SB, and the other not marked, and my night chair.

To my great nieces Angiller Prescott, Mary Prescott, daughter of William, Mary Prescott Wellard, Mary Prescott Pain and Mary Prescott, daughter of Samuel, one gown and a coat each.

To my cousin Mary the wife of M<sup>r</sup>. John Hills of Ash my striped silk gown and coat, my black silk gown and coat, my green silk petticoat, and my white petticoat with fringe of my own work.

The remainder of the furniture, wearing apparel and household linen is left to her nieces Mary the wife of Morris Wellard and Angiller the wife of John Pain to be divided between them share and share alike.

Besides the monetary bequests and money left in trust she leaves to her two executors William Boys and John Hills £50 a piece for the care and trouble they may be at in and about the execution of her will, and desires that they will provide "with suitable and proper mourning the maid servant who shall be living with me at the time of my decease."

W.P.D.S.

#### REPORT ON A HUMAN SKULL FROM THE FREEDOWN, RINGWOULD, KENT.

BY PROFESSOR A. J. E. CAVE.

*Material.* The material for examination comprises an imperfect, comminuted human skull and a pelvic fragment (the postero-superior piece of the right ilium, including the upper part of the auricular (articular) surface).

*Submitted.* September, 1945, by W. P. D. Stebbing, Esq., F.S.A., F.G.S., on behalf of the Kent Archæological Society.

*Provenance.* The osseous fragments were discovered 4' 1" down in the chalk in an excavation some 3' 6" long, at a point not far east of two Bronze Age tumuli which were explored in 1872. It is stated

that the skeleton was interred with "its knees up," i.e. in the lateral couched posture, but whether right- or left-sided is not known. There was no accompanying archaeological evidence.

*The skull.* This, after careful restoration, reveals itself as the very imperfect skull of an adult, middle-aged male. The vault alone is preserved, together with the greater part of the two temporal bones: the mandible, lacking one ascending ramus, is also present, as also a piece of the hard palate (represented by two maxillary fragments) and some upper teeth.

Evidence of the male sex is seen in the well-developed supraciliary ridges (confluent mesially), the slope of the brow, the configuration of the stout external angular processes of the frontal bone, the size and robustness of the (right) mastoid process and the emphatic secondary markings upon the little that remains of the planum occipitale. In general the vault is long and narrow: the cephalic index is 72.5 (i.e. dolicocephalic).

A metopic suture is present. The frontal sinuses are capacious; they extend mainly vertically and laterally and but little into the orbital roof. The frontal eminences are moderately prominent and the frontal bone exhibits a median "keeling". The minimal frontal diameter is about 100 mm.; the maximum (glabella-occipital) length is 189 mm.; the biparietal breadth is 127 mm., being exceeded by the bi-asterionic, which is 137 mm. The parietal eminences are fairly prominent, the two parietal "fields" being separated by a distinct obelionic median groove, which ends at the lambda. From the asterion the vault tapers rapidly backwards, and the small, prominent occiput projects as a well-circumscribed "boss" from the rest of the skull. The right temporo-mandibular joint shows no signs of osteoarthritic disease. The mastoid processes are of the highly pneumatic variety.

The maxillary (palatal) fragments show nothing noteworthy; the remaining maxillary teeth show considerable crown-wear, with local enamel-denudation, but are well formed and healthy.

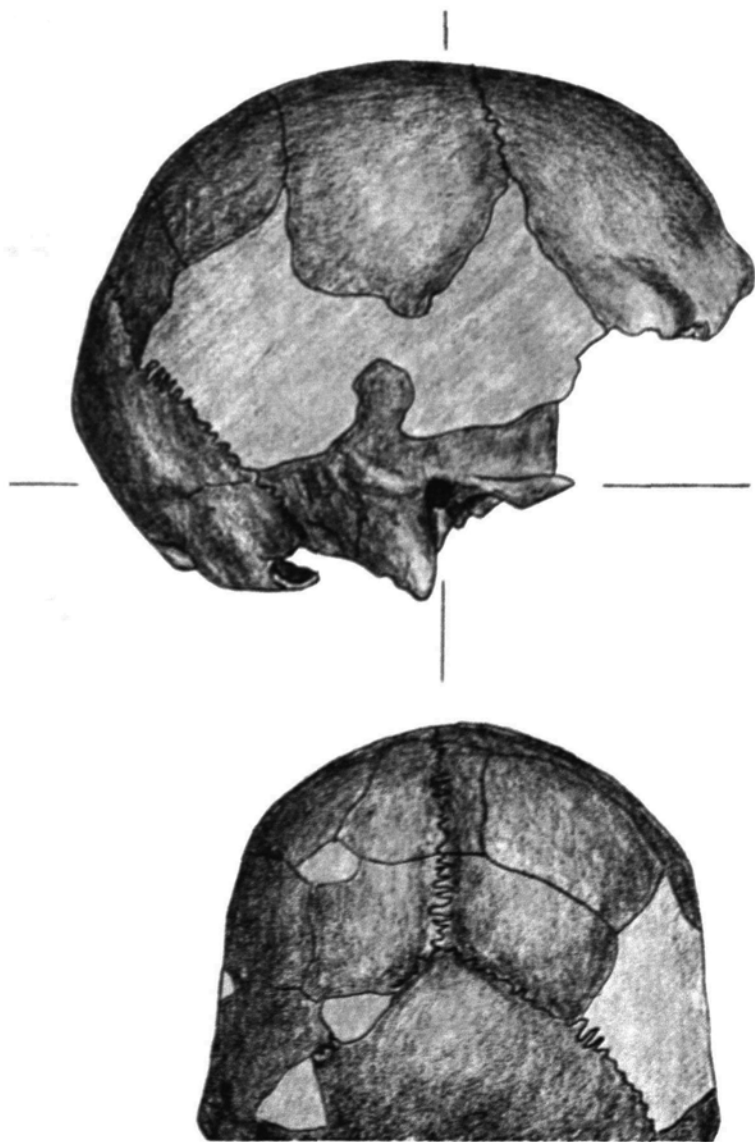
The mandible lacks the left ascending ramus and the condylar part of the right. Each ascending ramus is relatively narrow; the horizontal ramus is long and narrow, terminating in a very prominent mental region. Mandibular secondary markings are everywhere emphatic. A full complement of teeth remained *in situ* at death; these all (especially molars 1 and 2) manifest severe crown wear with some denudation of the enamel, as well as tartaric incrustation upon their lingual aspects. They are, however, free from all sign of caries, pyorrhœa or other disease.

The pelvic fragment is relatively uninformative.

The left femur measures 1' 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " in length. This would give the individual an approximate height of 5' 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

*Summary.* A dolicocephalic skull, with frontal keeling, obelionic grooving and prominent occiput, of a vigorous middle-aged male. Presumably a full complement of teeth present at death; these severely crown-worn, but perfectly healthy.

*Period.* The osteological features of the vault, the characters of the jaws, and the condition of the teeth, all suggest the tentative reference at latest of this specimen to the Pagan Saxon period.



A. C. Vol. LVIII.  
EARLY SKULL FROM THE FREEDOWN, RINGWOULD.