BARTON STACEY.

The archæological associations of this place bring us into close touch with several periods of early history, with medieval customs and old forms of local government. They bring before us also subjects of more ancient interest, and supply examples which show how few things there are under the sun which are really new.

CREMATION.

Here we are surrounded by an ancient churchyard which has been a burial place for many centuries. Of late years another method of disposal of the dead has been advocated. Science has been setting forth the advantages of cremation over burial, and this modern custom has been growing slowly, while the contents of the round tumuli which have been excavated, such as are found on the downs near this place, show us that cremation was an ancient custom, and was practised near Barton Stacey two thousand years ago.

DISTRICT COUNCILS OF LONG AGO.

Again, Parliament has, after much discussion, passed an Act for the establishment of Parish Councils. These, in large parishes such as this, will really be district councils, and yet we find that the ancient Hundred Court of Barton Stacey was its district council, and that the privileges of local government were really possessed in another form many centuries ago.

The Hundred Court of Barton Stacey had come down from Saxon times, and with it other old accompaniments of local government, the view of Frankpledge, the tythingmen, the assize of bread and ale, the ale taster, the stocks, the gallows, often with human bones hanging thereon, and the hue and cry which every one in the Hundred was obliged to raise and take part in when a criminal appeared in order to catch him, or get quit of him by chasing him out of the Hundred—a practical way of getting rid or a thief or other vagabond by driving him into other people's preserves. The

Hundred of Barton Stacey included two outlying parts, one in the north and the other in the east of the county. The present parish comprises four tythings, as it did in the middle ages.

The high constable of the Hundred was an official whose origin was of medieval date, viz., about 1295, when such constables were first appointed. As late as 1859 the constable of the Hundred of Barton Stacey was apppointed, but I am not aware whether the Hundred Court has met there since.

ANCIENT BRITONS AT BARTON.

We know that a considerable clan, or tribe of people, lived around what is now called Barton Stacey in the British period, for these people had a great camp of refuge close by, at Bransbury, to which they could flee when attacked by any enemies. The size of this fortified area shows that there must have been a large population to defend it, otherwise it would have been a source of weakness instead of a source of strength. Even as late as Saxon time lands which were held by the most ancient tenure, known as allodial tenure, were liable for the repair of local fortifications such as Bransbury, which was a peninsular site between two streams and marshes, with a great dyke, now known as the Ansdyke, cut from marsh to marsh.

THE ROMANS AND THEIR ROADS.

The business of agriculture is and always has been the chief concern of the people of Barton Stacey, but it had also some connection with the ancient traffic and commerce between Winchester and the west midland parts of England, through Cirencester. The great Roman road from Winchester to Cirencester passed through this parish. In Roman time this was a great highway for traffic, both military and commercial. This road is still the highway from Winchester for some miles, and the disused part of it through this parish is now a green track. The reasons for this disuse are not far to seek. This road crossed the Test near the north-west part of this parish by a ford known as Welford, but fords, like bridges, require to be repaired. Apparently about the 13th century the ford became partly disused, and the traffic diverted to the present

road through Wherwell to Andover. Two other circumstances must have contributed to this diversion of traffic from Barton Stacey. 1. The growth of Andover, which the Roman road did not pass through, but which in the middle ages had become an important place. 2. The building of a bridge over the Test at Wherwell, by which the present way from Winchester to Andover was made. Although the Roman road through the parish of Barton Stacey is now for the most part a grass-grown track, yet it must have been along this way that the military expeditions in Roman and also in Saxon times passed. The passages of troops, kings, and other notable personages between Winchester and Gloucester, many of which are recorded in Saxon and Norman history, probably went along this old way, and through the western part of this parish.

SAXON RECORDS.

The earliest record concerning Barton Stacey relates to a time nearly 1000 years ago, and refers to the land of the New Minster, or Hyde Abbey. It states that one hide at Barton, near Wherwell, with other land, was given to that abbey. There is still existing an agreement or lease of some time between A.D. 979 and 1015, in which the New Minster leased to Wulfmere, of Berton, one hide of land at Berton and another hide at Drayton, for his life, and that of his wife, or, as the Anglo-Saxon phraseology has it, "for his day and for his wife's day." The New Minster had great estates adjoining Berton, and required a friendly tenant, so that it was agreed to, in this Anglo-Saxon lease, that "Wulfmere should be a friend, and hold with that Minster, in every place, either to fore God, or to fore the world." Nearly 900 years have passed over Berton since Wulfmere's day.

As the monks of the New Minster fought against William the Conqueror at Hastings, their land at Drayton was taken from them. The land at Barton Stacey, which was leased to Wulfmere in Saxon times, was probably the same as that held here by the abbey in the 14th century.

Barton Stacey appears to have been one of the primitive boroughs of Hampshire—not a borough in the present meaning of the term, but a place which included freemen among its

inhabitants, with a bury or burh for local defence. Its early name Berton may have denoted this, and the fortified area of Bransbury was certainly a local defensive work. Even as late as twenty years after the Norman Conquest, as Doomsday Book tells us, six Coliberti or freemen still resided here on their own lands.

DOMESDAY RECORDS.

Domesday Book tells us that Berton was a royal manor in Saxon times, being held by the king himself. It also tells us that the manor was under the obligation to provide for the entertainment of the king for half a day, that as I understand it being its assessment in reference to the food it was required to supply for the king's household. It was part of the ancient demesne land of the Kings of Wessex, and in the time of King Edward the Confessor was worth £38 8s. 4d. per annum. After the Norman Conquest it passed to King William, and the chief change that event brought to this place was an increased rental, for whereas in Saxon time it was worth £38 8s. 4d. it was required to pay £52 6s. 1d. a year at the time of the Norman Survey. The following is the Domesday record :—The king holds Berton, which was a royal manor of King Edward, and was under obligation to provide entertainment for the king for half a day. To this Manor Worthy is joined, and is a berewick. It was never assessed in hides, except 6 hides, which were and are held by freemen. The number of hides is not stated. There are 25 ploughlands. In demesne are 5 ploughlands and 28 villeins, and 47 borderers with 18 ploughlands. Here are 8 serfs, and 3 mills worth 42s. 6d. Here are 6 Coliberti or freemen, and 37 acres of pasture. There are woods for the pannage of 80 hogs, and herbage worth 40s. In the time of King Edward it was worth £38 8s. 4d., and afterwards the same, but now £33, yet it pays £52 6s. 1d.

Another smaller holding is recorded as follows :—"The Church of St. Victor holds Berton of Ralph de Mortimer, and Cheping held it in parcenary of King Edward. There are 2 ploughlands, 9 oxen, one villein, 5 borderers, 6 acres of pasture and 1 serf. In the time of King Edward it was worth 60s., and afterwards and now 30s."

There is also a third and still smaller holding recorded which is of much interest as regards the subsequent history of this church. "Walter, the son of Roger de Pistes, holds half a hide in Berton, and Hugh de Port holds it of him. Ezi, the Sheriff, held it of King Edward. Then and now it was assessed at half a hide. Here is a church, and its value is 15s."

Another manor in this parish, Bransbury, was given to St. Swithun's Priory by Queen Emma, mother of Edward the Confessor. Bransbury is recorded in Domesday Book as follows:—"Richard, the clerk, holds Bransbury, and claims it under the bishop. Abbot Alsi held it of Archdeacon Stigand and of the monks of Winchester, and in the time of King Edward it was for their support. It was then as now assessed at four hides. Here are 4 ploughlands in demesne, and 5 villeins and 7 borderers with 2 ploughlands, also a mill worth 15s. Its value in the time of King Edward was 100s., afterwards £4, and now £6." This record recalls to our memory the long story of the dispute between the Conqueror and Archbishop Stigand, of his confinement at Winchester, and his friendship with Queen Emma.

NORMAN LORDS OF THE MANORS.

The smaller manor at Barton Stacey, which belonged to Ralph de Mortimer, and was held of him by the Church of St. Victor, supplies us with an example of the way in which the Norman nobles after the Conquest enriched the religious houses of their own country out of the estates granted to them in England. The Church of St. Victor was a Benedictine Abbey, founded by Roger de Mortimer, in 1074, at Caux, in Normandy, and the produce or profit of the land which Roger de Mortimer held at Barton Stacey formed part of the revenue of the Abbey which Roger had founded, and which owed much to the de Mortimer family. This French abbey survived until 1742, when it was dissolved, but the connection of Barton Stacey with it ceased in the middle ages.

Barton remained a royal manor until the 13th century. In the first year of King John's reign its annual value to the Crown was £47. As his itinerary shows King John himself was here on July 28th, 1207. This manor and parish has

a name which is partly of Saxon and partly of Norman origin. In its present modified name it has borne the impress of the Norman Conquest for more than 600 years. It was known as the royal manor of Berton until it was granted by the Crown. About the beginning of the 13th century it was held by Rogoni de Sacy. In the middle of the 13th century it was held by Emericus de Sacy of the king in chief at one knight's fee, and it is from this Norman family of de Sacy that it has derived the second part of its name. The record known as the "Testa de Neville" tells us that it was a manor of new feofment, *i.e.*, granted some time after the troubles of Stephen's reign.

It was the fashion in the 13th century for holders of such manors as this to call their lands after their own names, and that name which Barton then acquired has come down to our time. A smaller manor appears also to have been formed by the de Sacys, which became known as Newton Sacy, in the western part of this parish.

THE CHURCH AND LANTHONY PRIORY.

The history of the church at Barton Stacey brings us into touch with one of the leading men of the 12th century, and also with a remarkable priory—viz., Milo of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford, and the Priory of Lanthony. Milo was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in the 31st year of Henry I., and, presumably, held that office for a lengthy period. In the wars of Stephen's time he supported the Empress Maud. He became lord of Brecknock, in right of his wife, and met his death by a similar fate to that of William Rufus.

The first Lanthony Priory was founded in Wales; the second of that name was founded just outside the city of Gloucester by Milo, who endowed it with manors and other possessions. The ruins of the priory barn, and a gateway bearing the arms of some of the Earls of Hereford, are now all that remain of this noted monastery with which this church was closely connected for 400 years. The nave and aisles of this church show the styles of architecture of the Transition, Norman, and Early English periods. As a church existed here at the time of the Norman survey it is probable that the present edifice was built or enlarged by one of the Plantagenet

kings, or by the de Sacy family. Probably the chancel owes its origin to the Priory of Lanthony, which owned the rectory.

In his deed of gift to that house in 1143 Milo of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford, mentions this church of Berton as "part of my fee descended to me from my ancestors." His father's name was Walter, who appears to have settled at Gloucester, and his grandfather's name was, as the Domesday record states, Roger de Pistes.

An inquiry was hed concerning the appropriation of the church of Barton Stacey by the Prior of Lanthony in the time of Edward II., and the right of the prior was confirmed. That connection lasted until the dissolution of the monasteries. after which, by letters patent of Henry VIII., the rectory and church of this parlsh were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester.

In 1291 the revenues of this church were assessed at £33 6s. 8d., and £3 6s. 8d. was paid to the tax of Pope Nicholas for the purposes of the last crusade. At that time both the Priory of Lanthony and the Abbey of Hyde were connected with this church and parish, a circumstance which perhaps accounts for its two chapels. The connection of Hyde Abby with it appears to have arisen partly through the Manor of Drayton, which paid tithes to this church, although in Micheldever Hundred. An inquiry was held concerning the tithes of Barton Stacey in 31 Edward I., 1303, in which it was found that tithes from Drayton were paid to this parish. When the return known as the Valor Ecclesiasticus was made in the time of Henry VIII., the Priory of Lanthony was stated to be in receipt of the rectorial tithes, out of which a sum of forty shillings per annum was paid to St. Mary's College, Winchester. The name of the Vicar of Barton Stacey at that time was Thomas Vaughan, and the value of the vicarage £8 1s. 8d.

Other abbeys held land in Barton Stacey in the middle ages. From a return made about 1340 we learn that the Priory of St. Swithun and the Abbey of Wherwell each derived a small revenue from this parish. The land which was held at that time by the Priory of St. Swithun was acquired in a peculiar

way. Early in the 14th century the priory granted a corrody to William of Lillebonne, *i.e.*, a yearly allowance of some kind in return for certain property of Gavelacre and elsewhere in the parish of Barton Stacey. This property was held apparently by the priory for a term of yesrs or during the life of William Lillebonne. The deed by which this agreement was made is still among the Cathedral archives, and is dated Ascension Day, 14 Edward II., *i.e.*, 1321.

Milo of Gloucester, who granted this church to the Priory of Lanthony, was one of the ancestors of the Lancastrian Kings (Henry V. and Henry VI.), for from him was descended in the female line the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, whose heiress, Mary, married Henry Plantagenet, afterwards Henry IV.

EARLY LORDS OF BARTON STACEY AND MEDIEVAL WARS.

The de Sacy family do not appear to have held this manor after the 13th century, but certainly since that time their name, modified by local pronunciation, has clung to it. Emericus de Sacy obtained from King Henry III. in 1240 a charter for a market and a fair to be held here, thus conferring on Barton the status of a market town, an important privilege in the middle ages. I need scarcely remind you that that privilege enabled what we call shops for the sale of necessary commodities to be opened, previously to which the people would have to buy from the wandering chapmen, or resort to the markets and fairs of Andover, Basingstoke, or Winchester. The market and fair privilege must have been a source of great convenience to the people, and of some commercial profit.

In the 21st year of Edward I., *i.e.*, 1292, licence was given to Isabella de Basingburn, wife of Warina de Basingburn, to alienate the manor and hundred of Barton Stacey, of which apparently she had become the heiress, and its lordship was accordingly transferred. In 1309 the lord of this hundred and manor was Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester. He lived in troublous days; the country was divided. Hugh le Despenser supported the king against a popular party supported by Queen Isabella. Newton Stacey was held at that time by a knight named Thomas de Coudray, and

another part of the old manor of Barton was held about the same time by John de Berewyk. Towards the end of that century William Kyngelborne and Philip de Popham were knights who held estates in Barton.

Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, ceased to be the lord of Barton Stacey by a violent death in 1326. He fell into the hands of the Queen's party, and was hanged at Bristol, his head being sent to Winchester and placed above one of the gates as a warning to the king's adherents within the city.

During the Scotch and French wars of the 14th century the knightly tenants of this manor must, in accordance with their tenures, have received writs commanding them to serve in these expeditions, which must have been to the old inhabitants of Barton Stacey stern realities, for they saw the knights or their men at arms depart from this neighbourhood much more frequently than they saw them return. They had also to bear their share of the cost of these expeditions, and with these medieval wars even this church must have had some connection, for no doubt it was here that distressed wives, widows, and mothers came to seek consolation in their anxiety and bereavement.

One instance of such wars may be cited. Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, the lord of Barton Stacey, was much engaged in the wars of Edward II. He accompanied that King, with no doubt such a following as he could command from this neighbourhood, to the battle of Bannockburn, where the English suffered a crushing defeat with great slaughter.

In addition to the local burden of knight service Barton Stacey was taxed in the general taxation for the wars of the 14th and 15th centuries. In 1334 the amount it was required to pay was £4 17s. 2d., the levy on the Hundred being £19 10s. 7d.

THE COMMON LAND.

The greatest change which Barton Stacey has experienced was that which followed the enclosure of its common lands, which altered the appearance of the surrounding country. From the account in Domesday-book, which tells us that 18

out of 25 ploughlands on the King's manors at Barton were cultivated in common by the manorial tenants, it is certain that this parish had, as long ago as Saxon time, extensive common arable land as well as common down and pasture land. Open field cultivation was continued long after cultivation in common.

The chief contributing cause to the breaking up of the old system of cultivation in open fields was the introduction of the turnip, which made fallows unnecessary, introduced a more profitable system of agriculture, and led to the extensive enclosure of common lands. The turnip was first grown in Hampshire about two hundred years ago. More than 4000 Enclosure Acts were passed between the middle of the 18th and the middle of the 19th century. This compact village shows that the people did not forsake their old dwelling sites at the time of the enclosure. The cottagers, therefore, must have received money compensation instead of plots of land in lieu of their ancient rights of common.

It was the common down lands of this parish which preserved for many centuries the pre-historic barrows or tumuli, some of which still exist in the neighbourhood. Many others have, no doubt, been obliterated, and some are now disappearing as the plough is annually passing over them. This is much to be regretted, for they are far older than any other memorials of the dead we still possess. The abbeys, priories, and other memorials of the distinguished men and women of the middle ages, with which Barton Stacey was connected, have long since passed away, but some of these memorials of pre-historic chieftains still remains, and ought to be preserved.

CHANGE AND CHANCE.

In addition to the marks of the great ecclesiastical changes of the 16th century, which we observe in the ancient chantry chapels of this church, we may see here another mark of that period, which is both a mark of destruction and a mark of reconstruction; of the destruction of the neighbouring Abbey of Wherwell, and of the reconstruction of the tower of this

church from part of its ruins, some of the stones of which, tradition says, and I think truly, were used in building this tower of 16th century date.

This village also exhibits the mark of another destruction, a Phœnix-like mark, of the fire here in 1792. The typical old cottages of Hampshire villages are those made of thick dab walls covered with thatch. The fire here a century ago destroyed a great part of the village, and consequently it presents a more modern appearance than otherwise it probably would do.

The fire caused much distress here, for the relief of which a royal brief was issued and collections made in many parts of the kingdom.