

Journal of the
Chester
Archaeological
Society

Volume 85 for 2015



Papers relating to the Architecture, Archaeology and History
of the County, City and Neighbourhood of Chester

Edited by
PETER CARRINGTON
with
Leigh Dodd, Julie Edwards and Dan Garner
Chester 2015

© Chester Archaeological Society and contributors 2015

ISBN 978 0 9542563 9 5

ISSN 0309-359 X

Abbreviations

The abbreviations used in this volume follow the system laid down in British Standard 4148 part 2; many of the most relevant abbreviations are listed in *Signposts for archaeological publication* ed 3. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1991. http://www.archaeologyuk.org/sites/www.britarch.ac.uk/files/node-files/signposts_archpub_3rded.pdf

Contributions

The Society welcomes articles about the architecture, archaeology and history of the pre-1974 county of Cheshire and adjoining areas. If you are interested in contributing, please contact the incoming editor, Dr Birgitta Hoffmann, email latinteacher@btinternet.com or chesterarchaeologicalsociety@gmail.com.

For notes on the scope, presentation, content and organisation of contributions, and on house style, *see* www.chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk/contributors.html.

Designed and produced for the Society
by aquarium graphic design limited
www.aquariumgd.co.uk

Contents

List of illustrations	iv
List of tables	v
I: Obituary	
George Storey 1927–2015	1
<i>Rosemary Martin</i>	
II: Book reviews	
1: Tom Saunders (editor) <i>Hillforts in the north-west and beyond</i>	3
<i>Lorae Campbell</i>	
2: Stephen E Harding, David Griffiths and Elizabeth Royles (editors)	7
<i>In search of Vikings: interdisciplinary approaches to the Scandinavian heritage of north-west England</i>	
<i>Dean Paton</i>	
3: Graeme J White and Jonathan Pepler <i>The Magna Carta of Cheshire</i>	9
<i>Roy Coppack</i>	
4: Susan Chambers <i>Chester in the Great War</i>	11
<i>Peter Carrington</i>	
5: Graeme J White <i>On Chester on: a history of Chester College and the University of Chester</i>	15
<i>Peter Carrington</i>	
III: The Handfords of Macclesfield hundred: a Cheshire family and military service in France and Normandy in the fifteenth century	19
<i>Christopher Allmand</i>	
IV: The industrial archaeology of Cheshire: an overview	39
<i>Michael Nevell</i>	
V: Notes	
1: The Acton hoard	83
<i>Vanessa Oakden and David Shotter</i>	
2: Lea Manor Farm, Aldford: a Roman rural settlement	87
<i>Julie Edwards</i>	
VI: Cheshire past in 2014	
1: Sites investigated, recorded and protected	89
<i>Mark Leah and Julie Edwards</i>	
2: Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme	99
<i>Vanessa Oakden</i>	
Council and Officers for the Year 2014/15	122

Illustrations

III.1	Map of northern France	20
IV.1	Lions Salt Works Pan and Stove House 3 during restoration	47
IV.2	Marston Flash	48
IV.3	Distribution map of industrial corn mills in Cheshire	49
IV.4	Nether Alderley corn mill	50
IV.5	Bunbury Mill: exterior	51
IV.6	Bunbury Mill: reconstruction of machinery	51
IV.7	Park Mill, Brereton: section drawing	52
IV.8	Gibbet Windmill, Saughall	53
IV.9	Distribution map of textile mills in Cheshire	55
IV.10	Silk weavers' cottages, Paradise Street, Macclesfield	58
IV.11	New Mill, Bridge Street, Macclesfield	58
IV.12	Dane in Shaw cotton mill, Congleton	59
IV.13	Distribution map of quarries and mines in Cheshire	61
IV.14	Quarry face, Kerridge, near Macclesfield	62
IV.15	Quarry incline, Kerridge	63
IV.16	Plan of surface remains of mining at Alderley Edge	64
IV.17	Shot tower, Chester Leadworks	65
IV.18	Map of surface remains of coal mining at Poynton	66
IV.19	Canal warehouses at Bridgewater Canal, Runcorn	69
IV.20	Anderton Boat Lift	70
IV.21	Aqueduct carrying the Macclesfield Canal over the Trent and Mersey	71
IV.22	Warrington Transporter Bridge	73
V.1.1	Side views of the lead container	85
V.1.2	Top views of the lead container with and without stopper	85
V.1.3	The lead stopper	85
V.1.4	Example of one of the silver <i>denarii</i>	85
VI.1.1	Aerial view of the excavations at the 'Odeon' site, Chester	92
VI.1.2	Roman altar from Saighton	93
VI.1.3	Feet from anthropomorphic statue from Saighton	93
VI.1.4	Aerial view of the excavations at Norton Priory	95
VI.1.5	Excavation work underway within the undercoft at Norton Priory	95
VI.1.6	Distribution of 2013 and 2014 test pits in Bromborough village	96
VI.2.1	Late Neolithic flint arrowhead from Tiverton	101
VI.2.2	Early Bronze Age flat axe from Mollington	101
VI.2.3	Middle Bronze Age spearhead from Kelsall	102
VI.2.4	Middle Bronze Age copper alloy dirk or rapier from Kelsall	103
VI.2.5	Late Iron Age–early Roman fob from Malpas	104

VI.2.6	Hoard of Roman <i>denarii</i> in conical lead container from Acton	105
VI.2.7	Late Iron Age–early Roman copper alloy cosmetic pestle from Barrow	106
VI.2.8	Late Iron Age–early Roman copper alloy brooch from Bickley	107
VI.2.9	Roman copper alloy brooch from Barrow	107
VI.2.10	Example of Roman <i>siliqua</i> from hoard found at Dutton	108
VI.2.11	Roman copper alloy disc brooch from Horton-cum-Peel	108
VI.2.12	Roman lead alloy lampholder from Kelsall	109
VI.2.13	Late Roman copper alloy bracelet from Littleton	110
VI.2.14	Iron Age coins from a hoard found in the Malpas area	111
VI.2.15	Roman copper alloy <i>patera</i> handle from the Malpas area	112
VI.2.16	Early medieval copper alloy mount from Doddington	113
VI.2.17	Early medieval copper alloy buckle frame from Huxley	113
VI.2.18	Late Saxon copper alloy strap end from Huxley	114
VI.2.19	Early medieval lead alloy spindle whorl from Little Leigh	115
VI.2.20	Middle early medieval gilded copper alloy disc-headed pin from Malpas	115
VI.2.21	Medieval copper alloy seal matrix from Huxley	116
VI.2.22	Medieval silver double <i>patard</i> of Charles the Bold of Burgundy from Tarvin	117
VI.2.23	Post-medieval gilded lead alloy copy of Spanish 4- <i>reales</i> coin from Kingsley	117
VI.2.24	Post-medieval copper alloy strap tag from Malpas	118

Tables

VI.1.1	Fieldwork carried out in Cheshire in 2014/15 quantified by local authority area	89
VI.2.1	PAS finds from Cheshire in 2014 quantified by local authority area and period	100
VI.2.2	PAS finds from Cheshire in 2014 quantified by local authority area and function	100

4: Chester in the Great War by Susan Chambers.
Pbk.160 pages. Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books 2015.
ISBN 9781783463534

by Peter Carrington*

This volume, written by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies volunteer Sue Chambers, is one in a series of at least twenty-seven such books published or planned in the series 'Towns & Cities in the Great War'. It sets out to document, as the publishers state, 'how each year of the war brought a change in the spirit of the populace as the huge battles taking place in Belgium, France, Gallipoli and elsewhere, took their toll on the menfolk', using 'the local newspapers of the day; along with letters, diaries, photograph albums, parish magazines, trade journals and contemporary printed pamphlets etc, located in the local library archives'. In popular imagination the 'home front' during the First World War remains far less prominent than during the Second (on which for Chester *see* E Stuart ed, *What did you do in the war Deva?* (Chester City Council 2005)), and one hopes that this series will go some way to redress the balance.

This book does not set out to be an 'academic' work, in the sense that its content is not supported by references or even a detailed reading list. The strict chronological arrangement makes it difficult to follow individual topics, and this problem is only partly mitigated by the index. Moreover, the treatment is selective rather than comprehensive and sometimes leaves obvious questions unanswered: for example, the reviewer sought in vain for a statement of the total number of battalions of the Cheshire Regiment raised during the war. Nevertheless, it embodies a considerable amount of research, and the chronological treatment, together with the level of detail, results in a powerful and engrossing account of life as it was lived by the citizens of Chester through the war years. A map of the city as it existed in 1914 may have helped; subsequent slum clearance, followed by the Central Area Redevelopment Scheme of the 1960s and then by de-industrialisation, has swept away so much of the Chester of 100 years ago that it may be difficult for younger readers to orientate themselves.

At the outbreak of the war Chester was acquiring some of the characteristics it maintained until recently. It was becoming a fashionable shopping and tourist destination and administrative centre. Nevertheless, it was also home to several engineering works, although its handicrafts and some of its older industries had gone. It possessed many of the buildings

* Peter Carrington, Honorary Editor, Chester Archaeological Society

that we now regard as essential elements of the Chester scene, although some of these were then new (eg St Michael's Row), but many of its poorer inhabitants lived in cramped and insanitary courts off Princess Street and Foregate Street that have long since disappeared.

For the present reviewer, the memorable themes that came out of the book were the numerous military movements (of recruits, wounded, horses and prisoners of war) that resulted from Chester's role as headquarters of Western Command and home depot of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment; the amount of munitions manufacture and other war work done in a city that we consider 'non-industrial'; the desperate efforts to increase agricultural production to counter the worsening shortages of imported food; the sometimes surprising labour shortages caused by large-scale enlistment in the forces; the efforts by the city authorities (led by the mayor, John Meadows Frost, who was knighted at the end of the war for his work) to counter the poverty caused by the absence of male breadwinners by coordinating the work of local charities; and the casualties suffered by prominent local families, just as they were by poorer citizens. There were paradoxes, too, and national undercurrents that occasionally surfaced: the fox hunts that continued to be patronised by officers home from the front on Christmas leave; the strikes among engineering and munitions workers, who were relatively well paid; and political meetings for women in the run-up to the granting of limited suffrage in 1918.

It is impractical in the space available to give more than a few examples of these topics.

The Cheshire Regiment was vastly expanded with the creation of new battalions. Up to 15,000 men from across the county had assembled at Chester Castle by January 1915, being accommodated at the Castle and in pubs across the city; Cheshire men also enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment and the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Prominent casualties included Captain T L Frost, the youngest of the three sons of the mayor who had enlisted, Lieutenant W G C Gladstone, grandson of the late prime minister, and Second Lieutenants Oscar Lybourne, the only son of the city's chief constable, and Rupert Newstead, son of Robert Newstead (then Professor of Entomology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and a leading member of the Chester Archaeological Society). Lord Gerald Grosvenor was held as a prisoner of war from 1915 until 1918. As well as its menfolk, the city also contributed money to the war effort: as late as 1918 £100,000 was raised in one week to pay for new aircraft.

As well as leaving, soldiers returned to the city. Some were German prisoners of war, of whom 2000 were interned at a disused engineering works at Sandycroft by the end of September 1914. There were also trainloads of wounded, and numerous makeshift hospitals were set up to accommodate them, in Kings Buildings, at Richmond House (Boughton), Hoole Bank, Eaton Hall, Oakfield House (now part of Chester Zoo), as well as at the Vernon Institute in Saughall and at Parkgate. In 1917 the workhouse on Hoole Lane was finally adapted as a war hospital. Other victims of the war who made their way to Cheshire were Belgian refugees, who were sheltered at Congleton and other Cheshire towns and some also at Oakfield House.

At that time the army was still heavily reliant on horses, both for transport and as cavalry mounts. To meet the initial demand, they were bought in the city's streets, including from

the Cheshire Hunt. Remount depots were established, first at the Linenhall, then on Leadworks Lane, and finally also by the Roodee.

Sealand aerodrome (called Shotwick until 1924) was taken over by the military in 1916, and Hooton racecourse was converted for use by the new air force.

The war created much work for the city's engineering businesses. The Hydraulic Engineering works in Hoole made presses for munitions factories, while Henry Woods' chain works in Saltney was busy supplying the Admiralty. The electricity works on New Crane Street was adapted to make shell cases, and was reputedly the most efficient in the country; they were also made in the evening at Lanceleys on Brook Street. However, the greatest contribution along these lines came from the munitions factory that displaced the internment camp at Sandycroft. It was one of the largest in the area, with a workforce of 7000, many of them women; some of the workers were housed in a new village at Mancot, which had its own fire station, hospital and school. H N Gladstone objected to the siting of the factory on environmental grounds, and seemingly not without reason: sometimes sulphurous fumes drifted upriver as far as Saughall. Its workers were charged with numerous petty offences, some of theft but often arising from the strict safety precautions enforced there.

Pay in the city's engineering works was relatively good, and already in 1915 there was concern that they were draining labour from farms. Nevertheless, they were subject to occasional strikes — a continuation of pre-war unrest in this sector and sometimes settled quickly by significant rises. Indeed, one reason for the introduction of conscription in 1916 was the attractiveness of civilian wages.

By 1917 the U-boat menace was causing severe shortages of imported grain, and a County War Agricultural Executive Committee was set up under national direction to ensure more domestic food production. Tractors came into more common use, as did female workers; pasture was ploughed up and the number of allotments increased. Even the most unlikely places were brought into use, such as the Castle ditch and land on Frodsham Street behind the Hop Pole Hotel. There was the occasional bonanza, such as the 1000 salmon caught in the Dee at the end of May 1917, but finally food rationing was introduced in 1918, followed by the inevitable crop of prosecutions for contravention.

As well as working in the munitions factory and on the land, women also came to be employed as lamplighters, postmen and street cleaners. Nevertheless, the enlistment and frequent death of male breadwinners still caused hardship and social disruption. A National Relief Fund was set up at the beginning of the war by the future Edward VIII to help, but from start it was locally run and in 1915 merged with a number of city charities to form the Chester Council of Social Welfare. An inspection of pupils at the Bishop Graham Ragged School in Princess Street in 1915 found cases of gross parental neglect and the school was closed soon thereafter. A National Baby Week was held in 1917 to highlight the need for better child care after an increase in deaths the previous year, perhaps a result of an increase in the number of women working, and the former Ragged School was reopened as a day nursery for the children of female munitions workers. The communal kitchens set up in Princess Street, and also in Boughton, were further signs of

the increasing distress in these areas. Another focus for voluntary effort were the troops at the various fronts: Miss Brown, former headmistress of St Mary's Hill School, organised 'Comforts for Cheshires' in the form of cigarettes, socks, scarves, gloves etc throughout the war, while the Mayoress's Bureau and Working Party in St Michael's Row sent out over 9000 items of 'comforts' they had made as well as hospital necessities.

1918 brought no immediate end to hardship. Schools in the city had already closed briefly in July to try to stop the spread of influenza, but there were twelve deaths from the virus in the week following the Armistice and fourteen from pneumonia; in 1919 influenza killed thirty-four people in the city. In March of that year there was severe snow and flooding. The Royal Infirmary, which received no public funding but relied on donations, was heavily in debt, and an appeal was made for contributions.

Chester saw about 3000 incomers during the war, many of them munitions workers. Four hundred cases of overcrowding were reported and three hundred houses were judged not fit for habitation. The war clearly focussed minds on some of the problems facing the city, and in 1919 plans for council houses were revived and enlarged, with eight hundred to be built at Cliveden Road; an estate at Boughton Heath was added in the 1920s. It was noted that the restrictions on licensing hours during the war had resulted in a drop in crime, and it was proposed that a number of pubs should be closed: at that time there was one pub in the city for every 207 people, including children! In a sign of the times, over 7000 acres of the Eaton estate were sold off, mainly to tenants, together with 1000 acres of the Marquess of Crewe's lands at Blacon. Mary Crosland Taylor, wife of the founder of the Crosville bus company and a strong supporter of women's suffrage and family welfare, stood unsuccessfully as a Labour Party candidate in the municipal elections; the city's first female councillor was Mrs Phyllis Brown, wife of H F Brown, who succeeded Frost as mayor in 1919.