

OBITUARY

GEORGE ELAND

The death of George Eland, which occurred on 23rd September, 1971 in Essex, where he had for many years made his home, removes one of the great "characters" from the Antiquarian world, and especially in relation to Buckinghamshire.

George Edward Eland was born in May 1880 at the Manor House, Kettering, the home of his father, Stephen Eaton Eland, who had married Alice Bright. Eland himself was married twice—first to Margaret—in 1912, his wife dying the following year. Subsequently he married her sister, Jessie. He is survived by a son, Thomas, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Perhaps rather unexpectedly Eland's "official" life concerned the City, and he became an almost legendary figure with London Transport. His debut in commercial life was to him entirely repugnant, for he received while "in statu pupillari" no remuneration, and was compelled to wear a tail coat, top hat, and starched shirt. It is the more surprising that he always adhered to this "City" costume, of pin-stripe trousers, short black coat, upright stiff collar and bowler hat, even when tramping his beloved Bucks countryside, the only concession being an enormous pair of black boots with one inch soles.

In the City, Eland rose from Assistant Accountant of the City and South London Railway through various ramifications of the acquisition of Underground railways to bus undertakings in association with Lord Ashfield and Frank Pick, to the post of Audit Officer of London Transport—a post which he held with considerable distinction until his retirement in 1945.

Eland's great love, however, was of antiquities (he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in March, 1928) and especially of the County of his adoption—Buckinghamshire—where he lived in a splendid black and white timbered house in Weston Turville which had been a Quaker Meeting House.

In spite of his somewhat formidable and uncompromising manner (he did not suffer fools gladly), he was a welcome guest in almost any of the great houses of the County; and his knowledge of them, their owners and history was unrivalled. He was always more interested in people than in things, and his lectures during Excursions of the Bucks Archaeological Society were memorable indeed. He was a stickler for good manners and the courtesies of life, as reflected in his letters—every one of which to myself I have kept.

He edited the *Records* for 25 years and wrote a notable account on the occasion of the Centenary of the Society, published in Vol. XV, 63-69. Mr. J. G. Jenkins, himself an author of note on Buckinghamshire subjects, wrote an appreciation of him and his work in the same Volume, and listed some of his many publications in the *Records*. In addition to these he wrote a number of books—*The Chilterns and the Vale, In Bucks, Thomas Wotton's Letter-book, Shardeloes Papers, Papers from an Iron Chest at Doddershall, Bucks., Old Works and Past Days in Rural Bucks*. After he left the County following a sad family upset, he settled at Great Canfield

in Essex, and continued to write there. *At the Courts of Great Canfield* was one work; and a private publication, *The Lobb Family*, was another. Then there was his masterly editing of the *Purefoy Letters* in two Volumes.

His editing was always immaculate, and he insisted on the highest standards of scholarship, writing and accuracy in any papers he accepted for the *Records*. He was slow to accept change. And I well remember a stormy interview at Weston Turville between him, Kenneth Oakley and myself when we tried to persuade him to allow a two-colour diagram to illustrate the Hedgerley Kilns excavation. Such a thing had never been heard of and was a great extravagance—but he yielded in the end.

In short, the passing of George Eland severs yet one more link with a different world in which he blossomed. But his memory in Buckinghamshire—and no doubt in his shorter time in Essex—will remain, with the old-fashioned sweetness of lavender.

E.C.R.

SIR EVERARD DUNCOMBE. Sir Everard Philip Digby Pauncefort-Duncombe, D.S.O., 3rd Baronet, died at his home at Great Brickhill on 8th December 1971, 2 days after his 86th birthday. He was the head of a family well-known in North Bucks, for his ancestor acquired the Great Brickhill estate in 1549 and other branches were established in the area in the early 15th century. Sir Everard succeeded his father in 1896; he was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge; he served throughout the 1914-1918 war with the Royal Bucks Yeomanry, winning the D.S.O. and Croix de Guerre. In the county, of which he was a Deputy Lieutenant, he will be remembered as Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee, controlling the County Constabulary, from 1942-60. He served as High Sheriff in 1949 following his grandfather who served in 1855 and his great-grandfather in 1824. He was the "senior" member of the Society, having joined in 1908.

CHARLES W. GREEN. Charles Green died on 9th July 1971. Born in Brackley in 1895, he was at school at Stony Stratford. He joined the printing firm of McCorquodale in 1910 and remained with them all his working life, retiring as Chief Clerk in 1961. His interest in local history and archaeology was keen and lifelong and the Wolverton Archaeological Society owed much to him, as secretary and in many other capacities. The excavations he directed included the Roman Bathhouse at Cosgrove. In 1966 he published *Biddlesden* a short history of that village and he was one of the "Viatores" who were jointly responsible for *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*. He was a member of this Society for many years, served on the Council from 1956-59 and contributed *A Romano Celtic Temple at Bourton Grounds* to the *Records* (XVII. 356).

A. W. WHEEN was a member for some years; he died on 15th March 1971. An Australian by birth, in 1915 he came to Europe with the Australian Expeditionary Force with whom he won a Military Medal and 2 bars. He remained in England after the war, went up to Oxford and in 1924 joined the Victoria and Albert Museum of which he was Keeper of the Library 1939-62. His translation in 1929 of Remarque's novel *All Quiet on the Western Front* was acknowledged as a classic and achieved enormous popularity.

W. J. WINTER-TAYLOR. William James Winter-Taylor died on 25th August 1970 at the aged of 94. A solicitor by profession, he moved from Middlesbrough to High Wycombe in 1904 and started the firm of Rutland & Taylor which is now Winter-Taylor, Woodward & Webb of Castle Street. He identified himself completely with High Wycombe and held office in many local organisations. He served on the town

Council 1907-19 (and was Deputy Mayor), on the R.D.C. for 16 years, was Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, Governor of the Girls High School and of Borlase School, Marlow, and founder-President of the Bucks Housing Association. In earlier days he played cricket and tennis for local teams and had a 50 year association with the football team, Wycombe Wanderers. Winter-Taylor joined the Society in 1910 and was therefore a member for 60 years; he served on the Council from 1956-58.

LESLIE WOODMAN, who died in April 1971 was a brother of the Society's late Vice-President. A. Vere Woodman.

NAN. FAIRBROTHER (Mrs. William McKenzie), the author, died on 24th November 1971. An original and lively writer on landscape, she wrote several books in which her homes and their surroundings and her family were the main themes. Her last and most important book *New Lives, New Landscape* was published in 1970 and won the W. H. Smith Literary Award for that year.

She and her husband (to whom our sympathy is extended) attended several outings of the Society; the last was at Liscombe on 12th September. It is a measure of her courage that probably no one present that day and seeing her gaiety and interest, could have realised how seriously ill she then was.

E.V.