

OBITUARIES

ROBERT DICKINSON 1903-1977

Robert Dickinson was born 12 April 1903 at Ulverton where he was educated at the Victoria Grammar School. He graduated with first class honours in Chemistry at Liverpool University in 1924, obtaining a Ph.D. in 1926. After a period of research for the Liverpool Medical Research Organisation, he joined the Research Department of Imperial Chemical Industries in Central Laboratory, Widnes in 1929. In 1933 he was plant manager of the Formic and Oxalic Acid plants at Gaskell-Marsh Works, Widnes and from 1937 of the Contact Sulphuric Acid plant at Marsh Works, Widnes. He spent a few months in Operations Department, Cunard Building, Liverpool in 1946 and then joined Development Department first housed at Widnes but later in Cunard Building where it moved 24 December 1951. In 1957 he acted as Works Liaison between Works and Research at Widnes and in August 1961 he was appointed librarian of General Chemical Division. In January 1964 he became the archivist for the newly formed Mond Division, a post after his own heart for it combined his early hobby of the documentation of original material with his work and he produced several reports on the history of the Division's chemical processes. He retired on age limit at the end of April 1965.

From an early age Robert Dickinson was a keen genealogist. He also transcribed and edited a number of Lancashire parish registers, many of which have been published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society; he also transcribed Wills and Marriage Bonds for the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. He was a member of Council of both of these Societies and of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society. He was treasurer of the Lancashire Parish Register Society for thirty years. After retirement from I.C.I. he collaborated with his wife on the collection of material for a history of their parish, Rainhill, some of which work has been published by the Rainhill Civic Society.

He died 12 September 1977 leaving a widow, Florence also a Liverpool University Chemistry graduate, two married daughters, Ann B. Cole B.Sc. (London), Betty Underwood M.B., Ch.B (Liverpool) and six grandsons.

Florence Dickinson

DANIEL L. EVANS 1888-1977

In Daniel Evans's half-century of membership no paper by him appeared in *Transactions*. Yet, to him, local history was a life-long interest, and his extra-literary activities in that field were many and varied, and their results were unselfishly shared with his fellow members. In this way, to no small degree, he furthered the Society's aims and purpose.

He was an inveterate collector and his documentary 'finds' were always available to other members. Examples of this sharing were his acquisition of an old print depicting the Cheshire Horn, later used by Ronald Stewart Brown in 'The charter and horn of the Master-Forester of Wirral' in volume 86; his 1749 letter from Bath, written by Sarah Clayton of Liverpool, which was used by the present writer in 'Sarah Clayton and John Wood of Bath' in volume 100; and some Liverpool Corporation invoices dealing with the raising of the 'Liverpool Blues' to defend the town against the Young Pretender, used by R. C. Jarvis in 'The town of Liverpool in the '45', in volume 108. In the hall of his home at Calderstones were displayed a John Wyke long-case clock and a dinner service of Liverpool Herculaneum ware, and in his library were originals or copies of every Liverpool directory and several Enfields in their original covers. Other collections included Dickensiana and rare early postage stamps. His lantern slides of Liverpool numbered many hundreds. In World War Two he had the assistance of German bombers in one of his most interesting finds. After Liverpool's terrible 'blitz' in May 1941, with St Nicholas's church in ruins, he photographed exposed intra-mural tombstones, including those of Bryan Blundell, William Clayton M.P., and Sarah Clayton.

Daniel Evans joined the Society in 1925. He served for many years on the Council and later was a vice-president. He was a generous contributor to the Society's funds, and at Council meetings, when the fate of a suggested project was in the balance for financial reasons, he would take some notes from his pocket and hand them to the Honorary Treasurer. He died in September 1977, aged 89.

S. A. Harris