

## OBITUARIES

### *Robert Bromley M.Sc.*

Robert Bromley, who died in November 1981 aged 76, joined this Society on 21st October 1965 and served as the Honorary Treasurer from 1972 to 1980. Somehow unusually within the ranks of the Historic Society, Bob Bromley was a mathematician, educated in his native Ormskirk and at the University of Liverpool where he took a first class degree, a Master's degree and a Teacher's Certificate. From 1927 to 1966 Mr. Bromley taught at the Alsop High School, Liverpool, becoming Senior Mathematics Master and then Deputy Headmaster. During his career as a schoolmaster he was actively involved in coaching and administering association football and athletics in both Liverpool and Merseyside. Mr. Bromley was a gifted pianist and a keen photographer. Bob Bromley's lifelong interest in local history was developed to the full first with the Ormskirk and District Local History Society of which he was, successively, Deputy Chairman, Chairman and Vice President and then with the Lancashire Parish Register Society for whom he painstakingly transcribed several volumes. Although a retiring man, Mr. Bromley shared his knowledge of Ormskirk in lectures on the town's past delivered in the locality but never to a Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire audience. In this Society, he always regarded himself, unnecessarily, as a novice and an amateur!

Almost as soon as he joined the Historic Society (with Mrs. Bromley as family members) Bob Bromley was elected to Council in 1967 and five years later he succeeded to the Treasurership. For nine years I was privileged to work closely with Bob Bromley in the day to day administration of this Society. Perhaps more than anyone therefore I can testify to the meticulous way with which he guided the finances through a period of rampant inflation. Bob Bromley never missed a Council meeting, always gave an accurate statement of the Society's account and regularly but quietly directed the course of action to be taken by the Council and the Society. The Society will long remember his valuable service.

At the beginning of 1980 Bob Bromley indicated that he would resign the Honorary Treasurership at the end of the year claiming that advancing years (we were surprised to find him in his mid-seventies) and the regular public transport journey into Liverpool were making for problems. Within a year of his resignation Bob Bromley died leaving a widow (still a member), three daughters and five grandchildren.

Philip Andrews

*Florence Dickinson M.Sc. 1905-1982*

Mrs. Florence Dickinson M.Sc. died in July 1982 aged 77, the widow of Dr. Robert Dickinson who died in 1977. Dr. and Mrs. Dickinson were regular attenders at lecture meetings of the Society, and both were members of Council, Mrs. Dickinson succeeding her husband. Together they were notable members of the Lancashire Parish Register Society, and the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, as transcribers and indexers of numerous volumes; local historians using such volumes are much in their debt for the careful scholarship so essential in such work. Both were scientists, graduates of Liverpool University in chemistry, and expected from themselves in their historical work the precision of their training.

Mrs. Dickinson, after a short period in teaching, joined the ICI as a research chemist, and served for 27 years until retirement in 1965. This gave the opportunity for local history research for Dr. and Mrs. Dickinson on the parish of Rainhill in which they lived, and they published in 1968 *The Story of Rainhill*, and in 1977 *The History of Rainhill Parish Church*. After Dr. Dickinson's death, Mrs. Dickinson published *The Rainhill Schools 1840-1900* in 1978, and *A History of Transport through Rainhill* in 1979. All these were published under the auspices of the Rainhill Civic Society, whose members honoured Mrs. Dickinson by electing her as their President in 1982. She also continued work for the Lancashire Parish Register Society, and just before her death had completed work, ready for publication, on a second volume of the Parish Registers of Childwall. This is to be published next year as a memorial volume to Dr. and Mrs. Dickinson.

Though so much of Mrs. Dickinson's work was jointly carried out with her husband, she had always her own special contribution to the Society's work. Her questions and comments in Council and in lecture meetings reflected her wide experience in research work as well as her lively mind, and she was always interested in other people's work and ready to offer help if required. Where Dr. Dickinson was not inclined by nature to offer lecture topics for our programmes, Mrs. Dickinson was a very acceptable speaker and one of her lectures on *The Mellings of Rainhill 1830-1870* was printed in 1970 in our *Transactions*. She will be much missed in local history circles, not least in the local society whose meetings she regularly attended, the Widnes Historical Society.

M.M. Schofield