OBITUARY

JOHN HENRY ELLIOT BENNETT

1873–1956

The death of Mr. J. H. E. Bennett removes a fount of local historical knowledge that will be difficult to replace, particularly now that our President, W. Fergusson Irvine, with whom he collaborated for so many years, is so advanced in years. It is indeed fortunate that their studies are recorded in their publications and the columns of the *Cheshire Sheaf*.

Mr. Bennett's spare time and holidays during the earlier years of his business career were devoted to record-searching and transcribing for use in the preparation of his own papers or as works of reference for others. In the former category are his histories of the friaries and suppressed religious houses of Chester, and in the latter, the Chester Freemen Rolls, Apprentice Indentures, Parish Register and monumental inscription transcripts, and the Index to the Hawarden Wills listed below. These works alone would entitle him to lasting regard, but when one considers his forty-two years joint-editorship, with Mr. Irvine, of the *Sheaf* and the still longer period during which his genealogical, topographical and historical articles appeared, the debt we owe is seen to be immense.

Born in Chester in 1873, he was the senior representative of a family which had settled at Willaston Hall, Wirral, three centuries earlier, a circumstance which possibly accounts for the development of his interests. He was a vice-president of the Chester Archaeological Society of which he became a member in 1902, and he joined the Historic Society in 1913, serving on the Council from 1935 to 1948.

Mr. Bennett retired to Heswall in 1933 after a busy career of forty-four years with the L.N.W. (later L.M.S.) Railway Company. Here, while enjoying some increase of relaxation, he completed works left in abeyance from earlier years, and carried out the Honorary Secretaryship of the Record Society for fifteen years. With the assistance of his wife he continued the onerous duty of editing the *Sheaf* until failing health obliged him to resign in December, 1954.

PUBLICATIONS

TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 98. "Revenues and Disbursements of the Bishops of Chester, 1754 to 1809."

RECORD SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

Edited Volumes 51 and 55. *Chester Freeman Rolls, 1392–1800*

JOURNAL OF THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEW SERIES

Vol. XIX. "The Berringtons of Cheshire."
Vol. XX. "Two Elizabethan Chamberlains."
Vol. XXI. "Cheshire and the Fifteen."
Vol. XXII. "Hatton Hall."
Vol. XXIII. "Arms and Inscriptions, sometime in the Church of St. Bridget, Chester."
Vol. XXIV. "The Grey Friars of Chester."
Vol. XXVIII. "A Letter of Confraternity of the Grey Friars."
Vol. XXXI. "The White Friars of Chester."

Vol. XXXII. "The Hospital and Chantry of St. Ursula the Virgin, Chester."
Vol. XXXVII. "The Old Bishops' Palace, Chester."
Vol. XXXIX. "The Black Friars of Chester."

JOURNAL OF THE FLINTSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. IV. "Index to the Wills proved at Hawarden, 1554–1800" (in collaboration with P. H. Lawson).

CHESHIRE SHEAF, 3RD SERIES

Chester Apprentice Indentures and Enrolments:

Vols. VII and VIII.	Enrolments, 1557–1646.
Vol. VIII.	Indentures, 1603–1684.
Vol. IX.	Enrolments, 1690–1734.
Vol. XIII.	Enrolments, 1734–1769.
Vol. XXIV.	Enrolments, 1770–May 1778 [continuation to 1794 not yet published].
Vol. XXVI.	Painters', Glaziers' and Stationers' Books, 1556–1754 and 1850–1866
Vol. XXX.	Indentures, 1750–1776.
Vols. XV–XVIII.	Parish Registers of St. Bridget, Chester, 1560–1642.
Vol. XXXVI.	"Chartulary of the Fraternity of St. Anne, Chester."
Vol. XLV.	"The Chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, Chester."
Vols. IV–XLIX.	Innumerable articles over the initials J.H.E.B., A.G.S., V.L., Viator.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS DEPOSITED IN THE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE, THE CASTLE, CHESTER

Transcripts, made in collaboration with P. H. Lawson, of Parish Registers of St. John's, Chester, 1563—18th century. Monumental Inscriptions in Churches and Churchyards of St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Bridget's and St. Michael's, Chester; Backford; Bruera; Christleton; Dodleston; Guilden Sutton; Plemstall; Pulford, and Shotwick.

P. H. LAWSON.