

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

New additions to the BIFHSGO Library collection are:

Crosby, Alan. *A History of Cheshire*

Edwards, A. C. *A History of Essex*

Jessup, Frank W. *A History of Kent*

Bennett, Stewart. *A History of Lincolnshire*

Greenslade, M. W. and D. G. Stuart. *A History of Staffordshire*.

The library already had histories of Devon, Dorset, Gwynedd, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Norfolk, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire, all belonging to The Darwen County History Series. Written by different authors, each history briefly describes the main topographical features of the county and their effect on the history and economy. There is a brief overview of the county in the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods followed by more detailed accounts from the Norman Conquest to the twentieth century. Agriculture, religion and trades and industries are also considered. All are well illustrated, with bibliographies and indexes. One of the advantages of being the librarian for BIFHSGO is the opportunity to explore each item as it arrives at the library. Often I find something to add to or enhance my family history. Such was the case with these new additions. May you be so fortunate.

Northern England (the old counties of Cumberland, Durham and Northumberland) has not been well covered in our library. Therefore, I was very pleased to add to our collection, *Tracing your Northern Ancestors: a Guide to the North-East and Cumbria for Family Historians*, by Keith Gregson. The title gives the reader the impression that the book will be about how to research family history in northern England. But it is more than that. Here you will find a history of the industries of the area, such as ship building and agriculture. Religion, government (national and local), military activities, education, dialect and diet and leisure activities are also examined and at the same time Mr. Gregson informs readers where they may find the related records.

Also purchased were two local histories. *Eastbourne: a History*, by John Surtees deals with the period from 1780, when Eastbourne became a popular resort, to the present day. According to Robert Malster in his *A History of Ipswich*, Ipswich was already six centuries old when King John granted a charter to the town in 1200. He gives an overview from those early times to the twentieth century. There are plenty of references to leading citizens, many illustrations, a detailed bibliography and index.

The two-volume set of *The Great Historic Families of Scotland*, by James Taylor was originally published in London by J. S. Virtue in 1889. This edition, published in 2006 by Global Heritage Press, is a facsimile of the original. James Taylor in his preface to the second volume describes his work as “sketches of the representatives and leading members of the great historical families of Scotland, as may exhibit their personal character, and at the same time throw some light on national manners and customs, as well as on warlike exploits and court intrigues”.

But, before we start searching our forebears in ancient historical families, many of us have to trace our families in Canada. The new publication by Sherry Irvine and David Obee, *Finding your Canadian Ancestors: a Beginner's Guide*, should offer a good start to finding you way through the diverse records of Canada and its provinces.