



Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

The Cleeve Prior Find of 1811 – G.H.Heywood.

The Chronicler confirms that this is an actual Transcript of the letter below, including the punctuation wording etc.

“Concerning the great discovery at Cleeve Prior , made in 1811, of Roman coins, one hundred of which were of gold, I have received the following letter which contains much interest in connection with the find:-

I am pleased to see an account of this in print. When I was a youth my Grandfather [Joshua Baylis of North Littleton] told me about it. He said that when he was ten years of age [he was born on March 25th 1801] he was driving a plough in the three cornered field on the left hand side of the road leading from Littleton to Cleeve Prior[This field, now an orchard occupied by Messrs, Careless & Sheaf] and when they got to a certain place in the field the plough share caught against a stone, supposed to be a rock, and if my grandfather did not keep the team steady at this place he was sure to get a thrashing from the carter, whose name was Sheppey, but as he could not keep the team steady he was obliged to put up with a good thrashing.

After administering the thrashing the carter went to dinner and whilst he was gone my grandfather took his shovel and handy[?] the horses were at tye in a field close by, the shovel was used to throw about the horse droppings and the handy[?] to knock it about afterwards], unearthed the stone which the plough share caught against, but before he could raise the stone the carter appeared on the scene, and of course he could see it was no rock, but a stone that had been placed there by someone; but being unable to raise it with the shovel and handy[?], he went to some men who were quarrying near by, and borrowed a pick and crow bar, and came back and raised the stone, and underneath there were two iron pots full of gold, silver and copper or bronze coins, which he took out and took home, but being an uneducated man he did not know what to do with them, but his find got to the ears of Mr Bennett and this gentleman offered to dispose of them in London as they were old coins, and he considered them to be worth a great deal. So he[Sheppey] entrusted them to Mr Bennet who disposed of them and handed the proceeds to Sheppey, and with this money Sheppey bought a house and garden at North Littleton[Now occupied by Giles Moore ?], also a horse and cart and set up in business as a haulier. My grandfather lived to the age of 86 Sheppey’s son John, who I remember well, lived to a ripe old age, as did his son George, who carried on the haulage business until obliged to give it up due to adverse circumstances, some eight or ten years ago. My grandfather said that the general belief was that the coins were hid during the Battle of Evesham, and those who had hid them got killed in the battle and of course could not come to collect them.

My Grandfather got the thrashing, but not a single coin of the money.”

G.H.Heywood – Blackminster, Evesham”



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The Letter

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hundred of which were of gold.
I have received the following letter
which contains details of much interest
in connection with the find:-
I am pleased to see an account of this in print.
When I was a youth my grandfather
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it. He said that when he was ten years of age
(he was born on March 25th 1801) he was driving
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hand side of the road leading from Littleton
to Cleeve Prior (this field, now an orchard,
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My grandfather got the thrashing, but not a single coin of the money. -
G. H. Heywood Blackminster Essex 1811