

**SHORT BIOGRAPHIES
OF THE WORTHIES OF
WORCESTERSHIRE**

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Short biographies of the worthies of Worcestershire by Edith Ophelia Browne & John Richard Burton

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EDITH OPHELIA BROWNE & JOHN RICHARD BURTON

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EDITED BY
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FOREWORD.

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It was originally intended that short notices of "Persons Eminent in Art, Literature, and Science" should form part of the *Victoria History of Worcestershire*; but in its progress this splendid work attained such large dimensions that the biographical section had to be eliminated, and the materials already collected have been used partly for this present volume.

The *Dictionary of National Biography* has set up for all our eminent men and women a monument more durable than marble. The aim of this little book is to do the same on a small scale for Worcestershire; to satisfy the commemorative instinct of humanity, and to serve as a book of reference. The majority of the names are already dealt with at some length in the sixty-five volumes of the D.N.B., which should be found on the shelves of every Public Library. An asterisk prefixed to a name refers the reader to this wonderful work; and only such facts, chiefly local, are given here, as will make the outline complete in itself. Other sources of information to which we are largely indebted are J. Chambers' *Biography of Worcester* (1820), W. R. Williams' *Members for Worcestershire* (1897), Smith and Onslow's *Diocesan History of Worcester* (1883), the *Victoria History*, Nash's *Worcestershire*, T. C. Tuberville's *Worcestershire in the 19th Century*, *Complete Peerage*, by G.E.C., *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, *Worcester Herald*, &c.

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For the portrait of Mr. S. Allcock we are indebted to Mrs. J. W. Shrimpton, and for those of Samuel Pytts and his wife, Lady Bellamont, to Mrs. Baldwin-Childe. The block of Sir Frederick Ouseley was lent by Precentor Hampton. "Miles Smith" is reproduced from a *History of Hereford School* by Mr. W. T. Carless, Registrar of Hereford County Court, who volunteered for service at the beginning of the War, but has now been missing for more than a year. Our tribute of thanks, alas! can only be offered to his heroic memory. We owe the loan of the block to the kindness of his printers, Messrs. Wilson & Phillips, Hereford.

The work had been partly printed when the War began. It was then delayed for a time in the hope that Peace would soon be restored, and that a Roll of Honour of Worcestershire heroes could be appended. But the end is still uncertain, and our original Subscribers are passing away. So it seems necessary to send out the book even in these troublous times.

The selection of names suitable for commemoration is by no means an easy one. "The collective biographer," says Sir Sidney Lee, "has to forswear the measuring rods of the family hearth, of the hospitable board, of journalistic advertisement. The fact that a man is a devoted husband and father, an efficient schoolmaster, an exemplary parish priest, gives him in itself no claim to biographic commemoration, because his actions, although meritorious, are *practically indistinguishable from those of thousands of his fellows.*" Working on the principle laid down by this greatest living authority our aim has been to include only those whose personality, attainments, or actions, have had something distinctly marking them out from the great mass of their fellow-men. Collective biography must also avoid rhetoric, emotion, and sentiment; its aim is "to comprise as much knowledge as possible in the smallest compass."

There must still be many other names that deserve a place among our Worthies. The Librarian of the Victoria Institute at Worcester will gladly receive any additional biographies sent to him, and place them in a County Portfolio to be handed down to posterity. Some blank pages are also appended to this volume which will serve for newspaper cuttings or notes concerning those in whom the readers are interested.

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Short Biographies

OF THE

Worthies of Worcestershire.

*ADAM DE EVESHAM (d. 1191). Monk of Notre Dame de la Charité-sur-Loire. Prior of Bermondsey, 1157. Abbot of Evesham, 1161. Finished cloister and St. Egwine's shrine; made aqueduct. First Abbot who was allowed to wear the mitre. Wrote three religious books.

*ADELAIDE, Queen of William IV. (1792-1849), daughter of George, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Meiningen: married 1818. Resided at Witley Court for three years (1843-1846) during her widowhood. Her chaplain was the Rev. John Ryle Wood, Canon of Worcester.

ÆGELWIG (d. 1077). Abbot of Evesham. Supported William I. in crushing the rebellion of Roger, Earl of Hereford, 1073. Entrusted also with the abbey of Winchcombe, and made justiciary of seven western counties. Had a long lawsuit with St. Wulfstan concerning service due from Evesham abbey for lands in Oswaldslow hundred. The judge was Bishop Remigius, who built Lincoln Cathedral.

*ÆLFRIC (d. 1051). Archbishop of York, 1023. Bishop of Worcester, 1040, but rejected by the people; consequently King Harthacnut laid waste the county and burned the Cathedral. The citizens fled for refuge to Beverey on the Severn. Bishop Lyfing was restored in 1041. Ælfric helped to crown Edward the Confessor, 1043, and was buried at Peterborough, 1051.

*ÆLFWEARD (d. 1044). Monk of Ramsey; made Abbot of Evesham, 1014. Recovered the plundered Abbey estates; added guest-house and enriched library. Bishop of London, 1035, but