

# A Warrior's Grave 1400 Years Old.

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## AN INTERESTING FIND AT BROUGHTON.

1303.  
COPY.

The gradual re-organisation of Salisbury Museum is steadily bringing to light many finds which have hitherto, for want of space, been kept in store until an opportunity should arise to set them up in suitable surroundings. The latest of these finds to be placed on exhibition is a Saxon Warrior, from Roake Farm, Broughton, who may now be seen lying in his chalk-cut grave with reproductions of his weapons beside him, just as he was uncovered some 59 years ago. The actual weapons are preserved in a case above the grave, where they can be better seen and studied.

The discovery took place on the farm of Mr. Charles Stone, which extended to Broughton Hill, near the road leading to Romsey, on January 12, 1875, when the plough turned up a skull. Mr. Stone was interested, and investigated the spot, and within six inches of the surface laid bare the complete skeleton of a man. On the left side were a spear, a knife, and the iron boss of a shield. Mr. Stone did more than uncover the skeleton. He very wisely sent for Dr. Fox, to view the body before it was touched. And Dr. Fox made his report upon the remains, which were in due course published in the local Press. Had it not been for this timely publication, there would have been considerable difficulty in recording this important burial.

Dr. Fox commences his report by fixing the site of the grave "on the slope of Broughton Hill, about a hundred yards from two large barrows planted with firs." The direction of the grave was from south to north, and its depth about two feet. There was a line of dark grey matter round the skeleton, which Dr. Fox considered an indication of decayed remains of clothing, &c. He was specially impressed with the sound condition of the bones, as well he might be, for it has been possible to assemble the skeleton almost in its entirety. The left ribs and left arm bone are stained green from contact with the copper or bronze mountings of the shield and spear. When found, the skeleton was superficially covered with a red fungus. The skull is very thick, and 22 inches in circumference. The teeth are in good condition, but much worn, which suggests a man of middle age. The skeleton was presented by Dr. Fox to the Museum, and in 1879 Mr. Stone presented the objects found with it, viz., the boss or umbo of the shield, which was unluckily damaged in transit, a spearhead and a knife. The shield boss must have been a fine specimen when complete. It has a mushroom-shaped point and silver studs to fasten it to the circular hide-covered shield. The spear is of the early split-socket type, associated with the pagan period of Saxon occupation. It measures ten and a half inches in length, and would have been fastened to its haft by a pin driven through it horizontally. Saxon spears were always forged and hammered out on a mandril. The knife was seven and a half inches long. Knives very naturally are most commonly found in Pagan Saxon graves; they were personal belongings from which the owner would seldom be parted.

It is perhaps remarkable that no sword was found, but experience has shown that the long straight Saxon sword is somewhat scarce in these graves. Two such swords, one from a Warrior's grave at Witherington, and one from Toyd, are exhibited in the same case as the Broughton weapons.

Nearly 60 years have elapsed since this discovery was made. During that time the study of Saxon remains has made great advances, but the credit for this record of the Broughton Warrior belongs first to Mr. Charles Stone

WARRIOR BELONGS FIRST TO MR. STONE  
WHO LEFT THE BODY AS HE FOUND  
FOR HIS VERDICT UPON IT. THE  
PAPERS WHO PUBLISHED THE  
SERVED THE RECORD