

J. E. Cox 1841

**CLUN**  
 and its  
**Protecting Fortresses**  
 Scale = 1/4 inch = to 1 the Mile

- Towns &c
- Boundary
- Railways
- British Camp (red)
- Roman Do (green)



Neolithic Settlement of Clun.

the side of  
the 15th  
Clun

Ladies and Gentlemen:— On this spot, and round about on the crown and slopes of this hill possibly some 10,000, 20,000, or 30,000 years ago was located the central population of a powerful and important colony of the earliest inhabitants of this country who are really known to have lived so far North. If we could have stood here at that time we should have seen no doubt far away in the distance masses of timber and undergrowth much more dense and general than now; but here on this ridge of hills, and right over along Clun Forest, were carefully cultivated clearings. There were fields of wheat and barley, flax and peas, orchards of apples, pears and plums, and wide pastures containing sheep and cattle — possibly more numerous than now, and quite as well fed. Here, on the top of Rock Hill, were closely packed huts of wattle work thatched with straw. There, were workshops, where the manufacture of flint tools and weapons, and stone, bone, or wooden implements was carried on. Down where the valley now is fishermen paddled in such boats as we saw last year at Ellesmere; for if the solid rock at the Hurst Gap had then been quite cut through, the accumulation of drift in front must long have dammed back the descending waters and formed in the Clun valley a

I don't think it was possible for an intelligent and independent people to have chosen a more favourable and commanding position in such times as we know those to have been.

You see by the map I show it is situated towards the eastern extremity of the central transverse range of Welsh mountains which descending from Plinlimmon project well into our country. The Cun settlement looked out over the fruitful plains to the east but itself was hemmed in and protected all around by fortified hills, which I believe never were stormed till the Romans appeared before them.

It is hardly likely the Neoliths chose to occupy this spot with any regard to the geological interest or features of the neighbourhood, but there does seem to me, more here than elsewhere, a close connection between geology and history; a remarkable analogy between the series of events occurring far back in geological time, and others which succeeded when the history of man was just beginning to unfold.

All the most prominent elevations here in view are of Upper Ludlow rock, and though they rise with impressive grandeur from the valley bed, and several are distinctly cone shaped, the sudden violence of volcanic action has had less to do in shaping the outlines of this lovely scenery than we might suppose. The dip of all these Ludlow rocks alike is about 15 to 20 degrees W. The strata of Radnor Hill and rock Woolbury lie in the same

whole caused by the gradual washing away of material and cutting down of these beautiful valleys and dingles. But at one time in the birth pangs of the world, a mighty convulsion took place. There beneath our feet the earth opened. A great cleft formed stretching right away over country towards Knight ~~to Knight~~. Another fault runs parallel with it passing through yonder gorge we call "The Tongues." The Devonian rocks which then towered possibly 1,000 or 2,000 ft. higher than our heads sank down between these lines, down, and down, till they now rest as you see at a lower level than the inferior Silurian System.

Now let us turn our faces towards the W. and try to realize what Ramsay says about "plains of marine denudation" or Geikie of the Polar climatic conditions prevailing in this latitude during the Great Ice Age. It is so easy to do both on this ground.

The long mountain chain upon whose extremity we now stand is as flat topped as the Innine System of truncated hills. Commencing here at 1,200 feet above sea level, and going on towards Mid Wales, we gradually rise to 1,300 ft., 1,400 ft., 1,500 ft., and so on can walk almost with one continual and gentle rise to the top of Plynlimon itself. Depressions here and there occur, but the synclinal curves are nowhere complete, and are on so vast a scale that I can well believe it was not glacial or marine denudation of comparatively modern times, but the breakers of the Primeval sea, millions upon millions of years ago, that caused

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and therefore uninhabitable.

I will suggest another reason for the scarceness of Palæolithic remains.

Upon this hill I have discovered Neolithic men lived under yonder clump of trees is the temple where they worshipped, and in that mound close to the foot of the hill I thought they might have buried; but to be quite sure, by the proprietor's kind permission, with my own hands I dug out a trench about 6 feet deep, when I found I had exposed a wonderfully preserved section of unmistakable Upper Level River Grift — the only bit I know of in the district. It is one mile from the river and 200 ft. above it. In such deposits are found the remains of extinct animals and rudely chipped flint — man's handiwork of the age of unpolished stone. Should any such lie under that mound, since they were buried and the river ran along here close to us the lower portion of this basin — a mile and a half wide and over the river 200 ft. deep — has been denuded out, and carried seawards. If you grasp the significance of these facts you will wonder more at the vast antiquity of man, but you will not wonder at the rareness of Palæolithic relics in England.

Most writers have made a difficulty of so many hill fortresses being called Caractacus's Camps, and see them dotted about the country without any apparent system; so that to this day it is a bone of contention which one is the site of the decisive battle so graphically but too briefly described by Tacitus.

of the question on this spot.

Caractacus was king of the Silures, and this great tribe inherited from their ancestors the Neoliths all those military works which had been erected for the protection of this station and valley — the gateway of, and the highroad into, Wales.

The British hero was general enough to perceive the importance of the position, and to hold to the works, as affording him the means of attack when his forces were strong and elated, or of shelter when defeated or disheartened. But he had to fight against foes whose skill and determination were similar to, and met with the same success as, the Allies before Sebastopol.

Mr. Burrough contends you know with much force, that the crushing reverse was suffered at Coxwall Knoll and Chapel Lawn. When the Gaer Ditches — the Malakof of the position — were taken, what matter if the ledan here <sup>(Bury Ditches)</sup> shall held out.

Then — it has been suggested and I still suggest — it was that Caractacus fled to the N. as well he might. This long ridge gained, and those great works on the right Bury Ditches, Burrough Camp, Caer Caradoc, and Pontesbury Hill were turned; the Uron at Newcastle would be overlooked and easily mastered, and the way the ice came down, by the same way the Romans might go up into Mid Wales. To make the Chapel Lawn site agree with the historian's description of the place of battle, I assume with Mr. Burrough that much more water lay in the valley then than now. 11

hard to prove this for we have no Roman remains to appeal to, but I have in my possession the top stone of a quern I can well understand to have been buried in the ruins of the homestead at Little Hall, when the victorious army swept across the Clun valley. It was imbedded several feet in clay, but further from the river and at a higher level than the present farm-house.

I cannot but think that the Normans were inferior to the Neoliths in engineering skill and military instinct to have placed yonder castle so low and exposed as it soon was to attack and easy capture by Owen Glendower and his Welshmen before the battle of Shrewsbury and afterwards to complete destruction by a plunging fire from Cromwell's batteries planted in that field still called Law's Camp. A better site could easily have been chosen, for on all sides we see Clun girdled about with hills, reminding one of the descriptions of the Holy City, and of the Psalmist words. — "The hills stand about Jerusalem, even so standeth the Lord round about His people."

Geo. Luff -

NB

The Roman "Norton Camp" near Craven Arms is large & occupies a strong & important position but "Caer Dun Ring" W of Clun is too small to have more than sheltered a small garrison, just sufficient I should suppose to have kept the hill population in check after the conquest of the district.



conventional, and, possibly carried out as a matter of custom, without any clear remembrance or knowledge of its origin." Then, if the custom was inherited from still earlier ancestors, who were the *original* sun worshippers? Are we to find *proof* in our day that Palæolithic man, the being supposed to rank next in order after the ape, was endowed with the *instinct of worship*? Do not the later continental discoveries suggest as much? For instance, the Solutré burials, dating from the age of the reindeer and the mammoth, with the bodies placed in position, and the surrounding rings of stone open towards the setting sun.

As bearing upon this great problem, I commend the Clun stone circle, with its outlying gnomon, and trust that other workers will take up the search for Neolithic remains in Shropshire.

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PR Box 2/51

### NEOLITHIC MAN AND HIS REMAINS IN SHROPSHIRE.

By GEO. LUFF.

THE out-of-the-way old-fashioned little town of Clun, in the extreme south-west corner of this county, has been so little visited by scientific men that until of late no idea has been whispered of the richness of the neighbourhood in striking geological phenomena and archæolithic remains. In the year 1877 my attention happened to be called to a number of large stones lying on one of the hills south of the town. They were strayed erratics; their derivation and mode of transport were unknown, and the uses to which they had been put were mysterious. I entered upon the task of elucidating both questions, and pursued it with the keenness of a sleuth-hound for nearly ten years. Materials came to hand, and facts were gathered more or less rapidly, but generally in proportion to the diligence of the search, and the excitement of the chase increased as the pace quickened and success seemed certain. The geological portion of my work is not so far completed as I could have wished, but the subject matter of this paper is Archæological, and sufficient information in this department is now at hand to show that in Neolithic times, or the age of polished stone, many of the Shropshire hills were fortified, and the Clun hills particularly, with some portions of the valleys, were inhabited and cultivated by a hardy, diligent, and gifted race of men. An intelligent survey of the country, credited with being the site of the last great stand made by Caractacus, King of the Silures (the identified

descendants of the Neoliths), is sufficient to realise the richness and strength of the position so fiercely held. Fruitful plains lie in front, and impregnable mountain land behind. Every hill top is covered with soil several feet in depth. Smiling valleys lead tortuously up into Mid-Wales, but unexpectedly close up into gloomy passes, flanked by precipitous heights, which are crowned still by frowning earthworks. A network of these earthworks, with Burrough Camp on the immediate left, and Coxwall Knoll on the right, defended the Clun valley.<sup>1</sup> No doubt the warlike bronze weaponed Celts assailed the position again and again. The Romans, we know, laid desperate siege to it, as evidenced by the Roman Camp on Norton hill, near Craven Arms, right over against the centre of the line. Whether the defence was irretrievably broken at Coxwall Knoll, the Chapel Lawn Caradoc, or still further west no one knows, but the most formidable fortress of all—Bury Ditches—stands like the keep of a Norman Castle, far within the outer line of defence, and overlooks the spot which was the centre of the Neolithic population. This is the summit of Rock Hill on the other side of the valley.

Here our early ancestors congregated most thickly. They probably fished in the broad waters of the lake, where the valley and town now are, and fed their flocks, and raised their flax and grain on the clearings they made on the hills and slopes, but they must have been of a social disposition, for their relics, though scattered over a wide area, as would be expected from a large population engaged in such various pursuits as we know them to have been, yet here are found in thousands, and are of such a nature as to indicate a permanent and long-continued settlement. The object was not protection merely from danger, for they had the hill-fort to flee to when alarmed, but they had already arrived at such a

<sup>1</sup> While far away were flanking works—the Knighton Lurk-en-hope on one side, and Church Stretton Caer Caradoc, and the Pontesbury entrenchment on the other.

state of civilization as to appreciate the advantages of combination and social intercourse.

Of all the flint and stone remains I have collected,<sup>2</sup> a very large proportion are arrow-heads. These weapons may have been used for either fighting or hunting.

Looking at the wild open tract still called Clun Forest it is hard to realise the existence there of masses of timber and scrub sufficiently dense to shelter the larger beasts of prey and of the chase. Yet if these worked flints of mine are say 10,000 years old, we know that in that time the natural features of many localities have changed again and again. From the bogs in the neighbourhood of Clun massive black oaks have been dug up, yet before these bogs were formed possibly Neolithic man lived there.

I had hoped to have settled the origin of a stratum of clay appearing here and there upon the hill tops, which, withholding the surface water, has encouraged the growth of beds of peat. Most of the peat has been worked out, and to this work and natural denudation I ascribe the distribution to low levels in the Clun valley of many implements.

The mass of implements upon Rock Hill are found imbedded in the subsoil beneath a growth of gorse, heather, and coarse herbage. When the waste lands are brought into cultivation, and this growth is stocked up, the plough turns up flints and "little waggon wheels" (see fig. 6), and after a shower of rain they may be seen glistening in the sun.

On the spurs of the Pennine Range in east Lancashire a Neolithic colony was established, whose history is being worked out by Dr. Colley March, of Rochdale. This gentleman has kindly, from time to time, collated his discoveries with mine, and we find an exact similarity in the type of most of the weapons and cutting flints, but an absence in either region of some implements,

<sup>2</sup> Declared by Prof. Boyd Dawkins to be of undoubted Neolithic age.

showing perhaps a difference in tastes and pursuits natural from the difference in latitude rather than in race of the people themselves. On the Pennines the implementiferous bed was evidently formed by the decomposition of *grass* and *brushwood*, and is found "beneath a varying depth of from 1 to 10 feet of peat and peaty clay," so that here also some striking physical changes must have taken place since the days of Neolithic man.

Of all the implements I possess, only one shows distinct traces of polish, and this was about the last to be discovered. It is a beautiful miniature whet-stone (fig. 3) intended to polish other tools which have not yet appeared, and which are not necessarily newer than those merely chipped into shape. The mistake is often made of referring all chipped flints to the early, and all polished ones to the later, stone age. As far as I am aware nothing bearing trace of the handiwork of man has been discovered so far north as Shropshire of older date than the collection I am describing, and yet many of the articles in it show how wonderfully gifted were the makers. The man who made the splendid barbed arrow head (fig. 1) was an artist who was proud of his work and meant to excel. It passes my comprehension how such delicacy of tooling in material so intractable could be accomplished by the means he had at his command. If a perpendicular line is drawn from the apex of the figure to base of peduncle it will be found to exactly bisect the triangle formed by the whole. The base line round the wings and the peduncle also forms a segment of a circle. So much for the proportions which must have been in the maker's eye from the first, but the actual carving surpasses all. It requires a powerful lens to follow the minuteness and unerring accuracy of chipping, and to wonder sufficiently at the result when a single misdirected blow might have ruined all. Other tools in my collection show that the Neolith was a good workman in the best sense of the word, for he had an eye to see, and a mind to invent

when a difficulty occurred. Flint No. 4, when flaked off the nodule, took too curved a form to be useful as a straight edged cutting instrument, but by working on the outer edge only a handy tool was formed, from which, possibly, was afterwards obtained the idea for the flint chisels, gouges, and stone adzes frequently made.

No. 2, a little leaf-shaped flake, had a twist on either edge. The twist was immediately taken advantage of. The workman carefully chipped the half of one side only, beginning at the point, then, reversing the flint, he chipped as nicely the other side—each time on the outer edge of the curve—and there was an implement which the modern manufacturer of steel drills only copies. It is impossible to think the lathe can have been known at so early a period, yet the spindle whorl (fig. 6) has actually been turned. Whether the work or the tool was made to revolve, the marks of the cutter round and round are apparent enough. "Is there nothing new under the sun?"

The Neoliths are often traced best by their Celts, polished and unpolished. I find none, though Mr. Dykes, of All Stretton, has found at Wenlock a fine perforated stone hammer (probably of this period). It is now in the Shrewsbury Museum.

Little stone rings, similar to No. 5, have been found in various parts of the country, but, I believe, as yet no one has authoritatively decided what their uses were. I venture to express as my opinion that they were pieces of money. Julius Cæsar found the Britons using bronze and iron money made in the form of rings, or of square pieces pierced with a hole in the centre, and strung together like Chinese money, or the cowrie shells of the African coast tribes. He thus speaks of this money:—

"Aut nummo æreo (bronze) aut annulis ferreis."

Large stores of Gaulish money have been turned up in France. This is made in gold, silver, bronze, iron, and

lead. The pattern commences with a simple ring or wheel, and passes on to spoked wheels of various stages of elaboration. But a disc of metal stamped with figure and inscription does not appear. This was a development in the life-history of coined money reserved for a later period. Now where did the Celts obtain the design for their bronze ring money? We know that their tools and weapons were at first copied from the stone patterns they saw before them, and I infer that these metal rings were simply imitations of the stone ring money used by the Neoliths of Clun and elsewhere.

Plate II. shows two specimens of pottery—all I possess. It is remarkable that they are similar portions of the handles of similar vessels. Both are undoubtedly pre-historic, but there is a wide difference in their age. No. 1 may be Early Neolithic; No. 2 Late Neolithic or Bronze. Their composition is a mixture of clay and micaceous sand, such as results from the degradation of the Old Red Sandstone of the Clun rocks. They are rudely baked but not glazed, though No. 2 is stained, either naturally or artificially. They were found about half-a-mile apart, and the accidental discovery of the first, which was fortunately brought to my notice, led to the recognition and preservation of the second. Other portions of the vessels must still be in existence, and, no doubt, a great deal of interesting pre-historic pottery lies about on the Clun hills.

The Neolith was as cosmopolitan in his pursuits and mode of living and adapted himself to circumstances apparently with as ready a facility as the modern Englishman. On the coast fishing tribes lived without any other protection than the wide sea, of which they had the command. In such a neighbourhood as Clun a warlike people were trained to arms, and found refuge in danger in fortified hill posts. While among the meres and marshes of North Shropshire, men hid their dwellings behind reeds and willows on low-lying and difficultly approached islands, natural and artificial.

In the year 1872, when cutting a deep drain, which

I



1



2



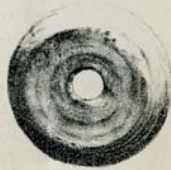
3



4



5



6

ADYTT & HAUNTON LITH. CALIF.

II



1



2

ADYTT & HAUNTON LITH. CALIF.

lowered the waters of Crossmere from six to ten feet, and reclaimed much boggy land, a rude canoe was discovered eight or nine feet long, square at bow and stern, and dug out of a solid oak trunk. The canoe was imbedded far down in the peat, and is now carefully preserved in Ellesmere Town Hall. Near the spot where it was found may be distinctly seen what, if the water returned to its original level, would be a low peninsula still called Stockett (little Stockade?) approached by a natural causeway, which has evidently, at some time, been entrenched and, perhaps, stockaded. It would be interesting and conclusive as to the supposition, I imply, if upon this peninsula should be found in undisturbed position worked stones and flints of the type herewith figured. When I hazarded the opinion that the canoe was of Neolithic make, it was doubted whether it could possibly be so well squared and hewn with only stone implements. But I am trying to show how hard it is to fully estimate the skill and ability of the later stone folk. Prof. Boyd Dawkins writes me:—"The Neolithic folk certainly possessed canoes made of tree trunks and with square sterns, and possibly square at both ends."

A much larger boat of the kind was dug up from a meadow at Bagley a few years ago, which, on exposure to the air, perished away, and another, still larger, also exhumed from the peaty soil, may be seen in the garden adjoining Ellesmere House.

Perhaps the most perfect specimen of a Crannoge, or lake fortress, in this county is exhibited in the Berth near Baschurch, eight miles north-west of Shrewsbury. Hartshorne, writing nearly forty years ago, says of this:—"The works consist of two distinct fortresses, lying in a morass, but which are connected with each other by an artificially raised causeway, one hundred and fifty yards long, and twelve feet wide, formed, with vast labour, of small stones. This traverses the bog at present on a level with it. There is another causeway that takes a sinuous line across the bog towards the

higher ground at Marton. The upper work occupies a circular eminence of three acres, and rises about forty-five feet above the level of the land at its base. It is strengthened on three sides by a morass, upon the south or fourth side by a deep pool of water, covering eight acres. A concentric trench and vallum (gradually being destroyed) encircle the whole work. The Inferior Fortress is of an elliptical form. It was defended by a morass on all sides." Hartshorne remarks it would have been easy to have dammed up the two streams which now drain the bog, and converted each fastness into an island.

Some authorities consider the position to have been occupied by the Saxons, others by the Britons. Each supposition may be correct, but before either people seized upon the stronghold it may have been fortified and inhabited by the Neoliths, who would not fail to perceive its security and importance.

The collection of small relics of a by-gone age I have busily gathered and attempted to describe is undoubtedly of considerable historic value, but my interest, from the first, has been most keenly excited by the larger menhirs, hoarstones, and stone circles in the neighbourhood of Clun. All these may not have been of Neolithic origin, but most, I think, were.

The Neoliths were inveterate Gilgal erecters and circle builders, and their sacred enclosures seem to have been used for any or all of these purposes—assembly, judgment, solar observation, burial, worship—a habit of consecrating and solemnizing matters of importance to the common weal we ourselves, it is hoped, have hardly yet lost.

The mystery of an antiquity and purport beyond the comprehension of the ignorant causes them to be generally looked upon with fear, and avoided, hence they have been wondrously preserved. The Whetstones just within the borders of Montgomeryshire were some time since ruthlessly destroyed, but the neighbours still speak, almost with bated breath, of the outrage,

and remark upon the fearful fate of the perpetrator of it.

I mention here, in order, some of the larger stone monuments I have examined.

#### MENHIRS.

1. The "Druid Stone" at Whitcot, two miles north-west of Clun, just above the river high flood mark. This is a rough slab of local Old Red Sandstone, standing above the ground about 6ft. by 3ft. One native tradition says that a British Chieftain is buried underneath. Another that a giant in playful wantonness kicked it from the opposite hill top.

2. The "Old Stone" at Beguildy, six miles west-south-west of Clun, in the valley of the Teme. Height above ground 3ft. 6in. ; breadth, 4ft. 3in. ; depth, under ground, considerable, as several unsuccessful attempts have recently been made to dig it out.

Tradition says it was thrown by the devil at Beguildy Church, from the Graig Don rocks near Knighton, six miles distant, but falling short by a few hundred yards stuck end up in the ground as now seen. In proof of this, the marks of his Satanic Majesty's hand are still pointed out upon it. Really the stone has been transported by a colder agency from an opposite direction. It is an Upper Llandovery Grit, and has been carried by ice seventeen miles across the mountainous county of Radnor. The prints of the infernal finger and thumb, so visible to rustic eyes, are bowl-like depressions, probably caused by the wearing out of unusually large nodules.

Since considerable superstitious awe lingers round the stone, these hollows may once have been used to contain the votive offerings of a primitive people in the practice of religious rites.

#### HOAR STONES.

1. The "Fairy Stone" upon Clunbury Hill, four and a half miles east of Clun, near the boundary of

Clunbury and Clungunford parishes. It is a strayed Rhayader Grit, 3ft. by 2ft. 3in. by 2ft. 6in.

2. The "Bettws Hoar Stone" has been removed from the Hoar Stone field upon Bettws Hill, five and a half miles west of Clun. Either the original stone or its representative is now lying by the door of Moor Hall farm-house, a mile or so down the valley. This is a fragment of local sandstone. On one side is roughly cut THOMAS, and on the reverse 066.

3. The Clun "Hoar Stone" in "Middleton's Dingle," one mile south of Clun. A travelled block of Rhayader Grit, 3ft. 6in. by 4ft. by 2ft. 6in.

#### STONE CIRCLES.

1. The "Kerry Hill Cromlech" nine and a half miles north-west of Clun. A perfect oblate circle of eight stones, averaging about 6ft. cube, with a block in the centre measuring 3ft. by 1ft. 4in. by 1ft. 6in. The longest axis of the enclosure measures 87ft., the shortest 78ft.

2. "Mitchell's Fold" upon Stapely Hill, fifteen miles north of Clun. An oval ring containing thirteen stones, standing from 2½ft. to 6ft. high. The diameters of the ring are 92ft. and 86ft., the longest diameter running north-west and south-east. If this has been a "Moot Hill," or place of judgment, it was so situate that the rock of precipitation, over which the condemned was hurled in execution, may have been almost within a stone's throw of the spot.

3. A straight line drawn from the centre of Mitchell's Fold, and passing over Stapely Hill in a north-east direction, cuts the centre of the "Marshpool Circle" about three miles distant, which is about 74ft. in diameter. It contains thirty-three stones in the ring, ranging in size from one foot to twenty cubic feet, with a central block 3½ft. by 3½ft. by 2ft. Several of the stones in this circle and Mitchell's Fold contain small holes which must not be confounded with the genuine pre-historic "pin holes" sometimes seen on ancient

monuments. They have mostly been bored in modern times by the miners of the neighbourhood, who gather round on the occasion of an interesting wedding and fire shots from them by way of salute.

Mr. Lewis, who kindly supplies me with the measurements, &c., he has taken of the two last-mentioned circles, says "accidents frequently happen on these occasions, but it is satisfactory to know that the miners suffer from them more than the stones do," and "The custom may be thought slightly suggestive of a tradition of public ceremonies having been performed at these places."

4. Upon Penywn Hill, two miles south of Clun, hidden by a clump of fir trees, and additionally obliterated by farm refuse carted from the neighbouring fields, is a badly treated stone circle, thirty yards in diameter. The stones are too small and out of sight to be readily noticed, but about one hundred and twenty yards distant, towards the south-east is an overthrown obelisk, which, apparently, lies just where it stood, and evidently did stand upright in the ground for a very long time. It is a glacial relic from Rhayader, is 10ft. long by 3ft. by 3ft., lies 1,200 feet above sea level, and has travelled twenty-three miles from its parent rock. Looking from the centre of the circle over the stone—*nearly*—the sun will be seen to rise on the 21st of December. Here there is presumptive evidence that the Neoliths from Rock Hill and far away trooped to venerate and worship the Baal god. Connected with their simple temples the Neoliths, it is known, often placed large outlying stones towards the point of highest or lowest sunrise or sunset. Though careful observers in other respects, they were seldom accurate in this. The Clun gnomon is 6° south of the true line. Allowing 2° for possible astronomical variations since Neolithic times, an error of 4° remains. Says Mr. Lewis "a remarkably good shot." The same authority also observes "I think the reference" of outlying stones to significant points in the heavens "was often rather



PR Box 2/51  
24 Newport St  
Shrewsbury  
April 4<sup>th</sup> /89

Sir

I venture to send  
you copies of two  
papers of mine.

I should be glad  
to excite your interest  
in a district so rich  
as I have found the  
neighbourhood of Clun  
to be in phenomena  
bearing upon your own  
work.

I think I gather from  
your paper read before  
the British Association  
last year that I am  
not heterodox in be-  
lieving that in cer-  
tain favoured local-  
ities the Neoliths may  
have lived on <sup>in England</sup> as a  
distinct people into  
much later times than  
is generally supposed.

Have I given  
sufficient evidence to

fairly entitle them to be con-  
sidered as one of those localities?

Yours Obediently

Geo. Kuff-

PR Box 2, 151  
24 Newpark St  
Threwsbury  
Apr - 17 - 89

Dear

I am delighted to hear you propose to visit the neighbourhood of Clun and do hope you will determine the date of Mary Ditches with which I am sure you will be greatly interested. I always longed but was not allowed to excavate in the trenches -

Shropshire is so rich  
in archaeological phenomena  
it would repay a  
lifetime of research. I  
should be glad to  
give more time to it  
but I am now like  
Robert Dick of Thurston  
only a baker and  
small shopkeeper and  
have a day off oc-  
casionally. My closest  
attention is required to  
my business.

I trust you will allow me  
to know the result of your  
researches -

Yours sincerely

Geo. Duff -

PR Box 2/51

Copy of paper  
by W. Geo Luff

also tracing of  
map & letter

Antiquities in  
Shropshire