

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire and
Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900).

VOLUME I. PART II.

[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1902-1903.]

EDITED BY THE REV. C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.

Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

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PROCEEDINGS

1902-3,

OF

The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

(Continued from p. 120.)

THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING and Excursion was convened for Wednesday, July 10th, 1901, when members and their friends assembled at HUNTINGDON, and shortly before 10 a.m. visited the interesting Norman Chapel of the Hospital of St. John long used as the Grammar School. The party was received by the Mayor of Huntingdon (Sir Arthur Marshall), R. Bell, Esq., B.A. (Head Master) and Mrs. Bell and others. Copies of an interesting printed account of the building and school were placed in the hands of the members, and several features of interest pointed out. It was stated that the Chapel had been encased with brick in the 17th century, and so remained until uncovered in 1875. It is said that traces of north and south aisles have been observed. The Ven. Archdeacon Vesey gives an account of this early foundation in this volume of the Society's *Transactions* (pp. 121—125).

After leaving Huntingdon the first object of interest was the Parish Church of KING'S RIPTON (*St. Peter*), where a short stay was made. The Rev. W. M. Noble gave a brief account of the building. The remains of Early English work in the Chancel, and a piscina of the same date, were regarded with interest. Also the E.E. outer arch of the south porch, and the inner D. doorway, having a stoup on the east side. The font and fine gable cross were particularly observed. The flat nave roof was properly regarded as an eyesore, and hope was generally expressed that its removal might be expedited. Neither Church or Village are mentioned in the Domesday survey. It is recorded in the Parish Register, that, after the death of his wife, Oliver Cromwell gave ten shillings to the poor of King's Ripton.

Proceeding to WISTOW inspection was first made of an interesting seventeenth century habitation, built by one, Uriah Harris, treasurer of the County in 1642. A wainscoted room with other good remains of woodwork, and several characteristic features of the yeoman's dwelling-house of the period were inspected, and the manner of life commented upon. At the CHURCH (*St. John Baptist*), the Rector, the Rev. W. M. Noble, read a short paper descriptive of the building, which is embodied in the account printed at pp. 327—329 of this volume of *Transactions*. The lofty

clerestory, with its beautiful windows and double canopies, was particularly admired. There are some peculiar features (which gave rise to several comments), notably the staircase turret, surmounted by a pinnacle at the east end of the nave, supposed to be designed to give access to the roof. At the east end of the nave is a good gable cross. A parclose screen at the east end of the south aisle is an excellent example of carved work, and the adjacent east window has some ancient glass. In the tower there is a remarkable church chest, a veritable 'trunk,' formed out of the trunk of a tree and left in its rough state. There are some interesting monumental slabs, particularly one of the 13th century, figured in Cutts' *Manual*, which bears a cross of particularly good design. The prominent gargoyles are bold in workmanship as well as design. The interest that attaches to this Church merited a longer stay, and closer attention to details than it was possible to give.

At BURY CHURCH (*Holy Cross*) the visitors were warmly welcomed by the Rector (Rev. A. C. T. James), who had spared no pains to render the inspection of his Church agreeable and profitable. This was specially noticeable in the marking of the line of foundations of the destroyed western chapel by miniature flags, rendering the subject quite an object lesson, if not exactly in stone, yet, on the one hand, of the wantonness of those who once destroyed what they were incompetent to build, and on the other hand the perseverance and kindly effort of those who were fain to re-build (if only for the moment), that the past glory and strength of mighty men might live in the portrayal of their choice handiwork before interested observers. The paper on this fine Church, given in this volume (pp. 403-4) will, it is hoped, render any further description here unnecessary. Leaving Bury, not without regret, the anticipation of luncheon it must be confessed offered something in the nature of a palliative.

Having arrived at RAMSEY, LUNCH was served at the Red Lion Hotel, under the presidency of Major-General R. C. Brooke, (V.P.) At the close the Chairman observed that they had every reason to be thankful for the success that had followed the efforts of those to whom they were indebted for the foundation of their Society, and further for the ordering of their present very successful gathering that day. It was distinctly encouraging. The fact that upwards of forty were present was convincing proof of wide spread interest in the Society's objects. There was much work to be done in both Counties. With an increase in numbers they might look forward to an increase of usefulness, and renewed opportunities for acquiring information and publishing it. The Hon. Secretary (Rev. C. H. Evelyn White), apologized for the absence of Lord de Ramsey from this meeting, his Lordship being detained by a Select Committee of the House of Lords. Sir Arthur Marshall was unable to be present and he (Mr. Evelyn White) had invited Major-General Brooke, and they were greatly pleased that he was with them in the capacity of a Vice-

president. Mr. Evelyn White mentioned that the first part of the Society's *Transactions, &c.*, was passing through the press and would in due course be issued to the members for 1900—1901. It was a bold venture perhaps to print *Transactions* so early, particularly as the membership could scarcely be thought secure at 70. It appeared to him advisable, if the *Transactions* were to be suitably illustrated, to have a separate illustration fund, to which those especially who were particularly interested in a certain Church or neighbourhood might contribute. Mr. R. A. Fordham had in this way kindly supplied an admirable illustration of the St. Ives Bridge at his own expense. He (the Secretary) threw out the suggestion and hoped it would be taken up. The Society was undertaking an important work and they should endeavour to make it as effective as possible.

At the magnificent Perpendicular gateway of RAMSEY ABBEY (exhibiting some very elaborate work said in large part to have been destroyed in the early part of the 18th Century when the road leading from Ramsey to Warboys was laid), *the members and several friends were met by the Vicar, the Rev. Robert Black, who after a few words of kindly welcome and a brief historical sketch of the Abbey, conducted the party through the beautiful gardens of the modern mansion of Lord de Ramsey to the Abbey basement, where the interesting remains of the old refectory arcading and other portions of the monastery are to be found. The only known portion of the Abbey Church is in the tower of the present parish Church, built in 1671 out of material that formed part of the monastic edifice. In the house itself there is preserved on one of the passage walls the stone slab which covered the tomb of Ailwyn the founder of the Abbey and Ældeorman of England, vested as an Abbot. It is said that at one time, in the days of fanatical outrage and religious disorder, the stone was cast into a horse-pond from whence it was subsequently recovered. But we listened to many 'idle tales' and this may have been one! Quitting the Abbey Mr. Black led the way to the PARISH CHURCH (*St. Thomas à Becket*) where the leading features both of the interior and exterior of the building were very happily pointed out and illustrated from a fund of information and intelligent appreciation of things that are old and of worth. Mr. Black's paper will be found in this volume, illustrated by views expressly prepared for the Society from photographs by Mr. G. H. Tyndall of Ely.

The following additional notes relating to the Abbey were prepared (with other particulars) by the Hon. Secretary in readiness for the meeting, but owing to lack of time were not read:—

"This was one of the Abbeys dignified with the privilege of the mitre; the abbot sat in Parliament among the temporal lords as well as among the bishops. It was dedicated by St. Dunstan,

*The gate house was subsequently used as a prison; it was thatched with reed.

Archbishop of Canterbury in 974, to "Blessed Mary and all other Virgins" and St. Benedict. Ædnoth, the first Abbot, was sent by St. Oswald from Westbury in Worcestershire A.D. 970. Three years later St. Oswald came with twelve monks. "The miraculous founder of this holy Monastery" (thus he is described on the stone that covered his tomb), Ailwyn, Earl of the East Angles, who died in 992, was a kinsman of the famous King Edgar; Godwin affirms however that Oswald was the founder, largely assisted by Earl Ailwyn. Wulfus, the second Abbot, chosen A.D. 1008, was slain by the Danes the same year. Ethernic, a monk of Ramsey, afterwards Bishop of Dorchester, gave several manors to the abbey and was buried near the high altar. In 1047 Edward the Confessor gave Ringstede to Ramsey. Besides confirming previous grants he added several privileges and liberties, such as those of sanctuary, non-payment of tithes, tolls, &c. . . . The fourth abbot was slain in the Church by an Irishman on the eve of St. Michael A.D. 1043. Robert de Redinge, fifteenth abbot (A.D. 1203—8), had the manor of Cranfield for his maintenance; after his resignation the office remained vacant for seven years. In 1214 the Abbot of Selby was chosen to fill the like position at Ramsey. The Abbey was in the following year robbed of very considerable wealth. In 1154 Henry II., visited the Abbey. In 1155 William of Kilkenny, the King's Chancellor, was made Bishop of Ely, and very much oppressed the Church of Ramsey. In 1254 when the Pope granted to the King a tenth in respect of the Churches and monasteries of the country, Ramsey was taxed at six hundred and twenty-four marks. During the time of Hugh de Sulgrave's abbacy (A.D. 1254—1267) the refectory (interesting portions of which remain incorporated in the modern building) was built. About the same time St. Ivo's shrine was raised and a silver gilt table added for the altar. Soon after the refectory was brought into use, water was conveyed to the abbey by the influence of William of Godmanchester, twenty-first Abbot. It is said that on the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 the then abbot John de Wardeboys *alias* Lawrence, not only surrendered willingly, but used his influence with others in a like direction. For his services he secured a pension of no less than £266 13s. 6d. At one time the yearly rents of this abbey (reputed to have been the richest in England) amounted to £7000. At the dissolution the revenues of the Abbey amounted to close upon £2000. In the Diocese of Lincoln the Abbey held twenty-four churches, in Norwich diocese ten, and in Ely five churches. The site of the Abbey with several of the manors was given (31 Henry VIII) to one of the Commissioners (Sir Richard Williams, *alias* Cromwell) who resided in the neighbourhood, for the consideration of £4963. He was succeeded by Sir Henry Cromwell ("the golden knight") who rebuilt the manor house out of the ruins of the Abbey. His son, Oliver, made it his principal residence. To him succeeded Henry Cromwell, his grandson, who dying suddenly without heirs male, was followed by his two sisters and co-heiresses. The estate

was purchased from the latter by Col. Silas Titus, and passed from the eldest daughter of the latter to two confidential servants, who sold it about 1736 to Coulson Fellowes, Esq., from whom it has descended to the present owner. The place-name Ramsey is of interest. Popularly it is taken to mean the *rams-isle*. The Seal of the Abbey bears the device of a *ram swimming across the water of the fen*. There are several strange meanings and derivations which we can afford to disregard. The name has been taken by some as *à Ramis quasi insula ramorum*, because the place abounded with alders and other trees, and had an immense growth of reed, bulrush, &c. Notwithstanding the high authority of Professor Skeat, who regards it as the *raven's isle* (*hrames—eye=A.S. hræm*, a variant of hræmn or *hræfn*, a raven—it has lost the 'h'), we confess to a partiality for *raimne*, gaelic, *marsh*, as indicative of the well known natural features of the place."

An intended visit to the "BIGGIN" had to be abandoned for want of time.

Next on the programme was WARBOYS CHURCH (*St. Mary Magdalen*). No paper had been prepared, but the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Noble, Mr. Ladds and others directed attention to points deemed of importance. Mr. Ladds has since written the paper on the Church and Parish which appears at pp. 309—318 of this volume, and beyond the two or three following remarks it is unnecessary to add anything further except as to the name Warboys. We pointed out at the time the Norman origin of the name (*War[de]bois*) which appears in a Latinized form, and in Domesday-book as *Warde-buisc*. The woods of Warboys are still in evidence. These were reserved woods, kept or 'warded' for the King's use, and guarded by the royal foresters. From this vast area of woodland Henry I., gave oaks for the repair of bridges and causeways that appertained to his Church of Ely. The suggestion, recently advanced by Professor Skeat, that the place-name points to the *keeper of the forest* (*E. wood-ward*) is scarcely accurate. The *place* not the *person* should have pre-eminence. The word signifies the *kept-wood* rather than the *individual* who filled the office of chief forester. The Rector (Rev. J. F. Serjeant) and Miss Serjeant very hospitably entertained the company at tea in the beautiful grounds of the Rectory, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to them for their kindness.

It had been arranged to close the day with a visit to HINCHINGBROOKE, but owing to the lateness of the hour only four or five members were able to undertake this. Lord Sandwich's Secretary (A. Yorke, Esq.) was good enough to conduct these few over the house, but it was decided to include Hinchingbrooke in the next excursion into Hunts.

Among those attending this meeting were Sir Arthur Marshall, Major-General Brooke, A. J. Pell, Rev. G. E., Mrs. and Miss Sharland, Ernest and Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. and Miss Parsons,

Chas. Whympster, R. A. Fordham, Rev. A. G. Cane, Rev. E. T. and Miss Marshall, Arthur Hope, Mark Palmer, M. Sheard, Miss Smart, Arthur and Mrs. Bull, Miss Nixon (2), Rev. W. T. R. Crookham, Rev. Alf. Peskett, Rev. A. J. Edmonds, Rev. C. H. and Mrs. Evelyn White, Rev. W. M. and Miss Noble, Mrs. Webb, Rev. K. H. Smith, Rev. R. Black, H. E. Norris, Rev. A. C. T. James, Rev. J. S. and Miss Serjeant, F. T. Mullett, A. Keen, S. I. Ladds, Rev. J. G. Cheshire, etc., etc.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at SUTTON, in the ISLE OF ELY, on Wednesday, October 16th, 1901. Under the guidance of the Vicar (Rev. E. T. Marshall) the fine and interesting Perpendicular CHURCH (*St. Andrew*) was visited, and a valuable paper on the Church and parish, full of good points, was read by Mr. M. Sheard. As the paper will appear in a future issue of the Society's *Transactions* (Mr. Sheard preferring to continue his investigations somewhat further) it is unnecessary to do more than mention here a few details. The Manor was a part of the inheritance of Queen Etheldreda, who endowed the monastery of Ely. Upon the foundation of the See of Ely a portion of the manor passed from the Abbot and Convent to the Bishopric. In 1541, Henry VIII., by deed of gift transferred the manor and advowson to the Dean and Chapter, who still retain the trust. The Church is a particularly well proportioned building, and as the Vicar remarked, was probably the outcome of one master mind, the design being carried out in its entirety. It was suggested that the Church was possibly the work of Bishop Barnet (A.D. 1366—1373) Treasurer of England, whose arms appear in the ceiling of the porch. The unique tower of Sutton Church, square at the base with a profusion of quatre-foils, is worthy of special attention. It is very lofty, the upper portion, being octagonal, is surmounted by a lantern or turret also of octagon form but considerably smaller, having pinnacles at the eight angles, presenting a peculiarly quaint appearance. Mr. Marshall related a story to the effect that this singular tower of his Church owes its character to the falling down of the lantern tower at Ely, which being restored, the Bishop dispatched skilled workmen to place a like erection on the summit of Sutton Church tower. However this may be, the manifest service of a lantern to guide the wayfaring man across the fen must be apparent, and as we have elsewhere pointed out, in the case of Ely and Bury (Hunts) answered the desired end, giving security to life and property. The Chancel is very fine, and on either side of the lofty East window is a beautiful niche. The piscina and sedilia have had their canopies destroyed. In the East corner of the South Aisle (*Lady Chapel*) is a large and elegant piscina, over which is a niche containing the mutilated full sized figure of the B.V.M. (*Our Lady of Pity*), which still retains traces of former gilding and colour. The

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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1910

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VOLUME I.

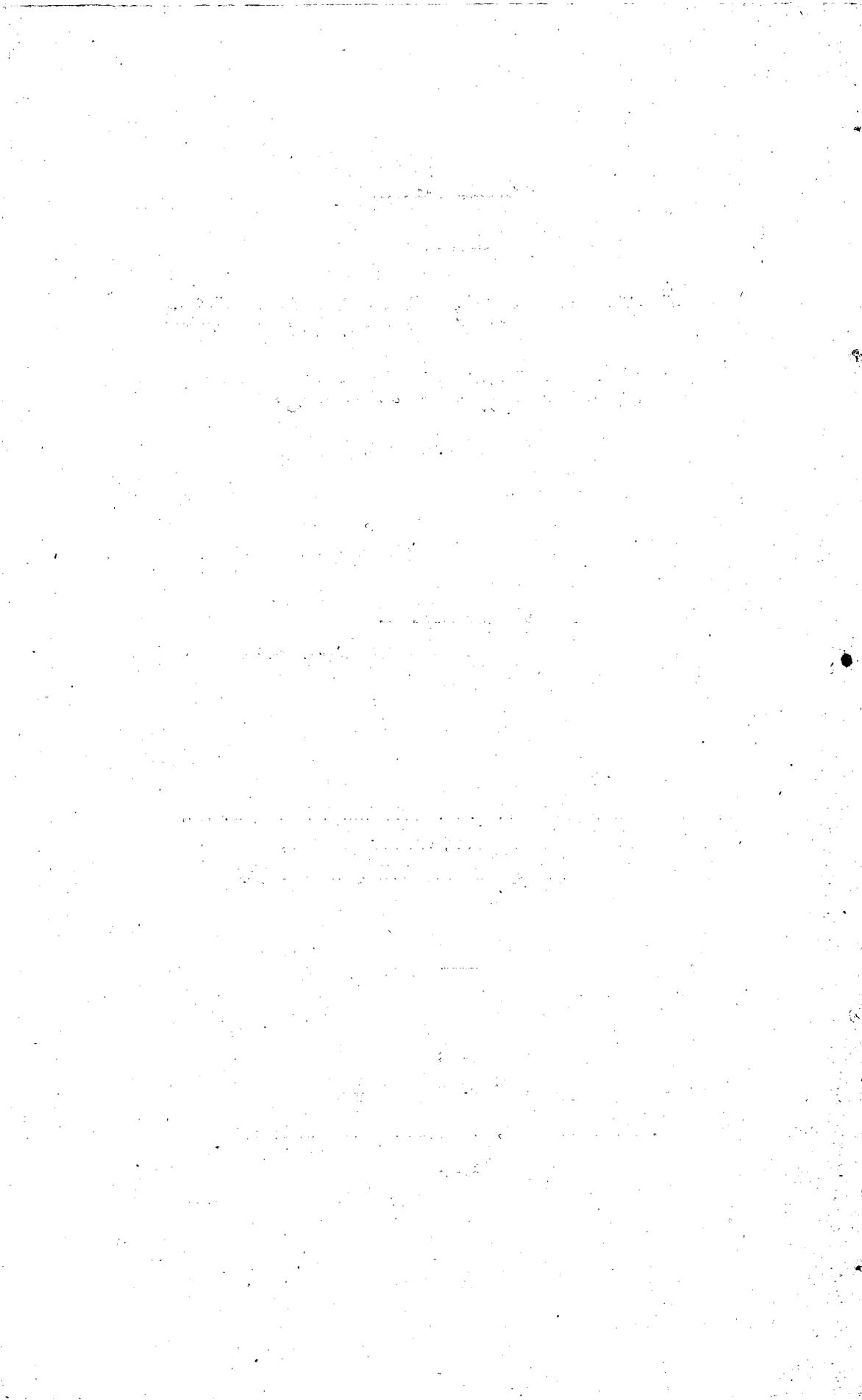
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EDITED BY THE REV. C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.,
RECTOR OF RAMPTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
(Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Society.)

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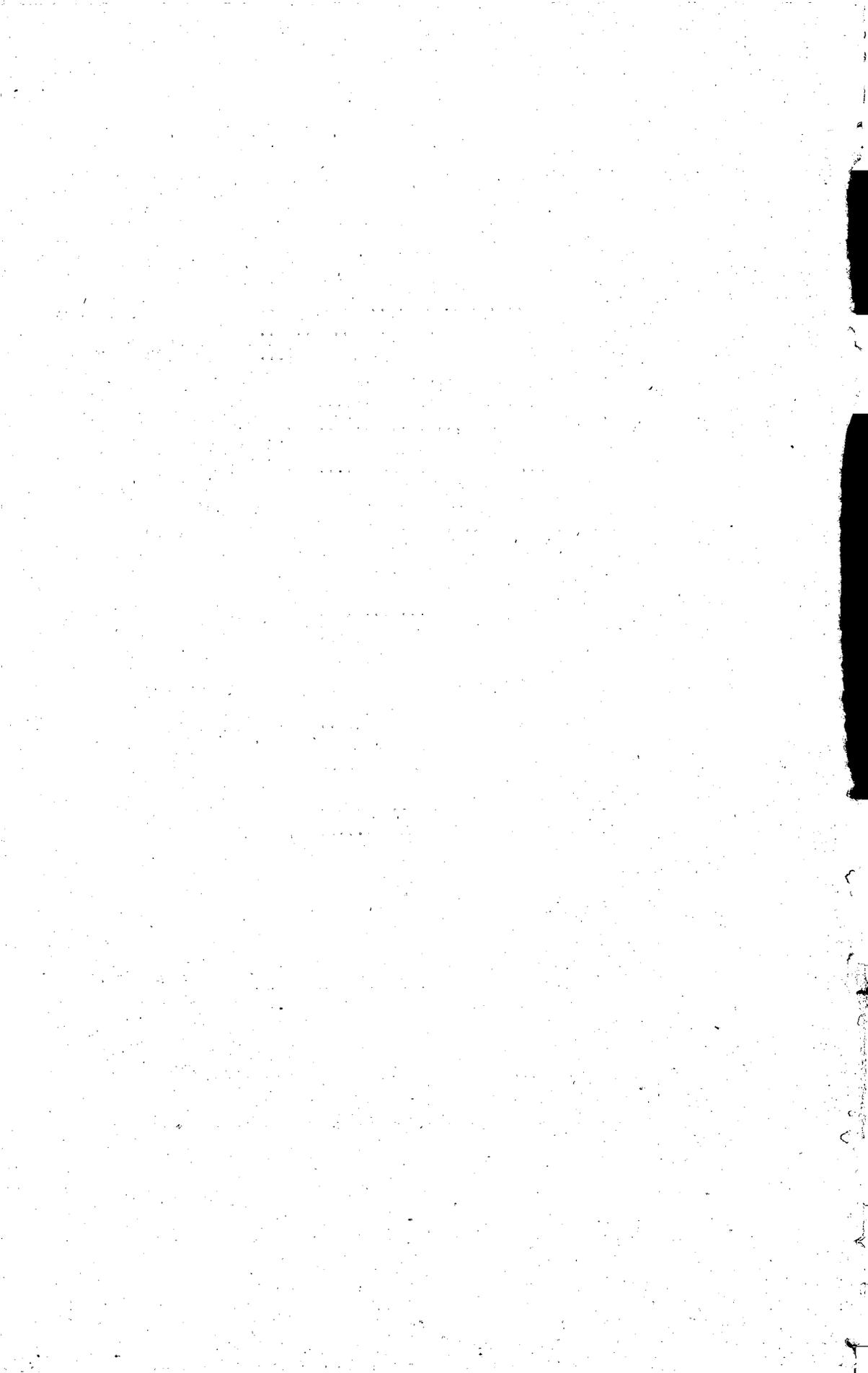
[The *History of the Church and Parish of Rampton, Cambs.*, referred to in this Volume, is unavoidably held over for the first part of Vol. II., which it is hoped will be issued to the 1904 Subscribers within the next six months. It will also contain the accounts of the meetings held in 1902, and papers relating thereto, &c., with numerous illustrations, most of which have been specially prepared and are already printed.—Ed.]

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Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society,
1902-3.

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