

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire and
• • Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1900).

VOLUME II. PART I.

[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1904-1905.]

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

Founder of the Society and Honorary Secretary.

Ely :

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY

G. H. TYNDALL, THE MINSTER PRESS,

1906.

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) TEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

Contents of Part 1., Vol. 2. (pp. 104).

Papers.

	PAGE
I. BRAMPTON, HUNTS., by <i>S. Inskip Ladds</i> , A.R.I.B.A.	I
II. THE PRIORY AND CHURCH OF ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>Wm. Emery</i> , (illustrated)	16
III. STOW LONGA (St. Botolph), HUNTS., by <i>the Rev. G. E. Sharland</i> , R.D., (illustrated)	25
IV. EYNESBURY AND ITS CHURCH, by <i>Wm. Emery</i> , (illustrated)	29
V. GREAT PAXTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>the Rev. A. G. Cane</i> , M.A.....	33
VI. THE CARVED BENCH-ENDS IN EYNESBURY CHURCH, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> , (illustrated)	46
VII. THE STORY OF COTTENHAM, CO. CAMBRIDGE, by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i>	55
VIII. SOME NORMAN DOORWAYS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE, DISPLAYING <i>TYMPANA</i> , by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> , (illustrated).....	98

Illustrations.

	PAGE
ST. NEOT'S CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Exterior ..to face	21
ST. NEOT'S CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Interior ..to face	22
STOW LONGA CHURCH (St. Botolph) Hunts., (1) Exterior, (2) Interior.....to face	25
Silver Paten (15th Century) and <i>facsimile</i> of Hall Mark ..	27
EYNESBURY CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Ground Plan to face	30
Plan of Nave Arches and Columnsto face	31
GREAT PAXTON CHURCH (Holy Trinity), Hunts., Saxon work (<i>conjectural</i>) in Naveto face	40
EYNESBURY CHURCH, CARVED BENCHES in, Planto face	46
Some detailsto face	48
NORMAN <i>TYMPANA</i> :	
Pampisford, Cambs.,to face	99
Stow Longa, Hunts.,to face	100
Little Paxton, Hunts.,to face	101

STOW LONGA CHURCH, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.



STOW LONGA (ST. BOTOLPH), HUNTS.

The history of Stow Longa may be traced back to the year 991, when Ethelred was king; the manor then belonged to Duke Brithnoth. Four years previously, Brithnoth had attacked the Danes at Malden in Essex and defeated them with great slaughter. They afterwards returned vowing vengeance. Brithnoth appears to have been away from home, for he hurried back to Malden and coming to Ramsey Abbey, on his way asked for entertainment and provisions. The Abbot refused to entertain any but Brithnoth and seven companions, he therefore pressed on to Ely, where they were all hospitably received, and the next morning coming into the Chapter House to return thanks, gave to the Abbot and Convent the manor of Spaldwick with its Soke (of which Stow formed a part). King Edward the Confessor's Charter confirmed it to the monks, and it figures as their property in the Domesday Survey. The monks retained it until 1109 when the Abbey became a Bishopric and the property was given to the Bishop of Lincoln, who formed the Manor of Stow into a Prebend under the title of Stow Longa, endowing it also with the impropriate rectory and advowson of Spaldwick. The Prebend still exists in Lincoln Cathedral, but the endowments are held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The Church stands on higher ground than any other church in the county, and there is good reason to say was built in 1109, probably a small one at first of the usual Norman type. A fine Norman doorway with curiously carved tympanum, is now the Priest's door to the chancel; the meaning of this carving has been variously interpreted.* This interesting doorway with

* A paper dealing with the subject of this and certain other Cambs., and Hunts., tympana and the quaint symbolism thereon depicted appears in this volume of *Transactions*.

a few fragments found during the restorations of recent years are all that remains of the Norman Church.

In the 13th century the Church was enlarged to its present size; the greater part of the present walls are of that date together with the chancel arch and nave arcades. Some mistake must have been made in setting out the north arcade, causing it to be taken down and rebuilt, for the western respond stands some inches to the north of the original base, which it does not fit, and has some appearance of Decorated work.

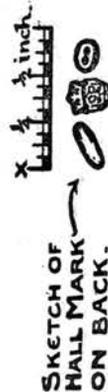
In the middle of the 14th century the side Chapel was built at the east end of the south aisle. Its walls are not square with the rest of the building; this under present conditions needs explanation. It was caused by the spread of the chancel arch, which (before it was rebuilt in 1880 was the shape of a horse shoe) had thrust out the arcade wall, and also caused the east window of the side chapel to be a long way out of plumb. The late Decorated windows in the aisle walls were probably inserted when the side chapel was built.

The south arcade has been rebuilt, but in a far different manner to that on the north; there are evident signs of poverty, the work is done in a careless clumsy manner, broken "drums" of the columns, pieces of windows and other worked stone are built into the wall, and the deficiency made good by stiling the bases, thus making the columns shorter than those of the north arcade.

In the absence of records, one can only suggest a cause for this clumsiness. In 1362 a destructive storm is known to have occurred and it probably blew down the 13th century tower, which destroyed the south arcade, leaving the western respond intact. Now as this was the year of the second great plague which raged from August 15, 1361 to May 3, 1362, it is conceivable that the people were so impoverished that they could do no more than rebuild the arcade and roof, thus making the Church fit for use, leaving the tower to be rebuilt when they could raise the necessary funds. The present tower was built at quite the end of the same century and is considered a

fine specimen of early Perpendicular work. Over the door are two coats of arms with a mitre between them, they bear (I) on a chevron between three church bells as many escallops (II) a chevron between three roses. All our efforts to find the owners have thus far been fruitless. There is only one bell made by Henry Jordan of London (died 1468), inscribed SANCTE PETRE ORA PRO NOBIS.* Perhaps the Prebendary who built the tower lies under the matrix of a fine floriated cross at the entrance to the chancel. Large parts of the Church and all its windows are of this date, so also the clerestory, destroyed probably in the 17th century. As the Church stands on the top of a hill, in all likelihood wind was again the destroying agent. To save the expense of rebuilding, the walls were levelled to where the present corbels now stand and a barn like roof put on, which remained until 1901.

The font is octagonal with a circular stem and Early English moulded cap; the base (of the same period) was found in the Vicarage garden at Spaldwick.



The Church has the proud distinction of possessing a silver paten, the oldest known, bearing the London hall

* In 1552 there were three bells and a sacring bell.

mark, 1491-2; the chalice is hall marked for 1877-8.

The other items of interest are: (1) a fine oak screen or rather the remnant of what it once was, as can be traced in the north arcade; (2) a monument with brass plate to Sir Thos. Maples 1634; the matrix below contained an inscription to his wife, who was buried 26 August, 1624,

"For whose sake for widowes 3, three houses did he make."

These three houses have disappeared, and may perhaps account for the removal of the brass. In the chancel floor are stones to Richard and Ann Elmas, 1682. The old oak shelf in the piscina for side altar remains *in situ* as found when the plaster was removed a few years ago. On the south wall of the tower is inscribed: "*Orate p. aiab' Robte Becke et Alicie uxor.*"

The earliest Prebendary of Stow Longa that we know is John de Maydenestor who presented Thomas de Haytor to Spaldwick Vicarage in 1265. Among his more important successors are Simon Montagu *circa* 1334, Philp de Weston 1342-1369, Guy de Mona 1394-1397, John Dalton 1417-1432, Thomas Wolsey 1509-1514 (afterwards Cardinal Archbishop of York), Cuthbert Tonstall 1514 (afterwards Bishop of Durham), Francis Gascoigne 1529-1547, Richard Fletcher 1586 (afterwards Bishop of London), and Valentine Casey 1607-1621 (afterwards Bishop of Exeter).

In 1837 the whole county of Huntingdon was separated from the diocese of Lincoln, and Stow Longa once more came under the jurisdiction of Ely.

The old manor house at the end of the village was a fine specimen of timber and plaster with good brick chimnies. The hall was large with two fire places and carved oak chimney pieces of renaissance design: all has disappeared and a modern house formed at one end. When these alterations were made in 1877 the date 1622 was found on the lead guttering. The property has now reverted to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who have decided to pull it down.

G. E. SHARLAND.