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OF THE  
Cambridgeshire and  
. . . Huntingdonshire  
Archæological Society

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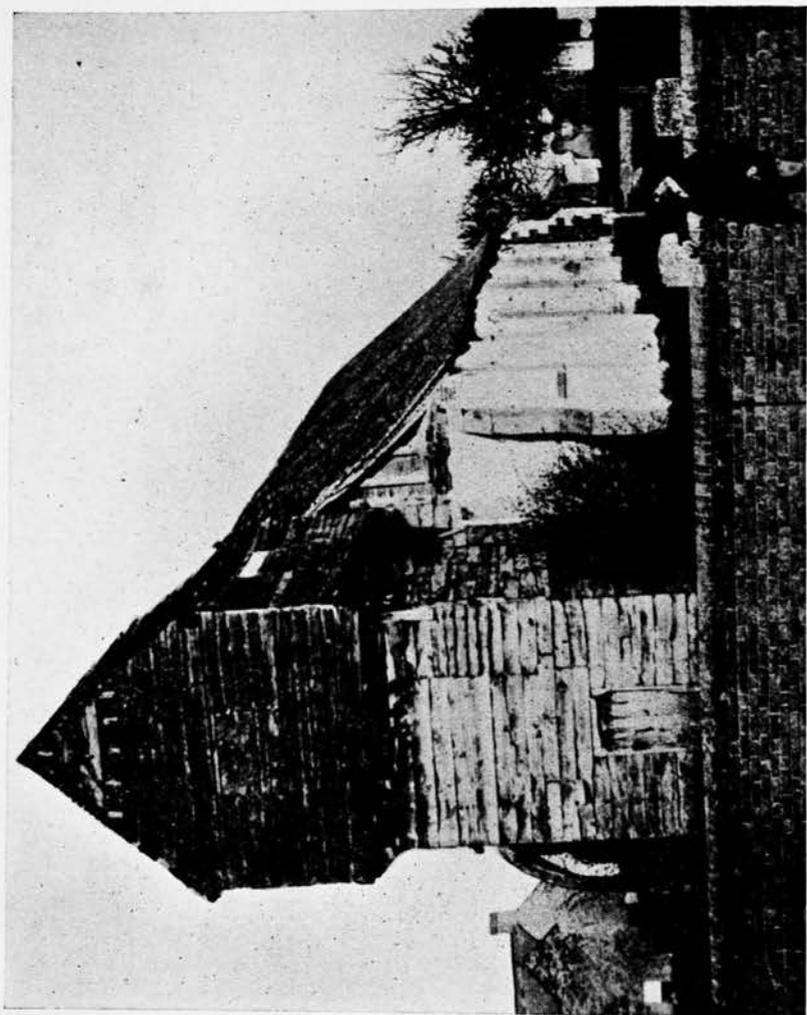
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PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) FIVE SHILLINGS



HAIL WESTON CHURCH, BEFORE RESTORATION.

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire  
Archæological Society

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*(Continued from page 64).*

On Tuesday the 8th September, 1908, the Society paid a visit to the south-west corner of Huntingdonshire, when, after a short drive from St. Neots, the first item on the programme was Hail Weston Church, (St. Nicholas), where Mr. S. Inskip Ladds read a few notes. The building has been so much restored that it is difficult to speak with any certainty as to its original form, but probably an Early English Church of much the same size as the present one occupied the site. The Church now consists of a Chancel and Nave under one roof, south porch, and a wooden west tower. The chancel has apparently been entirely rebuilt, but a plain Early English lancet in the north wall, and a few stones of the Early English priest's door and remains of a piscina of similar date in the south wall seems to indicate that until the restoration the original Thirteenth Century chancel remained fairly intact, but with a three-light window of Perpendicular date (which still remains) inserted in the East wall. The buttresses at the two eastern angles have lions carved upon the top slopes.

The chancel is separated from the nave by the lower part of an ancient screen, over which is a prettily carved roof beam.

The nave, which has also been rebuilt, has a modern square-headed three-light, in the late Decorated style, evidently a copy of an older window, in the north wall; and, in the same wall, a Decorated door with good mouldings, but of this only a few of the arch stones are ancient, the remainder, and the whole of the jambs, are modern. In the south wall there is a square-headed Perpendicular three-light, and a door with a flat four-centered arch. The west wall has a door with four-centered arch opening into the tower; and on each side there is a small modern single-light window.

Both the chancel and the nave are covered with an open roof in one continuous line, some of the timbers of which are old. On the outside the roofs are covered with modern tiles.

The font, which stands just west of the north door, is a plain, late, octagon standing on a square base, and bearing some signs of having been coloured.

There are a few old bench-ends in the nave, with plain Perpendicular poppy-heads; and some fragments of the benches remain.

The altar is an Elizabethan oak table with good legs and a well carved top rail. All the other furniture in the Church is modern.

The curious timber tower, which was probably an addition of much later date than the church, has been taken down and rebuilt, using the old timbers but re-erecting them upon a new stone base; the pyramidal roof is modern, displacing an ordinary pitched roof. Formerly the tower was covered with rough weather boarding, but this has given place to oak shingles.

Previous to the restoration, which took place in the year 1884, the porch was on the north side; now a modern timber porch stands on the south.

The village has two medicinal springs; one supposed to be good for leprosy, the other for the eyes.

The name of the place is more correctly spelt Hail Weston, although it is sometimes written Hale. Professor Skeat says that it seems to come from the Saxon 'heill,'—hale, sound, in good health. It occurs in old documents as Haylweston.

Hail Weston has always been connected with Southoe, and in the middle ages was the property of Lords Ferrars, who sold it in 1570 to Sir James Dyer, to whose descendent, Sir Lewis Dyer, it belonged in 1668.

The Rectory and Advowson of the Church belonged to the Priory of St. Mary, Huntingdon. In 1556, when Cardinal Pole made his visitation, the chancel was in a ruinous state; and in the following year Queen Mary granted the Rectory and Advowson to Bishop Thomas Watson.

An ancient bridge in this parish, just on the border of Hunts. and Beds. is mentioned as early as 1377, when it is stated to have fallen into decay. Probably it was rebuilt of stone at this date, for a sketch of a fine stone bridge here is given in Carter's Ancient Architecture of England, 1795. It has shared the fate of many another ancient bridge, and is no more.

From here the party proceeded to Gaynes Hall, the seat of Captain G. W. Duberley, where the Rev. H. G. Watson acted as guide and read some notes upon the history of the place.<sup>1</sup> Of the ancient house nothing is left; but the remaining portions of the moats indicate that a considerable area was thus enclosed. The cellars and the kitchen which are the oldest parts of the present building are not very ancient, and the same remark applies to the bridge over the moat.

The hall contains some heraldic shields in stained glass, some of which came from Place House; they consist of two Royal Arms, (one being encircled by the Garter); an ancient shield, *Gules, a fesse dancette between ten cross crosslets fitchee Or*, under which is a modern label inscribed 'Engaine, 1358'; a shield *Sable, three goats Argent attired Or*, with a crest *A goat's head coupled Argent attired Azure, charged on the neck with a fesse*

1. See The Revd. H. G. Watson's paper, pp. 39-42 *ante*.

*cotised Sable, and holding in its mouth a rose leaved and slipped of the second*; beneath the shield the words 'Jacobus Dyer Miles, Capitatis Justice de banco . . . . .', the last words being too much worn to be read; a shield *Sable, a cross engrailed Or*, with five quarterings, and impaling *Or, a Greyhound courant Sa, between three plates, all within a bordure engrailed Argent*, quartering *Gules, three garbs Or*; and a shield *Gules, a cross flory Or*, with many quarterings.

In the garden an ancient stoup (or mortar), and the upper part of a fine sepulchral monument carved with the head of an ecclesiastic with pastoral staff under a cinquefoiled canopy of Early English date, are said to have come from the destroyed Church of Dillington.

Great Staughton Church (St. Andrew) was next visited; and here, again, the Revd. H. G. Watson described the building,<sup>1</sup> which consists of chancel with vestry and chapel on north, nave with two aisles, clerestory, and south porch, and a fine western tower.

Notwithstanding that the church is mentioned in Domesday Book, under the name of Tochestone, there are apparently no remains older than the Thirteenth Century, of which date are the whole of the walls of the chancel, both the responds of the south arcade, and parts of the columns on both sides, so that the church was evidently about the same size in those days as it is now. Of the chancel one of the E.E. windows remains in the north wall, but the others are all insertions of various dates. Against the north wall is a large and rich double monument to the Dyers. The parapets are poor, and there is a modern cross on the east gable; but on the gable over the chancel arch there is a simple bell-cot and sanctus bell.

The vestry is quite plain, but the parapet is inscribed **H?**  
**Do: 1526: E: REC:**

The Gaynes Chapel, on the north side of the Chancel, has a charming little bay window on its north side, bearing the arms of the Engaine, Barnack and Stonham families. A Perpendicular window in the east wall is blocked up by the Handasyd monument. Upon an altar tomb to Sir James Beverley, Knight, who died in 1670, there now rest an old helmet and a pair of gauntlets.

The nave is of five bays; the arches of the arcades are simply chamfered and are carried by circular columns, the caps and bases of which are in some cases Early English, and in others Perpendicular. The clerestory has five plain Perpendicular two-lights on each side. The rood stairs are on the south, and both the upper and lower doors remain. The north aisle is Perpendicular, but the south aisle is of late Decorated date and has two-light and three-light windows of good reticulated design. The south door has jamb shafts with good carved caps. The monument to George Wauton, *equus auratus*, who died in 1606, occupies a large space at the eastern end of the south wall, and is

1. See pp. 23-28 and 33-42 *ante*.

surmounted by his coat of arms and crest; Quarterly, 1. *Argent, a chevron and in the dexter chief an annulet Sable.* (Wauton). 2. *Gules, a lion rampant crowned Or.* (? *Vair argent and azure.*) (Marmion?). 3. *Argent, a chevron between three mullets Gules.* (de Cretings). 4. *Sable, on a bend Gules, three goats Or.* (Chendercotts?). The crest, *a plume of seven ostrich feathers, the 1st, 3rd, and 6th Sable, the 2nd and 4th Argent, and the 5th and 7th Vert.*

The font now stands at the crossing of the central aisles of the church; the bowl is E.E. and was buried for thirty-five years in front of the Wauton Monument, but was dug up in 1902 and re-erected on a modern stem and base.

The wooden screen under the tower-arch is composed partly of the panels of an old pulpit, and partly of an ancient seat-back; the latter bears the inscription "**Of your charyty pray for the good Astate of Olyver Leder and Frances hys wife, Anno Dni 1539.**"

The south porch is of late Decorated date and of similar character to the aisle.

The tower is a fine specimen of Perpendicular design; it has a band of quatrefoils along the plinth, and the west door is enclosed in a square with traceried spandrels. The west window is a good four-light, and the belfrey windows are double two-lights with transoms; and above these there is an embattled parapet with crocketed pinnacles at the angles.

Nearly opposite the west end of the church is Place House, which is said to be the Manor-house of the Manor of Beachamsted. This was the house of Oliver Leder and Frances his wife; they both died in 1557, when their property passed to Thomas Baldwin, uncle of Frances. The Baldwins sold it before 1560, to Sir James Dyer, in whose family it remained for several generations, and subsequently passed, partly by purchase and partly by descent, to the Walter family, who held it from 1741 to 1823, in which year they sold it to Sir James Duberly, the ancestor of the present owner.

The house is built of red brick, some parts being plastered and coloured with yellow-wash; some of the windows are ancient, with mullions and hoodmoulds, this is especially the case at the eastern end of the north and south fronts, but the western end and centre have sash windows of about the Eighteenth Century. The western end has a kind of cloister or covered shed with three plain arches carrying the upper part of the house. The chimneys are of brick, and the roofs are tiled.

There is a spacious circular staircase towards the eastern end of the house, leading out of a hall by the back door; it is of oak, and has a stout centre-newel. At the other end of the house there is a staircase of Eighteenth Century date, with twisted balusters and carved ends to the steps. It is said that the house was once much larger, and that it was partly destroyed by fire in the reign of Charles I, and that other parts have been pulled down subsequently.

The Visitation of the Herald in 1613 records three coats of arms (*Leder's*) in the windows of this house; these do not now appear to exist, but arms of some of the subsequent owners (Dyers, &c.) were removed to Gaynes Hall after Sir James Duberly became the owner.

Portions of the moat still enclose the premises on the west and north.

Retracing their steps to that part of the Village called Staughton Highway, the party adjourned to Luncheon at the 'White Hart,' near which is a curious Sundial standing on a column, and having a gnomon on the east, west and south faces; and on the north face the date '1637' and the initials 'E.I.'

After Luncheon, the next place visited should have been the site of the Old Manor House of Great Staughton, sometimes called Cretingsbury; but it involved a long walk across the fields, and, the time having been somewhat encroached upon, it was omitted, and the party drove straight to Pertenhall, where the Church (SS. Peter and Paul), was described by the Rector, Revd. G. H. Mosley. It consists of a chancel, with vestry on north, nave with north aisle, south porch, and tower and spire at the west end. The walls of the chancel are chiefly of Early English date, and a priest's door of that period still remains in the south wall, but all the windows are later insertions.

On the north an Early English arch opened into the Lady Chapel, on the site of which now stands the Vestry; the ancient altar slab now lies on the floor.

The chancel arch is E.E., and so are the stones of the north arcade, but these latter have been rebuilt, and poor modern caps supplied to the columns. The arch between the north aisle and the Lady Chapel is of the same date. The windows of the nave and aisle are Perpendicular; and of this date also are the south porch, and the tower and spire.

There is a very good Perpendicular oak screen, well carved, and with some paint and gilt still remaining upon it; it is inscribed '**Transfigurano Domini Nostri Ihesu Christi.**' There are also a few old oak seats, but most of those that remained in the Church a few years ago have given place to modern open benches. The font is a good E.E. octagonal basin with caps for the shafts, but the shafts themselves are modern. There is a cross-legged effigy of a knight, in stone, in the north aisle, representing Richard Peyvre, who was Patron of the Living in 1272. The altar is Jacobean; and an oak chest in the vestry is dated 1640. The western end of the north aisle is encumbered by an ugly family vault.

The church was restored in 1894, until which date it possessed a good example of a *three-decker* pulpit.

The last Church visited was Swineshead (St. Nicholas) where the party were received by the Rector, Revd. J. G. Lansdale. Here Mr. S. Inskip Ladds described the Church, which is wholly of late Decorated Date, and is an unusually pretty example of a village church of the middle of the Fourteenth Century. It has a

chancel, nave with clerestory and two aisles, south porch, and west tower and spire. The east window of the chancel is modern, but there are two old brackets with carved heads, one on each side. In the north wall is a good Decorated tomb with a cusped arch, blocked up by the wall behind, out of which a door leads down some steps into a passage to the north aisle.

There are also in this wall two late Decorated two-lights; and two similar windows are in the south wall, but they have been very much restored, the tracery and jambs being almost entirely modern. The chancel windows all have jamb-shafts with carved caps, inside, and the eastern one on the south has a piscina formed in its eastern jamb and sedilia in the sill.

In the south wall also are a plain priest's door, and a low-side window now glazed with modern glass representing St. Nicholas and the children. The roof of the chancel is modern. The chancel arch is plain, and probably Perpendicular, but appears to have been spread out, and now rests upon corbels. Under it is a rather rich oak screen, bearing some signs of old paint. There is a door to the rood-loft on both sides; that on the north probably opened into the chamber over the sacristry, while the rood-stairs were on the south and came down into the south aisle.

The chancel has some stalls, mostly modern, but the miserere seats are ancient and are ornamented with some simple carving, all alike. On the floor is a slab with inscription in Lombardic letters:—**Richard: de: Aytrop: gist: ici: Dieu: de: salme: eyt: merci: Amen.** Another stone bears an incised cross and a mark which is incorrectly said to be intended for a paten.

The nave is of three bays, the arcades having octagonal columns with moulded caps and bases; the western pier on the north is a wall pier. The clerestory has four Perpendicular two-lights on each side. The roof is old and flat; at the west end is the inscription, I.H.W.D. 1706'; and at the east end the date '1841'; both evidently referring to some repairs.

The tower arch is plain, and is not on the central line of the nave, but much to the north.

The north aisle has square-headed two-lights and a plain door in the north wall; and a plain Perpendicular two-light at the west end. The chapel at the east end of this aisle has two Perpendicular single-lights, one above the other in the east wall; a defaced piscina on the south; and relieving arch (fireplace arch) and a plain aumbry in the north wall. Evidently this chapel was at one time the sacristry, and had a chamber over it. A somewhat similar arrangement existed at Thurning, in this county, a church which was also anciently dedicated to St. Nicholas, although for many years now known as St. James. In the east wall of the sacristry a plain door opens into the passage, already mentioned, leading to the chancel. This passage is built outside the church, and has a flat stone roof, but the vault is of brick, apparently modern, and no doubt a restoration. The floor is rather lower than the ground outside. There is a quatrefoil opening into the

outer air, about the height of a man's face ; it is now glazed, but is not grooved for the purpose.

The south aisle has three two-lights with pointed arches and flowing Decorated tracery ; and a door with small nich over it ; the door itself has had good tracery panelling, which is indicated by the marks left in the remains of ancient paint. There is a Perpendicular two-light in the west wall. The chapel at the east end of this aisle has a queer little piscina in the jamb of the easternmost window on the south side. It is said that the walls bear traces of mural painting, and that there is a richly ornamented marble nich ; but if these exist on the east wall they are completely hidden by a modern organ.

The roofs of the aisles are both of old oak, but quite plain ; and there are a few old oak benches. The font is a plain octagon. On the outside the whole church has a good carved cornice, below the embattled parapets, composed of faces and flowers with a flowing intertwined stem. The roofs are covered with lead, except the chancel which is partly of stone and partly of tiles.

The tower and spire are very graceful ; the west doorway has a double arch (the wall being thickened to form a shallow porch) the outer one with bold cusps, pinnacles, and pointed gable. The door itself has good oak tracery of flowing Decorated character. Over the door is a modern Perpendicular three-light.

The belfry windows are double two-lights ; and above them is a charming parapet formed with pierced quartrefoils, and with very large well carved gurgoyles at the angles ; these are now unfortunately much decayed.

On the west face of the tower are two doorways, one above the other : the lower one is a mere square opening, in the centre of the tower, and below what seems to be the line of a high pitched roof with a flat top, although it now opens very conveniently on to the present flat roof ; the other is more carefully formed, and has a pointed arch,—it stands on a level with the flat top of the roof just mentioned, but is somewhat to the south of it being very near the corner of the tower.

The spire has two tiers of lights on the cardinal faces ; the lowest are two-lights. There is a small plain doorway leading on to the parapet in the west face.

The old Rectory House, now a farm house, stands to the west of the Church. It is built partly of brick, and partly of timber and plaster, and has large overhanging roofs. It was here, that during some repairs in the year 1864, a copy of the Solemn League and Covenant, duly signed by the Rector (Mr. Whitehead,<sup>1</sup> and the men of Swineshead, was found hidden in the ceiling. Mr. Emery read a very interesting account of this episode, and the Rector exhibited the Parish Register which contains a record of it. The document, thus so curiously brought to light, is now preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge.

1. This is evidently an error of transcription ; Thomas Whitehand was Rector from 1639 to 1666.—Editor.

Amongst those taking part in this excursion were the Reverends A. J. Edmonds, H. G. Watson, G. E. Sharland, A. L. Grimley. Messrs. L. Newton, Wm. Emery, E. L. Watts, D. R. Tomson, S. Inskip Ladds, F. Christmas, H. E. Norris, A. Birdsall. Mrs. Hugall, Mrs. Sharland, Mrs. Yeatherd, Mrs. and Miss Walker, Miss Carnegie, Miss Nixon, Miss Squires, Miss Yeatherd.

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## The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE SESSION,  
1908-1909.

The number of Members of the Society has slightly decreased during the past Session; 7 have resigned and 4 new members have joined; the membership roll now standing at 80.

The Council, while attaching no importance to a slight fluctuation in the numbers, is of opinion, nevertheless, that after an existence of ten years the membership ought to be greater, and would impress upon Members the desirability of making known the Society and its objects, especially in their own neighbourhood, and so increasing its scope and usefulness.

The past Session has been an uneventful one; the Council has held four meetings, at which nothing more than the ordinary routine business has been transacted.

The arrangement made last year whereby the books belonging to the Society have been housed in the Archdeaconry Library at Huntingdon, appears to be working satisfactorily. The Society now possesses some 42 volumes and parts; being the Transactions and publications of other Archæological Societies, and a few books that have been presented by various donors, to whom the thanks of the Society are due.

Two excursions have been made during the Session; the first on Wednesday, May 27th, to Water Newton, Stibbington, Wansford, Thornhaugh, Wittering and Barnack; the second on Tuesday, September 14th, to Cambridge. To all those who contributed to the success of these visits, whether by making the arrangements, describing the various objects of interest, or otherwise, the Council desires to record its hearty thanks.

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