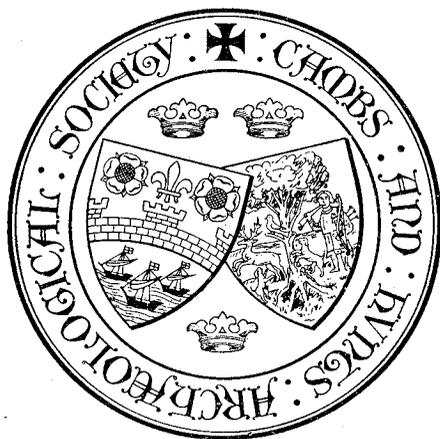


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PROCEEDINGS
OF
**The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.**

Thursday the 12th of September 1935 was the date of the Autumn Excursion.

The first visit was made to the Sturbridge Chapel. A small Norman Building, XII cent. dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, consisting of nave and chancel, it stands in a field beside the Cambridge-Newmarket Road on the outskirts of Barnwell. It was the chapel of a hospital for lepers.

Dr. Cobbett met the members and gave a very clear account, the Chapel has passed through many vicissitudes, first a Chapel to the Leper Hospital, then a place of worship without any lepers, perhaps after the dissolution, a residence, next a storehouse for furniture of the fair, a beer house and finally its purchase by the University Librarian and gift to the University, since when it has been repaired and used for Divine Services. He pointed out that the building was ornate, that the windows were decorated inside, the Chancel was once vaulted. The roof was an obvious misfit, some of the principal timbers overlapping the windows. The building would have repaid longer time than could be given. The next objective was the Fleam Dyke but the Secretary presumably scenting a Roman road nearly lead the convoy into the wilderness but they came out again and met Dr. Palmer at the Dyke on the Newmarket road. Walking up the pack horse tracks to Mutlow Hill, a round barrow which has been moved by Lord Braybrook, but in spite of this is still said to contain a golden charriot, then along the top of the Dyke where Dr. Palmer gave an account of the various excavations leading up to the dramatic moment when he found Romano British pottery on the soil beneath the dyke. Mr. Lethbridge also made a few remarks on the period and uses of the structure.

Balsham Church was next on the list, Canon Williams met the party at the south porch and after prayers pointed out the chief features. Chiefly perpendicular, there are fine Brasses 1401, and 1462. The Rood Screen with staircase and Stalls with misericords are worth noting; the Rood Screen can still be used.

Worsted Street had to be omitted and the party went straight to Linton where it took lunch in Dr. Palmer's beautiful garden, Beer, Cyder and soft drinks being his contribution to the picnic. After lunch the party led by Dr. Palmer, walked round Linton first to the old Market Place with its market cross now used as the Oddfellows hall and containing an eighteenth century fire engine below, then to the site of the old Manor House with its fish stew, and the Trinity Guild House with lovely timber work outside and in. The parish

Church was described fully by Dr. Palmer, there are two very good chests of 1631 and 1592, the latter has no lock but he alone knows how to open it, he also was the means of putting the very large fire hooks into a place of safety. The various monuments are interesting particularly that to Robert Millicent who after being a spy became unpopular and having been dressed in a bear skin was baited by dogs, he survived.

After the Church, the site of the old Vicarage was visited with its Dovecote made of cob, slabs of clay mixed with straw, this has stood wonderfully well except where water has got in. Then Dr. Palmer pointed out a number of old houses several of which have staircase wings, a separate wing projecting and so economising rooms inside the house. Rain now began, and tea was taken indoors at Richmonds. After the Secretary had expressed the thanks of the members to Dr. Palmer he again took the field accompanied by eighteen stalwarts to Chilford, the site of the Hundred Moot; the Clapper stile (a collapsing stile) and Little Linton manor house with triple moats, &c., thus concluding a most successful excursion, planned and carried out almost entirely by Dr. Palmer.

Summer Excursion, Tuesday, May 26th, 1936. Swaffham Bulbeck, Reach, Devils Dyke, Burwell.

At a little before 11 a.m. a number of members arrived at Swaffham Bulbeck.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. J. S. Stern met the party and described the Church. Principal features:—chiefly decorated with Early English Tower and Perpendicular Clerestory, carved Bench ends and Popey heads, XV. cent. chest, probably Italian. Ref. The Collector, July, 1930, by Lady Walston.

He also told how the Vicar was the confessor of the Lay Rector, (the Prioress and Nuns of Swaffham), but they frequently disputed about such financial matters as tithe. The iron work on the north door was worth notice and perhaps Dr. Palmer's suggestion that the XIV. cent. wood work on some of the rearmost benches was the remains of the Rood Screen is worthy of record.

Passing along Commercial End, which commemorates the use of the Lode for transport, and noting old houses en route, the "Old Abbey" or Nunnery was visited by kind permission of Charles Allix, Esq. and described by Dr. Palmer. This was a Benedictine House founded by Isobel de Bolbec; it consisted of a Prioress and six Nuns only, but they made up for their lack of numbers by their aristocratic connections. The lower part of a building with vaulted roof and part of a wall are all that remain; the upper story which is still inhabited is a later addition (Ref. Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc. XXXI. p. 30 by W. M. Palmer).

Dr. Palmer talking over the gate, described the life of the aristocratic ladies and the probable ultimate history of the last Prioress "Dame Jane" who apparently may have married the Vicar after the dissolution. The income was £40 per annum and her pension £6 13s. 4d. The lower part of the building was inspected as well as the graffiti of XVIII. cent. ships, described by Mr. Brindly. The former use of the vaulted chamber is unknown but it would appear not to be an undercroft. Next on to Reach where Mr. Lethbridge was seen on the Dyke; he spoke about its origin, but did not commit himself as to its use.

At Reach the Dyke ends, but can be traced right to the fen, down the more easterly of two lanes. Reach Lode is seen here.

Lunch was now taken, as time had progressed rather too rapidly for the programme, and on the way to Burwell, Mr. Lethbridge pointed out where the cuttings were made which brought to light the Roman pottery on the old land-surface beneath the Dyke.

At Burwell the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Walpole Sayer, B.D. met the party and described the Church. A fine example of Perpendicular work, it also contains traces of earlier work; there is a crypt under the east end. In the centre of the Chancel floor is a brass to Laurence de Wardeboys, last Abbot of Ramsey, which has been altered in character, presumably owing to his having ceased to be Abbot.

The Norman work in the tower, the buttresses with what looked like Norman windows in them, and the reversible brass were perhaps the most interesting items. Nearly everyone went into the "Crypt" which has two four-centred arches and much coal and cinders.

Then walking across the Churchyard, Mr. Lethbridge, having first told the members of the supposed Keep, Castle, Catapult emplacements, and Assault bridge, explained that excavation showed the Keep to be a small house, the Emplacement dumps of material from the ditch, the Castle was non-existent and the Assault bridge unremoved chalk, where the fosse had not been excavated. After a thorough exploration, the next point of assembly was Dr. Lucas' house, where everyone desired Tea before work. Dr. Lucas' "Tea Party" was held in his garden, a marked difference from last year's Summer Excursion, which had a snowstorm. Dr. Lucas then showed his collection of pre-historic objects of Stone, Bronze, and Bone, including the pewter Tazza found near Reach at the site of the Villa where Dr. Foxe's trenches were cut across the Dyke. After the Secretary had thanked Dr. Lucas for the very kind hospitality, the party separated.