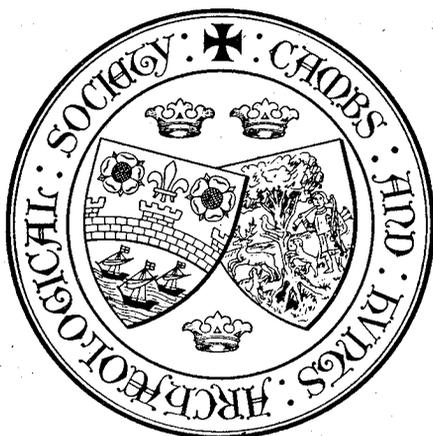


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EDITED BY THE REV. E. H. VIGERS, M.A.
RECTOR OF ABBOTS RIPTON WITH LITTLE STUKELEY, HUNTS.

Cly

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PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

The Autumn Excursion 1937 was held on September 14th.

Crowland Abbey was visited first. The Rector, the Rev. E. A. Barrett met the party and described the Church, which consists of the north aisle of the Abbey Church. The Abbey was founded in 716 on the site of the hermitage of St. Guthlac. The arms are three whips and three knives, the whip was given to St. Guthlac by St. Bartholomew to chastise the devils of the aisle and the knife signifies St. Batholomew's martyrdom by Flaying. Perhaps the most interesting feature is the statuary on the west front. The building is of the Norman and Early English periods with Perpendicular additions. There is a Norman as well as a Perpendicular Font. Plate, a Chalice dated 1699—1700.

Next on to the Crowland Triangular Bridge. "Pons triangulum" is spoken of in a charter of A.D. 943. The present structure is fourteenth century and was for foot passengers only, once no doubt streams flowed beneath it. The figure on the bridge is probably that of our Lord which stood in the centre of the west gable of the Abbey. The road to Thorney was taken and en route St. Kenulphs Cross (on the map St. Vincents Cross) was examined. This is on the west side of the road to Thorney, about two miles away. It is one of the boundary stones of the Crowland property, these were first put up in Abbot Turketyl's time (941), it bears the arms of the Abbey. By kind permission of Mr. Sutton, picnic luncheon was taken here.

Thorney. The Vicar, the Rev. B. G. Parsons described the Church, which is dedicated to SS. Mary and Botolph. This like Crowland began as a hermitage, it was called Ancarig and here lived Tatwin who took Guthlac to Crowland. In 972 it was refounded as a Benedictine monastery, and later the Abbot was mitred. The present church consists of part of the nave of the Abbey Church with added transepts of "modern" Norman, there was a considerable earlier restoration in 1638. The style apart from these is Norman with Perpendicular additions. In 1640 a licence was granted to Stephen de Cursal to preach in French or Latin to the French Huguenots who came to work at fen drainage under the Duke of Bedford, their Register ends 1727. There is a mural brass to the Rev. Father Ezekiel Danois, of Compiègne, the French Pastor. Plate, Cup 1709, Paten 1750.

Whittlesey was the next place to be visited. The Rector, the Rev. G. H. Dyer Wright described the Church which is dedicated to St. Mary. The Chancel is Perpendicular, nave and S. porch chiefly Decorated, two Norman pillars in the north arcade. Tower and

Spire fifteenth century. There is a second Piscina showing that the Church was lengthened. There is a "bone house" under part of the south aisle.

Then the party went on to the "Fen Road," Eldernell with some rough walking over recently ploughed land. This Roman road ran from Durobriviae to Denver where it joined the Cambridge-Brancaster road, it has been dug away a good deal and that quite recently, I have a piece of the wood which lay on the fen below the gravel of the road. In a manuscript note by Mr. Little (b. 1832) is the following: "Through Eldernell ran a Roman road connecting the Roman Stations of Brancaster in Norfolk and Castor, near Peterborough. On the fenland, a layer of faggots formed the foundation, next came a layer of rough ragstone then a coat of gravel three feet thick, which with time had become almost as solid as rock and was quarried for road repairs." White Cross Stone was seen on the south side of the road between Eastrea and Coates on the way to Eldernell.

Portland House was seen after tea, and Miss Claypole very kindly took the small party over it.

The Summer Excursion was held on Tuesday, May 17th, 1938.

The first place visited was the Cambridge Castle Site. Dr. Palmer and Mr. Lethbridge described the site. The Castle mound is the motte of a Norman Castle built in 1068; the bailey included the present County Hall (Shire Hall) and part of the Law Courts. Between 1283 and 1306 Edward I. built one of his typical castles here, with curtain wall and gate-house, remains of the latter still visible. With the exception of the gate-house King Edward's castle had disappeared by 1642 when the earthwork was remodelled by order of Parliament; one bastion of this work remains unaltered. Mr. Lethbridge described the Roman and Saxon occupation of the site. Showing how much of the soil had been removed and no trace of Saxon and Danish occupation left, but there were evidences of a rectangular Roman camp with Belgic and early Roman pottery as well as fourth century ware in wells, &c.

Cambridge and County Folk Museum was next visited. Founded 1936, in the White Horse Inn, Castle Street, maintained and managed by Cambridge Folk Museum Association. The Hon. Curator, Miss Catherine Parsons, showed the party over the Museum, which contains a great number of objects illustrating daily life of people in the town and county, arranged in rooms furnished as Bar Parlour (open hearth, bottles, weapons, etc.), Kitchen, Men's Room (clothing, pipes, etc.), Market Dining-Room, Ladies' Work-room, Children's Room; Inn Yard contains carriages, fire-engines, large agricultural implements, &c.

Lunch was taken at Matthew's Café, Trinity Street and enjoyed as a light interval.

Then to King's College Chapel. Mr. Saltmarsh explained the newly-discovered solution of the mysterious royal monogram on the organ screen, and other little-known features of the building. The monogram spelt out the names of Henry VIII. and Anne. The beauty of the wood carving was appreciated the more for Mr. Saltmarsh's expert demonstration.

Next to Trinity Hall. Mr. Clarke and Mr. Crawford pointed out the various features. Founded in 1350 by William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich. The fabric includes fourteenth century and other early work, some of which has been rediscovered during recent alterations. The Library (Elizabethan) contains original desks with staples for

chaining books. Front court refaced with ashlar in eighteenth century, east range rebuilt in 1852. Members were shown over the building by Mr. L. C. G. Clarke, who kindly invited them to take tea in the College at 4 p.m. This proved an elegant "physical" entertainment well matching the archæology of the rest of the day's proceedings and the Secretary tried to voice these feelings in returning thanks to Mr. Clarke for his very kind hospitality.

After Tea to the Old Schools. The original quadrangle was begun in the fourteenth century, completed about 1475; contained the Regent House, the Schools of Divinity, Medicine, Law, and Arts, and the University Library; in later years the Library spread through the whole building, bookcases and other woodwork were installed, and many alterations and reconstructions made. Since the building of the new University Library the Old Schools have been internally restored and replanned and many interesting features have been revealed. The plaster ceiling in the Regent House and the hammer-beam roof in the South Room, with coloured wooden figures, constructed in 1467 by William Harward and William Bakon, are particularly worthy of attention.

Lastly to Merton Hall, called School of Pythagoras. The house was visited by kind permission of Lord Rothschild. The oldest part of house, a large stone range running east and west, is the earliest example of domestic architecture in Cambridge. Built in latter half of twelfth century by a man named Dunning or by one of his sons, acquired in 1270 by Walter of Merton, becoming part of considerable property held in Cambridge by Merton College, Oxford. Part of north wing added early in thirteenth century; many subsequent additions and alterations, but during recent tenancies its most interesting features have been carefully repaired and preserved.

This concluded a very satisfactory Excursion arranged by Miss O'Reilly and Mr. Saltmarsh.