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HUNTINGDONSHIRE WINDMILLS

BY C. F. TEBBUTT.

(Continued).

DRAINAGE WINDMILLS.

One of the most characteristic features of the Fenland landscape of a hundred years ago was the Drainage Windmill. From places like Ramsey St. Mary's, dozens, large and small, could be seen. Now hardly one remains, even in a mutilated state.

The history of windmill drainage in the Huntingdonshire Fens has been adequately dealt with by Dr Darby in Volume III. of the *Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire* (The Middle Level of the Fens and its Reclamation) and it need not be repeated here except in very brief form.

Soon after the main Fenland drainage works had been completed in the second half of the 17th century, difficulties began to appear owing to the shrinkage of the peat-fen. As this became acute the river beds remained high and dry above the surrounding land that they were intended to drain, and the Fens threatened to revert to their former state of marsh. To save the situation some form of mechanical means had to be employed to raise the water from the low level field dykes up into the main drains and rivers. At that time the windmill was the obvious expedient, and by the beginning of the 18th century, very many had been set up. Throughout the 18th century and into the 19th, the windmill fought a gradually losing battle against the shrinking Fenland, as it was required to throw the water up higher and higher into the main rivers. The adaptation of the steam engine to take the place of the windmill undoubtedly saved the Fens from ruin but caused the practical extinction of this picturesque feature of the otherwise dreary Fenland prospect. Old prints of the Fens, and particularly the illustrated copies of Heathcote's *Reminiscences of Fen and Mere*, depict these ageing mills, mostly of the "Smock" variety.

The few of which traces remained when the Windmill Survey was made in 1933 are described below. Unfortunately no example remains in Huntingdonshire of the once numerous small type, but one from Benwick, less than a mile over the border, is illustrated.

HIGNEY MILL. This mill of the "Tower" type was built about 1877 (an unusually late date) by the Woodwalton Fen Drainage Board. It drained the cultivated parts of Woodwalton Fen into the Mouks Lode, on the right bank of

which it stood. It was used until about 1924 and was run by Mr. Lines. Since then it has been replaced by a steam engine and the tower pulled down to a mere stump.

Like many Fenland mills it is situated in a lonely spot only approachable by foot on land, navigation along the Monks Lodge being the normal route for heavy traffic. In the great flood of 1912 Mr. Lines woke up to find 8 feet of water in his house and nothing to be seen but water for a mile or more around.

The tower was of brick and tarred and the sail drove a 28 foot water wheel.

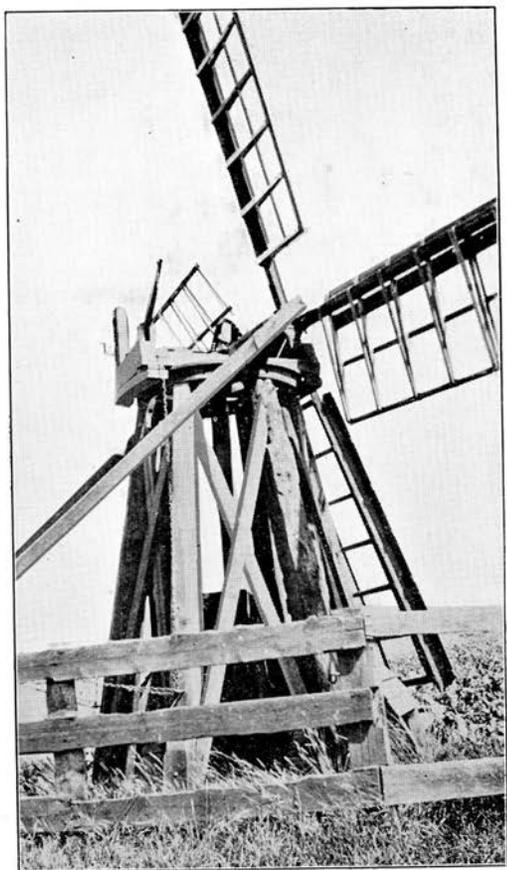
RAMSEY MERE MILL. This mill was built on the banks of the Old Nene near Forty Foot and at the edge of the one time Ramsey Mere, the area of which it drained. It was a tower mill of tarred bricks, but without fantail, and was luffed by a wiuch. There are three floors above ground level, the first two with plastered ceilings, and on the ground floor is a large fireplace. The engineer would have to spend many nights and days in this lonely spot only approached by water or on foot along a mile of bank. A man named Thresher worked the Mill sometime prior to 1914. He used to drive down in a pony and cart along the bank. One day the cart turned over into the river and he was drowned.

The Mill is now derelict with the sails, cap and water wheel gone. It has a wooden brake-wheel and brake, and a square oak upright shaft that descends to the ground floor where two upright pitch pine baulks support a cross piece on which its bottom bearing is fixed. It had four single sails.

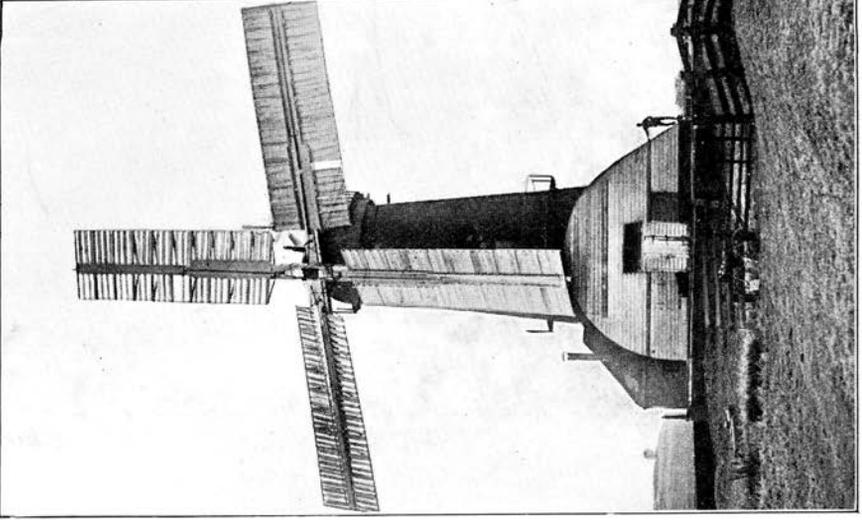
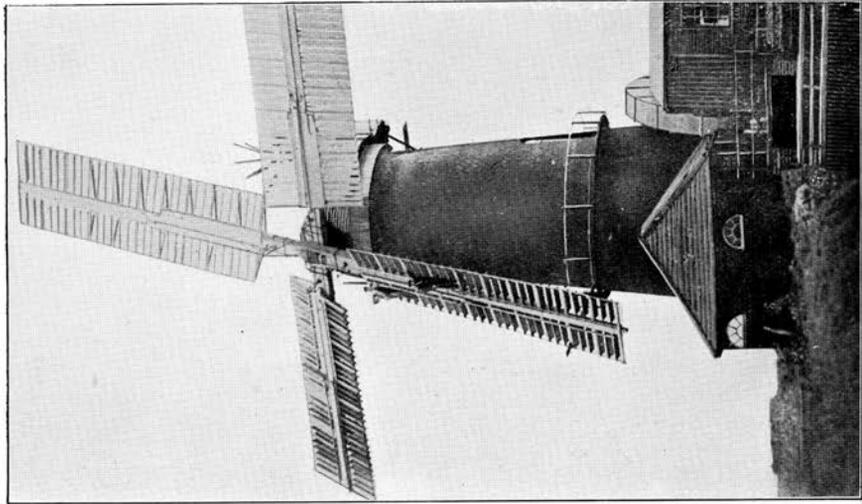
LOTING FEN MILL. RAMSEY HEIGHTS. This Mill stands in Loting Fen at Ramsey Heights and near the famous Woodwalton Fen Nature Reserve. It was built for the Loting Fen Commissioners. Since about 1870 a steam engine has replaced wind power, but this is out of use as shrinkage of the peat has caused the water wheel to be now 2 feet above the necessary level. The mill has a brick tower, a boat shaped cap, and had apparently both fantail and pole luffing gear.

UGG MERE MILL. RAMSEY ST MARY'S. The remains of this Mill consist of part only of the brick tower made into a cottage of two stories, that is now owned by the County Council. It was built by Lord de Ramsey on a large mound on the banks of the Old Nene to drain the area of Ugg Mere. Since 1899 it has been replaced by a steam engine and the engineer lives in the cottage made out of the tower.

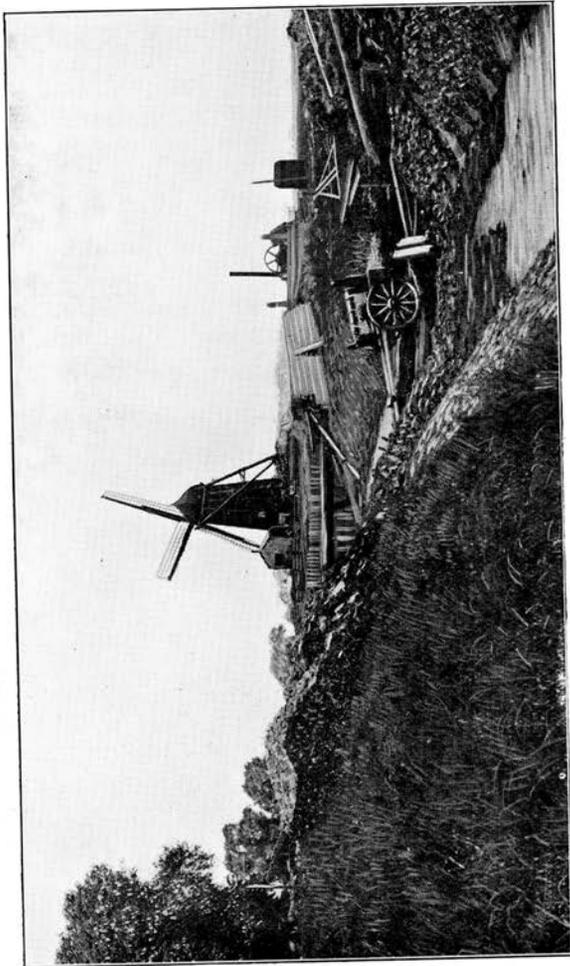
I have to gratefully acknowledge the loan of blocks used to illustrate the *Huntingdonshire Victoria County History* by the London University Institute of Historical Research.



SMALL PUMPING MILL AT BENWICK, CAMBS., 1933.



HIGNEY MILL, ON MONKS' LODGE, WOOD WALTON FEN, 1910. NOW DEMOLISHED.



RAMSEY MERE MILL, BEFORE 1914. NOW DISMANTLED.

(Reproduced by kind permission of Mr. John H. Freeman, Ramsey).



LOTING FEN PUMPING MILL, RAMSEY HEIGHTS, 1933.

CREMATION BURIAL GROUP FROM GODMANCHESTER.

BY J. R. GARROOD, M.D.

This site was on Porch Farm, west of Ermine Street, south of the farm buildings, near the west hedge of the field adjoining the road. Mr. Dawks, of Alconbury Weston, gathered as much of the pottery and bones as he was able in 1940. The most complete vessel is a large flagon, the upper part of which has been broken away; it contained the bones—for a small fragment adhered to the interior. I suggest that this is the burial of a poor person whose cinerary urn was a broken flagon, the other vessel being represented by fragments. There is one tooth preserved, the only bone recognisable. Mr. T. P. Brown, L.D.S., has examined it and is of the opinion that it is a right upper molar, 1st or 2nd, of the permanent dentition of a person over 14 years old and possibly a female; it is very small but this is perhaps accounted for by the burning. There is also a small piece of iron.

POTTERY.

1. The flagon containing the bones has evidently been amputated just above the junction of the handle with the body, it stands 9 in. high, the maximum diameter is 8.2 ins., and that of the base, which is slightly hollow, 3 in. It is of cream coloured sandy paste and surface.

2. The upper part of a screw neck flagon, the upper ring is much larger than the others. The handle has two ribs and springs from 1 in. below the neck. Of pale cream paste and surface. First half of the second century.

3. Part of rim and shoulder of a large ovate high shouldered storage vessel, everted moulded rim, one cordon on the neck and a shallow burnished groove at its junction with the body, and a band of diagonal lines from cordon to groove. Diameter at rim 7 in. Of brown sandy paste and surface, inner surface much eroded.

4. Portion of rim of similar brown vessel which was 10 in. in diameter.

5. Two slightly hollowed bases of vessels with circumferential grooves, 3 in. and 2.2 in. diameter. Hard brown pottery, the general shape showing evidence of Iron Age C influence, probably first century.

6. Fragment of the lower portion of a red, shell gritted, hand made, vessel with some vertical combing. The diameter of the slightly hollow base is 4 in.

106 CREMATION BURIAL, GROUP FROM GODMANCHESTER.

7. Part of rim and shoulder of pot 5 in. diameter at the rim with a shallow girth groove just below the shoulder and an everted rim. Of hard red-brown pottery showing the effect of fire on the outside. In the Iron Age C tradition. First Century.

8. Fragment of small angled rim 4 in. diameter. Set off just below rim. Grey paste, darker grey surface.

9. Part of a mortarium 13 in. diameter; the bead is just below the upper level of the rim. First to second century.

In addition to the human bones there were fragments of those of ox and pig.

The probable date of this burial is early second century as shown by the form of the small flagon neck. There are several vessels of the first century but these are either survivals or may not belong to the burial.

LATE SAXON AND EARLY MEDIÆVAL POTTERY IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

BY J. R. GARROOD, M.D.

The interval between the Roman and Mediæval periods is always attractive and our ignorance of the period is so great that I feel justified in publishing the following pottery sections in order that they may perhaps help to fill the gap. Messrs. Lethbridge and Tebbutt have published three papers on the subject (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.* XXXIII., XXXV., XXXVIII.) and I am indebted to them for most of my ideas on the matter. Their term "Late Saxon" is retained.

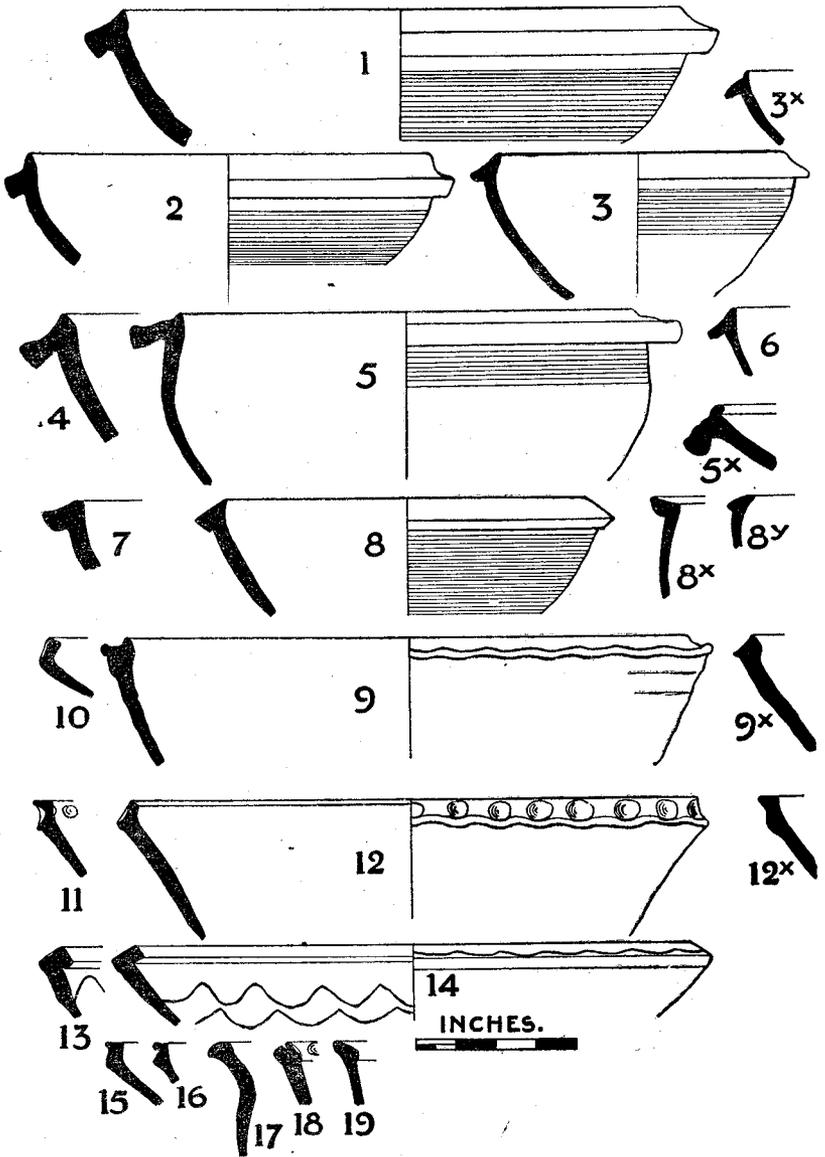
The characteristics of this pottery are soft paste gritted with shell, and a form not quite Roman in the one group, nor obviously Mediæval in the other. I have added a few Roman and Mediæval sections for convenient comparison.

The first group (Nos. 1—8) is of unknown stratification and comes from Romano-British sites which also contain Mediæval pottery in the upper layers, and their appearance suggests a Roman origin, although their rough finish and shape suggest a late and degenerate form.

The second group consists chiefly of pancheons or bowls and comes from Salome Lodge, Leighton, an occupation site containing also Iron Age and Romano-British materials as well as a Mediæval Chapel (*Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc.*, V., 385—390; VI., 66—74). Over a good deal of this site there was a stony floor at about one foot with, usually, mediæval objects above and R.-B. beneath; in my notes on the figures I have inserted adjacent datable pottery where possible.

The rim sections bear a resemblance to the inturned "late Saxon" specimens from St. Neots (C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.* XXXIII.) but I do not think any had sagging bases, though most are wanting as might be expected, for the vessels are thin for their size.

The paste is coarse, full of shell and badly mixed, the surfaces are smoothed over—though perhaps finished on a wheel; they are clumsily formed, finger or thumb impressions being of frequent occurrence. Shelly grit does not appear to be exclusively confined to any of the periods at Salome Lodge. Shells of the edible mussel occur in the upper layers associated with the Mediæval period, while oyster is found with Roman objects.



LATE SAXON AND EARLY MEDIÆVAL POTTERY.

Descriptions of specimens. All except No. 20 are merely rim fragments. (Plate 1).

FIRST GROUP.

1. Heavy flange-rimmed bowl, grey paste, greyish buff surface, shell gritted, horizontal tool marks on outside. Diam. 14 in. From Godmanchester.

2. Flange-rimmed bowl, 10 in. diam., grey paste and surface, shell grit, horizontal tool marks. From central part of Godmanchester.

3. Bowl with small flange rim, 7 in. diam., grey paste and surface, shell gritted, slight horizontal tool marks. From Godmanchester.

4. Bowl with thick flange hollow above, here decorated with zig-zag line, 14 in. diam., grey paste, brown surface, shell grit, tool marks. From Somersham, (C. F. Tebbutt, *Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc.*, IV., 310).

5. Bowl with thick flange, hollow above, 14 in. diam., grey paste and surface, shelly grit, tool marks outside. From Little Fen, Bluntisham.

6. Bowl with flange similar to No. 3, 8 in. diam., grey paste, brown surface, mixed shell and stony grit. From Little Fen, Bluntisham.

7. Coarse heavy flanged rim with nearly flat top, slightly ribbed, over 14 in. diam., drab paste and surface, partly blackened by fire, much coarse shell grit. From Hail Weston.

8. A bevelled rim, 9 in. diam., light red surface with grey core, some shelly grit, ribbing on the body. From the central part of Godmanchester.

The following Romano-British types are illustrated for convenient comparison:—

5x. Reeded flanged mortarium from Stocking Close. (*Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc.*, V., 190—191, Fig. 49)

3x. A bowl from the same. (*Ibid.* Fig. 45).

8y. A bowl from the same. (*Ibid.* Fig. 46).

The SECOND GROUP, having a more mediæval appearance.

9. Pancheon with hollow rim and wavy moulding, over 14 in. diam., dark brown to black outside, red inside, paste grey and shelly, smooth surface. From Salome Lodge, trench 5, just beneath the pavement which has green glazed pottery above it and no Romano-British near it.

10. Inbent, thumb-printed rim, red surface, red shelly paste. Salome Lodge, 17b, at 10 in. deep, green glazed pottery found above and Castor below.

11. Similar, from Salome Lodge, 40, at 8 in. deep, Samian as well as Mediæval pottery near it.

12. Similar to No. 9, with well marked thumb prints on the inbent hollow rim, more than 14 in. across. From

Salome Lodge, 17b, at 9 in., green glaze at 7 and 8 in., Castor ware at 1 ft. 6 in., R.-B. pie dish at 1 ft. 1 in.

13. Rectangular inbent rim, thumb prints above, incised zig-zag line inside black to brown surface and grey shelly paste. Salome Lodge, 18, at 1 ft. 6 in., Mediæval pottery found above, Samian at the same level, Castor and a mortarium at 2 ft. 7 in. and 2 ft. 9 in.

14. Similar rim with zig-zag above as well as inside body, no thumb prints. Salome Lodge, 18, at 1 ft. 7 in., green glaze above, Samian and other R.-B. pottery below.

15. Inbent rather angular rim expanded at the top, slight finger prints on the shoulder, brownish red outside, red inside, shelly paste, smooth surface. From Salome Lodge, 5, found in the stony pavement at about 1 ft., green glaze above, R.-B. below.

16. Small fragment similar, from Salome Lodge, 17b, at 1 ft., R.-B. pottery at 1 ft. 7 in. and 1 ft. 10 in.

17. Part of rim of an olla thickened and everted, red surface, grey shelly paste. From Salome Lodge, 35, at 1 ft. 8 in., glazed pottery at 1 ft., Castor, 1 ft. 9 in.

18. Thickened rim which has a vertical groove on the upper face, the inner wall of which carries finger prints inside, chocolate surface, grey shelly paste, and a few mica particles. Salome Lodge, 35, at 1 ft. 6 in., green glaze at 1 ft. 3 in., Samian at 2 ft. 3 in. and 1 ft. 6 in.

19. A plain thickened rim bevelled inside, smooth black outside, brown within, brown shelly paste. From Salome Lodge, 17b, at 11 in.

20. The only bowl of its type which I have been able to reconstruct, it comes from Salome Lodge, 38, at 1 ft. 7 in., and most of the pottery here was mediæval, there was however, a small fragment of a flanged rim which might be Roman, at 2 ft. 1 in. The diameter at the rim is 16.5 in. and height 4.5 in.; the rim is similar to No. 15 but there are circular stamp impressions on the small shoulder. (Plate 2).

The following are of hard mediæval pottery but similar in design to the above:—

8x. Angular rim, brown paste, hard grey surface. From site of the Hippodrome Kinema, Huntingdon.

9x. Square inturned rim flattened above, hard buff paste with a little shell, black outside, dull red within. Salome Lodge, 4, at 1 ft. 6 in.

12x. Similar rim to No. 12, without finger print ornament, hard grey paste, little grit, grey outside, dull red within. From the site of the Hippodrome Kinema, Huntingdon.



EARLY MEDIEVAL PANCHEON, SALOME LODGE, LEIGHTON.

BISHOP HOTHAM'S MONUMENT AND THE SHRINE OF ST. ETHELDREDA, AT ELY.

BY S. INSKIP LADDS, A.R.I.B.A.

In 1770, the Dean and Chapter of Ely moved the Choir Stalls from their ancient position under the Octagon, and the Altar from the western bay of the Choir, and put them into the Presbytery. In 1852, they moved them again and put the stalls into the three bays of Bishop Hotham's Choir, and the Altar into the third bay from the east of the Presbytery. These removals involved most unfortunate displacement of the shrines and monuments of the Saints, Bishops and others, and in some cases it is now difficult to identify the stones with certainty.

It is perhaps correct to say that none of the monuments suffered more disastrously than did that of Bishop Hotham, and in order to understand the matter thoroughly it is necessary to turn one's thoughts back and to compare our knowledge of to-day's condition with such information as we may glean from documents, pictures and the stones themselves.

One of the things which has led to more confusion than anything else, is the fact that the canopy of Bishop Hotham's tomb is too short for the tomb itself, which it does not cover properly. This fact seems to have caused so much concern about 1855, that the Authorities of those days came to the conclusion that the two structures could not have had anything to do with each other, and they removed the tomb from under the canopy and set it up on the other side of the Choir, and, having no monument for St. Etheldreda, they concluded that this canopy must have been the substructure of her shrine, although a very little consideration ought to have shown them that neither in dignity nor magnificence is it at all suitable.

Moreover, if they had looked to Bentham's History, they would have seen a picture of Bishop Hotham's tomb with the canopy over it, as it stood before the removal of the of the Choir Stalls and Altar to the east end.¹ At first sight, this picture is rather puzzling, because it shows the tomb built into a thin wall at one end, against which wall the canopy abuts. This, however, should not have troubled

1. Bentham, History of the Cathedral Church of Ely. Plate XVIII.

them, because it must be remembered that Bishop Hotham died before the rebuilding of the Choir was completed, and was buried behind the Choir Altar. It seems evident that the monks built his tomb before the Altar with its screen-wall was set up, and then, finding that they had left no room for the screen-wall, they solved the difficulty by building the wall with an arched opening over the end of the tomb. Some years later, when they decided to erect a canopy over the tomb, this was butted up against the screen-wall, and therefore was not so long as the tomb which it was supposed to cover.

Another difficulty is that the canopy seems to be too low for the tomb, even without the alabaster effigy,—the Purbeck marble shafts supporting it should have been a foot or two higher. That this condition is not due to its removal in 1770, is proved by Bentham's picture which clearly shows it so in 1767; but of course, it might have been due to post-Reformation disturbance.

Writing of Bishop Hotham's tomb, Bentham says "a magnificent tomb was erected over him, with his Effigies in Alabaster; it was adorned with a sumptuous Branch, for seven Tapers, on the top of it; and in the several compartments on the sides and east end, adorned with sculpture, representing the History of the Creation and Fall of Man; and many other decorations: the tomb still remains, but much defaced, and divested of the above mentioned ornaments: instead whereof is placed on the top of it a kind of wooden ornament, and a modern Inscription, (wrote about the time of Q. Elizabeth, or K. James I.) with a wrong date of his death, and mentioning part of his munificence to the Church; but falsely ascribing to him the building of the Dome and Lantern;"¹

Archdeacon Chapman² seems to have thought that the sculpture was on the "Branch" or candelabrum, which, quoting the Lambeth MS. 448, he describes as "seven candelabra springing in a beautiful manner from one stem and around images of man's creation and ejection from Paradise, four images there were also of armed Kings and four dragons at the four parts of the structure."

The stonework of the tomb certainly does not show any sign of these 'images,'—the smaller panels have had little statues in them, but the one which remains is not an 'armed King,' and there is no sign of 'four dragons'; it seems more probable that all this imagery was upon the base of a bronze candelabrum. It should be said, however,

1. Bentham, p. 158, also pl. XVIII. and Appendix No. XXXVI., (page 48).
2. F. R. Chapman, *The Sacrist Rolls of Ely*, I., p. 96.

that Dean Stubbs thought that it was upon the tomb.¹ He further says that the tomb was surmounted by a stately canopy and watching loft upon which stood the candelabrum. It is difficult to recognise the canopy as a watching-loft, nor does it seem possible that it could support a heavy candelabrum. Some years later the Dean seems to have changed his mind, for, although he still uses the same words in describing the tomb on the south side of the Choir², in writing of the canopy on the north side³ he speaks of it as "the substructure of St. Etheldreda's shrine as renewed by Alan de Walsingham."

As we see it today, the tomb with its panelled sides now divested of its imagery, carries a heavy Purbeck marble slab upon which may have rested the alabaster effigy of the Bishop; there are, however, no signs of this, but there are six large iron staples which may have been used to hold down an iron grid or 'hearse' similar to that over the effigy of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in Warwick Church.⁴ These staples are fixed considerably nearer to the eastern end of the slab than to the western end, which shows that the screen-wall had been built before they were fixed. We seem to have a reference to the hearse in the Sacrist Rolls for 1341-1342: "For fitting ten bars above the tomb of Bishop John de Hotham, 7d."⁵

At Ely there was no general destruction of the effigies of Bishops and others at the Reformation, and yet the effigy of Bishop Hotham had disappeared before the removal of the Choir to the east end, as is shown by Bentham's picture which is dated 1767.

The tomb and the canopy were removed from their original place, behind the Choir Altar, in 1770, and set up under the fourth arch from the east on the north side of the Choir. When the choir was moved westward they were taken down, and the canopy, completely restored and one half of it entirely renewed, was, about 1885, re-erected under the same arch, but the tomb was removed to the third arch on the south side. This was done because at this time it had been decided that the canopy was the substructure of the shrine of St. Etheldreda, an identification which we apparently owe to William Burges.⁶

It certainly looks rather like the substructure of a shrine, but it seems very unlikely that those who destroyed the Saints' shrine would go to the trouble of re-erecting its substructure over the tomb of Bishop Hotham; they would

1. C. W. Stubbs, *Historical Memorials of Ely* (1897), p. 137.
 2. *Ibid.*, *Ely Cathedral Handbook*, (21st Edn. 1904) p. 165.
 3. *Ibid.*, pp. 158, 159.
 4. F. H. Crossley, *English Church Monuments*, pp. 35, 168.
 5. F. R. Chapman, *The Sacrist Rolls of Ely*, I., p. 117.
 6. Sir Gilbert Scott's Lecture, at the Bissexcentenary Festival. 1873. See 'St. Etheldreda's Festival,' by Dean Merrivale, p. 67.

have destroyed it entirely. It seems much more likely that Alan de Walsingham erected this somewhat singular structure as a canopy over Bishop Hotham's tomb after the work of rebuilding the Choir and Octagon was completed.

That some alteration was made in the canopy some time after the Reformation is evidenced by the inscription and by the wooden erection on the top, but both these alterations could be made without taking down the whole canopy.

Apart from the extreme improbability of the post-Reformation people rebuilding the canopy, there are other reasons for thinking that it is not the substructure of St. Etheldreda's shrine.

That there was a shrine or shrine-cover—in addition to the stone coffin into which St. Sexburga had placed her sister's body—is clear from the fact that the monks stripped off some of the silver plates to pay the fine inflicted upon Bishop Nigel by the King,¹ and that some thirty years later Bishop Geoffrey Ridel repaired the two sides and part of the covering with silver.² This shrine, which appears to have been a structure of 12th century date, and was, doubtless, of wood covered with metal plates, chiefly silver, is shown in one of Bentham's illustrations.³ That the stone coffin itself remained until the Dissolution is also clear.⁴

The shrine would have been raised on high upon some kind of stone or marble substructure—very ornate and beautiful. Probably when Bishop Hugh de Northwold moved the Saint's body into his new presbytery, in 1252, he provided a new substructure for the shrine, and it is a significant fact that we have, preserved in the south triforium of the nave, some loose stones of Purbeck marble, beautifully moulded and carved, which must have formed part of a handsome monument. It apparently consisted of some fourteen or more marble shafts with moulded bases and caps, supporting a canopy with richly moulded arches, all of the finest Early English work, of the same date as the fabric of the Presbytery.⁵ If this monument was indeed the substructure of St. Etheldreda's shrine,—and it is difficult to imagine that it was not,—there could have been no reason why Alan de Walsingham should have replaced it by another, and one moreover, very much inferior in every way.

1. Bentham's, *History of the Cathedral Church of Ely*, p. 140.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 142.

3. *Ibid.*, plate XLVIII., fig. 1. See also a description of it in Stubbs, *Ely Cathedral Handbook*, pp. 150, 160.

4. Fuller, *Church History*, II., 97, quoted in Stubbs, *Historical Memorials of Ely*, p. 84.

5. Most of these stones, having become dirty and discoloured by age and neglect, were not recognised when I wrote my book upon the Monastery of Ely, 1930, but, some years later, when re-arranging the many loose stones, their great weight compared with ordinary freestone led to their identification.

There is, also, good reason for supposing that Alan de Walsingham never did build a new substructure for St. Ætheldreda's shrine. The epitaph upon his memorial brass as recorded in the "*Historia Eliensis*"¹ cites many of his works at Ely but says nothing about the Saint's shrine, which surely would have been mentioned if he had done anything for it.

We seem to be forced to the conclusion that the canopy belonged to Bishop Hotham's tomb, and that the Purbeck marble stones formed part of the substructure of St. Ætheldreda's shrine.

1. C. W. Stubbs, *Historical Memorials of Ely*, pp. 139, 159.

EARITH HERMITAGE (HADDENHAM PARISH).

BY S. INSKIP LADDS.

Until recently a large square house stood near the eastern end of Earith bridge, on the corner site bounded on the north by the road to Haddenham and on the west by the road to Willingham.

This house was known as Hermitage House; it was apparently of early 19th century date, and had thin walls, sash windows, and a generally poor appearance, but it was locally credited with underground passages and such tales as frequently attach to old buildings.

In July, 1939, this house was pulled down and its site absorbed in road improvements. It was then found that under a part of the house there was a cellar of much more ancient date. This cellar was about 14 feet long by 11 feet wide, but the northern end had, perhaps, been cut off, for the wall there was not bonded to the side walls. The side walls were of stone and obviously of mediæval date. In the east wall were the inner jambs of a window. The floor was about 6 ft. 8 ins. below the wooden floor of the house above.

The front or northern end and the western side were very near to the approaches to the bridge, and here the ground had been raised considerably, but towards the S.E. it was very much lower, and little, if anything, above the water in the river, and, doubtless, what had become a cellar was originally a building standing above ground.

It is not unreasonable to think that we have here a part, and possibly the greater part, of the Hermit's cell.

Although the modern house has been pulled down, the ancient cellar has not been destroyed but has been filled up and is now buried beneath the ground.

NOTES.

FINDS AT ST. NEOTS.

During 1939-40, premises on the north side of St. Neots Market Square, next to the Cross Keys Hotel, were pulled down to make way for a Boots' Chemest's Shop. They were of timber frame and wattle and daub construction and had, in the 18th century, been the White Lion Inn.

In the course of operations a number of foundation trenches were dug and a deep basement excavated in the whole area to a distance of 60 feet back from the building line.

Here were found seven burials, which included both sexes, all orientated East and West. Numerous mediæval rubbish and cess pits and trenches had also been dug all over the site. Some obviously older than the burials contained, unfortunately, no datable objects. One pit had disturbed a grave close beside it. It contained much coarse unglazed pottery and also two silver coins—kindly identified at the Fitzwilliam Museum as probably of Edward III. and Richard II.

This site must originally have been just outside the wall of the Priory.

The pottery and other finds, including three skulls, are in the Museum of Archæology and Ethnology at Cambridge.

SOUTHOE TOLLBAR.

Last winter for the first time the little huntsman on the east side of the Great North Road at Southoe Tollbar has gone without his pink coat;—it may be interesting to tell his history. *The Cambridge Chronicle* for the 3rd July, 1812, contained the following notice:—"Died on Tuesday last, at

"Little Paxton, aged 72, Francis Loxley. He was 30
"years keeper of the Southoe turnpike gate, by which
"employment and his penurious way of living he is said
"to have died worth near £2,000. Whilst keeper of the
"gate he formed a peacock upon a haw-bush which stood
"near the gate, as large as life, and which he kept cut
"with great nicety. Near the same spot he also formed
"out of a haw-bush a horse with a rider upon it as natural
"as life, and which he kept cut in great order also, and in
"the hunting season he would clothe the rider in a scarlet
"dress, which thousands of travellers can testify."

C.F.T.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE SESSION
1939-40.

The Council begs to report that there is a membership of 61; four new members have been elected and one resigned. The Society has lost two members by death, Miss Cranfield and Mr. Brocklebank.

Vol. VI., Part II. of the Transactions has been issued. No excursions have been held, owing to the war.

The Council recommends the election of Mr. C. F. Tebbutt and Dr. J. R. Garrod as its representatives to the Congress of Archæological Societies.

Mr. Tebbutt has continued the Photographic Record; there are now about 1,000 photographs.

The following Members of the Council retire by rotation and, being eligible for re-election, the Council recommends their re-election:—Dr. Scruby and Mr. Coote.

The Society's Library has been moved to the County Library at Walden House, Huntingdon, where it is in the care of the County Council and may be consulted by Members.

The Council thanks the Officers and all who have helped the Society during the past year.

