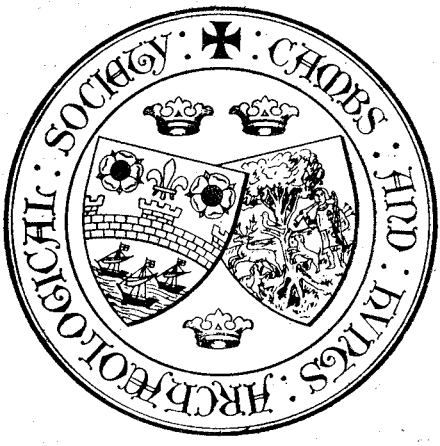
Transactions

OF THE

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Archæological Society

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900)



VOLUME VI. PART IX.

EDITED BY THE REV. E. H. VIGERS, M.A.

RECTOR OF ABBOTS RIPTON WITH LITTLE STUKELEY, HUNTS.

Ely

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY

W. JEFFERSON & SON LTD., ST. MARY'S STREET.

1947

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) TEN SHILLINGS

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GRANVILLE PROBY, 1883—1947.

By the death of Mr. Granville Proby, which took place on Monday the 10th of March, 1947, the Society has lost one of its most distinguished and valuable Members. Very largely as a result of his own research work, and his encouragement and support of the work of others, Huntingdonshire is now as richly supplied with historical material as it had been lacking up to fifty years ago.

Mr. Proby's interests covered a wider field than the County of Huntingdon. Yet it is for his work in and for the County and for the Archaeology of the County that some attempt should be made to write a brief record for our Proceedings.

But before setting done some of the things he did, some of the publications he supported and some of the offices he held—and any such record most read of necessity somewhat like a catalogue—a few words may be allowed concerning Mr. Proby, as he will long remain in the memories of the older Members. He had a genius for friendship, which distinguished him beyond all his other qualities. He was interested in people and in their work, and this kindly interest helped them to do better work. With regard to his own research, his generosity and his influence he was singularly modest, but he leaves Archaeology the richer.

Mr. Proby joined the Cambs. and Hunts. Archaeological Society in December 1924 and was elected a Vice-President, 20th July, 1933, having been previously made a Fellow of the Society of Antiqueries. Educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Oxford, he was appointed to the office of a Clerk of Parliaments and remained Principal Clerk of the Judicial Department of the House of Lords, until his retirement only a short time ago.

It is on record that he began to contemplate some contribution to family and local history as early as 1918, and since that time he has assisted in the preparation and publication of a large number of highly important works.

He procured *a Catalogue of Pictures at Elton Hall* to be prepared by Prof. Tancred Borenius and the Rev. J. V. Hodgson which was published in 1924, and he himself wrote a supplement published in 1939.

GRANVILLE PROBY

In 1923 he began to think about a History of the County of Huntingdon and three years later he contributed to the cost of the *Inventory of Historical Monuments of Hunts.* (Royal Comm. on Hist. Mon^ts.) and so expedited its publication.

In the same year (1926) he arranged for the publication of the first volume of the Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire. This was followed by vol. 2 in 1932, vol. 3 in 1936 and the Index in 1938. Mr. Proby took an active share in the editorial work, contributed to the cost and was largely instrumental in the production of this, the first complete history of the County. In these three volumes may be found (in footnotes) a list of MSS. in the British Museum, the Record Office and elsewhere, giving sources of information; also illustrations of destroyed or altered buildings from ancient drawings or early photographs.

In 1926 *Elton Manorial Records*, 1279—1351, were privately printed for presentation to the Roxborough Club. These records were transcribed and edited by S. C. Ratcliff Esq., M.A., I.S.O. Translated by Lady Gregory, and financed by Mr. Proby who wrote the Preface.

At his suggestion and with his assistance over 100 Award and Estate Maps were photographed and published by subscription (1937—1940).

His contributions to the Transactions of the C. & H.A.S. are of peculiar value. *Burgesses of Huntingdon*, 1765—1782 appeared in August, 1934 (Vol. V. pp. 200—244); this was completed for the years 1794—1826, which appeared in January, 1938 (Vol. V. pp. 289—368). The *Protestation Returns for Hunts. 1641—2*, appeared in December, 1936 (Vol. V. pp. 289—368). A list of *Huntingdonshire M.Ps.*, compiled by Mr. Proby was printed in June, 1946 (Vol. V. pp. 215—243) and is the most complete and accurate list that can ever be obtained.

It is hoped that his account of the *Hearth Tax for Hunts*, a large part of which is already in type, may be published before long.

Tribute to Mr Proby's long service in the public life of the County has already been paid in the local Press, it is for this Notice in the Proceedings to express something of our sense of loss and of our indebtedness as a Society to him for twenty-three years constant interest. Often he would come down from London to a Council Meeting, and his knowledge and experience helped to direct the fortunes of the Society.