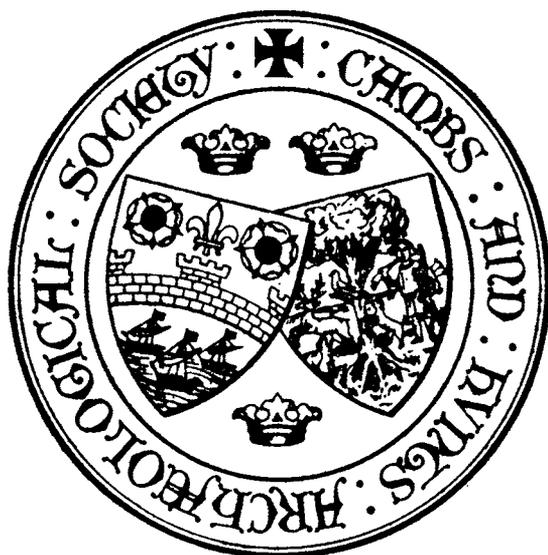


Transactions  
OF THE  
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire  
Archæological Society

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900)



VOLUME VII, PART III.

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

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Hon. Secretary, DR. J. R. GARROOD, F.S.A.  
ALCONBURY HILL, ALCONBURY WESTON, HUNTINGDON.

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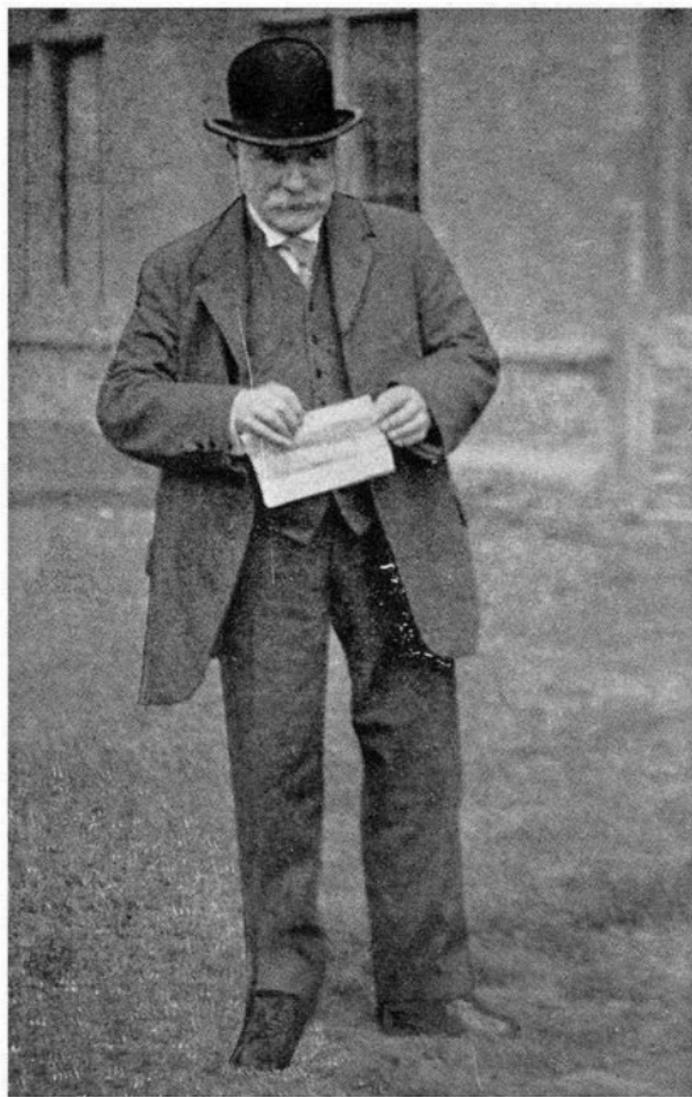
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## SIDNEY INSKIP LADDS

The Society has suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. Sidney Inskip Ladds, who died at his house in the Market Square, Huntingdon, on Sunday, the 5th of March, 1950, aged 82. He was the son of Mr. John Ladds, of Bedford Row, Gray's Inn, W.C., and grandson of Mr. William Ladds, of Ellington, Hunts. He was born on the 30th of October, 1867, and educated at the North London Collegiate School, working with his father, an architect of repute, for many years before moving to Huntingdon in 1889, where he set up in practice on his own account. In the same year he became an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and became a Member of the Ecclesiastical Surveyors' Association. Archæology was his hobby and he had an almost encyclopædic knowledge of the county of Huntingdon. His knowledge was always gladly at the service of enquirers.

He will long be remembered for his contributions to the Society's Proceedings, as well as for his book "The Monastery of Ely," which contained a plan by which he "tried to bring the ancient stones and documentary evidence together and so to make them show the historical growth of the buildings and something of the progressive changes that took place in the monastery from the eleventh to the sixteenth centuries." The original drawing of this plan now hangs in the south porch of the Cathedral.

In 1921 Mr. Ladds was appointed Surveyor of the Fabric of Ely Cathedral, and for 29 years he devoted his care and knowledge to the building which he loved.

Throughout his long life he was a shy man, but a staunch friend to those who were so fortunate as to gain his friendship. To them he would talk interestingly with many a shaft of dry wit, and he did not suffer fools gladly.

Among the many buildings designed by him mention must be made of the Library and Museum near the river at St. Ives, where his vast collection of notes on the parishes will shortly be available to the public.

We cannot do better than conclude this note by quoting the words of Canon Vincent Watson, of Ely:—

"In recognition of his long, faithful and devoted service, his ashes, after cremation, were buried, by permission of the Dean and Chapter, in the South Transept of the Cathedral on March 7th, 1950. Requiescat in Pace."

## THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1950

In 1899 discussions took place, and it was felt that there was need for an essentially local society and there was no society at all in Hunts. Eventually the first general meeting took place on July 9th, 1900. It was resolved that the new society should work harmoniously with the C.A.S. and there have always been some who were members of both societies.

Under the rules members may be of either sex; they paid a subscription of 10/6 and for life membership, £5.

The Bishop of Ely was patron; Lord Sandwich, president, and the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, hon. secretary, treasurer and editor. Dr. W. M. Palmer was secretary for Cambs. and the Rev. W. M. Noble for Hunts. The first Council consisted of the Revs. J. G. Cheshire, T. W. R. Crookham, Arthur J. Edmunds, T. M. N. Owen, Alfred Peskett, J. P. Sharp, Miss C. Parsons, Messrs. A. Bull, Kenelm, H. Smith, M. Strand, and C. P. Tebbutt, of whom Miss Parsons, a vice-president, remains and is our representative on the C.P.R.E.

It was hoped that the funds of the society would permit the publication of transactions and papers were read at the general meeting.

This first meeting was held at Ely, in a room kindly lent by Mr. G. H. Tyndall. A name was chosen for the society, rules were agreed and it was arranged to make Ely the society's headquarters. Early in 1900 a well-attended meeting was held in Cambridge, when the purpose of the Society was set forth; officers were selected and a committee was formed. It was at this meeting that our first excursion was arranged, to include a visit to Swavesey, Over, Aldreth and Holywell. An illustrated account of the excursion was published at the end of the year to give subscribers something for their money—and so started the Transactions of the Society.

In 1901 the society got up early, for it visited the Old Grammar School, Huntingdon, before 10 a.m. and at 10.30 a.m. set out in waggonettes to visit various

churches, etc., but, as has happened since, "Bury and Hinchingsbrooke had to be omitted for lack of time." At first there seems to have been more hopefulness than reality about the society's finances but there seem to have been about the same number of members and they did produce some transactions. In 1904 a two-day excursion was held at Peterborough and the Society elected representatives to the Congress of Archaeological Societies.

Then came storms, which like others, came to an end and the society continued to publish transactions and hold excursions. In 1907 the Photographic Collection was begun on post cards as far as possible.

Conditions were at this time stable, income about the same as now but balances better and more Transactions printed.

1914-18—Some excursions were held and Transactions published, but the reduction in the latter improved the bank balance, the following sentence in the Annual Report, 1916, gives the picture:—"The war has deepened its shadow upon us as the increase of taxation and the cost of living have been the cause not only of reducing our numbers but also of restricting our rural excursions." No subscription was payable in 1918.

In 1919 the activities of the society revived, there had been many losses by death but new members were elected and the Society continued to flourish.

In 1921 the fee for life membership was raised to ten guineas and the annual subscription to fifteen shillings, for the costs were stated by the Council to have risen 200 per cent.

In 1923 the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, founder of the Society was made an honorary member and the first minute book was sent to the secretary, thus ended the storm which began in 1904 but had ceased to trouble us for very many years.

Our help was asked for by H.M. Office of Works in 1924 in scheduling historic monuments and sites in the county of Huntingdon, we have continued to do this from time to time since.

In 1934 the Society was asked by the Hunts. Federation of Women's Institutes to assist in an exhibition of antiquities and by-gones, this was held in Huntingdon and was a great success.

In 1938 a special committee prepared a list of buildings of architectural and historic interest additional to those in the Inventory of Historic Monuments in the county of Huntingdon, the Planning Officer has a copy.

In 1939 the Ministry of Transport placed the Roman remains from the new North Road, Sawtry, in the care of the Society, they are deposited in the Huntingdon Museum.

The autumn excursion was cancelled on account of the outbreak of war.

During the war although no excursions were held the Transactions continued to be published, the library was moved from the Archdeaconry Library, which was requisitioned, to the County Library, where it still is, the county librarian was elected to the Council. Huntingdon meetings also were held at the Museum and Cambridge meetings in St. John's College.

The Council's representatives attended two conferences called by the Society of Antiquaries which resulted in the formation of the Council for British Archaeology, the successor of the old Congress of Archaeological Societies.

Excursions began again in 1945 and suggestions were put forward for widening the scope of the Society and including Natural History. A special general meeting was held but the matter not pursued. The Society has been invited to nominate a member of the Town, County and Country Planning Committee. This seems not to be as general in the country as one might have hoped, it is very useful.

This brief review will show that the Cambs. and Hunts. Archaeological Society has pulled its weight according to its strength and done something more than merely amuse its members, all the same one usually hears after an excursion: "What a pity we don't have more excursions."

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#### FROM MISS CATHERINE E. PARSONS

In the Jubilee year of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society it is something of a shock to be told that I am the only surviving original member of the Society founded by the late Reverend Charles Harold Evelyn White, M.A., F.S.A., of Rampton Rectory, Cambridgeshire. He was staunchly supported by Dr. W. M. Palmer. Both men were friends

of mine, who, from 1897 constantly impressed on me that a great need would be filled by forming an archaeological society to cover Huntingdonshire and also embrace Cambridgeshire.

Early in 1898 the founder was in a position to send out an appeal for the new society. It was hoped that 100 subscribers would be forthcoming. However, there was some delay over the circular and things were not sufficiently in order by the spring of 1899 to launch the new society. By the end of that year a draft of rules and an array of facts favourable to the formation of the society were ready for a meeting.

## SOME HUNTINGDONSHIRE QUERNS

J. R. GARROOD, M.D., F.S.A.

This paper deals only with rotary querns which are thought by Dr. Curwen <sup>1</sup> to be derived from the Donkey Mill of the Mediterranean area, rotated as its name implies by a donkey, or slaves, harnessed to a projecting pole.

The earliest type described is the beehive, shaped like the old fashioned beehive or skip made of plaited straw. The grinding surfaces are either conical or flat, the former being the earlier.

The upper stone has a passage or hopper at the centre, wider above, through which the corn is fed. There is a lateral passage which sometimes perforates the hopper, this is for the handle which may or may not have been cranked upwards.

The lower stone has a socket at its centre for a peg which keeps the top stone in place, being a loose fit in the hopper. The rynd is a block of wood or iron which is jammed in the lower end of the hopper and this rides on the peg allowing a slight clearance between the stones, thus varying the fineness of the flour, of course room is left for the corn to pass the rynd. Where, as in later stones, the lower stone is completely perforated, it is possible to vary the clearance between the stones.

The beehive type continued through the first centuries B.C. and A.D., but by the second century the stones were thinner and wider, the handle was fixed in a vertical hole, this was more convenient for operation. Flat stones of lava were imported from the continent.

The Quern which has given rise to this paper was found by Mr. Roger Fuller, of Spaldwick, in a field 1,100 feet south of the first S. in Stow Brickyard, sheet XVI. S.W. 6in. Ord. Survey, 1902, Huntingdonshire.

Grid Ref. 119713.

Coarse Romano British pottery was found on the surface of the field. The special feature of this quern is that its upper surface has two raised mouldings round the hopper as well as another raised ornament.

The estimated diameter is 24.6 inches and 1.5 to 1.6 inches thick at the edge. The stone is millstone grit, probably from Derbyshire, identified at the Sidgwick

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(1) *Antiquity* June 1937 p.133 March, 1941, p.15.





Museum, Cambridge. In the broken edge of the larger fragment can be seen a section of the hopper, 5-inch estimated diameter, and just outside the outer moulding a section of the handle hole, this seems to have been surrounded by a collar and perforates the grinding surface, indicating that the stone is much worn.

The grinding surface is circumferentially grooved by use, but there are no radial or tangential grooves. The slope of the under surface is 14 degrees and slightly concave. The ornament consists of two concentric mouldings, the inner 1.25 and the outer 1.5 inches wide, they project about 0.5 inches. The other part of the ornament is in the field as it were and appears to be independent of the circular mouldings, it is, I think, a Phallus, laterally curved to conform to the general design. The termination seems not to be accidental and the glans is indicated. Perhaps this fertility motif might be hoped to provide a good crop, giving the mill plenty of grinding in the future.

An alternative explanation may be that this is the terminal of a spiral moulding, but the finding of the other fragments will settle the matter.

The following are some of the querns from the county with which I am acquainted:

- 1—A beehive quern of gritty stone 11in. by 5.5in., grinding surface conical, hopper 5in., from the north side of Weybridge Farm, Alconbury, Newlands Field, below the crest of the hill; found by Mr. R. F. Aubrey, 1925. Huntingdon Museum 609<sup>2</sup>
- 2—Beehive quern, from Ray House Farm Gravel Pit, Lt. Paxton. Grinding surface, conical handle hole perforates, a grit. Mr. C. F. Tebbutt.
- 3—Broken top stone of a beehive quern of red gritty stone showing part of the handle hole and the hopper; found by Mr. Rook at Castle Hill Farm, Wood Walton, in the field called Banks, the grinding surface is slightly concave. Later, Mr. Rook found the lower stone in the same field, it is thick and hemispherical. Ref.<sup>3</sup>
- 4 Deformed beehive upper stone from just N. of Wheatleys Drain, near Manor Wood, Walton; found by Mr. Ayres, 1930. The grinding surface is slightly concave and worn, there are two handle

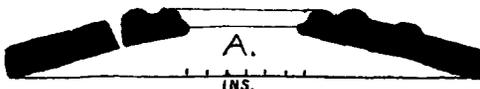
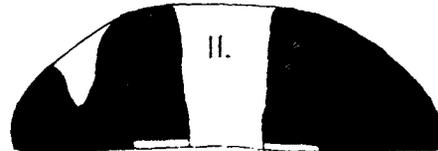
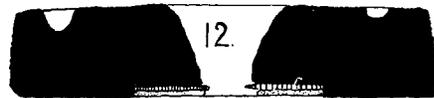
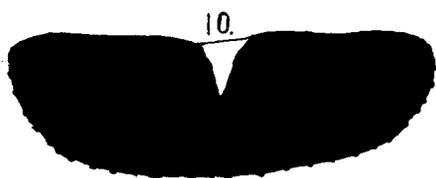
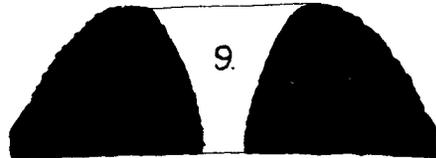
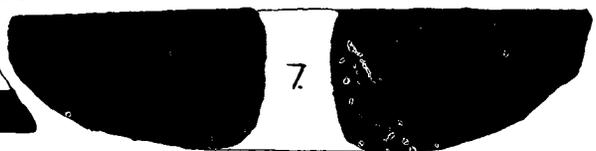
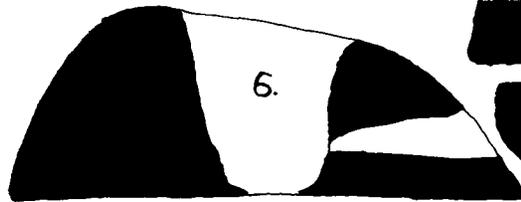
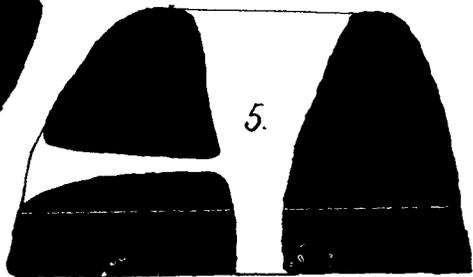
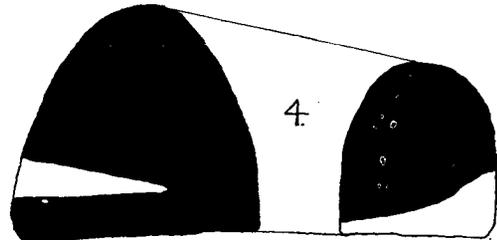
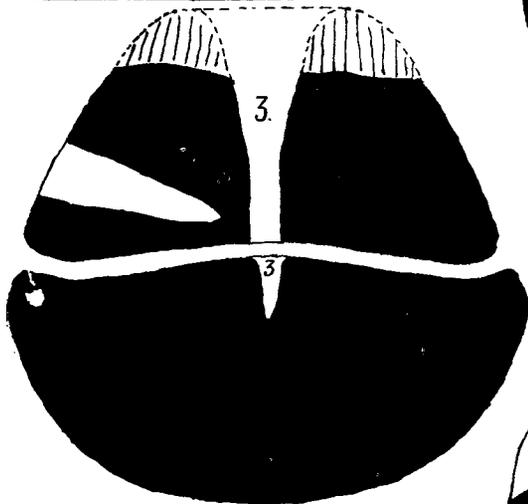
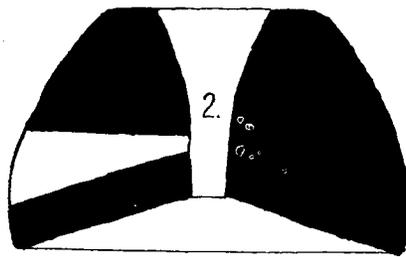
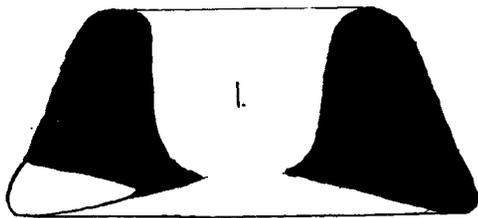
(2) VCH. Hunts., p.263.

(3) Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc. V.V. p.276.

- holes, one exposed by wear on the grinding surface, the other does not perforate the hopper.
- 5—A beehive quern 7in. high, 12in. diameter, from Barham; I found it acting as a doorstep in 1933. Grinding surface practically flat, the handle hole perforates.
- 6—A crude irregular beehive, handle-hole horizontal flat grinding surface, 13.5in. diameter; from Godmanchester, St. Ives Museum.
- 7—Lower stone of granite, grinding surface flat with irregular radial grooving; from Alconbury Weston. This group is of the earlier type, all but two of their bases are flat and they probably come within the Roman period. An Iron Age rubbish pit was found near the North Road, Weybridge (No. 1).
- 8—Lower stone from Ray House, Farm Gravel Pit, Lt. Paxton, Mr. C. F. Tebbutt; 18in. diameter, peg hole perforates, hard gritty stone, grinding surface slightly conical, no grooving, but a rough surface.
- 9 A low beehive quern of pudding stone, 11in. diameter, slightly concave grinding surface, no sign of handle hole; from Bury, St. Ives Museum.
- 10—A lower stone of pudding stone with slightly hollow grinding surface and tapering peg hole which does not perforate, 11in. diameter; from Houghton; St. Ives Museum.
- 11—A low beehive, about 3.5in. high and 11in. diameter, of lava with five vertical handle holes, one with an iron core surrounded with lead, grinding surface nearly flat, slight radial grooving, the lower part of the hopper has vertical grooves. There are oblong recesses for a rynd; from Somersham; St. Ives Museum.
- 12—A cylindrical top stone of lava, 11in. diameter, broken iron rynd kept in place by lead, two depressions on the upper surface for the handle; from Alconbury House there is a Roman coffin there. Presented to Huntingdon Museum by Miss Carnegy, No. 1568.

#### FRAGMENTS NOT ILLUSTRATED

- Huntingdon Museum, 686: Half a lower stone, 15in. diameter.
- Huntingdon Museum, 588: Upper stone of lava, probably from Colne or Hargrave, Boulton Collection.



A.  
INS.



Flat lower stone, segment, diameter. 15in., hard gritty stone from Stocking Close <sup>3</sup>

Small fragment probably a beehive, showing part of handle hole <sup>3</sup>

Part of two flat stones, grit with large fragments of marble <sup>3</sup>

Part of a beehive, grit; from Salome Lodge <sup>4</sup>

Part of cylindrical quern, hard brown stone.

Part of a flat stone of lava, Salome Lodge.

A group of fragments from Salome Lodge illustrate the sequence, two flat-topped or perhaps amputated beehive querns come from the same trench (18), the first has a grinding surface rising 2in. from edge to centre, it comes from a depth of 3ft. 3in., the other only rises 0.75 inches and comes from 1ft. 6in., roughly first and third centuries, while a piece of lava quern came from 8in., this might be mediaeval.

We have beehive type, 9. Flato stones, 8. Pudding stone, 2. Lava, 4.

Now it is generally agreed that the beehive type was the earliest rotary quern, while the flat larger thinner ones were later and our numbers for these are nearly equal.

Two of the beehives have conical grinding surfaces and this is also found in Wessex, the rest have practically flat surfaces, these are found in the Hunsbury and Legionary Querns <sup>6</sup> the first an Iron Age fort in Northamptonshire, the latter in the North.

Thus we have one more instance of the Marcher character of our county with affinities with North, South, East and West. The flat stones are in their natural sequence in the Romano-British period and later than the first group. Pudding stone querns are of normal type and were probably imported from Hertfordshire, while the lava specimens came from the continent.

I would suggest that some of the earlier specimens may have been home-made from some of the larger eratics found in our boulder clay.

I am indebted to Mr. Coote for allowing me to publish the St. Ives' specimens and to Mr. Tebbutt for his from Little Paxton.

(4) *Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc.* V.III.

(5) *Trans. Cambs. & Hunts. Arch. Soc.* VI.II.

(6) *Curwen Antiquity*, June, 1937.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE FOLK AND THEIR FOLKLORE II.

by C. F. TEBBUTT.

Since I published "Huntingdonshire Folk and their Folklore" in Volume VI., Part V. of these Transactions, interest has been stimulated in the folklore of the county and a certain amount of additional information has been recorded. It is now thought that this is worth printing as an addendum to the above article. Many people have sent me information, but I must mention especially that recorded by Miss Coles, of Spaldwick, and Dr. John Newton, late of Alconbury Hill.

The following notes will be arranged as far as possible in the same order as in the original publication.

### BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD.

From St. Neots comes the idea that the colour of a child's hair is determined by conditions at its conception, a black haired child being conceived in the dark, a light haired one in the light, and a red haired one in front of a fire.

From Kimbolton and Waresley comes the belief that the season of birth affects the capacity of a person to feel temperature changes, those born in the summer feeling the cold more than those born in the winter. The contrary belief is also held, a woman telling me that if she had children she would try to arrange for them to be born in the summer so they should not suffer from cold as she herself did, being winter born.

A well-known Huntingdonshire solicitor confirmed the belief in the luck of presenting gold to a new born baby. He still possesses a set of Jubilee gold coins of 1887 presented to him at his birth in that year.

### COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

Some scepticism has been expressed to me about the belief that if a bride walks naked to her husband's house she absolves him of all her debts. A confirmation and explanation has, however, since been published in "Confessions of an Uncommon Attorney," page 40/41 (Dent 1945), where the late Mr. Hine, of Hitchin, says "the custom of a bride marrying in a shift and so relieving her husband of her debts is based on the old law that a husband is only responsible for his wife's ante-nuptial debts to the extent of the fortune she brought him."

## DAILY LIFE

## MOB JUSTICE.

A remarkable example of villagers taking the law into their own hands occurred at Great Gransden in August, 1946. A male inhabitant of the village was tarred and feathered in the belief that he was guilty of an alleged offence which the police investigated but found they could take no action.

The victim was enticed to the Plough Inn at 8 o'clock in the evening by a false message. Here he was seized by several men, stripped of his clothes and spread-eagled under the walnut tree outside the inn. Meanwhile a can of tar was ready warmed up in a nearby baker's oven and a pillow ripped up to provide the feathers. The actual tarring was done by women while the men held the victim down. Tar was even brushed on the man's bald head and then feathers added plentifully. A small audience watched the proceedings, but the intention to march the resulting apparition round the village was frustrated by a heavy shower of rain, and he was let go to race home across the fields. A woman he met on the way was said to have fainted with fright (See "St. Neots Advertiser," August 23rd, 1946, "Hunts. Post," September 5th, 1946, "News of the World," September 1st, 1946).

## ANIMAL CALLS.

It is well known that the words used to call or drive domestic animals vary from district to district all over the country, and some local ones are given below:—

Sheep (driving): "Heu, heu."

Cows (calling): "Come on, come on," "Curra-crr"  
and "Coof, coof."

Pigs (calling): "Tig, tig."

Ducks (calling): "Dill, dill."

Pigeons and Ferrets (calling): "Hew, hew"  
(whistled).

Dogs (to encourage to hunt): "Lew, lew."

## HUNTING AND FISHING.

A local farmer recently greatly astonished a London friend, to whom he wanted to present a brace of rabbits, by calling them out of their holes. This he did by placing the back of his hand against his mouth and drawing in breath to make a noise like a squealing rabbit being attacked by a stoat. Besides rabbits and rats, stoats, and even foxes, can often be induced to

come out of cover by the skilful performer. The latter animals no doubt think they have an easy victim caught in a trap or snare.

As eel catching by means of the plaited ozier traps, known as hives and grigs, has now almost died out in the county, it is worth recording that a full description of these traps and the method of using them locally was published in *Man* (August, 1936).

#### FOODS.

At the killing of a pig or birth of a calf it was (and often still is) the custom to give a dish of fry or a jug of beastins, or bizenings (cow's first milk after birth of calf) to one's special friends. Both plate and jug must be returned unwashed otherwise bad luck will attend the bacon curing or come to the cow and calf.

#### THE GARDEN

The advisability of sowing crops by the moon is still widely believed. Onions and other small seeds should be sown when the moon is "growing to the full," while for potatoes it should be "under the earth." The date for bean sowing on heavy lands is remembered by

"On St. Valentine's Day  
Set beans in clay."

Walnuts should be gathered for pickling at the time of Abbotsley Feast (third Sunday in July).

A dark Christmas foretells a good pea year.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

A recent superstition is that it brings bad luck to be photographed on a motor cycle. An accident is sure to follow.

#### VILLAGE NICK-NAMES AND RHYMES

More rhymes and nick-names associated with particular villages or groups of villages have been collected.

#### EYNESBURY.

Inhabitants called Eynesbury toe-rags or scallywags.

#### UPTON, HAMERTON, WINWICK AND THURNING.

"Upton's on a hill,  
Hamerton's in a hole,  
Winwick blows the bellows,  
Thurning supplies the coal."

“Hamerton has the largest tap room in the world,”  
the one public house having only an “Off Licence” the  
beer is drunk on a seat outside.

“Hamerton folk put their hands out to see if it is  
raining,  
Alconbury Weston folk look at the brook.”

“Buckworth, Barham, Spaldwick and Stow,  
Four little villages all in a row.”

“Godmanchester for a sire,  
Huntingdon for a boar,  
Brampton for a pretty girl,  
Buckden for a whore.”

### ABBOTS CHAIR.

A further story has come to light relating to the  
Abbots Chair, or Hurstingstone, that stands on the  
roadside between St. Ives and Old Hurst, and gave its  
name to the Hurstingstone Hundred. This is to the effect  
that should the stone sink below ground, blood will flow  
in Bluntisham street.

In my previous article, reference is made to a corner  
stone in Noble Lane, Bluntisham, which turned itself  
round and was associated with cocks crowing. In  
“Country Life,” August 14th, 1946, a letter describes  
similar stories in connection with “The Cheese Ring”  
stones on St. Cleer Moor, Cornwall.

## CALENDAR CUSTOMS

### PLOUGH MONDAY.

A cutting from the “Peterborough Advertiser” of  
January 14th, 1927, records that Plough Monday was  
still being celebrated at Ramsey in that year.

From Alconbury comes a plough witching song, the  
same as that from Yelling previously recorded.

At Easton, plough boys, dressed in rags with black  
faces and a tin and stick band, used to parade the  
village collecting money. The song remembered would  
seem to have been the chorus of “The Farmer’s Boy.”  
This was continued by children up to 1939.

At Sawtry and Alconbury Weston, up to 1944, boys  
collected money with black and whitewashed faces and  
coats turned inside out. They sang:—

“I am a little plough boy,  
 My shoes are very thin,  
 I have a little money box to put a penny in,  
 If you haven't got a penny a half penny will do,  
 If you haven't got a half penny, God bless you.”

At Spaldwick in 1943 boys with black faces took round a money box with the request “Remember the poor plough boy,” but it is said that formerly men took a plough round and if no money was forthcoming from a house, ploughed over the lawn. The owner was considered to have no redress.

At Southoe, plough witches had black faces and collected money. A slice of cake and a bowl of milk were always given them at Squire Thornhill's at Diddington.

### MAY DAY

Although May Day is still celebrated in many Hunts. schools, the centuries old custom of the children taking round garlands seems to have died during the late war, probably owing to the children being given more pocket money by their parents.

Many more details of May Day celebrations of the past have, however, been recorded

At Alconbury, it is remembered that about 1890 an old soldier, who lived in the corner house (east end) of the row of six cottages facing Maypole Square, used to dig holes in the road in a line opposite the row and set up May bushes there on May Day.

Hamerton had a Maypole until about 1920 and the song was “Nuts in May.” Garlands, either made on hoops or heart shaped, were taken round the village and money collected.

At Sawtry in 1943 girls were carrying round a garland with a black doll covered by curtain net and collecting for the Prisoners of War Fund. They sang:—

“Two little maidens here we stand  
 With our garland in our hand,  
 We have come to your door to-day  
 Because it is the first of May.  
 May May, merry, merry, May,  
 May May, merry, merry, May,  
 Because it is the first of May.”

It is remembered that in the past, at dusk, a garland used to be hung on a rope stretched across the street,

and children took sides and threw balls over to each other and then changed ends.

Another Sawtry song was:—

“It is May, it is May, and all the earth is gay,  
At last cold winter’s gone away.  
It lingered away in a cold, cold snow  
To see the delicate primrose glow.  
So now it is May, it is May, it is May.  
The Nightingale he sings by night,  
The Cuckoo sings by day,  
So I hope you will think of our money money box  
Before we go away.”

At Southoe about 1880 young men would go out early on May morning and cut large branches of hawthorn and put them in front of people’s houses, especially where village girls lived. An unpopular man sometimes had a gate-post or heavy piece of wood placed leaning against his door, so that it fell in when he opened it.

At Yelling, Mr. Meeks (aged 78 in 1946) told me he had often helped to cut May bushes as a boy and put in front of people’s doors where they hoped to get a tip. Mothers used to make garlands for their daughters to carry round.

At Godmanchester in 1943 I saw two parties of girls carrying garlands, but singing no song. They were collecting for Mrs. Churchill’s Aid to Russia Fund. One doll was in a double hoop and lying in a bed of flag leaves decorated with blue-bells and cowslips. The other garland consisted of two dolls lying in decorated wicker work beds. These garlands, unless the fancy of individual children, seem a different tradition from the usual Hunts. type.

#### LITTLE PAXTON.

In my previous article I quoted Miss Ethel Ladds as saying that the Little Paxton Maypole Tree disappeared about 1897. A reference has now been found in the “St. Neots Advertiser” recording that it was blown down in a great gale on March 24th, 1895.

#### WEATHER SIGNS

“Ice in November to carry a duck,  
The rest of the winter all sludder and muck.”  
“Rooks building high foretells a wet summer”  
(and the converse).

Candlemas Day is the day when the weather for the rest of the winter can be foretold. If it is fine and sunny more hard weather can be expected. At Sawtry it is known as Badger's Day, probably on account of the old saying "If a badger can see the shadow of his tail on Candlemas Day, the winter is only half over" (See Chambers' "Book of Days" for similar German proverbs).

"A January Spring is worth nothing."

"As many mists in March,  
As many frosts in May."

"Summer lightning ripens the corn."

### WITCHCRAFT

A cutting from the "Peterborough Advertiser" (undated, but about 1920) records a story by Beresford Stevens of an Upwood witch who lived opposite the "haunted house." Men were bringing a load of wheat past her door when the horses stopped and refused to draw the wagon further. The old witch came out of her cottage and picked up a straw that lay across the road, saying "There, my man, the horses are not likely to draw the load while that straw is in the way." The horses then proceeded without difficulty.

Many references to Huntingdonshire witches and witch trials can be found in Dr. Murray's "The Witchcult in Western Europe" (Clarendon Press, 1921) which contains a printed list of all known sources of information as well as a topographical index.

In January, 1950, I saw a fox's foot nailed on a board and hung on the wall of one of the Oley Alms Houses at Great Gransden. This was possibly originally done as a protection from witchcraft.

Although referring to events just over the Cambridge-shire border, the following story is, I think, worth telling. My informant was Mr. Smith, who in 1940 kept the Spread Eagle Petrol Station, Croxton, Cambs.:—

In 1908 he was working as blacksmith's helper for Mr. Calver, of Bourn, who had a blacksmith named George Kirk (who afterwards left for Histon and worked for Chivers, and is now dead).

A farmer disputed with Calver about his bill, declaring he had paid Calver's workmen cash for the work charged for. The workmen denied this and bore the

farmer a grudge on account of this imputation on their honesty.

One morning about 9 a.m. the farmer was seen approaching in his pony cart. Geo. Kirk turned towards the road, saying "I'll teach him a lesson," took out his handkerchief and and put it to his nose and then back in his pocket. The pony stopped and refused to go on in spite of his master's efforts to make him continue, and remained stationary. Geo. Kirk said to the farmer "He'll stay there all day until I let him go, and if you hit him, I'll hit you." The pony stayed there until about 5 p.m. and then Geo. Kirk went over and patted its neck, and it went forward immediately.

My informant asked Geo. Kirk how he did this. "Take a frog and put it in an ant-hill and leave it for the ants to eat. When nothing but the bones are left, take them and throw them into a stream and carefully watch for one bone that floats up stream. Keep this bone, and you can then give yourself to the devil and have the power I have got." My informant said he would do this. "Take my advice and don't," said Geo. Kirk. "You will never rest if you do."

They never had any trouble in shoeing horses while Kirk was there. If a young or shy horse was brought in, he would first go and pat it and speak to it and then leave it to the others with the assurance that it would be quite quiet, and it always was, even horses being shod for the first time were no trouble.

My informant saw these episodes and obviously believed in the explanations he gave.

## FOLK MEDICINE

New examples of folk-medicine can be collected almost indefinitely.

The late Dr. Cross, of St. Neots, told me that in his early days of practice it was the usual custom when a child was vaccinated for the parents to put on a cow dung poultice, and to stop bleeding by applying a cob-web.

An informant from Easton tells me that his mother used to grow the Greater Celandine in order to squeeze out the juice from the stalks and flowers and mix it with lard. This was rubbed on warts or any sort of skin sores suffered by members of the family or farm animals.

From Somersham I was told that about 1920 a midwife, to cure a new-born baby of wind, dropped a red hot cinder into a glass of water and gave the baby some of the water.

In my own family it was a custom, once a year in April, to make Cowslip Tea. An afternoon was spent gathering cowslips and picking off the flowers without leaving any of the green attached. These were put in a teapot and boiling water added. A rather sickly yellow liquid was produced, which, as children, we all enjoyed, and it was said to do us good.

At Great Paxton sloe wine was given for diarrhoea, and a "clover pillow" to cure insomnia.

### TREES AND PLANTS

The magic significance of elder was emphasized at Ramsey Heights in 1943 when a child told its teacher "When my mother burns elder in the copper she says she is burning the Devil."

The reverence for the hawthorn, possibly bound up with its significance in the May Day celebrations, produced many named thorn bushes, generally of great age and often forming boundary marks in the pre-inclosure open fields. An M.S. map of 1591, now deposited among the Hunts. County Council archives, depicts land between Stow and Kimbolton. On it are marked Tilbrook Bush and Lowsey Bush. (A Lowsey Bush still exists on the Northampton-Daventry road just beyond Dallington). An ancient thorn, cut down 20 or 30 years ago, used to stand in a field near the river marking the parish boundary between Great Paxton and Offord. Part of Monks Wood (N.W.) is known as Old Saul and this is said to have been named from a very tall poplar tree that once grew there near the site of a keeper's cottage. This tree was named Old Saul and was a well known landmark.

Timber fellers often have curious superstitions about trees. One is that they always look bigger when it is raining, and; therefore, that is the time when it is advantageous to take on a piece-work job. The belief that a felled tree will try to take its revenge by injuring the feller or sawyer is often expressed or implied.

The lasting qualities of fir when used inside a house is expressed by the rhyme:—

"Cover me up and keep me dry,  
Hearts of oak I will defy."



# TOLLS PAYABLE at this GATE.

	s.	d.
For every Horse, Mule, Ass or other Cattle drawing any Coach, Chariot, Landau, Sociable, Chaise, Curricie, Phaeton, or Hearse.	8	
For every Horse, Mare, Gelding, Mule or Ass drawing any two wheeled Chaise, Chair, Gig or any Taxed Cart	9	
For every Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such Carriage with six or nine Inch Bellies drawn by 7 or 8 Horses, or other Beasts of draught	2	8
by 5 or 6 D <sup>o</sup>	2	
by 4 D <sup>o</sup>	1	4
by 3 C D <sup>o</sup>	1	
by 2 D <sup>o</sup>	8	
by 1 D <sup>o</sup>	4	
For every Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such Carriage with Wheels of the breadth of four inches and a half and less than 6 inches drawn by 4 Horses, Oxen or other Beasts of draught including the additional Toll authorized by the General Turnpike Act of 3 <sup>d</sup> Geo. 4 <sup>th</sup> Cap. 126.	1	8
by 2 D <sup>o</sup> including 1 D <sup>o</sup>	1	5
by 1 D <sup>o</sup> including 2 D <sup>o</sup>	10	
by 1 D <sup>o</sup> including 1 D <sup>o</sup>	5	
For every Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such Carriage with Wheels of less breadth than four inches and a half drawn by 4 Horses, Oxen or other Beasts of draught (including the additional Toll authorized by 3 <sup>d</sup> Geo. 4 <sup>th</sup> Cap. 126.	2	0
by 5 D <sup>o</sup> (including 1 D <sup>o</sup> )	1	6
by 2 D <sup>o</sup> (including 1 D <sup>o</sup> )	1	6
by 1 D <sup>o</sup> (including 1 D <sup>o</sup> )	6	
For every Horse, Mare, Gelding, Mule or Ass laden or unladen and not drawing.	1	8
For every Drove of Oxen or neat Cattle . . . Per Score . . .	1	8
And so in proportion for any greater or less number.		
For every Drove of Calves, Hogs, Sheep or Lambs . . . Per Score . . .	1	5
And so in proportion for any greater or less number.		

**SAINT NEOTS and ELTISLEY GATES** are Ticket Bars to each other. **COTON** is not a Ticket Bar.

While the quick growing quality of the willow is thus described:—

“Plant an oak, it will buy you a saddle,  
Plant a willow, it will buy you a horse.”

### ANIMALS

At St. Nechts it is said that hens and pullets will not start winter laying until they have drunk “Tandrey Water.” This probably refers to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30th).

Beresford Stevens records (“Peterborough Advertiser,” 28th December, 1912) that adders were then still common in the neighbourhood of Ramsey Heights. They were popularly believed to be deaf, and “Deaf as an adder” was a common expression. On the belly of an adder was said to be an inscription “in Latin”:—

“If I could hear as I can see,  
No man should be the death of me.”

Swallows are said to build their nests only against the houses of people with money.

### MYTHICAL CHARACTERS

#### WICKED NICK FROM WINWICK.

Children from the Oundle district of Northamptonshire used to be frightened by threats of “Wicked Nick from Winwick.” Nothing more is known of this personage, but Winwick village itself is still known as “Wicked Winwick” and apparently its inhabitants used to enjoy an evil reputation.

#### JINNY BURNTARSE.

She seems to have been the Will of the Wisp, said to have been common in the days of the undrained fens, and regarded by farmers as a bringer of bad luck.

People at Leighton and Alconbury remember being frightened, as children, into coming in early for fear of being caught by this evil spirit that haunted ponds and watercourses at night with a light.

### TURNPIKE TOLL BOARDS

The last of the toll gates in this county, that at Chatteris Ferry Toll, was bought out by Hunts. and Ely County Councils in 1949. Others at St. Ives Bridge and Earith Hermitage existed in living memory. Sawtry

Toll Bar was done away with many years ago, but the board with a list of tolls is preserved at the Durham Ox public house, Sawtry. Wintringham toll, on the St. Neots-Cambridge Road, was said to have been moved from a site between Cressener Terrace and Shady Path, Cambridge Street, St. Neots, to the position of the present toll cottage at Wintringham. This move worked greatly to the detriment of the Turnpike Trust when the railway was built, as all traffic to St. Neots Station used the Trust's road, but did not pass through the gate. The toll board, long preserved at Wintringham Hall, has now been removed and is therefore thought worth illustrating, from a photograph reproduced by kind permission of Mr. G. A. Gearey, of Bedford.

### PLASTER CASTS OF BABY'S HANDS

I have been informed of a curious find at Holmwood House, Holme, in 1945. Concealed in a wall or nailed up behind panelling was a small deal box covered with blue paper and provided with lock and key and brass fittings. It appeared to be early 19th century. In the box were the white uncoloured plaster casts of a pair of baby's hands up to just above the wrists. Round the ends were roses (cut into the mould). The significance of the find is not known, but it seems worth recording.

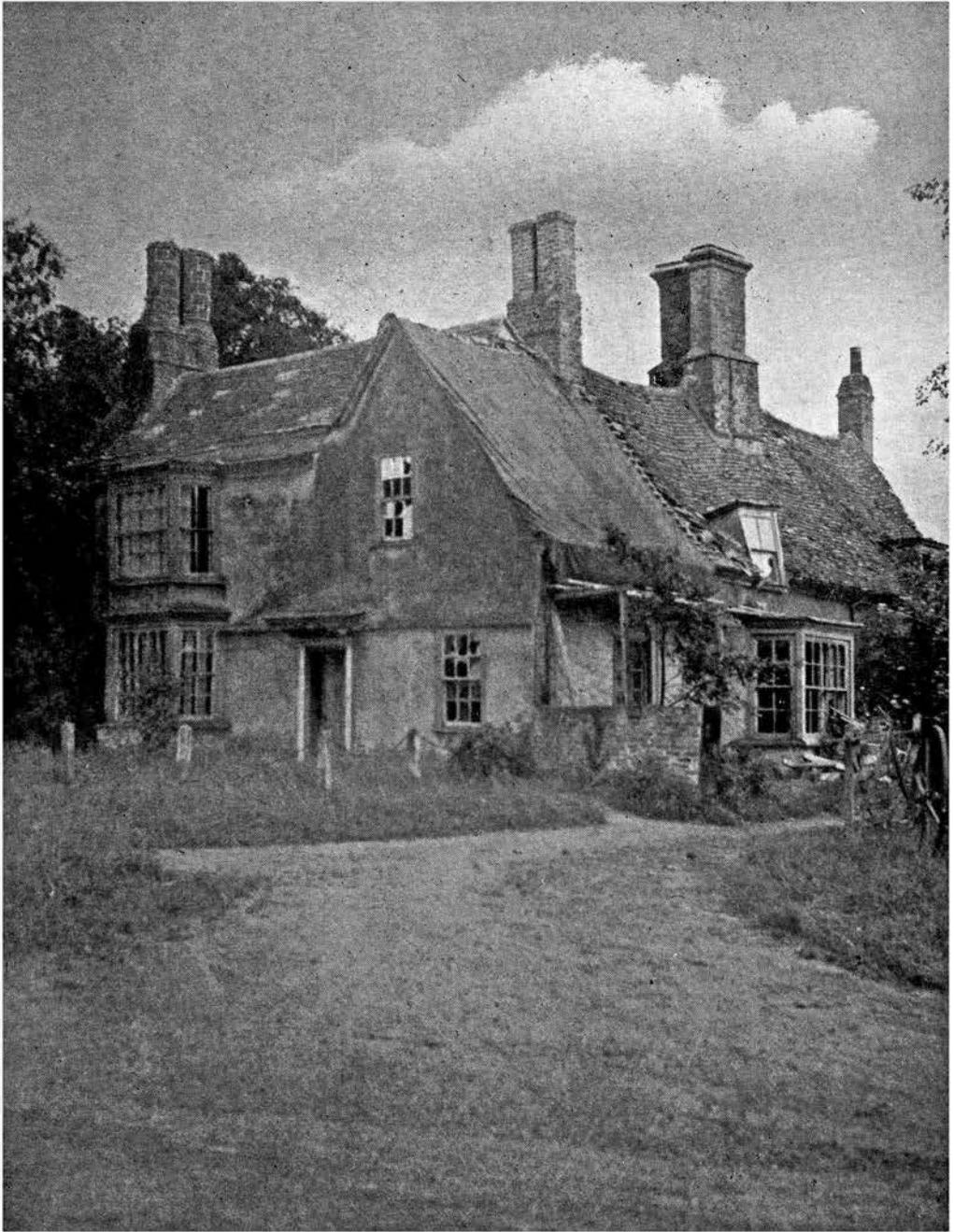
### THE FOUR MOST USUAL FEAST DAYS

A marriage settlement made in 1728 between Claudius Formareau and Mrs. Anne Banbury, both of Little Catworth, mentions the four most usual feast days in the year: The Annunciation of the B.V.M., the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael the Archangel, the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ST. IVES BRIDGE

Evidence quoted (given before 1868) in "An Appeal to the House of Lords: *Simpson v. the Attorney General and Hunts. C.C.*, 1901" states that "barges were not allowed to pass under St. Ives Bridge on Sunday, and anyone so passing could be summoned." This belief may have dated from the time when the bridge was monastic property.





PARK FARM, HILTON

## PARK FARM, HILTON

by DAVID GARNETT

Park Farm, on Hilton Green, is now a ruin of which little but the chimney stack remains. A note on this lovely sixteenth century little house and the paintings it contained may be of interest. In the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Huntingdonshire, p.139, it is stated: "On the first floor there is said to be a Stuart Royal Arms and Prince of Wales' feathers painted on plaster, but now covered up."

The house was then inhabited by old Mrs. Britten; its condition was bad, as there was rot in the floors and in the wooden frames supporting cob walls. After her death, I persuaded Mr. Chris. Britten to sell me the house, intending to offer it to the village as the site of a village hall, to be built behind the front rooms, which would be preserved. Shortly after I had bought it, village boys uncovered the Royal Arms above the fireplace, and the Prince of Wales' feathers on the wall facing, in the principal bedroom. These paintings were dated 1632, the year of Charles II.'s birth. I wrote a short account of the paintings which was published, with photographs, in the "Times" of August 24th, 1939. Any hopes that this would catch the attention of the world and result in a flood of donations for the village hall, were dispelled by the events of the following week, and I myself was not in a position to take further interest in the old house until I returned to Hilton after the war. Unfortunately, before the outbreak of war, the most unsound parts of the roof had been stripped, and though covered with tarpaulins, had not been retiled. An architect's examination, in the summer of 1945, confirmed the obvious conclusion that Park Farm had become beyond repair. It was, indeed, a wreck, which the village boys had made their castle. But the principal bedroom had been kept padlocked, and though rain came in abundantly, the Royal Arms and Prince of Wales' feathers were but little damaged.

The room below was low-ceilinged; the oak floor was full of holes, but the eighteenth century pine panelling on the walls was in excellent condition. My son, William, and I decided to save it for use in Hilton Hall, and proceeded to remove the end opposite the fireplace. It came away in one piece which it needed both of us to support;

but a glance behind it revealed painted figures on the wall, dressed in late Elizabethan, or Jacobean dress. There were three complete half-length portraits, two of which seemed to depict the same woman, and one damaged painting, half of which had been destroyed in changing the position of the doorway when the room was panelled in the 18th century.

Each portrait was framed in a painted architectural archway; each of the three complete ones had an animal and a legend, in gothic lettering below, which showed that the animal depicted had an affinity in subject with the portrait. Below the portraits the walls were bare, but a few fragments of moulded oak showed that there had originally been oak panelling reaching about half-way up the room. Unfortunately, if any paintings had existed on the other walls, they had been obliterated when the 18th century panelling had been put up.

By good fortune I informed my friend, T. H. White, of my discovery and he remembered having seen an entry in the catalogue of the Stowe collection of engravings which corresponded with the painting I described. (Catalogue of the engraved British portraits removed from Stowe House sold by Sotheby and Co., Monday, March 5th, 1849).

The entry on p.88, Lot 792, is: *Moll Cut Purse three quarters, in an elegant dress, holding in her right hand a mirror, an eagle flying behind her shoulder.*

*Not so quick sighted, is the Eagle for her prey,  
As I new fashions spie, to make me gay.*

*Note.—This extremely rare original of this extraordinary woman is not mentioned by Granger. It presents her as an elegant and beautiful woman, so different from the other portrait of her, of which a copy and drawing accompany this.*

Sir Henry Hake, was able to discover an example of this engraving in the National Portrait Gallery. It was identical with the Park Farm painting and it was obvious that one had either been copied from the other, or both had been copied from a common original. It was clear also that the companion portrait must also be of Moll Cutpurse. In that she is represented blowing smoke from her lips, holding a clay pipe in one hand and a narrow stein glass in the other; there

is a monkey on her knee and the blackletter legend reads:

*Nonsense is nonsense though it please my mind  
But is not proper to my sex and kind.*

The third complete portrait portrays a different woman playing a lute, with a stag looking at her, and the legend is:

*Maydes should be seen, not hearde so am I,  
I am sure you do not hear my melodie.*

The paintings are brightly coloured, in excellent preservation, painted on plaster on a Norfolk reed substratum.

My first concern was to protect them from malicious damage, my next their preservation. Sir Leigh Ashton, came down and saw them, as a result of which I gave them to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Two skilled carpenters from the Museum and carefully cut out the paintings, plaster and Norfolk reed, they were carefully packed and removed to London, as were also the Royal Arms and Prince of Wales' feathers. The Museum did not need the Royal Arms and returned it, and I presented it to Hilton Parish Church in which it now hangs over the chancel arch. The damaged figure I have kept for myself. The portraits of Moll Cutpurse (Mary Frith) and the unknown lutanist are on exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

It is interesting that two portraits of Mary Frith, the heroine of Middleton's play, "The Roaring Girl," should have been painted on the walls of Park Farm during her lifetime. She lived through the Civil Wars, during which she held up and robbed General Fairfax, and she died in 1659, leaving her money that a conduit in Holborn should run with wine on the event of the Restoration.

It is clear that the inhabitants of Park Farm, Hilton, were also Royalists, at a time when so many of their neighbours were Puritans. The house itself was built, many years before the paintings, by a Royalist, since the moulded bricks of the chimney bore roses and fleurs-de-lys.

I think we may assume that the family living at Park Farm was named Sparrow. For the turf maze and obelisk, erected by William Sparrow, Gentleman, in 1661, to commemorate the Restoration is within a few yards of the front door of Park Farm. A Sparrow of

Hilton claimed the right to bear arms in the Heralds' visitation of the county. It would have been a former generation of Royalist Sparrows who put up the Royal Arms in the principal bedroom and decorated the dining room with portraits of the notorious heroine of the "Roaring Girl." Whether she was a "pin-up girl" of the period or had some more intimate connection with Mr. Sparrow of Hilton, is a matter on which we must speculate in vain.

I may add that the 18th century panelling from the dining room at Park Farm has been used to line a new room added by my sons to Hilton Hall and the room in question is lighted by one of its beautiful bow windows.

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### AN EARLY SAXON AND ROMAN SITE HEMINGFORD GREY

On a report received from the Sand and Gravel Co., that pottery was being dug up from a field No. 83 in the Ordnance Survey Map of 1902, I visited the site and there saw at the edge of the gravel digging a layer of ash 2 feet 6 inches below the surface. From it I dug out two sherds of coarse pottery,, and two fragments of clay rings. The men rescued several sherds of coarse gritty pottery with bases flattened; three whole pottery rings blackened by fire, and several fragments. They stated that a whole pot and many pieces had fallen into the water.

From the same field the men rescued a quantity of Roman pottery. The finds are housed in the Norris Museum, St. Ives.

C. M. Coote.



TWO PORTRAITS OF MARY FRITH *alias* MOLL CUTPURSE





LUTE PLAYER





PRINCE OF WALES'S FEATHERS IN FARM BEDROOM





UNIDENTIFIED PORTRAIT, NOW AT HILTON HALL



## ROMAN REMAINS AT FARM HALL, GODMANCHESTER

J. R. GARROOD, M.D., F.S.A.

This account is published by the kindness of our member, Mr. Marshall Arnott Sisson, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., of Farm Hall, Godmanchester.

The first hint was given by rabbit holes showing Romano-British pottery, then when a tree was being planted to the south of the house near the S.E. angle of the garden a quantity of dark soil containing pottery and bones was discovered. Here the first trial hole was sunk and in this case the material was kept in four separate layers (Grid Ref. 242702).

The excavations are called A., B., C., Xj. and Xm. There were a few trial holes to the north of the main group but the soil was not dark and contained very little.

The following is a summary of the more important finds, all were fragmentary:—

(A) Layer 1—Castor ware, a pie dish with metallic lustre, coarse ware and ox bones.

2—Samian, form D37 with an eagle in a medallion, foliage, etc., castor and coarse ware, slag and ox bones.

3—Samian, castor and coarse wares, sheep and oyster, large store jars.

4—Samian, castor, colour coated (imitation Samian), coarse and slag, large store jars, part of a baby's skull, oyster and ox; also two second century coins, described later.

Layer 4, the deepest, contains what is probably the latest piece, the colour coated, third to fourth century, which makes nonsense of the deposit unless it has been re-sorted, probably a depression having been filled at some time with Romano-British rubbish, this happened a long time ago for there is hardly any mediaeval or modern pottery, this applies to the whole area.

(B) West of A to the south of the garden, contained Samian castor and coarse ware, a mortarium spout and burnished lattice ornament on grey pottery, bones of ox.

- (C) Near B. Here we had decorated Samian (D.37), castor and coarse ware, store jar and a brick 1.4 inches thick.
- Xj. and Xm. were on either side of the boundary fence between Farm Hall and Ousebourn.
- (Xj) On the east side, no Samian but a small base of castor, a late feature, coarse ware included a hook-rimmed bowl, store jar, base of a white flagon and a four-ribbed flagon handle. This group probably represents the second to fourth centuries.
- (Xm) On the west of the fence, the ground here was at a lower level and dark for a considerable area, it contained ornamented Samian, forms D.37 and 36, also a potter's mark, ROTTALIM, by the hand of Rottalus, a late second century potter of Lezoux. Castor ware with barbotine ornament, also rustication, rouletting and paint, coarse ware shows mica dusting (late first century), there are pie dish rims and a reeded rim (first century), thus since the painted pottery is likely to be fourth century, this hole exhibits the greater part of the Roman period. Store jars, the bones of ox and sheep as well as oyster shell indicate the kitchen department.

The Coins: These came from A and were described by Miss J. M. C. Toynbee, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A.

Carausius AE. Obv. IMP C CARAVSIVS PF AVG. Bust radiate draped and cuirassed Rt. Rev. Pax AVG. Pax standing L. holding olive branch in right hand and transverse Sceptre in left hand, mint mark S.P. MLXXI. Struck at Londinium about A.D.290.

Theodora AE. Obv. (FL MAX THEO)DORA AVG. Draped bust of Theodora wearing laurel wreath and necklace Rt. Rev. PIETAS (Romanai, mint mark (T)RP. Pietas or Theodora standing to front with a child in her arms minted at Treves. Theodora was married about A.D.293 to Constantius Chlorus who had to put away his wife Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, for that purpose. The result of this series of trial holes into Romano-British rubbish shows occupation in the vicinity over the greater part of the period. Some of the decorated Samian is good and may be late first century, while painted and colour coated ware may be fourth, and the coins give a really fixed date at the end of the third. The situation then as now is outside the town. The

discoveries are not of great dramatic interest but they do extend our knowledge of the little town of Godmanchester which had another name but was otherwise much as it is to-day.

A number of people have done the digging. Miss Lamburn worked in A and kept the pottery in layers. Miss M. A. Pritchard was responsible for Xm. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Sisson for the interest they have taken and aroused in the whole matter.

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## SAXON HUT

FROM MR. C. M. COOTE

When excavating in a field by the River Ouse at Houghton, No. 119 in the Ordnance Survey Map, 1902, I opened up what turned out to be the site of an early Saxon Hut. The floor was clearly marked by a depression in the undisturbed ground which was practically a true circle, only varying in diameter from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet 5 inches.

The floor of the hut gradually sloped to the centre which was 1 foot 3 inches lower than at the perimeter. At the centre was a post hole 1 foot 9 inches deep and 9 inches across.

The hut entrance was at the east end and 2 feet 9 inches wide, broadening by a curve on the north side to 4 feet. On the west side, opposite to the entrance, a rectangle 3 feet 4 inches long and 2 feet 1 inch wide, protruded. This appears to have been a latrine, being full of extraneous matter, bits of bone and a Roman coin, not legible. Half way between the entrance and the latrine was a post hole, 1 foot 3 inches by 1 foot 1 inch, on the south side. The floor of the hut had a band of black earth 4 to 6 inches thick, stretching right across the floor on the south side of the centre post, containing a quantity of animal bones; ox, sheep, pig and some sherds of pottery. Scattered generally on the floor were found four broken clay rings, a broken knife, sherds of two pots, as well as other small fragments made of coarse gritty material, with flattened base, no decoration, lumps of whittle, four horn cores, and several rib bones broken off to about the same length of 6 to 7 inches.

The site, being floodable, was covered with four feet of silt in which there was nothing of interest.

## PINFOLD LANE, GODMANCHESTER

Remains of a Roman building were noted in 1939 in an enclosure on the north side of the lane. Workmen digging a trench, brought up a 4in. thick slab of pink mortar made of lime and pounded brick, in which were embedded several plain tesserae and impressions of others which had been broken off, some of which in clusters of two and three, they recovered from the trench.

Last summer, with the active interest and co-operation of the owners, some investigation was made to determine, if it could be done without destroying the amenities of the owner's garden, the plan and type of the building. Pits were dug 2ft. apart over an area limited in two promising directions by the owner's house and tennis court. Under the circumstances no large excavation at one time was admissible and each pit after the contents had been sifted and the data recorded, was filled in before starting on the next. A method which is useful enough but has its limitations.

The building had a hypocaust. Walls were plastered and painted in several colours. Some plaster fragment showed traces of designs. Tiles were used for the roof. For the hypocaust the foundations of the house were carried down to a depth of 6ft. 6in. below the present ground level. A short length of this foundation was uncovered intact, a rough-faced irregular structure with pockets of dark soil in cavities in the vertical sides, suggesting that the gravel and lime components were rammed into trenches and the contained area dug out. The floors of the hypocaust were cobbled and sealed with a heavy layer of mortar over broken tiles. The supporting pillars for the floors above were no doubt of tile. Several fragments of roller-patterned flue tile are classified by Lowther in Group V. Die (probably) No. 15. (Patterns on Roman Flue Tiles. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A.). Uncertainty over the die is due to the smallness of the pieces.

The short length of foundation still carried at one point, the remains of an 18in. thick rubble and tile wall, up to a foot in height, and was intersected by a furnace with sides of tile, well made and untouched by the general destruction. This contained a quantity of

wood ash and charcoal on the fire floor which was solidly constructed with cement of a darkish colour, 6in. thick laid on rubble.

Apart from these structures everything else had been turned over by—no doubt—frequent searches for building material. Everything serviceable had been removed including some area of tessellated floor which seems to have been dug up with some care, only a few plain and white tesserae coming to light here and there. It was noted that most of the plain kind were coated with a thin layer of hard buff plaster, as though the floor had been repaired. The impression of deliberate dismantling of a decorated floor was heightened by the fact that segments of the sill, the half round plaster moulding carried around the foot of the wall to facilitate the washing of the floor, lay in a compact pile in one place.

Owing to the small amount of work done so far, the dating of the building is not conclusive. No coin has been found earlier than A.D.287. The latest is 375, near enough to the end of the Occupation to mark the "fading out" period which preceded it. Much later use of the site may be indicated by a Nuremberg counter (1328/35) and a key which Dr. Garrod attributes to the fifteenth century. So far rather less pottery has been found than is usual in this part of the settlement and the absence of Samian ware is notable considering the number of specimens of 2nd-4th century found in the lane hereabouts, not many yards away.

C.H.

## HUNTINGDON MUSEUM REPORT, 1948—9.

**Accessions.**

**Romano-British.**—Pottery from Offord, Corpus Christi, Godmanchester, Stow Longa, Basmead. Coin: MAGNUS MAXIMUS, from the Burial at Lewcock's Garage, Godmanchester.

**Stone.**—Flakes, Cores and Implements from Offord gravel pit and Basmead. A bag of Gunflints from Kimbolton Castle.

**Mediaeval.**—Pottery from Brampton, Basmead, Pidley, Wyton, Priory Grove, Huntingdon.

**Wood.**—Corn Measure, Butter Mould.

**Map.**—Saxtons Hunts., 1610.

Schoolchildren as well as other visitors continue to attend.

J. R. GARROOD, Curator, 30-11-49.

## NORRIS MUSEUM REPORT, 1949

Mr. Fred Tebbutt has most kindly presented the Museum with a very interesting collection of bygones, Cooper's tools, agricultural and horticultural implements, carpenter's tools, tile, brick and pipe makers' implements, butcher's tools, with cutting stool, saddle maker's tools, a mill bill, and lead pump.

The Museum have also had presented Final Levallo's worked flakes from Earith and St. Ives, Roman Pottery from Earith, a horse measure, a corn measure from Hemingford Grey mill, an old friction electric machine, presented by Mr. F. M. Warren, and two pictures of the Quay, St. Ives, and the Ouse, Hemingford Grey, by the artist, Herbert Coop, R.B.A.

## REPORT ON SUMMER EXCURSION—20th JUNE, 1950.

The weather was all that one could wish for, not too hot, with plenty of sun. Hilton was the first place visited. The Vicar, the Revd. Herbert Moore, pointed out the more unusual features, including a Coat of Arms of Charles I, over the Chancel arch, it came from Park Farm. Our member, Mr. David Garnett, then showed the Maze, and took us to his house, The Hall, where we admired the early 17th cent. house, and its furniture, paintings and sculpture.

Next Elsworth, rather late, so al fresco lunch preceded the description of the fine Church by the Rector, the Rev. W. V. Awdry, and a discussion on the out-of-centre double piscina and the ? Easter Sepulchre, with the similar recess adjoining in the East Wall of the Chancel.

As time was getting on, Connington was omitted, and the party went on to Fenstanton, where again the Revd. Herbert Moore described this, his other Church. Here again, there were Sedilia and a Piscina, but no problem, though, owing to the raising of the Chancel floor, seating would have been undignified.

At St. Ives Museum, Mr. Coote drew attention to some recent and important exhibits, he also had a table of 'conundrums,' many of which were identified by members.

We finished the day with tea at the Golden Lion, which was very satisfactory, and, as most were a little weary, it

lasted a good while. Discussion on transport resulted in the conclusion that, where possible, members should communicate 'empty seats,' but that a 'bus or any formal register of vacant seats' was impracticable.

J.R.G.

### REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1949—50

The Council begs to report that there is a membership of sixty-six. It has lost by death its Vice-President, Sidney Inskip Ladds, A.R.I.B.A., a very grave loss to Archæology as well as the Society. Several members have been written off as they have not paid their subscriptions and are only an expense. Six new members have been elected.

Vol. VII, Pt. II of the Transactions has been issued. Part III is in the Press.

Two Excursions have been held, one on the 20th of June, to Hilton, Elsworth and Fenstanton, the other on the 23rd of September, to Kimbolton Castle and Church, Stow Longa, Barham, Little Gidding, Copingford and Alconbury Hill. Both were satisfactory.

The Council recommends the election of Mr. Tebbutt and Dr. Garrod to the Council for British Archæology, and to Group 7 of that body Mr. Tebbutt continues the Photographic Record. Mr. Ladds' Executor would like the Society to have a number of his photographic negatives.

The Council recommend Dr. Garrod for co-option to the County Town and Country Planning Committee.

The Huntingdonshire County Council has acquired Gt. Gransden Mill as an ancient monument, and the Council expresses its appreciation of this action.

The following members of the Council retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, the Council recommends their re-election. Substituting Miss P. Goodliff for Mr. C. Hunnybun, resigned; Mrs. Hutton, Miss Goodliff, Mr. Deards.

The Council recommends the re-election of the officers for the coming year, and thanks all who have helped the Society.



# Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Archæological Society

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## RULES.

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1. The Society shall be called the CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY shall be the Patron of the Society.

2. The objects of the Society shall be:—

- (a) To collect and publish information on the history and antiquities of the district.
- (b) To oppose and prevent, as far as possible, the execution of any injuries with which ancient buildings and monuments of every description, within the district, may be from time to time threatened, and to collect accurate drawings, plans and descriptions, thereof.

3. The Society shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members of both sexes. Candidates for admission must be elected at a General or Council Meeting by show of hands.

4. An Ordinary Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of Fifteen shillings to be due in advance on the first day of January, and remain a Member of the Society until he or she withdraws from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary, or fails, after due notice, to pay his or her subscription within nine months of it becoming due. A Member may compound for his Subscription on payment of the sum of Ten pounds.

5. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, one or more Honorary Secretaries, Editor, Treasurer, Curator and Librarian; all of whom shall be elected for the year at the Annual Meeting.

6. The General Management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the Officers and of nine Members elected from the general body of the Members, three of whom shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. The Council shall have power to add to its number, and ladies shall be eligible to serve on it.

7. The Council shall meet to transact the ordinary business of the Society four times a year as near as may be about Quarter Day.

The Council shall control the funds of the Society, shall decide what papers are to be published in the annual volume of the Society's Transactions, determine all questions relative to plans and illustrations for the same, fix date and locality of Excursions, and shall have power to fill up temporarily any vacancy that may occur among the Officers until the next General Meeting; also to appoint Committees, frame Reports, and prepare Accounts, duly audited, for submission to the Annual Meeting. At the Meeting of the Council, three Members to be a quorum, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.

8. The Treasurer shall hold the current funds of the Society, receive Subscriptions, and make all payments sanctioned by the Council. The Accounts shall be balanced to Michaelmas yearly, and, when audited, shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting.

9. The Ordinary and General Meetings of the Society shall be held at such times and places, being within the boundaries of the two Counties, as the Council shall determine.

10. Every Member whose Subscription is not in arrear shall be entitled to one copy of such parts of the Transactions as may be

issued during the current year of membership, and to purchase one further copy of such publication at half the price chargeable to non-members, and to bring two guests to the Annual Excursions.

11. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of October (Eve of St. Etheldreda), or at such other time as the Council may determine, or convenience dictate.

12. On the occasion of the Annual or other Meetings, the Council shall make arrangements for the reading of Papers in some Public Room, when Members may introduce friends.

13. The Society shall hold two Excursions in the year, arrangements for which may be placed in the hands of a Committee appointed by the Council.

14. No alteration or addition to these Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting, fourteen days' notice of any proposed alteration or addition having been previously given.