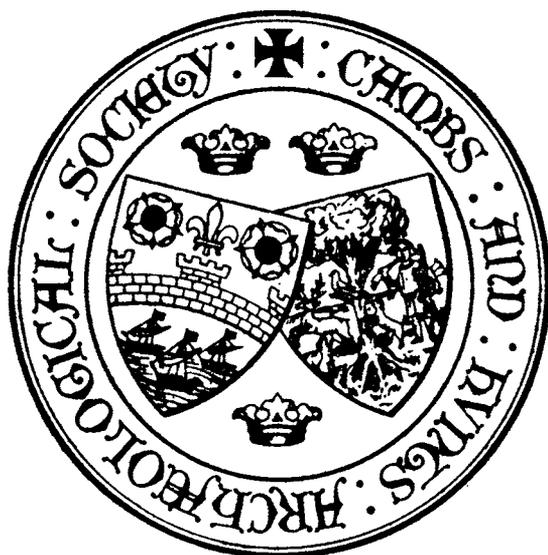


Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900)



VOLUME VII, PART III.

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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."

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.