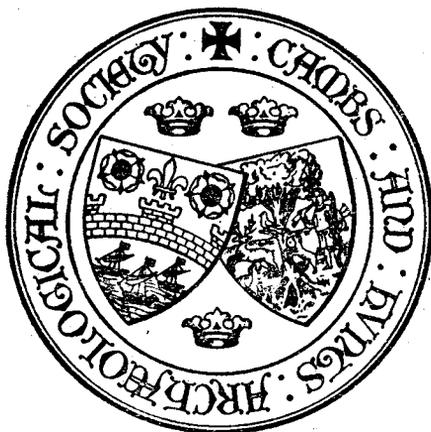


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EDITED BY THE REV. E. H. VIGERS, M.A.  
RECTOR OF ABBOTS RIPTON AND LITTLE STUKELEY, HUNTS.

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

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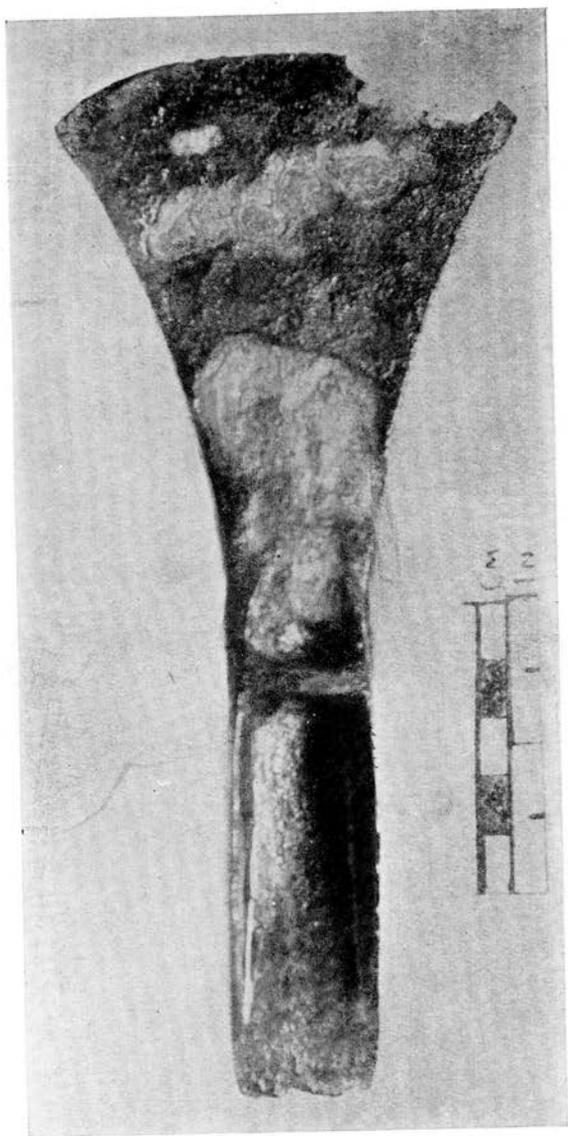
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## A PALSTAVE IN "BOG OAK" AT WOOD WALTON

J. R. GARROOD

The bronze axe illustrated was obtained from Mr. C. Fuller, of Abbey Farm, Wood Walton, who stated that he found it stuck in a Bog Oak tree in field 132 Castle Hill Farm (Grid Ref. 231835) in the winter of 1941-2.

Major Gordon Fowler told me in 1945 that he went out to see Fuller's palstave in 1941 or 1942 and inspected the trunk of a Bog Oak from which he (Fuller) claimed it had been removed and in which Major Fowler could still see the staining of the bit of its edge which was broken off.

It will be seen that a bit is missing from the cutting edge and Fuller stated it broke off when he pulled it out. What a pity I did not know and so could not photograph it.

There is a scar on one face which is fresh and doubtless due to some injury at the time.

The implement is 7.5ins. long and 2.8ins. wide at the cutting edge, patinated irregularly with some evidence of old bronze disease. There is a continuation of the flanges forming a shield pattern below the stop ridge.

It would seem probable that this axe was embedded in the tree when it was alive or not long dead and certainly before it was covered by the peat, giving a date in the middle bronze age for the catastrophe which caused the trees to die and fall, being subsequently covered by peat. This peat having shrunk, the dead trees form an obstruction to agricultural operation and have to be removed.

## HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN AND THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION

By PHILIP G. M. DICKINSON, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

### The 'Holmead' Document

An interesting document, sadly damaged by damp, remains with the Grammar School muniments. It is here referred to as the "Holmead" Document, and is in the form of a Deposition, throwing a certain amount of light on the transitional period between the dissolution of the medieval Hospital of St. John in 1547 and the founding of the Grammar School in 1565. Unfortunately the date has been destroyed, but as it mentions Emmanuel College, Cambridge, it must be later than 1584 when the College was founded. Probably it was drawn up shortly after this date during the Mastership of Thomas Richardes who was appointed in 1583.

It is here necessary to point out that a clear distinction must be drawn between the Mastership of the Hospital and the headmasters of the Grammar School. Admittedly, before 1655, these two offices were always combined in one person, but after that date separate appointments were made.

The document, which is in the form of question and answer, states that when the Hospital was dissolved in 1547 no school was then attached to it nor had there ever been one in the past. This statement had been recently called in question and attempts had been made to find anyone who could remember such a school or had attended it. There were many people living in the town in 1585 who remembered the Hospital in 1547, but none was forthcoming who remembered a school. The almshouse which had formed such an important part of the Hospital's activities was defunct and seems to have ceased to exist before the Dissolution. The Deposition goes on to state that Queen Mary re-founded the Hospital in 1555 when the former Master, William Stockwith, who had been one of the brethren in 1547, was re-appointed. He had been appointed Master in 1551, but had been illegally dispossessed by Thomas Curteys. During Stockwith's Mastership no school was kept. He died in 1558 and was succeeded by Thomas Alcock.

Henry Holmead made certain offers to the Corporation concerning the foundation of a Free Grammar School which will be referred to later on. The transcript of the original document appears in appendix "A."

## THE 'HOLMEAD' DOCUMENT

## APPENDIX 'A'

(8 lines here destroyed or rendered indecipherable by damp).

- ITEM.—They say that the Foundation time out of memory of man hath byne that the Mayster ther hath allwayes byne a schollmayster and hath towghte and keapte a Grammar Scholl freely of him selfe without taking of any pencon or porcon for the same, not shewings fourth any evidences nor wrytinge or yet recordes in any mans possession for the provinge of the same.
- ITEM.—We say to that if ther weare or had byne any sutch Foundation as they doe aleadge tyme out of mynde, the Statute of XXXVII yeare of Kinge Henrye the VIII doth cutt off that Foundatyon, and againe the Desolucyne and Suppression of the House maketh that case cleare that ther was never any sutch as they say.
- ITEM.—They say that [by] the Foundatyon and Ordynance of the House, ther should be certayne beade men kept and also lodgings for sutch as came and passed throwth the Towne and wanted releafe being poore travelours.
- ITEM.—We say againe that if ther had bien any sutch Foundatyon of Antyquity as they aleadge to bee and as they shall never be able to prove, then as well as the Suppression of the same House as also being tyme before all sutch aunycyente ould men beinge beade men which were keapte of chardge of the House or Mayster ther should have byne providid for at the Suppression of the same Howse which is within the memory of man, and further we say if any Scholle or Schollers were ther at the tyme of the Suppression of the same beinge of so late tyme, it is to be knowne what they profited by the said Grammar Scholle and whether they were preserved, and further whether they be dead or alive.
- ITEM.—Further, wher they clayme fower marckes a yeare rent essuinge out of the said Hospital or Howse, in which they have strayned ther conseynces and other very farr, for that they say they pay twenty shillings a yeare thereof to the Bayliffe of Hartford in Hartfordshire, which in truth they do not, and further, wher they say that it was out of that fower marckes and do pay but five shillings unto her Majesty.
- ITEM.—To all that we say that we never had any sutch meaninge, nether yet can we if we would doe it for the cuttinge of any such rente which hath bene paid, nether yet meane we to chardge our selves further than Law will force.
- ITEM.—They say that by a Decree in Chancery made in Qweene Maryes tyme the Howse was new erected or restored againe to Stockwith, on(e) of the Company before the Desolution of the said Howse or Hospital to that purpose that he should keape a Grammar Scholle freely with out takinge of any portion or pensyon of any, and to kepe certaine beade men of is cost and chardge and to lodge the poore travelours as a foresaid.
- ITEM.—To that we say that Stocwith entred by intention upon it being possession, and by the false meanes of the Baylifes ther, and that Stockwith did not kepe any free Grammar Scholle

or keepe any bead men of his proper cost and chardge, and if he did we reqwyer to knowe the names of the Schollers that profited by him, and the names of the bead men which he releaved, be they dead or alive.

(8 lines here destroyed or too badly damaged to read)

. . . or quarter of a yeare after the first . . . Parlyment hold(en) . . . (fl)rst yeare of her Majestys most prosperous reigne, and after that vysitayon . . . should be(ne) her Majestys good will and pleasure to alter the names of thos superstitious Howses or giftes, and give unto them such names as her Highness should thinke best, which order was never ether seene, done, observed nor kepte, and for all that Cooke, Upprichardes and Richardes have done, it is rather a prooffe or a mayntenance of her Majesties tylie then otherwise, any hurte, hynderance or disprofe thereof.

ITEM.—For the Decree in Chancery there is no cause shewed wherefore it was graunted against Curtyes to Stocwith, but because Curties he did not shewe fourth Haynes hys letters patens and other conveyances for the Kinges ryghte therein procured or had; nether is the Decree to tie Curtyes and his heires against any other joininge only Stocwith for his lyfe. Curtyes and Stocwith be both dead and Curtyes dyed first. Curtyes righte fell unto St Stucly and Stucly was a traytor and fled the rea(1)me by reason wherof it fell to her Majestie agine. Haynes is also dead.

For my offers made to the Towne of Huntingdon if they yeld and take my good will and lett Richardes and me try the titell if I enjoy the same.

ITEM.—First, I will take nothinge from them which of ryghte is due unto the Towne.

ITEM.—I will make as good assurance as they can devyse by law for the foundation of a Free Scholle for ever and for the terme of my lyfe. I will procure a suffycyente scholmay'r to teache ther or ells give one tenne poundes a year whom the byshopp shall allowe accordinge to the order sett downe.

ITEM.—Further I am contented to erekte three howses of purpose for iii couples whiche are aged and decayed parsones and hath byne inhabytors and howse keepers within that said Towne of Huntingdon, or ells in every howse toe widdowes or ii aunicyente ould men which hath byne borne or broughte upp in the Towne, or longest contynewene ther, and now aged or otherwayes decayed and not able to myntyne themselves—five marckes a yeare I will allowe to eche howse and ther dwellinges therein for ever after my deceasse.

ITEM.—I am further contented after my deceasse and departure out of this wurd to give tenne poundes a yeare to the findinge a Scholler beinge a poore mans child, and borne with in the said Towne of Huntingdon and profitinge by the Free Scholle ther for terme of his lyfe for the mayntenance of the said (S)cholle in Emanuell Colledge Cambridge contyntuung in the same howse, and after that he shall profite by leaving ther of gaini(n)ge any further preferment or promotion, otherwayes the same stipend to goe to another Scholler to be preferred out of that Scholle, and so contyen(u)e for ever.

(signed) HENRY HOLMEAD.

(NOTE.—On page 3 of the document, but written upside down is the following memoranda:

ITEM.—To inquier of the Collector of that Shire what frutes hath bine payed at any time by Stockard (sic), Cooke or Thomas Richardes, or what tennths, fines or proccises they or any of them hath payed unto the bishoppe, or for what causes they or any of them or any other hath bine called before the bishoppe of the Diocese, his chauncelor or any other of his officers for usinge or ministringe of the Sacramentes and other servise in King Henry the VIII his tyme, Kinge Edwardes tyme, Queene Mary or in the tyme of the Quenes Majesty that now is, within the chappell or church of Saint John Baptist in Huntingdon with in the Hospitall ther.

(8 lines here destroyed)

by the said Injunction it is alleged that Judgment was given (again)st Curtyes for that he did not show fourth such writings and (con)veyances as passed for the free hould of the Hospitall which he aleaged on his byle from the (Master) of the said Howse and his Cobrethren under there ouen seale betwixt Haynes, and then nether (any) letters pattens from Kinge Henry the VIII unto Haynes. (Wherefore) it standeth us in hand to searche the record of the Augmentacyon Court for the Desolutyon or Suppressyon of the said Howse.

ITEM.—Or ells the helpes we have if for that Howse was restored againe to Stocwith, the uses it was putt to in Qweene Maryes tyme, and for our better helpe that Curtyes tytle was not abarred but for Stocwiths lyfe (and) nether any other wayes condemned but for lake of showinge fourth of Haynes letters pattens.

(Here follow some notes on the Law dealing with tithes and ecclesiastical government).

### APPENDIX 'B'

LEASE FOR 60 YEARS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HUNTINGDON (1) SIR ANTHONIE BARTEMEWE, MASTER (2) THE BAILIFFS AND BURGESSES OF HUNTINGDON TO (3) GEORGE RICHARDS. 2 MAY 1565.

THIS INDENTURE trypertyt made the seconde daye of Maye in the seventh yere of the Raigne of Or. Sov'eigne ladie Elizabeth, by the Grace of God of Englande, Fraunce and Irelande Queene, Defendor of the Faythe &c.

BETWEENE Sr. Anthonie Bartelmewe, clarke, Mr. of the Ospitall of St. Johnes in Huntingdon in the Countie of Huntingdon of the fyrste partie, and Robert Blinkerne and John Richardes gentlemen, Baylives of Huntingdon afforesaid and the Burgesses of the same twone, Patrones of the Ospitall of St. Johnes afforesaid, of the second partie, and George Richardes of London, gent., of the therd partie.

WITNESSETHE that the said Sr. Anthonie Bartelmewe, clarke, Mr. of th' Ospitall of St. Johnes afforesaid and the said Robert Blinkerne and John Richardes, baylives of Hunt' afforesaid and the burgises of Huntingdon with there holle assente, consent and full aggrement have for dyvers good causes and consideracons them severally moving, demysed, graunted and to farme letten, and by these p'nts doe demyse, graunt and to

farme lett unto the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes, all that the scyte of the mancyonhouse of St. Johnes aforesaid, and all the howses and edifics, lands, ten'ths, meadowes, pastures, rentes, reversions and suits, with all comodyties, advauntags & Profitts therunto belonging or in any wyse appurteynynge, withe all and singuler there appurten'nces sett, lyng and beinge in the parishe of All SS. in Huntingdon aforesaid, or els where in the said Countie of Hunt' in as lardge & ample manner as Sr. Thomas Hulcote or any other Mr. of the said Hospitall heretofore ever hadd, held, occupied or enjoyd the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singuler the said scyte of the said Howse, Hospitall and all edifics, howses, buildings, lands, ten'ths, meadowes, leases and pastures withe all other comodyties and profitts to the same belonginge or appurteynynge withe all and singuler there appurten'nces unto the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes, frome the feaste of the Anunnyacon of Or. Ladie laste paste unto the full ende and terme of threscore yeres next and imedyatly following and fullie to be complyte and endid.

YELDINGE AND PAYINGE therefore yerely to the said Sr. Anthonie Bartelmewe, his successors or assignes, masters of St. Johnes aforesaid for the tyme beinge duringe the fyrste ten yeres of the said terme of threscore yeres, the some of foure poundes of lawfull money of Englonde, att the feasts of St. Michell th'Archaungell & th'Annunnyacon of Or. Ladie by even portyons.

AND YELDINGE and payinge therefore yerelye after the said ten yeres duringe the reasydue of the said terme of threscore yeres unto the said Sir Anthonie Bartelmewe, his successors or assignes, Masters of St. Johns aforesaid for the tyme beinge, the some of thirteene poundes sixe shelings eight pence of lawfull money of Englonde att the said feasts of St. Michell the Archangell and the Annunnyacon of Oure Ladie by even portyons.

AND yf ytt happen the said yerelye rente of foure poundes duringe the fyrste ten yeres of the said terme of threscore yeres or the said yerelye rente of thirteene poundes sixe shelings eighte pence or any of them to be behynd, unpayde in parte, or in all after any of the said feasts att w'ch ytt oughte to be payde, by the space of one monethe, the same beinge lawfullie demaunded, and no suffycient distresse there can be founde in or uppon the premisses nor any parcell thereof, that then and frome thenceforthe ytt shalbe lawfull unto the said Sir Anthonie, his successors or assignes, into the aforesaid scyte of the said mancyonhouse of St. Johns and all and singuler othere the premisses with ther appurten'nces to reenter and the leasee from thenceforthe to ceasse and be voyde; the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes to be expelled amoved and owte of the said scyte of the said mancyonhowse and other the premisses; and the said Anthonie, his successors and assignes the said scyte and othere the premisses soe to have agayne as in hys or there proper estate & Righte any clause or artycel in this indenture to the contrarye in any wyse notwithstandinge.

AND the said George Richardes for him, his heires, executors & assignes coven'nteth and grauntethe to and withe the said Robt. Blinkerne & John Richardes, baylives, and the burgiseits of Huntingdon aforesaid & their successors, that he the said

George Richardes, his executors and assignes shall before the feaste of Easter nexte comynge after the date hereof, att his or there proper costs and charges, erecte, builde, fynishe and make one suffycyent skolehowse in the fore fronte of the houses of the said Howse of St. Johnes in Huntingdon afforesaide, nexte to the streate where the same skole hath ben beforetyme kepte for a skole'mr. to teache chylren in, and the same howse so beinge made up ys afforesaid, shall kepe, mayntayne and uphowide from tyme to tyme duringe the terme threscore yeres next ensuinge; and the same so beinge maynteyned, uphold'n and kepte shall leave, yelde and geve upp in suffycyente care and repare att the ende of the said terme of threscore yeres.

AND also shall before the saide feaste of Eastre, erect, builde, fynyshe and make one suffycyente Almose howse for pore folks to lodge in, in the same place of the said St. Johnes where the same Almose howse hath ben kepte, att his and there proper costs and charges; and also that the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes shall erecte, builde and make upp att his and there proper costs and charges all other howses scytuate nowe beinge and standinge in and uppon the same premisses before the yere of Oure Lorde God a thowsande iwe hundred threscore and fower. And the same shall suffycyently att all tyme and tymes duringe the said terme of threscore yeres repaire, maynteyn and kepe; and the same so suffycyently repared, shall leave and yelde upp att the ende of the said terme of threscore yeres.

AND MOREOVER the said George Richardes dothe by these presents coven'te and graunte for him, his heires, executors and assignes, to and withe the said Sr. Anthonie Bartelmewe his successors and assignes, and to and withe the said Robert Blinkerne and John Richardes, baylives; and the burgises of Huntingdon afforesaid and there successors, that he the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes shall not kepe or Comen in the comon felde of Huntingdon afforesaide withe any othere cattell or noe cattell or above the rate that any burges of Huntingdon afforesaid oughte to comon in the same feldes.

AND TO CONCLUDE the said Robert Blinkerne and John Richardes, baylives, and the burgiseis of Huntingdon afforesaid for them and there successors doe coven'te, graunte, promyse, condiscend & agree by these p'nts to and withe the said George Richardes, his executors & assignes, thatt ytt shalbe lawfull unto the said George Richardes, his executors and assignes by and duringe the said terme of threscore yeres, to presente, nomynate and appoynte from tyme to tyme and so often as the saide Church of Saynt Johnes shall come voyde ether by deathe, resynacon or by de pryvacon or otherwyse, all suche parson and parsones as shall please the said George Richardes, his executors or assignes, without contradicon of the said Robt. Blinkerne and John Richardes, baylives of Huntingdon afforesaid and the burgises and there successors baylives and burgises of Huntingdon afforesaide.

IN WITNES WHEREOF the said George Richardes hath unto this Indenture remeanynge in the handes and kepinge of the said balives and burgises of Huntingdon, putto his hande and seale and subscribed his name.

YEVEN the daye ane yere fyrste above written.

[signed] by me George Richardes.

(On turn-up)  
Sigillat, signat' et deliberat in p'sent' me Samuelli Wrighte. Apprent.  
Rico. Tomson script.

(on dorse)  
Sealyd and delivered unto Will'm Dixon, unto the use of the parties  
conteyned in the indenture in the p'sents of Thomas Mede, esquier.

William Forster  
John Richards

Gents.

### APPENDIX 'C'

CERTIFICATE CONCERNING THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN AND  
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL RELEASE FROM PAYMENT OF FIRST  
FRUITS AND TITHES &c. BY STATUTE OF I. ELIZABETH. 1570.

VIRTUTE cujusdam Actus Parlamenti tenti apud West-  
monasterium XXIII<sup>to</sup> die Januarii anno regni Dominae Reginae  
nunc Elizabeth primo, pro restitutione primitiarum et decimarum  
inter alia imperiali Coronae Regni Angliae . . . . . ac virtute  
cujusdam promissi in eodem actu pro Hospitalibus et Scholis a  
solutione primitiarum et decimarum exonerando mediantequae  
certificat red[d]endi in tempore patris Nicholai permissione divina  
Lincolniensis Episcopi Baronis Scaccarii directo gerendo dato VIII  
die Aprilis anno regni dictae dominae Reginae nunc duodecimo.

Asseretur quod Hospitalem Sancti Johannis Baptistae in villa  
Huntingdon in comitatu Huntingdon usitatum fuit et possessiones  
et reverciones inde ad et ante predictum XXIII die Januarii dicto  
anno primo dictae dominae Reginae nunc juxta fundationem  
ejusdem Hospitalis impendebantur et impresentiarum  
impend[er]untur in sustentationem unius magistri sive custodis  
duarum pauperum mulierum ad minus praeter vagrantium  
nonnullorum et unius Scholae Grammaticalis.

Interveniente etiam concessione Gilberti Gerrard armigeri,  
attornati dominae Reginae nunc generalis consideratum erat per  
Barones quod prafatus magister sive custos Hospitalis predicti de  
VI. li. VII. s. VIII.  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. super ipsum pro demica Hospitalis predicti pro  
decem annis fuit ad Festum Nativitatis Domini anno undecimo  
dictae dominae Reginae oneratus et de qualibet inde parcella  
necnon quod tam ipse ac Hospitalem predictum quam collector  
annualis redditus sive predictionis de XII. s. I.  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. quas per annum  
pro predicta decima Hospitalis predicti a predicto Festo Nativitate  
Domini predicto anno undecimo dictae Dominae nunc debet erga  
eandem dominam Regnam heredes et successores suas imperpetuum  
exoneretur et eorum quilibet exoneretur virtute Statuti predicti.  
Salvo tamen &c.

(This document somewhat damaged and difficult to decipher).

### APPENDIX 'D'

CONSTITUTIONS OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, HUNTINGDON,  
DRAWN UP 2 SEPT. 1678.

THE BURROUGH OF HUNTINGDON. ATT A COMON COUNCELL  
HELD FOR THE SAID BURROUGH ON MONDAY THE SECOND  
DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1678, IT WAS THEN ORDERED AS  
FOLLOWETH:—

WEE the Maior, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Burrough of  
Huntingdon in the County of Huntingdon, Patrons and Visitors of

the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Huntingdon aforesaid, doe declare that the said Hospitall is a most antient Hospitall havinge Lands and Tenements belonging to the same, the Rents and Profitts whereof tyme out of Minde have been taken and retained by the Master of the said Hospitall for the tyme being, elected by the said Maior, Aldermen and Burgesses, which Rents and Profitts and estate of the said Hospitall tyme out of minde have been, or according to the antient Orders and Usages of the said Hospitall, ought to have been employed to and for the keeping of a Free Gramer Schoole in Huntingdon aforesaid for the Towne of Huntingdon, and for the maintenance and support of some antient and sobre poore people, and for the reliefe of some poore and distressed Travellers, as by antient Record appears, and to noe other use, the same being a meere Lay Hospitall. And for the better Regulateing the Government, and preserving the Lands and Revenues of the said Hospitall, and that the same may be employed for and towards the uses aforesaid, Wee, the said Maior, Aldermen and Burgesses doe order, declare, constitute and make these Rules, Orders, Constitutions and Lawes following:—

1.—THAT upon every vacancy by Death, Resignation or other avoydance of the Master of the said Hospitall; that within one month after such avoidance the Maior and Aldermen of the said Burrough shall elect some able discreet person to be Master, and shall grant and confirme the Office of Mastershipp unto such person elected for life, under their Comon Seale as formerly they have done, to the intent that the Freehold of the Lands and Tenements of the said Hospitall may be alwaies supported.

2.—THAT such Master when hee is soe chosen, before hee be confirmd by grant under the Comon Seale, shall give bond to the Maior Aldermen and Burgesses in the summe of two hundred pounds with condition to resigne by Deed unto the said Maior Aldermen and Burgesses his said Mastershipp, when hee shall be required thereunto, in writeing, under the Comon Seale of the Corporation of Huntingdon.

3.—THAT the said Master shall give an accompt yearly unto the said Maior and Aldermen in their Comon Council or Meeting, of all moneys and Profitts by him received out of the said Hospitall and disbursments of the same.

4.—THAT the said Master shall not take in any poore person or persons into the Almehouses of the said Hospitall or to be maintained or releived by the Hospitall Rents, but such only whome the said Maior & Aldermen by their Order from tyme to tyme shall appoint.

5.—THAT the said Master for the tyme being shall not put out or take in any Master to teach Schollars in the said Free-schoole but by the allowance of the said Maior and Aldermen, and shall give to such Schoolemaster allowed, such salary and soe much yearly and noe more then shall be ordered by the said Maior and Aldermen.

6.—THAT such allowances from tyme to tyme or yearly, shall be made for poore Travellers and paid by the said Master in such maner as shall be appointed by the said Maior and Aldermen, and not otherwise.

7.—THAT noe leases of any Howses, Lands or Tenements belonging to the said Hospitall shall hereafter be made, but for

yeares only, and not exceeding one and twenty yeares, and not for lives; and every lease to be made by the said Master shall be allowed and approved off by the said Maior and Aldermen, otherwise to be void.

8.—AND it is further ordered and agreed by the same Maior and Aldermen, that the Master of the Rospitall for the tyme being shall have and receive as a Honorarie out of the profitts of the said Hospitall the yearely summe of fower pounds, to be allowed him upon his just accompts.

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Also preserved amongst the Grammar School documents is an important tripartite agreement dated 1565 (see appendix "B") which may be claimed as the foundation document of the school, and contains the earliest surviving mention of a grammar school in the town. It is an agreement between Sir Anthony Bartelmewe, Master of the Hospital, and Robert Blinkerne and John Richardes, Bailiffs of the Borough of Huntingdon on the one part, and George Richardes of London on the other (who was a relative of John Richardes), whereby the ruined buildings of the former Hospital are leased to George Richardes for a period of sixty years. The rent for the first ten years is to be £4 per annum, and £13-6-8 thereafter on condition that the Hospital buildings are adapted for the purposes of a Grammar School and a suitable almshouse is erected for old people of the town. These buildings, when completed, are to be kept in good repair for the period of the lease. In addition, George Richardes is given the right to nominate and present the parson to St. John's Church (which was then standing). A more domestic stipulation is that he shall not be allowed to keep more cattle on the common fields than any ordinary burgess is allowed to keep, which clearly indicates that he would be admitted to the "Freedom" of the town by the Corporation. It will be noticed however, that the existence of a then-existing school is mentioned, and it is possible that some enterprising person may have been conducting an "unofficial" school on the premises, which the Corporation wished to reconstitute on their own lines and under their control.

Richardes thereupon seems to have taken the ruined buildings in hand for he apparently removed the aisles and eastern bay of the Hall and the chapel which projected to the east. He blocked up the arches of the two remaining bays on either side and divided the now compact but truncated building into two storeys, the ground floor becoming the schoolroom and the upper the schoolmaster's house. His alterations were carried out in the rich red brick of the period and he completely encased the west front of the hall giving it a picturesque "Dutch" gable to the High Street.

The gatehouse which stood to the north of the Hall, and which had been the residence of the Hospital Masters before the Dissolution, also appears to have been destroyed at this time. Its site is partly occupied by Cromwell Cafe.

Though Richardes seems to have carried out his part of the contract, it would appear from statements made in the "Holmead" document that the foundation did not prosper at first. An earlier document of 1570 (see appendix "C") is a Certificate concerning the release of the Hospital and Grammar School from payment of First Fruits and Tithes, which indicates that there must have been some trouble over arranging the finances.

Holmead makes a number of proposals to the Corporation in the Depositions, which clearly show that at the time he signed the document (about 1585) the Grammar School was not functioning, as he makes a definite offer to found a "Free School" in the town. If this is accepted he will find a duly qualified master to teach the scholars or else will provide a salary of £10 to a master approved and chosen by the bishop. In addition, he will leave in his will a yearly sum of £10 for the foundation of a scholarship to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, for a pupil from the school. Furthermore, he will erect three almshouses and endow them with 5 marks (£3-6-8) a year for ever. This last offer indicates that, in any case, the almshouses provided for in Richardes' agreement had not been built. Holmead then finishes with the curious suggestion that either he or "Richardes" should be allowed to carry the plan into effect. It would appear that the "Richardes" referred to was the Rev. Thomas Richardes, M.A., appointed Master of the Hospital in 1583 and, apparently, a relative of both George and John Richardes previously mentioned. Whether any of these plans were ever carried into effect is unknown, but a search of the records of Emmanuel College might solve the problem of the scholarship and give additional information about the proposed school. Who Henry Holmead was is not known, nor do we hear anything more of him or his proposals. But one may pose the question as to why he should offer to found a school if the one set up by the document of 1565 had been then operating satisfactorily. Possibly he saw that things were going badly for the new foundation and thought

he might be able to make a success of it, if allowed to, both for the townspeople and himself. In any case his offer may have stirred the Corporation to look into matters and no doubt, by 1599, when the Rev. Tobias Bland was appointed Master, the Grammar School had become firmly established.

It may not be inappropriate to mention here that only the sons of Burgesses (i.e. "Freemen") of the borough were admitted to the school free of charge, and this regulation survived until the passing of the first Municipal Corporations Act in 1835, when all such privileges were abolished.

In 1604, the famous Dr. Thomas Beard, Cromwell's schoolmaster, succeeded the Rev. Tobias Bland but we know little of his mastership. He was followed in office by the Rev. Henry Cooke, Dr. Beard's nominee, in 1625. This Henry Cooke was not a very satisfactory person, and he was sued by the Corporation in 1639 for grave dereliction of duty. Contrary to established custom and his agreement with the Corporation, he had left the town and was residing elsewhere, one of the conditions of his appointment being that he should live in the schoolhouse in the town. He had also been remiss in not teaching in the school, as was his bounden duty, but he was paying an unsatisfactory substitute £10 a year to do so. Neither did he relieve the poor nor preach in the town churches as Dr. Beard had done. These matters must have been satisfactorily settled because he remained Master until 1655 when he was succeeded by Francis Bernard, M.A. It would appear that in addition to his ordinary duties, the Master was also the "Lecturer" or licensed preacher for the town.

From 1565 to 1655 the Masters of the Hospital were also headmasters of the Grammar School, though they often employed an usher or under-master to assist them. The Hospital Masters had to be in Holy Orders and they taught in the school. In 1655 an Order of the Corporation made the Mastership of the Hospital a lay office and from that date the Hospital Masters no longer taught, but appointed schoolmasters with the approval of the Corporation. This arrangement lasted until 1835 when, after a lawsuit, the Hospital Master was authorised to make the appointment of the schoolmaster without reference to the Corporation.

## CONSTITUTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN AND THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

On 2nd September, 1678, the Corporation drew up a list of rules and regulations to govern the Hospital and Grammar School. Copies remain with the Corporation and School records and are printed in extenso in appendix "D."

These rules enact that the Master of the Hospital shall be elected for life, but he must give a bond for £200 on election, and must resign if called upon to do so by the Corporation. He must keep correct accounts and present an annual balance sheet for inspection at an appointed Council meeting. None but poor people recommended by the Corporation are to be taken into the almshouse, and vagrants are to be relieved only on the Mayor's order. The schoolmaster is to be appointed by the Hospital Master with the approval of the Corporation, who will sanction the salary to be given. The property of the Hospital and School is only to be dealt with as directed by the Corporation. Lastly, the Hospital Master is to receive as an honorarium, £4 a year if his conduct is satisfactory. By now the Mastership of the Hospital had become a part-time job of supervising the almshouse and school. The salary was raised to £20 in 1777, £30 in 1803 and £50 in 1835 when his duties became more onerous.

From the above Constitutions, it will be seen that the Corporation were exercising strict control of the charity, an arrangement which led them into serious trouble later on.

The 19th century history is remarkable for the proceedings in Chancery against the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses for grave mismanagement (to put it mildly) of the Hospital and School finances. Gross irregularities had taken place and the facts were brought to the notice of Parliament who recorded that it was "the worst and grossest of all cases of robbing the poor" which had ever come to their knowledge. The investigations resulted in a new scheme of management which was carried into effect in 1836. The Master of the Hospital was in future to be presented by the Mayor and Corporation, as Patrons, to the Bishop of Lincoln for institution, thus reverting to the old method which had fallen into disuse in the 17th century. The appointment of a suitable schoolmaster was to be made by the Master of the Hospital alone.

## RESUME OF THE RULES ADOPTED IN 1835

The Master of the Hospital is not to be a member of the Corporation; he must be at least a B.A. and a member of the Church of England. His salary is to be £50 a year.

The schoolmaster must also be at least a B.A. He must live in the schoolhouse provided, and his salary is to be fixed at £100 a year, paid half-yearly.

Sons of inhabitants, or deceased inhabitants, of Huntingdon shall receive free instruction in Greek and Latin. English, Writing and Arithmetic are considered extra subjects, and each boy who wishes to be taught them is to pay 15/- a quarter. Sons of non-burgesses are to pay double these fees. All children are to provide their own books, pens, paper, etc. If the undermaster teaches these extra subjects, he must be duly qualified to do so.

Almshouses for four widows are to be built on Hospital land in Huntingdon. (They were built in George Street in revived "Gothic" style where they yet remain). The unsuitable buildings in the school yard are to be demolished. No poor woman is to be eligible for admission till she be 50 years of age and has resided in the town for three years. One poor woman is to be chosen from each of the four Huntingdon parishes by the Master of the Hospital, and she is to receive 5/- weekly from the Hospital funds. The Master is to make rules for the regulation of the almshouses.

Lastly, the accounts are to be audited annually by the incumbents and churchwardens of the four parishes, but not by the Master of the Hospital or the Schoolmaster, and a proper balance sheet is to be drawn up.

The Schoolmaster's salary was £10 in 1639, £20 in 1680, £25 in 1818 and £100 in 1833. It was usually paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas.

Little is known of the school's history outside the Corporation minute books and the documents which survive. All the registers of the 19th century are missing as are the account books.

In 1892, after surviving nearly 750 years, the office of Master of the Hospital was abolished. Walden's Charity School, founded in the early 18th century, was absorbed by the Grammar School in 1895 and a new scheme of management was drawn up, the foundation

being placed under a Board of Governors. Walden's School was known as the Green Coat School from the distinctive colour of the uniform worn by its scholars. It had a somewhat chequered history, and the buildings were on the west side of the High Street almost opposite Germain Street. Some of them have been incorporated in modern warehouses.

The Hospital charity was separated from the School foundation in 1905 and went its separate way as an almshouse. The Grammar School then became a modern secondary mixed school. New premises were built in a field opposite Hinchingsbrooke which were first occupied in 1939, but not by the school alone—for it shared the buildings with an evacuated school from London during the war years. Finally, under the Education Act of 1944, fees were abolished in 1945.

The former school buildings in the town were subsequently converted into County Council Offices, the old Norman building alone being excepted and it is now used for meetings, exhibitions and the like and still remains in the hands of the Corporation.

There were only 17 boys in the school in 1866, but eighty years afterwards the number of pupils had risen to nearly 400. This fact alone shows the great changes in the progress of education in the county which have occurred almost within a lifetime.

In the 18th century the upper floor of the Hall became the senior school, the juniors taking over all the ground floor, and a new headmaster's house was built on the north side of the precinct adjoining the almshouses. This house was rebuilt in 1804 (a small portion may yet be seen) and again in 1878, being enlarged in 1905. The school buildings were restored in 1878 by Dion Boucicault in memory of his son who was killed in the Abbots Ripton railway disaster two years before. The 18th century brick facing of the Hall was then removed, bringing to light the beautiful 12th century west doorway of the original Hospital. During the restorations the entire building was taken down to the ground and rebuilt, being raised two feet in the process, to bring it up to the road level. The inserted floor of 1565 was removed, the Norman doorway was blocked up, the Norman windows above were opened out and drastically restored and the building left in much the state it remains to-day.

## REPORT OF EXCURSIONS

Autumn Excursion, 1950.—This took place on September 23rd, and was to Kimbolton where the main rooms at the Castle were shown by C. H. Lewis, Esq., M.B.E., M.A., the Headmaster of the Grammar School now in occupation. The Church was shown by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Powys Maurice, M.A.

Stow Longa was visited, but the Rev. Morley Wells, our member, was unable to be present.

Barham was next on the list, then to Little Gidding where picnic lunch was followed by a very good address on Nicholas Ferrar, his family and Church, given by the Venerable Archdeacon J. W. P. Jones, the Vicar.

Coppingford and next Abbey stones from Sawtry as well as other Antiquities at Alconbury Hill were followed by a tea party by Garrood.

The Summer Excursion was held on June 2nd, 1951.

Bourn (Cambs.).—The Church was described by the Rev. S. M. Wheeler; Harlton by the Rev. T. H. W. Clapton, B.A., and Orwell by the same, who very kindly allowed the Society to take its lunch Mrs. Garrood.

At Great Gransden the Church was described by the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Sangster, M.A., after which the Society were invited to tea at Ripington Manor by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, the former described this very interesting house and the Secretary expressed the Society's thanks and appreciation of their very kind hospitality.

## PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of Publications received in exchange for our Transactions and are available to members at the Library, Gazeley House, Huntingdon:—

Bedford Historical Record.  
 Birmingham Univ. Hist. Journal.  
 Cambridge Antiq. Society Proc.  
 Carmarthenshire Ant. Society.  
 East Herts. Arch. Society.  
 East Riding Ant. Society.  
 Essex Arch. Society.  
 Institute Hist. Research.  
 Institute Archeologique Liegeois.  
 Kent Arch. Society.  
 Leicestershire Arch. Society.  
 London and Middlesex Arch. Society.  
 Norfolk Arch. Society.  
 Peterborough Nat. Hist. Society.  
 R. Soc. Ant., Ireland.  
 Smithsonian Inst., Washington.  
 Society of Antiquaries.  
 Suffolk Inst. Arch.  
 Surrey Arch. Collections.  
 Woolhope Club.  
 Worcester Arch. Society.

## HUNTINGDON MUSEUM REPORT, 1947—48.

The following is a summary of the additions:—

Romano-British pottery from Abbots Ripton, Buckden, Buckworth, Godmanchester, Great Gransden, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, King's Ripton and Wyton.

Mediæval pottery from Alconbury, Bury, Huntingdon, Godmanchester, King's Ripton, Leighton, West Perry and Wyton.

Coin found with the skeleton in burial at the site of Mr. Lewcock's Garage, Godmanchester. Ref. Trans. V, VI., Magnus Maximus, 385 A.D. Obv. Bust Rt. Rev. Gateway of Prætorian Camp. SPES ROMANORVM., 5-inch diam., a minin. This was presented to the museum by our member, Mr. Batten.

A Pax from Godmanchester, a Fifteenth Century key from Buckworth.

Many of the above are unsuitable for exhibition, but are stored for reference.

The Museum has been visited by several classes of school children. This contact with things used in the past must be a good foundation for the study of history, because a thing carries more weight than a word, especially to the young.

Local visitors are more numerous, but some came from such distant parts as Germany, Canada, South Africa and Norway; in Britain from Aberdeen to Southampton and Gorleston to Merthyr Tydfil.

I have made some re-arrangement of the exhibits, placing fewer type specimens in the upper cases in the gallery and the bulk in the lower, thus affording visitors a clearer view of the subjects illustrated and at the same time making available a larger number for those who require it.

## 1948—49

The following is a summary of accessions:—

Romano-British pottery, etc., from Offord, Corpus Christi, Godmanchester, Stow Longa, Basmead. Coin of MAGNVS MAXIMVS which was found with the burial at Lewcock's Garage, Godmanchester. Flint flakes, cores and implements from Offord gravel pit and Basmead.

Mediæval pottery from Brampton, Basmead, Pidley, Wyton and Priory Grove, Huntingdon.

A bag of gun flints from Kimbolton Castle, probably belonging to the Duke of Manchester's Regiment.

Wood corn measure and butter mould.

Saxton's map of Hunts., 1610.

## 1949—50

Part of a Neolithic mace head from Alconbury, a mammoth molar from Somersham, Roman coin, Hadranvs, from Sawtry, and Roman pottery from Earith.

The following were deposited by the Executor of the late S.

I. Ladds:—

Mediæval tile from Southoe, hand-made pins, stained and other glass, narrative of the murder of the Rev. J. Waterhouse. Drawings by Cuthbert Bede. Maps and engravings of Huntingdonshire by Miss Brookes, late of Hemingford.

Tokens deposited by the Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Society. Catworth, Eynesbury, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Kimbolton, Ramey, St. Ives, St. Neots, Sawtry and Stilton.

J. R. GARROD,

Hon. Curator.

## NORRIS MUSEUM REPORT

The Norris Museum has pleasure in reporting the following additions to its collection, with grateful thanks to the donors:—

**PALÆOLITHS.**—Some fine Lavallois flakes from Meadow Lane Gravel Pits, St. Ives, including a fine ovate presented by Mr. Standen; also some flakes of the same culture from the Earith Gravel Pits.

**ROMAN PERIOD.**—A complete jug and pot presented by Mr. L. R. Edwards, and a pot and bracelet presented by Mr. B. Haynes, all from Earith. Two Roman pottery moulds from Somersham, and a pottery cast from Meadow Lane, St. Ives.

**MEDIÆVAL.**—A fine 14th or 15th century jug, presented by Mr. R. L. Edwards, from Earith.

**BYGONES.**—A fine collection of agricultural implements, presented by Mr. Fred Tebbutt, of St. Neots, including a cross bow, probably used by poachers. A Victorian cot presented by Mrs. Wiseman, and two cases of balance clock pieces presented by Mr. Morse.

C. M. COOTE.

