

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

31 OCT. 1904—22 MAY 1905.

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XLVI.

BEING No. 2 OF THE ELEVENTH VOLUME,

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decorative purposes. The quality of the gold and the excellent workmanship point to its having been the property of someone of position.

The whistle, as mentioned above, was found on Newmarket Heath, in the early part of the eighteenth century, not buried, but so near the surface as to have been kicked up by the hoof of a horse.

ON A BADGE OF THE CAMBRIDGE VOLUNTEERS OF
1798 BELONGING TO MR J. G. MORTLOCK. BY
J. E. FOSTER, M.A.

The badge now exhibited (Plate XV.) is of much local interest.

On the obverse is a figure of a volunteer with palm branches on either side, encircled by the legend in capital letters "Cambridge Volunteers 1798." On the reverse is inscribed "Merit Badge" in capital letters, with "Presented by Colonel J. Cheetham Mortlock to" in script, and "Mr Fordham" in capital letters. The badge is set in a flat ring, with an ordinary ring for suspension at the top. The metal is not silver.

The badge belongs to our member, Mr John George Mortlock of Meldreth Court, who has kindly lent it for exhibition.

The following information about the Volunteers referred to, and other local corps is worth record.

At pages 461, 462 of the 4th volume of the late Mr C. H. Cooper's Annals of the Borough he tells us that in 1798 a sum of £11,000 was raised towards the defence of the country, and that two military associations were formed in the Borough, one called "The Patriotic Association of Cambridge Volunteers," of which Busick Harwood, Professor of Anatomy, was Captain, James Burleigh, Lieutenant, and Matthew Burbage, Ensign; the other called "The Cambridge Loyal Association," formed at a meeting over which Mr John Mortlock, then Mayor, presided.

The *Cambridge Chronicle* of May 26, 1798 contains an account of an inspection of the first-named body, and a paragraph in the number for the 23rd June refers to the

burial of George Favell, Corporal in the Cambridge Loyal Association, which was attended by the members.

The War Office have lately passed over their old records to the Record Office, and amongst them are pay sheets and muster rolls of the Patriotic Volunteers. They are included in the bundle with the classmark Muster Rolls, Militia, No. 4208. They begin on the 10th May, 1798, and end on the 24th April, 1802, when the corps was disembodied, and their arms returned to store. Captain Harwood was promoted Major on the 18th of July, 1799, when Lieutenant Burleigh was promoted Captain.

There do not appear to be any muster rolls of the Loyal Association, and it was probably not embodied.

On the 17th of May, 1802, the peace of Amiens was proclaimed at Cambridge, but the war with France was renewed in the following year, and on the 10th of August, 1803, at a meeting held under the presidency of Mr John Cheetham Mortlock, then Mayor, it was resolved to establish a corps of volunteers, and at a subsequent meeting a subscription towards expenses was opened to which upwards of £2,100 was contributed; 450 men were enrolled under Mr John Cheetham Mortlock as Lieutenant-Colonel.

The pay lists and muster rolls are at the Record Office in the bundle no. 4207 of the class previously mentioned. They extend from Dec. 1803 to Sept. 24, 1808. The corps was organised in six companies, and to these were attached one from Bassingbourn and one from Chesterton. A private named William Fordham was in the latter, and it is to him that the badge may refer. The corps was stationed at Bury St Edmunds from June 1 to June 21, 1804, at Newmarket from July 23 to August 3, 1805, and at Walden from July 15 to July 28, 1808.

Probably this new body was considered to be a revival and consolidation of the two bodies set up in 1798, which may explain the apparent discrepancy between the date on the medal and of the establishment of the corps.

Mr Cooper gives a list of the officers down to 1808, amongst whom many well known Cambridge names occur, beside that of the Colonel. John Deighton, father of the late

Mr Deighton, the surgeon; Elliot Smith, the celebrated auctioneer and land agent of Cambridge and father of Mr John Smith, late of 1, Brookside; Richard Foster, father of Miss Sophia Foster, late of 17, Bateman Street; Henry Balls, father of the late Mr Charles Balls; David Bradwell, father of the late Mr Thomas Bradwell, the builder; and Richard Bevan Turner, father of the late Mr Turner, the postmaster, and grandfather of our present member, Mr George Turner, are amongst the number.

Other local corps were established at this time. At the Record Office are the pay sheets of the Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Riflemen, organized in 1804 under the command of Mr Charles Humfrey. In 1806 a second company was established commanded by Mr Arthur Deck. He had been Lieutenant in Mr Humfrey's company, where Mr Richard Banks Harraden took his place. They also were stationed at Newmarket from July 23 to August 3, 1805, and were disembodied on the 24th Sept. 1808.

In 1803 county companies were established at Shelford and Stapleford under the command of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, at Horningsea and Ditton under Captain Wylde, and at Fulbourn under Mr Richard Greaves Townley. Companies from Dullingham and Swaffham were added to these in 1804, and the whole incorporated under the title of the Bournbridge Volunteers.

From notes on the pay sheets, it is probable that they were absorbed into the Local Militia in 1808.

A corps of six companies was formed at Ely, and two additional ones from Isleham and Soham were united to it, and a similar corps was formed at Wisbech, supplemented by companies from Whittlesey and Thorney.

A portrait of Alderman Burleigh, in his uniform as Lieutenant in the Patriotic Volunteers, and his sword, given by the late Mr E. Litchfield, are preserved in the Town Library; also a picture of a member of the University corps.

An account of the expense of equipping the Town Volunteers, and of the subscriptions received for the purpose; appear in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of the 7th of October, 1804, and their

march to and stay at Bury is referred to in the issues of the 2nd and 9th of June of the same year.

On the 27th of July, 1848, old members of the Town Volunteers dined together, and the speeches delivered on the occasion and reported in the *Chronicle* contained many reminiscences of their proceedings.

No pay list of a University Corps is preserved at the Record Office, though one was formed. The *Cambridge Chronicle* contains a list of the members at Christmas 1803, and in the issue of the 2nd June 1804 is an account of a special muster on Parker's Piece, when a sum of Two Hundred Guineas was presented to Captain Bircham of the 30th Regiment, who was giving up the adjutancy to rejoin his regiment in Ireland. The presentation was made by Lord Palmerston, the future Prime Minister, then at St John's College, who was in command of one of the Divisions, and a piece of plate and a sword were subsequently forwarded to the Captain.

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS, No. XLVI.

VOL. XI. (NEW SERIES, VOL. V.) No. 2.

	PAGE
Objects found at Wilburton, 1882. By Major A. J. PELL	209
Roman pavement from Landwade. By Prof. HUGHES.	210
Second Report on Arbury. (With five Figures in the text.) By Prof. HUGHES	211
Elizabethan Bushel Measure. (With Plate X,) By W. B. REDFERN . .	219
The so-called University Butter Measure. (With one Figure in the text.) By W. B. REDFERN	221
Practical Value of Anthropology. By Sir R. TEMPLE, Bart.	223
Gable Decorations in Marken Island. (With two Figures in the text and Plates XI, XII.) By Dr DUCKWORTH	241
Bone Harpoons from Kunda in Esthonia. (With Plate XIII,) By Prof. HUGHES	248
Survey of King's Ditch at Cambridge, 1629. (With Plate XIV.) By T. D. ATKINSON	251
Some Consecration Crosses in East Anglian Churches. (With ten Figures in the text.) By T. D. ATKINSON	255
Hobson's Connection with Hobson's Watercourse. By J. E. FOSTER, M.A.	262
Annual General Meeting	264
Some Heidelberg Autographs. By Prof. BURKITT	265
A Village Tragedy of fifty years ago. By G. WHERRY, M.A.	268
Loggan's <i>Habitus Academici</i> . By H. D. CATLING, M.A.	276
A Gold Hawking-Whistle. (With one Figure in the text.) By W. J. EVANS and W. B. REDFERN	279
A Badge of the Cambridge Volunteers of 1798. (With Plate XV.) By J. E. FOSTER, M.A.	281