

Repton School was founded in 1557; at that time a passage was cut through the south wall and the Prior's Chamber to give access to the Guest-Hall, which was turned into the Big school (now the school library) and a graded "causey" was built up to the new Tudor doorway on the first-floor level.

The south wall is 7 ft. thick to take the thrust of the two superimposed vaults and has then a 4 ft. set-off which allowed extra width to the Prior's Bed-Chamber above and access to the garde-robe in the south east angle of the wall.

The splayed head of a Norman window was found in the east wall of the Prior's Chamber, matching a corresponding Norman window (the only one which remains intact in the whole wing) in the west wall.

An interesting feature is the remains of the Monastic roof. The south bay contains a semi-circular braced truss supporting early purlins. Here all the timbers of the truss and the rafters are blackened by ancient wood-smoke, indicating an open central fire. There is also an example of sound wood-work of the Tudor period in the oak-framed, brick-nogged partition on the east side of the passage into the Big School.

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V.

DISCOVERY OF A VIKING-AXE AT REPTON.

When I was having a deep trench dug outside the walls of the crypt at Repton, in order to get a better view of the masonry, an interesting discovery was made at a depth of 6 ft. of an ancient axe-head in the S.W. angle outside the chancel. I submitted the piece to Professor Baldwin Brown, who pronounced it without hesitation to be a Viking axe, and therefore in all probability a relic of the visit of the Danes in 874 A.D.—the first outside evidence of that visit which has yet come to light. The Professor

adds that, apart from its general form, it possesses distinctly both the little spur in the part where it was hafted and, on one side of the blade, the little shoulder or lump which occur in Viking axes. On both sides of the blade there are considerable traces of splinters of wood, the grain showing quite clearly; this, however only occurs near the cutting-edge, which suggests that a powerful blow has driven the edge into wood perhaps a shield or palisade or possibly the wall of a wooden church—the weld gave way, the eye broke and the head flew off from the handle.

Dr. Haakon Shetelig, Director of the Bergen Antiquarian Museum, and a recognised authority on Scandinavian Antiquities writes "I am extremely interested in the Repton "find" It is no doubt a Viking axe-head. The type is dated by Petersen to the late 9th and early 10th century and is specially common along the west coast of Norway. Thus the date corresponds well to the Norse occupation of Repton in 874." Professor Baldwin Brown very kindly allows us to reproduce one of his photographs of the axe.

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VI.

ROBIN HOOD'S PICKING RODS.

It will be remembered that these stones were referred to on page 10 of last year's *Journal*, as possibly of pre-Conquest date. Mr. W. J. Andrew in Vol. xxvii of the *Journal* also includes them in that category as does Mr. G. le Blanc Smith in volume N.S. xii, 237 of the *Reliquary*. The accompanying sketch shows that it is unlikely that the stones themselves ever had any ornamentation of an Anglian character. Earlier writers such as Lysons, Glover and Aitken made the wildest suggestions as to their origin, but these writers are so entirely uncritical in their methods, that one cannot pay any serious attention to