

The Proceedings of the Society during the year 1915.

Thursday, June 3rd.

ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting of the members was held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Norwich, the President, the Earl of Orford, being in the chair. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. E. T. Pollard, read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1914. Your Committee beg to present their Report, together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31st last. They have nothing of special antiquarian interest to announce.

They have to record with much regret the death, since the last Annual General Meeting, of the Rev. J. W. Millard, M.A., who joined the Society in 1860, and who was for thirty-four years a member of the Committee. Mr. Thomas Keppel, of Scole, was co-opted a member of the Committee (under Law 6) in place of Mr. Millard. The Society has lost from its membership during the year, Sir Henry E. G. Bulwer, G.C.M.G., Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., and the Rev. Canon Hunter.

During the first three months of last year three lectures were given under the auspices of the Society, the first (on February 27th) by Mr. H. Genochio on the "King's Customs of Lynn Regis." On March 27th a lecture was given by Mr. Nugent Monck on "Norwich Guild Plays," and he was assisted by the Norwich Guild of Players, who performed the "Norwich Grocers' Play." On April 3rd the Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich gave a lecture on the "Chapter Library: its History and Contents," when a visit was paid by the members to the new Capitular Library over the South Cloisters of the Cathedral. All three lectures were well attended, and it is hoped that the Dean's paper will appear in the forthcoming part of the Transactions of the Society.

Arrangements were being made by Mr. Walter R. Rudd, the Society's Hon. Excursion Secretary, in conjunction with Mr. J. H. A. Hart, the Society's Hon. Editorial Secretary, for members of the Society to visit Cambridge and its Colleges, when, unfortunately, just at the time when notification of the arrangements should have been sent to the members, Mr. Hart fell seriously ill and the excursion was postponed. The War supervening before fresh arrangements could be made necessitated the abandonment of the usual summer excursion. It is hoped that during 1915 interesting excursions will be arranged.

Owing to Mr. Hart's illness the Committee appointed the Rev. H. J. Dukinfield Astley, Litt.D., to be Hon. Assistant Editorial Secretary *pro tem.*, and they are very grateful to him for acting in that capacity during Mr. Hart's illness. The Committee are glad to be able to announce that Mr. Hart is again fully restored to health.

After the Annual General Meeting, held on June 3rd, the members inspected the remains of the old city walls under the guidance of Mr. Nash, Assistant to the City Engineer.

It was proposed to hold a series of lectures during last winter season, under the management of Mr. W. R. Rudd and Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke, on the lines of those so successfully given in the previous year, but owing to the War it was decided to relinquish the project.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Walter Rye for his continuation of the *Calendar of Norwich Deeds*, which has recently been issued. Part I. of Vol. XIX. of the Society's Proceedings is ready for issue.

The members of the Committee who retire by rotation are:—Mr. F. H. Barclay, Sir Peter Eade, Mr. E. H. Teasdel, the Rev. E. C. Hopper, and the Rev. G. H. Holley, all of whom are eligible for re-election, and it is necessary to add one more to their number.

The Great Yarmouth Branch reports that it had a successful meeting in March, 1914, when interesting papers were read on "Yarmouth Tokens" by Mr. W. Carter, and by Dr. Blake on "Then and Now," with special reference to the old Gaol at Great Yarmouth. There has been an increase of the membership of the Branch.

Mr. F. H. Barclay read the report of the Special Committee as to Bryant's *Norfolk Churches*.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke, submitted the Annual Statement of Accounts, he regretted there was a temporary deficit on the Current Account of £8 18s., but he thought it better not to withdraw from the Deposit Account, which stood at £169 18s. 4d.

Dr. Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society.—The Treasurer's Account for the year 1914. *Cr.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1914.							
Balance at Messrs. Barclays' Bank :—							
General Account ...	4	4	5		58	10	0
Deposit Account ...	166	2	8		15	15	0
	170	7	1		8	0	0
Subscriptions :—							
1 for 1909 ...	0	7	6		81	15	4
1 " 1910 ...	0	7	6		8	5	6
1 " 1911 ...	0	7	6		0	13	9
1 " 1912 ...	2	12	6		5	3	3
20 " 1913 ...	7	10	0		2	19	0
225 " 1914 ...	84	15	0		0	9	0
16 " 1915 ...	6	0	0		1	10	0
	102	0	0		0	7	0
Interest on Deposit Account ...					0	5	3
Balance due to Messrs. Barclays' Bank :—					0	12	3
Current Account ...					0	12	0
					0	9	0
					169	18	4
	£285	0	9		£285	0	9

Audited and found correct,
F. H. BARCLAY.

May 22th, 1915.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Sir Peter Eade, the Reports and Balance Sheet were adopted.

On the motion of Mr. E. A. Field, seconded by Mr. R. H. Teasdel, Lord Orford was unanimously re-elected as President.

The Vice-Presidents and other Officers were re-elected, and the retiring members of the Committee were re-appointed with the addition of Mr. F. O. Taylor.

Mr. J. T. Hotblack proposed the re-election of the Special Committee as to Bryant's *Norfolk Churches*, and expressed the hope that arrangements would be made to publish in some form the six volumes which had never been published. Mr. F. H. Barclay, on behalf of the Special Committee, promised to do what he could in the matter.

In the afternoon the members left by the 1.12 train from Thorpe Station for North Walsham, from whence the Churches of Edenthorpe, Trunch, and Knapton were visited. At Edenthorpe they were received by the Rector, the Rev. H. Muriel, who pointed out the chief features of the interesting little Church. At the Parish Church of Trunch the members were received by the Rector, the Rev. J. G. Cheshire, who read a valuable paper on the history of the Church and its many remarkable antiquities. Afterwards the Rector and Mrs. Cheshire kindly entertained the members to tea in the Parish Hall of Trunch. At Knapton a paper on the fine double hammer-beam roof and other features of interest in the Church was read by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Watson.

Wednesday, July 14th, 1915.

The Society, under the guidance of Mr. Walter R. Rudd, the Hon. Excursion Secretary, visited the charming district to the north-westward of Aylsham. Most of the Society's excursions have related chiefly to church and monastic antiquities; this time the members devoted themselves to subjects of domestic architecture, inspecting three fine old country mansions, including the seat of their President, the Earl of Orford. The occasion was rich in antiquarian interest, and the journey to and from the various houses involved some delightful travel away from the railways. Except for a light rain which fell in the late afternoon, the weather was perfectly fine. The party gathered at North Walsham at about a quarter to ten, and such of them who did not use motor cars betook themselves to pair-horsed drags. By way of Blickling Park and Itteringham they went first to Mannington Hall, in the occupation of Mr. C. S. Tomes, LL.D., F.R.S., a beautifully-situated moated house, formerly the residence of Lord Orford and perhaps best known to the general public as the place where the late Dr. Jessopp saw the ghost. From thence they journeyed on to Saxthorpe and lunched at the Castle Inn.

In the afternoon they were received at Barningham Hall by Mr. Frank T. Simpson, and finally they visited Wolterton Park, where Lord Orford charmingly entertained them at tea.

Mr. C. S. Tomes gave a short address on the antiquities of the Hall, relating to which the following paper had been prepared by Mr. Walter Rye but for want of time was not read:—

Mannington has many historical associations, MANNINGTON and (what is very unusual) a manor house of HALL. which the date is absolutely fixed. The Manor was held at Domesday by Earl Godwin and William de Warren. The former so passed to the Valences, Earls of Pembroke. A Norman family, the Tyrels, held here under Bishop William de Beaufoy.

Walter Tyrel, known to history as the slayer of William Rufus, in 1100 married Adeliza de Clare, daughter of Richard de Clare and Rohaisia, daughter of Walter Giffard. He was also known as Walter de Beckham, which is clearly West Beckham in Norfolk (Bl. *Norfolk*, vol. vi., p. 471) which Walter Giffard held during the life of Bishop William de Beaufoy.

Mr. Horace Round takes Beckham to be Belram in Normandy, and more than hints that Tyrel was practically the executioner of Rufus as the nominee of certain high personages with whom he was connected by marriage, and who certainly benefited extremely by the death of Rufus.

Mr. Round points out in his *Feudal England* that Gilbert and Richard de Clare, who were actually present at Brockenhurst when the King was killed, were brothers-in-law of Walter Tyrel, that Richard de Clare, another brother-in-law, was immediately appointed by Henry I. to be Abbot of Ely, and William Giffard to the Bishopric of Ely. Yet another brother-in-law was Eudo de Rye, the dapifer who had to do with Rufus' accession in 1087.

It is interesting to note that one of our members, Mr. de Poix of Broome, claims to represent the French branch of the Tyrels.

Another Walter Tyrel, possibly his son or grandson, had a grant of the Manor of Mannington in 1249 from Aymer de Valence.

His son or grandson, Hugh Tyrell, was one of a band who, in 1312, came to Barningham Parva, fired the manor house of William de Berningham and seized his mother, the Lady Petronel de Gra (? le Gros), pricked her with swords and cut her with knives, to force her to tell them of her jewels, money, and plate, and broke open her chests, for which they were duly pardoned by the King (Bl., vol. vi., p. 319).

A John Tyrell was in the King's retinue at Agincourt, and the name still lingers in the neighbourhood, for Frederick Tyrell is now a farmer at Gresham, and there is a Walter Tyrell at Shotesham.

The Mannington estate, however, early passed from the Tyrells by the marriage of Maud (daughter and heiress of a John Tyrell),

who married first William de Fewell, and secondly Henry Lomnour member of an old Norwich merchant family.

William Lumnour, her son and heir, who married Margaret Monceux, and their descendant sold the Manor to John Potts, and the Potts sold it to the Walpoles in 1735.

William Lomnour (who has been miscalled Thomas by Dr. Jessopp and others) was the first husband of Margaret Monceux, who afterwards married, secondly, Thomas Briggs of Salle, and, thirdly, Edmund Paston, and survived them all, dying in 1504.

It was this William Lomnour who wrote, in 1460, to John Paston a letter preserved in the Paston Letters, a letter to which I think I was the first to draw attention, which absolutely dates this Hall, for, on 6th April, 1460, he writes him that he was building a poor house at Mannington, where he hopes to see him some day, and begging him to sell him twenty-four oak beams, then in a yard of his called Barkers in Saxthorpe, for the purpose of such building.

Since the house has belonged to the Walpoles it has been greatly spoiled by the introduction of much panelling which does not fit the rooms, and several mantelpieces from other houses. Some of the mantels are interesting, but on one of them the arms are not of Norfolk families.*

How any self-respecting ghost could ever have appeared in a room where the mantel and the fireplace and the panelling could have had no connection with its past life, or with the Jesuit father it simulated, has always passed my comprehension.

The following notes were read by Mr. Frank T. Simpson:—

Barningham is about eight miles from Cromer,
BARNINGHAM and the Hall is situated in the parish of Barningham
HALL. Winter, so called from the family of Winter, who held the lordship of Barningham from the reign of Edward III. until it passed into the possession of the Pastons in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Edward Paston, Knight, pulled down the older house, which was built on a lower site, and erected the magnificent Hall in 1612, his arms, impaling those of his second wife, Margaret Berney, appearing over the entrance porch, with the date of the building.

Sir Edward Paston was son and heir of Sir Thomas Paston, knighted by Henry VIII. at Boulogne, and was therefore nephew to the famous Clement Paston, the builder of Oxmead, and grandson of Sir William Paston, whose father had been appointed by Henry VII. to receive the Princess Catherine of Arragon on her landing at Plymouth.

Barningham Hall is a very interesting example of the architecture of the period. Built of brick with stone mullions, the house has an appearance of great dignity and height, which is increased by the

* It would be interesting to know who were spoiled.

octagonal turrets at the angles of the porch and main building, by lofty double-storied dormer windows, crow-stepped gables, finials, and well-proportioned chimney stacks.

The interior of the house has been sadly modernised, and the south or garden front has lost its original character, having been most unfortunately altered and restored under the direction of Mr. Alfred Repton in 1817.

The west front, however, remains in its original state, and with the peculiar example of the double dormer and grand four-storied porch presents features of great interest to the student of architecture.

In 1756 Thomas Paston, fifth in descent from Sir Edward Paston, sold the property to William Russell, a London merchant, from whom it passed into the hands of Thomas Lane, Esq., and he in 1775 sold it to Thomas Vertue Mott, Esq., great-grandfather of the present owner, Mr. J. Stanley Mott.

Lord Orford gathered his guests around him on the terrace, where they had been previously photographed, and read the following interesting paper:—

It has been said, "Happy is the country that
WOLVERTON has no History." I think the same may be said
HALL. about a house. The house here was built by
Horatio Walpole at the same time that the senior
branch of the family built their fourth house at Houghton. Thomas
Ripley was the architect for both houses. Mr. Ripley, I believe,
was the son of the gardener at Houghton; he later succeeded
Vanburgh as builder to the nation.

This house was built by Horatio Walpole, and here he retired in his old age and died. Since then his descendants have lived and died here, they were all Members of Parliament for Norwich, Yarmouth, King's Lynn, or Castle Rising; some were in the Navy, Army, and Diplomatic Service.

Horatio Walpole, the builder of this house, after having had several posts in the Ministry, was appointed Ambassador to the States of Holland. He was there during the Jacobite rising of 1715, and many papers are here relating to the Jacobite affairs at that time. He was a man of sound common sense, and was often appealed to for advice by his elder brother, the Prime Minister. Letters that passed between them are here.

Horatio Walpole afterwards became Ambassador to the Court of France. He married the daughter of Peter Lombard, whose family had fled to England from France after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, for the sake of their religion. She was an heiress, and brought some of my Burnham property into the family. Horatio Walpole bought a house and a small property at Wolterton in about 1710 from a co-heiress of the Scamblers, who had married Mr. Thomas Gray, a clergyman; they were in a very indigent state when they sold it, I believe.

The Manor of Wolterton had originally belonged to the de Woltertons. It then passed, by an heiress, to the de Hethersetts. The Hethersetts' co-heiresses married, one a de Briston and another a Mr. Moore. It passed again through an heiress to the Scamblers, one of whose family is said to have been Father Confessor to Queen Mary, and by Queen Elizabeth was made Protestant Bishop of Norwich.

The original house bought by Horatio Walpole having been burnt down, he began to build the present one. There seems to be no picture or sketch of the old house, which is said to have stood on the site of the present one. Whenever I have dug, however, either in the grounds or park, bricks are turned up. In digging a trench for drains sixteen feet down, I came across foundations, also some hundreds of thick old glass wine flasks, of course all broken.

In very early days my family had a Manor at Calthorpe, also at Barningham Parva near here. Calthorpe is partly in the park; this may have been the reason why Horatio Walpole bought a property here. As regards Barningham Parva, one of my family had married a Le Gros who owned Barningham Parva and had a house there, at present cottages.

This house was begun in 1727 and finished in 1741. Horatio Walpole was made Lord Walpole of Wolterton in 1756, when, I suppose, he put the baron's coronet above the coat of arms over the south front; on the north front are his arms as a commoner. The arms are Walpole quartering Robsart, which family he represented, having married the heiress of the Robsarts, Lucy de Robsart, aunt to Amye Robsart, heroine of Scott's novel, Kenilworth, where she is entirely misrepresented in every detail; a picture of her is in one of the drawing-rooms.

The house has been much altered since it was originally built, formerly it had three recessed arches on the south, like Stratton Strawless Hall. The wall was built out flush with the arches and the present windows opening on the garden made. The present library, breakfast room, and billiard room, were bedrooms with small windows high up.

A wing had been projected to the west of the house and foundations laid; these were dug out again. My grandfather built the east wing, also the piazza, and put the balustrading round the house. The old chapel had been burnt down, and it was proposed to have a chapel in the wing; this was not, however, carried out. At the north front a double flight of steps led up to the marble hall, which was the state entrance. My grandfather took these away and built a small insignificant porch, partly of stucco. I took this down, and quite lately built the present porch, which is the front of St. Ann's House, King's Lynn, adapted as a porch. The stone urns on the piazza also came from the King's Lynn house. This

St. Ann's House, I have been told, had some connection with my family, but I cannot trace it. I think, however, it was built at the same time as Houghton, and by the same architect, if not by Kent the architect. The front gates were the gates at the entrance to the courtyard of St. Ann's House, they are more modern than the house, the date on them being 1806.

On my grandfather's death in 1858, the furniture and pictures were all sold, including the famous *Rainbow* by Rubens. The house was wrecked and left desolate for forty-three years. Stones, lead, boards, and skirting were taken away for repairs elsewhere; the gardens were left to go to ruin.

In 1902 the house had got to such a state that something had to be done, or it would have been beyond repair, the floors were gone, the wing was only a shell, the ceilings broken in, one had only one corner left, on which I modelled the present one.

It took about sixty men at work for two years. I may say I insisted on only Norfolk men being employed, and I congratulate myself on doing so, as they worked well and, I believe, at a less cost than others would have done, as they did not require the scaffolding outside that London men do. Ten thousand bricks were let into the south front alone, and the house was not scaffolded. The foreman and clerk of the works only were from the London firm who rebuilt for me.

The gardens were in a terrible state, under the piazza from which the stone had been taken brambles covered the windows, elder and weeds of all sorts grew rampant, the lake could not be seen from the house; this, I am glad to say, is better now, and time will improve it more.

The pictures in the house came from here or *Strawberry Hill* originally, and most of them were collected by my father and myself.

The tapestry was given, with his pictures by Rigaud, to Lord Walpole, the builder, by Cardinal Fleury. There is a Romney pastel, a picture of Amye Robsart, and a few Gainsboroughs of the family. The Zucarelli pictures came from Holland, brought over by Horatio Walpole. The miniatures in the drawing-room came from *Strawberry Hill*.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is all I can tell you about the house.

I can tell you briefly the history of the property and its surroundings.

The ruined tower on the north lawn was the Church of St. Margaret. There are many stories attached to it, but I believe that the thatch having fallen in, and the church being in a ruinous condition, as also were the few houses contained in the village of Wolterton, the church and cottages were pulled down. The cottages were rebuilt a little way off, near the old rectory, which is now a cottage.

I hope I am not taking up too much of your time, but I have made quite a short statement, which will not take long to read, regarding the people who formerly lived on my property and its immediate neighbourhood.

There were three feudal castles in these parts, Erpingham, the castle of the de Erpinghams. It was one of those knights who, according to tradition, having killed a monk at Norwich, fled the country; on his pardon and return, he built the Erpingham Gate at Norwich and the church at Erpingham as an atonement.

Saxthorpe Castle belonged to Aylmer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. He built five churches in the neighbourhood, in expiation of his sins, it is said. He was killed at a tournament he gave to celebrate his marriage. The third was the family of De Bintree at Bintree Castle; the moated site of this is not far from Mannington and on the river.

Various families succeeded these and built castles and partially fortified houses. The Bacons at Baconsthorpe Castle, the Greshams at Gresham Castle, the Lumners, and then the Potts at Mannington, the Somertons at Thwaite, then Felbrigg, and after them the Windhams at Felbrigg, the Le Groses at Barningham Parva. It was here that Dame Petronella Le Gros was tortured by three knights, who wished to rob her of her jewellery, but got nothing from her.

The Dixes, and then the Spelmans at Wickmere, at Blickling the Dagworths, the Cleres and the Bullens succeeded one another, the Heydons at Baconsthorpe, the Erles at Heydon, and then the Wiggett-Bulwers, the Bacons at Irmingland, the Pastons at Barningham, the Doughtys at Hanworth, and, I daresay, others.

The castles are all destroyed, but Felbrigg, Blickling, Mannington, and Barningham remain; the old families are gone, but the houses are still occupied.

Several moated sites are found round here—two of which seem to have no history—one in Mossmere Wood near Mannington, two at Calthorpe, one of which may have been the moat round an old Calthorpe house, and one at Thwaite, the house or castle of the De Somertons.