

## The Proceedings of the Society during the year 1934.

---

*By the courtesy of the Proprietors of the local Press we have  
taken several extracts from their reports.*

ANNUAL MEETING, 1934. The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, 10th March, 1934, at the Guildhall, Norwich, the President (Mr. Robert H. Teasdel, F.S.A.) being in the chair.

The report of the Committee for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1933, is printed at page xlvi.

The President commented on the various activities of the Society during the year, and moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Mr. T. Glover and agreed to.

On the proposal of Mr. W. E. Stephens, seconded by the Rev. F. W. Bennett Symons, the Accounts were adopted.

The Dean of Norwich proposed the re-election as President of Mr. Teasdel, paying tribute to his knowledge of old things, his long membership of the Society, and his continued devotion to its interests.

The Vice-Presidents were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. W. E. Stephens in the place of the late Mr. Ferrier.

The retiring members of the Committee were re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. C. Woodforde and Mr. W. W. Williamson to fill vacancies.

A proposal to affiliate with the Norfolk Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was agreed to.

### BINHAM PRIORY.

Colonel Bulwer proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. H. R. Nevill for the great part he played in connection with Binham Abbey.

Mr. Nevill took the matter up, said Colonel Bulwer, and the Society gave its approval: he carried on the negotiations with the owner of the property, which needed a good deal of tact, and he also went about the matter of raising the money to buy the ground, achieving his object very successfully. The county and the nation ought to be very grateful to Mr. Nevill.

Replying to the unanimous vote, Mr. Nevill said the successful result was largely due to the assistance he had had from Col. Bulwer and Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy in helping him through the last and most difficult stage. He was trying to make a list of the churches of Norfolk which required urgent help. That list had become formidable, and the church at Binham would alone require £3000 to make it safe. That had nothing to do with the Archæological Society, though it was interested. The vicar of Binham, with the sanction of the Bishop, had opened a fund for the restoration of the church, and it was to be hoped that every member of the Society, who could do so, would subscribe to it. The vicar had said he was already greatly indebted to the Society, because owing to the appeal it made visitors to Binham had increased enormously, and last year the boxes in the church for contributions to the repair fund contained £40 more than in the previous year.

#### WEST BARSHAM CHURCH.

Colonel Bulwer put a question as to West Barsham Church.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy replied that its condition was a shame. It was a church of very considerable interest for its Saxon and Norman architecture, its heraldic glass, and its ancient memorials to the dead, including one of the Gournay family. Water poured through the roof owing to displacement of slates and rafters, some of the windows had blown in, and the floor had in places given way. Mr. Weir, the well-known architect, reported on the church some while ago and advised that £200 would put it in repair. The re-laying of the roof slates was the most immediate need in order to keep out rain. The chief land-owner and one of the patrons had promised to do something, but nothing had yet been done. Meanwhile a gentleman, who had some hereditary interest in one of the memorials, had offered to get together the £200, but still nothing had been done. The rector was taking no action. There was a state of undisturbed and damp repose.

Colonel Bulwer moved a resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Nevill and unanimously passed, urging the patrons, the arch-deacon, and the church authorities to expedite the necessary repairs before it was too late.

Surgeon-Commander Mann exhibited a few of the incinerary urns, bone combs, bronze brooches, and iron spears he has obtained

in excavations in the Saxon cemetery at Caistor, whilst the Rev. J. D. Wortley (Swannington) exhibited a number of flint implements which he has unearthed on the borders of his parish.

#### FIRST EXCURSION.

The first excursion took place in the afternoon of Thursday, 17th May, when about 150 members and their friends visited Mid-Norfolk. The richness of the antiquities of Norfolk is testified by the fact that two or three churches visited had not been inspected officially by the Society since 1861 and 1867 respectively.

The rendezvous was Elsing Church, and thereafter Elsing Hall and Swanton Morley Church were visited. Tea was taken at the Assembly Rooms, East Dereham, and on the way home Mattishall Church was visited.

On arrival at Elsing Church the President referred to the great loss they had sustained by the death of Colonel Bulwer, a former president. Colonel Bulwer was a sound antiquary, wise in counsel and urbane in manner. In particular they should commemorate him for taking a leading part in the preservation of the church of St. Peter Hungate, Norwich, and its subsequent transformation into an ecclesiastical museum, the first of its kind.

The Rev. F. A. Trengrove, the Rector, in the course of some remarks, said: "Elsing Church stands almost unique among the great churches of Norfolk because it is still architecturally in the same condition as when it left the builders' hands about 1340. It is believed to have been built exclusively as a thankoffering for the victory of the English arms in France. Among its treasures is the fine Gothic font cover. The 14th-century stained glass from the east window, which is now in the two south windows of the chancel, ranks among the best examples in the county. The east window fell in during a storm in 1862 and the glass was refitted as best as was possible to the south windows in rather crude fashion. All the windows originally contained 14th-century stained glass, but, according to Tom Martin, it was lost to the church owing to the 'incuriousness' of the inhabitants. The nave is the broadest non-pillared nave in England, Ely Cathedral nave excepted, which is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ins. wider. The remains of the rood screen possess traces of fine paintings on the panels. A former incumbent did his best to restore the panels, but the experiment was not very successful. He found the upper posts of the screen some years ago among some lumber. Where the organ now stands was formerly the chapel of St. John the Baptist. Under the east window there is an ossuary (the place of bones). The entrance is near the Communion rails, and there is another entrance from without, underneath the east window. The chief internal feature

of the church is the Hastings brass. Sir Hugh Hastings was commander-in-chief of the armies of Edward III. He was born in this village. He built the church and is buried beneath the brass. We have one of the three swivel-based chalices to be found in the county. The pewter we have recently sent for display at St. Peter Hungate during the forthcoming exhibition. There is a scratch dial on one of the south buttresses of the chancel."

Mr. Cecil Upcher, F.R.I.B.A., referred to the church as being perhaps the finest church in the Decorated style in Norfolk. The width of the nave is architecturally very remarkable. The font cover was interesting to him as it had been restored by a relative, the Rev. Barham Johnson. Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy referred to a rubbing of the brass by the Rev. R. W. Nevill, which was displayed and indicated some of the historical figures which were represented on it in miniature. He also mentioned the incised memorial slab to a Franciscan friar, which was unfortunately hidden beneath the altar table.

At Elsing Hall, surrounded by its moat, the  
 ELSING party were received by Miss Clarendon-Hyde  
 HALL. and Mrs. Thackeray. The latter addressed the  
 assembly in the great hall, and in the course of

her remarks said: "The first authentic mention of the Manor of Elsing tells us that it belonged to a Saxon Thane named Toke or Toka in 1050. William the Conqueror gave it with many other lands in Norfolk to Earl Warren, and from that day to this it has been in the possession of his descendants—though it has frequently passed through the female line and three times through co-heiresses—a fact that has had some influence on the fortunes of the family.

"Earl Warren's grandchild married Sir Henry Hastings, a descendant of the Hastyngs who, according to the Roll of Arms, 'came to England with Rollo the Dane in the reign of King Alfred, 890.' In 1317 Sir Henry's grandson, Sir Hugh Hastings, married his kinswoman, Margery Folliot, who brought Elsing into the Hastings family. Sir Hugh and his wife built the church and are buried under the brass. Sir Hugh's grandson, Edward, who was a ward of Henry IV., succeeded his brother when he was fifteen, to find that his relative, Lord Grey de Ruthyn, had usurped his title and honours, and his life was spent and lost in trying to recover them at law. Although a very rich man, rather than pay costs and admit Ruthyn's right he went to the Marshalsea in 1418 and stayed there till he died eighteen years later. Two centuries afterwards the House of Lords declared that the Lords Grey de Ruthyn had not, and never had had, any claim to the title of Hastings.

"Edward's son John rebuilt this house somewhere between 1455 and 1470, using no doubt the materials of the older building

as experts have declared some of the bricks much older. The ruins of the earlier building show flint walls 5 feet thick, in the form of a pentagon, foundations of towers at the corners, and what was probably a guardhouse protecting the drawbridge. The principal features of interest in the present building are the north front, supposed to be one of the finest examples of squared flints in the county, the chapel at the east end, the hall with one of the few open-timbered roofs now left in a dwelling-house in Norfolk, and the old staircase which leads to the minstrels' gallery and what used to be the 'solar.' From this there was a window overlooking the hall and a door into the gallery of the chapel. In 1852 some workmen broke into an underground passage and sent a dog into it with a bell tied round its neck. The bell got fainter and fainter and the dog never came back. My uncle was so angry at the sacrifice of the dog's life that he immediately had the passage blocked up again. This fate also befell the priests' hole, with which it was supposed to communicate and the crypt under the drawing-room. The priests' hole is described as being 'half-way down a well—probably the well of a staircase—situated between the grand hall and the withdrawing room in the thick of the wall.'

"Elsing passed from father to son until the year 1571, when the heir, a boy of eleven, died just after his father, and again co-heiresses succeeded. According to the custom of the times, they both married the sons of their guardians—Anne, the elder, became the wife of the son of Sir Anthony Browne, who was Master of the Horse to Henry VII., and Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Lestrangle's son. Sir Anthony was a great favourite of Henry VIII., but it seems to have been a doubtful kindness to send him as proxy to marry Anne of Cleves, and neither he nor his wife, her lady-in-waiting, were flattering in their descriptions of her. Henry had his portrait painted by Holbein in the robes that he wore for the ceremony, and it hung in this hall until 1849. He also made him executor of his will and guardian to his children, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Edward. This accounts for the Brownes' immunity from persecution when they were known to be harbouring Jesuit priests. She apparently declined to interfere with her playmates, as not only was she brought up with the Brownes, but the Hastings and the Boleyns of Blickling had been friends for generations. The Browne additions to the house are shown in the chimneys, one of which bears their coat of arms, probably most of the south front, the lynx on the pinnacles and the fireplaces in the hall and dining-room, and various interior decorations.

"When Anne brought a husband to Elsing she also brought a most comprehensive and vindictive curse pronounced on Sir Anthony and his heirs when Henry gave him Battle Abbey. It is too long to read, but one of the lesser ones—pronounced by a priest on the

night of the house-warming—ended: ‘By fire and water thy line shall come to an end and it shall perish out of the land.’ Now, the strange thing about this curse is that as long as the Brownes remained Catholics nothing happened, but as soon as they turned Protestants, 200 years afterwards, it immediately started to work, and has done its best to make up for lost time ever since. The first victim, 8th Viscount Montacute, was drowned at the same time that Cowdray—where the Brownes then lived—was burnt to the ground; and the last—my brother and one of the many claimants to his title—was accidentally shot by a friend.”

The President, in thanking Mrs. Thackeray, asked her to display the ring which had been found in the moat. Mrs. Thackeray, who was wearing the ring, said it was a betrothal ring which was found in the moat somewhere about 1856. When removed from the finger it divides, and has “Forget-me-not” engraved on the inside.

At Swanton Morley Church the Rector, the  
 SWANTON Rev. R. N. Usher, said: “This present church was  
 MORLEY begun by the year 1379, because the will of  
 CHURCH. Sir William de Morley, dated April 26th, 1379,  
 leaves a gilt cup and ten marks for the building  
 of Swanton Morley Church, ‘now begun.’ The church was con-  
 secrated in 1440. There were once pinnacles on the tower, but  
 in the year 1730 one fell in the churchyard, one fell on the south  
 aisle, one fell through the nave roof, and the inhabitants thought  
 it best to remove the fourth one. There is a chamber under the  
 altar which we have practically opened out. Up to the year  
 1731 it was used as a vestry, but during the latter half of the  
 18th century it was used as a family vault by one of the rectors.  
 The staircase from the chamber must have been on the north side.  
 There seems to have been a portion of a rood-screen till the year  
 1871. Carthew writes: ‘The lower portion of the rood-screen  
 only remains each side in three compartments of arched panelling  
 and Perpendicular tracery, the heads and spandrels exhibiting  
 mutilated remains of carved angels, beasts, birds, &c.’”

Mr. A. B. Whittingham, A.R.I.B.A., in the course of some  
 remarks, said: “The greater part of this church, started before  
 1379, is of one design. To make way for it the earlier church  
 (mentioned in *Domesday*) was pulled down, as so often happened  
 in East Anglia in later mediæval times. You will have noticed,  
 as you approached, the fine design of the west end, and inside  
 the lofty proportions of arches and windows. The dominating  
 feature of the church is the square-headed windows which con-  
 tained two rows of figures in stained glass, probably saints,  
 apostles, &c., the remains of which existed till 1731. The  
 diminutive clerestory, kept subordinate, is unusual at this date.  
 The arch-braced nave and aisle roofs are good though plain. The

font, instead of being a magnificent feature at the west end, is comparatively insignificant, placed against the south side of the tower arch. The south porch may have been reconstructed on a smaller scale, as there is a blank wall in the aisle above the door, instead of the window on the north, and a certain amount of reused stonework is built into the walls at this point outside. Apparently funds ran short, and the two upper stages of the tower were built at a later date, to a different design, with very large belfry windows. The chancel also is later and plainer. The crypt was built under the east end owing to the sharp fall of the ground outside. The hammer-beam roof in the chancel is ancient except for the rafters and boarding. Amongst several carvings on it is one of a swan on a tun or barrel, this being a 'rebus' on the name of the village. There are three mass dials on the church, not in their original positions; one, for instance, facing east. The pews appear to date from the 17th century. There are two mediæval stalls. Some of the Communion plate is Elizabethan."

The party inspected the exterior and were much struck by the pretty view down the valley towards Bylaugh Park. They then proceeded to East Dereham, where tea was served in the Assembly Rooms.

At Mattishall the party were welcomed by MATTISHALL the Vicar, the Rev. D. Graham, who stated that the church was anciently in the patronage of the MARCHALLS, but later on the rectory was appropriated to what is now Caius College, Cambridge. There were in the church several guilds. The lectern is a copy of that in Shipdham Church. The screen is a handsome one with paintings of the Twelve Apostles, but mutilated, it is thought, during the Civil War. There are a considerable number of brasses in the church, and several interesting memorial stones in the chancel. There is a stone seat all round the nave walls; of the church plate, a chalice and one paten have the 1567 date mark. There were displayed the ancient parish registers and some 17th-century churchwardens' accounts. The south side-chapel with its screen was dedicated to St. Thomas à Beckett and his arms are to be seen on the screen.

Mr. A. B. Whittingham, commenting on the church, said: "There are several points of architectural interest. The earliest portions are the tower and the arcades, which date from about 1400, and have very similar details to those at Swanton Morley. There is one question which is a little difficult to decide. The arcades end at the west with a much smaller arch on each side. It seems possible that the original west wall was a short way in front of the tower arch, the tower being built up independently outside at the west, and afterwards joined up by the smaller

arches to the arcades. The clerestory outside can be seen to have been heightened a few feet. Inside, the arch-braced nave roof, a pleasant design in itself, is confused in effect by the retention of earlier tie-beams and braces of less refined design. These tie-beams come at the height of the clerestory walls before they were raised, and appear to be contemporary with the arcades. The west tie-beam is, however, missing, which rather supports the theory that the church was originally shorter. The tie beams were probably retained because the clerestory walls were found to be not strong enough to take the thrust of the roof. In fact, additional tie-rods have had to be inserted. The nave and aisle roofs are all of good design. You will notice that the east bays are panelled to protect the rood and chapels. The shaft of a piscina shows where the chapel was in the south aisle. The roof of the aisle has been renewed, except for a few figures carved on the wall posts.

“Whatever the origin of the small arcades at the west, a similar design was carried through in the wall arcades of the aisles, the narrower bays being conveniently used for the doorways. Similar wall arcading may be seen elsewhere, as in some of the Norwich churches. Along the base of these walls runs a stone bench. The north porch, originally the principal entrance, contains in the arch spandrels a carving of the Annunciation (or Purification?). Of a later date are the chancel, the clerestory, and the south chapel, dedicated to St. Thomas à Beckett. There are two good screens. The earlier, in the arch of the south chapel, displays a more refined sense of proportion. This screen was originally a bay or so longer at each end, and may be part of the parclose screen of the south aisle, moved back when the chapel was built. The upper part of the rood-screen (about 1500) has been cut off, but the base has delightful painting on the mouldings. The carved spandrels show St. George and the Dragon, and a wild man amongst other designs, and below are painted the Apostles. The 17th-century pulpit (with a later sounding-board, once a table, but now replaced) contains in its carving the rose, thistle, and fleur-de-lys, commemorating the United Kingdom.

“In the ringing gallery is an old ‘dug-out’ chest, now, unfortunately, filled with lumber. It is a pity that so valuable a relic should not be better cared for. In general design this church is of the more usual type, with the nave lit by clerestory windows above comparatively low aisles. One realises the difference at Swanton Morley, which was designed with tall aisle windows to display stained glass, as a principal feature. The proportions are here lower, probably because the older church was not entirely pulled down when the present church was built.”



## SECOND EXCURSION.

Ideal weather favoured the second summer excursion on the afternoon of Thursday, the 19th July. Barton Turf, Ingham, Happisburgh, and Worstead were visited.

Barton Turf Church was admirably described by the Vicar, the Rev. C. W. Hall, who has spared no pains to make the church and its history alive to-day in his admirable booklet, *A Short History of Barton Turf Church* (Jarrold & Sons, Norwich, 9d.), extracts from which he read on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Hall has made a collection of old bibles, many of which are on view at the west end of the church, amongst them being the first Geneva Bible, 1560, printed by Rowland Hall; the Great Bible, 1541; Matthew's Bible, 1549, which was the second English Bible to be printed; and the Bishop's Bible, 1585, by Barker, printed by special command of Archbishop Whitgift.

Beside the north door is a list of vicars of Barton Turf since 1199. The original Norman church has disappeared; the present building dates from about the year 1300, in the Decorated period. A hundred years later extensive alterations were made, and a tower in the Perpendicular style was built. Some of its best work is at the top, where delicate flint flushwork panels abound. The church stands in a commanding position on the highest land in the village. There are three bells, dated respectively 1616, 1615, and 1615, one bearing the monogram of William Brend, bell-founder, Norwich. A fireplace in the north wall of the tower was discovered in 1931. In the Middle Ages this was used for a variety of purposes and not confined to baking the wafers for the Eucharist, for in the churchwardens' accounts it is stated that lead was melted here for the roof and windows, and firing was brought to the tower for that purpose.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels. A marked feature of its interior is the great Perpendicular windows. The screen is its glory, and indeed the glory of Norfolk, for the panels across the chancel arch are the finest in the county. The 15th-century paintings on the lower panels of the rood-screen are in very good preservation. They represent St. Apollonia, St. Citha, St. Barbara and the Heavenly Hierarchy. The screen in the south aisle bears representations of Henry VI., 1422-61, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Edmund and St. Olave of Denmark. In St. Thomas' Chapel are two brasses recording its erection by Thomas Amys in 1495, amongst others. There is also a fine mural tablet to Anthony Norris of Barton Turf, the industrious antiquary, who made valuable MS. collections in 28 volumes, all relating to Norfolk. He died in 1785. The font is octagonal in shape and bears tracery of the late geometrical period in low relief, circa 1300. The stone is

Clipsham, *i.e.*, Lincolnshire limestone, as is the case with all the original stonework of this church. The register dates from 1558.

The party then went on to the Church of the Holy Trinity, Ingham. Here they were welcomed by music from the beautiful organ, played by the Rev. Gordon Paget of Hedenham, Norfolk, who, after the talk by the Rev. R. W. Maitland, explained the history of the organ: how it came from St. Matthew's, Westminster, via Lakenham Hall to Ingham Church.

The church, a large handsome building of flint, with stone dressings in the Gothic style, and with a lofty, embattled tower, has the north wall blank on account of the ancient priory abutting upon the north side of the church. Portions of the old priory remain. There was a cloister also. A chantry was founded in the 14th century by Sir Miles Stapleton in honour of the Holy Trinity. This foundation subsequently became a priory of friars of the Order of the Holy Trinity, otherwise known as Trinitarians or Mathurians. The lofty parvise on the south side of the church was built for the sacrist, who was also the vicar. Under an arch on the north side of the chancel is an altar tomb with recumbent effigy to Sir Oliver de Ingham, seneschal of Guyenne in 1325. He died in 1344. The effigy, like that of Sir Roger de Kerdeston at Reepham, reposes on a mattress of stones or pebbles, and the position is identical. Sir Oliver de Ingham was a great favourite of Edward II. (1307-27), who made him governor of several of his castles. Edward III. appointed him governor of Aquitaine, with a grant of 500 marks sterling and 77 sacks and a-half of wool out of the King's loft in Hampshire.

The inlaid brasses in the chancel, which included some of the richest in the county, were nearly all stolen in 1800 when St. Mary's Chapel was pulled down to save the expense of repairing the roof and that part of the church was laid open, but there still remains a singular brass with effigies of Sir Miles de Stapleton, the founder of the priory. On one of the brasses to a knight and his lady is included the name of Jakke, their dog. Only in one other case is a dog's name given in an English church, and that is in Gloucestershire. There are several miserere seats in the chancel. The font has a Saxon top placed upon a solid stone plinth with eight pillars of coloured marble.

On arriving at the old hall everyone was invited to sit down on the lawn to listen to what INGHAM OLD HALL. Dr. C. H. W. Page had to tell of the hall, with a rough idea of the people who had held it.

The hall is now used by the Seaside Camps and Settlement Association, and a chat with Captain Boasten, who is in charge, elicited the facts that at the moment he has 170 lads from 12 to 18 years of age camping in the grounds, and that there are as

many as 400 at times benefiting by the beautiful air and congenial surroundings.

In the course of his paper Dr. Page said: "The family of Ingham took their name from this village. Ernald de Ingham was lord soon after William I., and had issue Roger de Ingham. Oliver de Ingham was lord in 1183-4, and in the reign of Richard I. Sir John de Ingham was lord. He married Albreda, a daughter and co-heir of Walter Walerand, a wealthy baron. On the death of this Walter Walerand, Sir John de Ingham, giving 50 marks and a palfrey, had livery of a third part of his barony. Sir John's son was Walter de Ingham, who was a minor when his father died. In 1205-6 Robert de Tatshall gave the King £100 for the custody of the lands of John de Ingham and the wardship and marriage of his heir. Walter de Ingham's son was Oliver, who was 21 before 1254. In 1282 Oliver de Ingham received a summons to attend Edward I. with horse, arms, etc., against the Welsh. He died the same year and was buried in the church of the Whitefriars, and was seised of the manors of Ingham, Waxham, and Redenham and other lands and tenements in Norfolk and elsewhere. His son was John de Ingham, who was 22 in 1282. From evidence given, Norris is of opinion that 'he was undoubtedly a baron.' Sir John was constantly summoned for service against the French and the Scotch. He died in 1309-10, probably slain in the Scotch wars. He was seised of Ingham and other manors. He left a daughter, Maroya, who became abbess of Marham, and a son, Oliver, who was 23 at the death of his father. He was the last of the male line of the Inghams. Nothing, except possibly foundations, remains of the home of the Inghams. In the restoration of 1904 these were extensive. We may suppose their residence was one of the usual small moated manor houses. The Sir Oliver de Ingham of Edward I.'s time probably needed a moat as some protection against his neighbours, with whom he could scarcely have been on very friendly terms, seeing that he was presented for having appropriated to himself the fishing of a pool, called Helpole, which used to be common, enclosed the King's highway at the gate of Roger de Paston, and had exceeded his free warren in Palling by taking the dogs of Sir Robert de Mauteby and beating him.

"The last Sir Oliver de Ingham was the one whose recumbent figure occupies within the church the place of a founder's monument. He was a K.G., and both as soldier and politician his life was most interesting. He became seneschal of Gascoigne and Aquitaine and Lord Warden of the Marches of Guyenne. With his death in 1343 the Ingham property passed to his younger daughter, Joan, who married for her second husband Sir Miles Stapleton, who thus became lord of Ingham in right of his wife. The Stapletons originated, it is said, from Stapleton-on-Tees. A Sir John Stapleton was Comptroller of the Household to King

Stephen. A Sir Miles Stapleton was a crusader who is said to have married the daughter of Penrodas, the King of Cyprus. Another Sir Miles Stapleton fell at Bannockburn in 1314. He founded a beautiful chantry at North Morton, in Berkshire, which, I believe, still exists. The Sir Miles Stapleton, grandson of the last-mentioned Sir Miles, and who married Joan de Ingham, was born about 1300, was lord of Bedale and Cotherstone, in York. shire, was a Knight of the Garter at the age of 30, being one of the first Knights of the Garter. He served at Crecy (1346) and the siege of Calais. He died in 1364. He was succeeded by his son, another Sir Miles Stapleton, who almost certainly built the oldest part of the present Ingham Hall. He married a niece of the Earl of Suffolk. The stone used in the old portion of this house is from the same quarry as that employed in the erection of the church, which fact further points to the conclusion that the house must have been built towards the close of the 14th century. It has, however, been stated that this portion of the house contains work of earlier date than anything contained in the church, and it may be, the original church having been pulled down, some of the material was re-used in the erection of the house.

"As the house existed before 1904, the date of the present alterations, it practically formed an L, with the top of the L pointing east. The western portion of the house was added in the 17th century. The eastern, or older, part is a building of flint and brick; its internal measurements from east to west 43 ft., from north to south 15 ft. The outside walls are 2½ ft. thick. It was no doubt divided into two storeys at the time of the later additions. Quite a brief inspection makes this evident. There was a plain flat oak ceiling over the hall. At right angles to the eastern end of the north wall is a chamber 8 ft. wide from north to south and 13 ft. from east to west, and in its eastern wall were two square-headed stone windows with a circular cinquefoil window above them. At the restoration a hagioscope, or squint, running through the wall between the main building and the smaller one, was discovered and unblocked. It is a double-arched opening with cusped heads. From this it is evident that the small chamber was the chapel of the Stapletons. In Sir Miles' will, dated at Ingham in 1419, is a bequest of 'one vestment of gold which is in my Chapel.' The will of Sir Brian Stapleton in 1438 also mentions the chapel. It was not unusual to place the chapel against one side of the hall, and therefore it is probable that the main building to which the chapel was attached was the great hall of the Stapleton house. There were at the restoration traces of decorated windows to this hall. Sometimes on the walls of the hall were emblazoned the owner's arms. The walls of a bedroom at the east end were decorated with a continuous band of shields on a groundwork of brick red. One of the shields bore the lion

rampant. You can still see the blue of the lion rampant and the reddish colour of the claws. The arms of the Stapletons were a lion rampant surcharged on the chest with a mullet gules. You will realise from the mullioned window, when in this room, that the first storey floor is a later insertion.

"The Sir Brian Stapleton who succeeded the builder of the hall married Cecily, a daughter of Lord Bardolf. Sir Brian was Sheriff of Norfolk in 1424. The name of his dog "Jakke" was immortalised in his brass. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Miles Stapleton, who died in 1466. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas de la Pole. The estate then passed to the Calthorpes by the marriage of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, to Sir William Calthorpe. After Sir William's death his widow married Sir John Fortesque, Lord Chief Justice of England, and they were living together here in 1506-7 in great hospitality. Sir John Fortesque also had the use of the Calthorpes' house in St. Martin's-by-the-Palace, Norwich. His wife was married for the third time to Sir Edward Howard, Lord Admiral and brother to the Duke of Norfolk. Sir William Calthorpe took a leading part in finding out the rioters and misdoers in Norwich in 1443 and received the King's thanks. The prisoners were tried by Fortesque. Calthorpe was Sheriff of Norfolk four times. Of Calthorpe's children several notices and anecdotes appear in the *Paston Letters*.

"Whether any of the de Bois family actually lived in the hall is doubtful, but it is said that Sir Roger de Bois did occupy the hall for a time.

"Sir Francis Calthorpe was the next Calthorpe owner, his father having died in 1494 aged 85. He married into the Windham family first, and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Berney, and by her had issue William Calthorpe, but the latter did not have the property until 1572, as his father having given up all hope of a son had made arrangements for the Ingham estate to pass to others of the name of Calthorpe. And during the protracted legal processes Sir Philip Calthorpe as heir of the direct line succeeded to the occupancy of Ingham Hall. This Sir Philip was a gentleman of unusual magnificence, particularly in dress.

"In due course William Calthorpe succeeded, but on the death of his mother, he having sold his reversion some time between 1572 and 1582, the estates passed to Sir Thomas Woodhouse of Waxham. At the Dissolution the Ingham Priory had been granted to William Woodhouse about 29 Henry VIII. Henry Woodhouse, the nephew, then sold the property to Sir Nicholas Bacon, and in 1626 the sons of Edward Bacon, of Shribland Hall in Suffolk, sold the manor or lordship of Ingham with the rights, liberties, and fair, etc., with the members in Ingham, Pawlinge, Hicklinge, Brumstead, Sutton, Lessingham, and Stalham, and all their other

lands in the same parishes and the site of the priory of Ingham, to Sir John Corbet of Sprowston, Bart., and Miles Corbet of Yarmouth. The Corbets, however, quickly sold to William Johnson of Catton. He was the son of William Johnson, Sheriff of Norwich in 1594. This William Johnson built all the western portion of the house. The house was not completed in 1636. He died in 1640. Over the door and in the windows appeared Johnson's arms impaling those of his wife Hester, daughter of Francis Smallpece, Alderman and Mayor of Norwich. The old stone mullioned windows have been removed and the whole of the west front has been refaced at some later date. William Johnson the third was living with his wife Mary at Ingham Old Hall in 1658. To whom the hall passed or who lived here after this is not known, but a Mr. Turner, son of William Turner and brother of Sir Chap. Turner, bought the hall early in the 18th century. His sister Elizabeth married Charles Harman, alias Le Gross of Crostwight, and their daughter Ada succeeded to the Ingham property of her uncle. She brought the estate by marriage to Thomas Western of Abbington Magna, Cambridgeshire, who became lord of Ingham and was succeeded in turn by his son.

"1863 Robert Francis Waites was lord of Ingham, but the hall was the property of Orton Lucas, and was then occupied by a farmer.

"As you go round the house you will notice on either side of one of the fireplaces two carved oak caryatid figures of 16th century work, probably removed from their original position. The massive oak Jacobean mantel above was probably introduced by William Johnson.

"In 1904 Mr. Robert Gurney took over Ingham Hall and at once set in hand the restoration of the hall and its enlargement. The chapel is now a scullery, but when Mr. Gurney took it over it was a brewhouse. In the garden may be seen the so-called monk's seat, which, I am told, formerly faced into the old walled garden."

At the conclusion of Dr. Page's paper the party re-entered their cars for Happisburgh, where tea was enjoyed at the edge of the cliffs.

Dr. Page invited any who were interested to HAPPISBURGH. visit the old "monastery," which he had done up and made into a very comfortable holiday home. He read a paper, which it is hoped he will expand for publication in the Society's Transactions. At the close of this paper he said:

"Looking to the south from the 'monastery' there will be seen on the left an ancient thatched-roofed flint building which was originally the Free School. Its most famous scholar was Richard Porson, 1759—1808, the son of Huggin Porson, the weaver and parish clerk of the adjoining parish of East Ruston, who became

the celebrated classical scholar and Professor of Greek in the University of Cambridge. He was born in 1759 and died at the age of 49 in 1808. He owed a great deal to the Happisburgh schoolmaster, Mr. Summers, and later to the curate, the Rev. T. Hewitt. At the age of eleven, while still at Happisburgh School, he wrote a poem on the wreck of *The Peggy*, a ship of the Royal Navy, which was driven ashore at Happisburgh on December 19th, 1770, when 32 lives were lost. The bodies lie in two graves in the churchyard. It was at Happisburgh during a storm that William Cowper wrote the hymn beginning 'God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.' Cowper could claim a Norfolk descent through the Donnes of Ludham Hall. The poet Donne was of this race."

At Worstead the Vicar, the Rev. C. W. Kershaw, read the following paper:—

"Worstead is one of the few English places which has given its name to a material produced in it. The fine woollen yarn to which this village gave its name was introduced by Flemish settlers, driven from their own country by inundations. The precise date is uncertain, but it is known that Worstead was producing wool in the 13th century, and produced it apparently before Norwich had thought about it. The Black Death in 1348 caused a scarcity of labour, and this, and the profitableness of wool, caused sheep farming to be more widely adopted. In 1337 a statute had been passed forbidding the importation of wool, and encouraging the settlement of foreign workmen in England.

"Worstead appears to have recovered quickly from the Black Death, and the latter part of the 14th century seems to have been a time of prosperity, and apparently the well-to-do weavers decided to rebuild their parish church. This church stands on the site of the one replaced. It took twenty years to build, commencing with the chancel in 1379. It is frequently asserted that the size of the church indicates the existence of a large population in the Middle Ages. Actually, I believe, the folks of those days built large churches to the glory of God, irrespective of the requirements of the population, with possibly a desire to go one better than the surrounding parishes.

"The chancel window is alleged by some archæologists to have been part of the former church because it is not in keeping with the character of the rest of the church. But archæologists are not remarkable for unanimity, a fact, I think, which constitutes their chief claim to be interesting. There are two exceptionally large consecration crosses in the chancel. Over the vestry there is a priest's chamber, which is unusual. The chamber and the vestry were added to the church in 1450. There is another chamber over the porch. The date of the chancel screen is 1512. Experts assert that it retains some of the original colouring. One of the

paintings is alleged to be a picture of St. Wilgefortis, a saint little noticed in England, but much venerated in Flanders. A feature of the aisles is the large stone pedestals at the east end of the windows. On these pedestals images of saints probably stood. The box pews, pulpit, and reading desk have date about 1750. At the west end the front panelling of the gallery is particularly beautiful. The date is 1501. I have been told that the panelling is characteristically Flemish in design. I may say that there remain no other traces of the Flemings in this locality. Here and there on the walls are the remains of black letter texts and parts of earlier wall paintings. The nave, aisle roofs, porch, and tower have all been restored within the last forty years, at the cost of some £3000."

#### THIRD EXCURSION.

The third excursion took place on Thursday, 13th September, and was into East Suffolk. Space does not permit a detailed description, which can be seen in the *Eastern Daily Press* of 14th September, and it must suffice to say that the itinerary included Dennington Church, Framlingham Church and Castle, Leiston Abbey, Dunwich Friary, Blythburgh Church, and Bungay Castle. Mrs. Wade of Elmsley, Yoxford, kindly allowed the party to take pic-nic lunch in her grounds, whilst at Bungay they were the guests at tea of Dr. L. B. Cane, the Town Reeve and chief promoter of the preservation of the castle.

#### LECTURES.

On the 23rd March photographs taken last summer by the Norfolk and Norwich Aero Club were the feature of a lantern lecture on "Norfolk Archæology from the Air," given under the joint auspices of that body and the Society, at the Club's premises at the Aerodrome on Mousehold. They were described by Professor Atkinson, F.S.A., who enlarged the scope of his subject by means of similar views of various famous national earthworks.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Mr. T. Glover) presided in the absence, through indisposition, of the President.

Prior to Professor Atkinson's lecture, Capt. A. A. Rice, Chairman of the Aero Club, demonstrated methods of air photography and showed and described some remarkably good examples of the Club's work in this respect. He mentioned that the credit for them was entirely due to Mr. H. F. Low.

Professor Atkinson pointed out that in all cases remains could be seen much better from the air and, photographed, they provided a permanent record which could be studied by the less energetic



archæologists who were prevented from studying the sites *in situ*. There were various ways in which the ancient remains could be seen. Sometimes they were slightly above the surface and in a proper light the bank or bump threw a shadow so that it could be photographed. Sometimes they were shown by the colour of the ground, though that was not likely to happen in Norfolk, where they would in nearly all cases be seen in the crops by richer vegetation. Last year's dry season was particularly favourable for the showing of indications of this sort, and for that reason successful photographs were taken which were not possible in other years.

Among the local photographs Professor Atkinson described were some of turnip and barley fields on Mr. Skinner's farm at Markshall. He said there was a very interesting series on the hill above the river opposite Caistor. A large area was occupied by remains and they were likely to be of an Iron-Age settlement—it might be the city of Boadicea. A village of that period had recently been excavated just outside Colchester.

Evidence of old burial mounds was pointed out in photographs of Thunder Lane, Thorpe, and Seething; of what might be a Celtic field system at Mileham; a mediæval village and gardens at Pudding Norton; and one of Keningham Hall, Mulbarton, the lecturer said the signs might be the remains of a large farm and farm buildings, though of what period he would be slow to say.

Several views of Caistor were shown, including the first air photograph of it taken in 1928. One of Alethorpe showed traces of what might be fields and an old road of the Roman period. A photograph of Welney brought the observation that here as in other places in the Fens were what were believed to be the beds of old water courses. Professor Atkinson pointed out in a view of St. Benet's Abbey what were thought to be the orchards, a herb garden, and possibly the fish ponds of an old monastic institution.

On the 24th November Miss Helen C. Colman read a paper on "Some Famous Norwich Women" to members of the Society in the room over the Ethelbert Gate of the Close. Her paper was the more interesting in that it dealt in the main not with the greatest celebrities of all, like Elizabeth Fry and Edith Cavell, but with four women who are, indeed, famous, but whose histories are not so familiar to the general public. They were Emma, wife of Ralph de Guader, born in the 11th century; the Lady Juliana, born *circa* 1342; Pleasance Reeve, Lady Smith, 1773—1877; and Laura Pearse, first Mrs. John Gurney, second Mrs. W. M. Ripley, 1824—1899.

Mr. E. A. Kent, F.S.A., presided.

“The Lady Emma,” said Miss Colman, “was the  
 LADY EMMA. wife of Ralph de Guader, Earl of the East Angles  
 and Constable of Norwich Castle. Her gallant  
 defence of the castle against William the Conqueror’s forces in  
 1076 won her fame. After her husband’s rebellion and subsequent  
 flight, she, with a small force, held the castle—not such a solid  
 structure then as now—for three months, despite numerous assaults.  
 When forced to capitulate and hand over the keys, she obtained  
 honourable terms and the right to join her husband in Normandy.  
 Yet should this recently-wedded Norman bride, daughter of William  
 Fitz Osborn, really rank as a Norwich woman? Be that as it might,  
 we could anyhow think of her as a prototype of a good many  
 women who appeared in Norfolk history, who would have to fend  
 for themselves while their lords were away at the wars, or on  
 other business, if we might judge from Margaret Paston and the  
 successful stand she made when the Duke of Suffolk set up a claim  
 to the Manor of Drayton, and from Alice Knyvet, who flung defi-  
 ance at the King’s representatives when they came to claim New  
 Buckenham Castle, and quelled them by her attitude and words,  
 warning them that if they should ‘make any warre to gete the  
 place of me I shall defende me, for leve I had in such wyse to  
 die than to be slayne when my husband cometh home, for he  
 charget me to kepe it.’

“We were, however, on firmer ground when we  
 LADY JULIANA. came to Lady Juliana, or Julian, the anchoress,  
 for she at any rate must have spent many years  
 in the city, although she might not have been a native of it. It  
 seemed more likely that she belonged to one of the county families  
 accustomed to send their daughters to Carrow Abbey (or Carrow  
 Priory, as it would have been called then) for education. There  
 was no documentary evidence, but inasmuch as the advowson of  
 the Church of St. Julian, off King Street, on the south side of  
 which she had a cell, was vested in Carrow Priory and was less  
 than a mile away, it seemed inconceivable that she had never  
 been there, and it was very possible that she had been a nun  
 there—perhaps even a pupil in childhood’s days—and that she  
 took her vows in the church of Carrow Priory. According to  
 Francis Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, the nunnery was  
 ‘a place of education for the young ladies of the chief families  
 of the diocese.’ He quoted Thomas Fuller, of the 17th century,  
 who said, in referring to the nunneries, that they had been ‘good  
 shree-schools wherein the girles and maids of the neighbourhood  
 were taught to read and work, and sometimes a little Latine was  
 taught them therein. Yea, give me leave to say, if such feminine  
 foundations had still continued . . . haply the weaker sex . . . might  
 be heightened to an higher perfection than hitherto hath been  
 attained.’ Was it fanciful to read into the story of the Lady

Juliana, that of a gay-hearted girl whose heart was turned to deeper things by a grim tragedy? Two things we knew. One was that she was never a solemn-faced ascetic such as one might associate with an anchoress renouncing the joys of the world. The other was that the terrible scourge known as the Black Death reached our shores at the close of 1348, and that the mortality in Norfolk was appallingly high. Possibly the effect on the child of six or seven of what she heard and saw at that time may have been life-long, and helped to shape her future. Lady Juliana had been described as 'the first real English woman of letters.' Her book was a description of revelations, or 'shewings,' as she called them, vouchsafed to her at a time of deathly sickness, when she hovered between life and death. Like Dante, whose 'Divine Comedy' was finished only about twenty years before Lady Juliana's birth, she ended on the note of love: 'Wouldst thou learn thy Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well: Love was His meaning.'

"Pleasaunce Reeve became the wife of Sir  
 LADY SMITH. James Edward Smith, of Norwich, the well-known  
 botanist. We might claim her as a Norwich  
 woman, for, though she was born and died in Lowestoft, she  
 spent fifty years of her life in Norwich, from 1797 to 1849,  
 including all her married life. She certainly made herself famous  
 by living to be 103, and retaining all her faculties to the end.  
 One of my early recollections, as a child of eight, was being sent  
 with my sister, Ethel, to take her a Victorian bouquet on the day  
 she reached the age of 100. Between then and her death in 1877,  
 she not infrequently drove over to Corton, where we lived part of  
 the year, to see my mother, and also our garden, as she had an  
 intense love of flowers, fostered no doubt by her husband. My  
 memory of her is not only of a charming old lady, but of one much  
 on the alert mentally; but lest you should dismiss that as a mere  
 child's recollection, I quote from the *Dictionary of National Biography*:  
 'Pleasaunce was trained by both her parents to a love of nature  
 and of literature; her love of poetry was innate. She never lost  
 her interest in political and literary topics, or her sympathy with  
 modern movements; did not think the past age was better than  
 the present, and met fears of the dangerous tendencies of modern  
 science with the remark, 'I am for enquiry.'" I think it was  
 clear there was no mental stagnation in her case. She must have  
 been sent to a boarding school, by the way, as I remember she  
 once told my mother that the food was bad at her school, and it  
 had undermined her health!

"I have stressed the fact of Lady Smith's mental ability and  
 broad outlook on life because I think many untrue things have been  
 said and written about the women of the 19th century, and that  
 the young Georgians of to-day, fresh maybe from a college course,

are apt to infer two things: first, that their shadowy great-grandmothers were women of no education whatever; and second, that they lived entirely self-centred lives, with no outside interests to claim either their thoughts or their sympathies. Taking the question of education first, I recognise, of course, that the education of the time about which I am speaking was less systematic than that of to-day, and that many fields of learning were not open to women then as they are to-day, but for wide cultural education I believe that the modern product should often pay tribute to those who have gone before. There is some force in the argument that the modern system of education with its multifarious examinations and attendant cramming, tends to cramp the highest form of true education. As to the second accusation, namely, that the well-to-do women of the Victorian age lived self-centred lives, no one can deny, unhappily, that there was that type, but to infer that this was typical of the country at large is, I believe, quite wide of the mark. I thankfully feel that there was one aspect of the 19th century of which statistics took no account, and which Government reports ignored, and that was the kindly and charming relationships often existing between the lady of the manor and the poor around her gates, between master and man, or mistress and maid.

“I have chosen for the purpose of representing Mrs. RIPLEY. this type of Victorian woman at its best, Mrs. W. N. Ripley, of Earlham Hall. Her character, which has been sketched in so charming a way by her grandson, Percy Lubbock, in his book entitled *Earlham*, must have been made known far beyond the county of her birth, inasmuch as that book, in which she plays so large a part, was brought into prominence as having been awarded one of the Nobel prizes for literature. She was one of five daughters, all beautiful, I am told, of the Rev. George Pearse, a minor canon then living in the Close. Catherine Gurney, of Earlham, one of the ‘seven Miss Gurneys,’ of whom Elizabeth Fry was the third, came in touch with the Pearse family, and seems to have had a special affection for Laura, which was warmly returned by the girl herself. The sequel was that Laura married Catherine’s nephew, John Gurney, and as a young bride of seventeen left the Close, taking up her abode at the ‘old white house that abuts on the churchyard’ at Earlham. But before many years had passed Earlham Hall was empty. The older generation had passed on. It remained so for a few years, but then John and Laura Gurney, with their young children, moved into it. He died not long after, in 1856, but she lived there in all for nearly fifty years, first as the wife of John Gurney and afterwards as the wife of William Nottridge Ripley, Rector of St. Giles’ Church, Norwich, and later Vicar of Earlham and Hon. Canon of Norwich. It was from Earlham Hall that Mrs. Ripley

carried on her deeds of mercy. It was there that the nooks and corners were to be found in which she would love to secrete small stores of special delicacies for the sick; where she had the special cupboard of her own in the hall, with baskets on a shelf with more food, ready to be put under the seats of her carriage to be taken to needy homes. It was common talk that the road from Norwich was often lined with people going to Earlham Hall for help, and needless to say, there were stories of shameless impostors who found their way there. But may we not say with her grandson, 'Let us believe that there were many more grateful and encouraged spirits at the end of it all than there were confirmed impostors and wastrels. The great glow of devoted affection that our grandmother created around her during half a century at Earlham was a gift to life that cannot be measured.'

## APPENDIX.

*Epitome of the Proceedings of the Committee.*

2nd November, 1934.

Five new members elected.

RESOLVED—To disaffiliate from the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies.

The following interim grants were confirmed:—

Up to £25, Norfolk and Norwich Aero Club for air photographs of archæological sites.

£5 to Mr. R. R. Clarke for Warborough Hill excavation.

£2 2s. was granted to the West Barsham Restoration fund in view of the part the late Colonel Bulwer had taken in promoting it.

The Secretary was requested again to write to Mr. J. T. Spurrell as to the protection of the capitals at St. Faith's Priory.

RESOLVED—That the Society's court rolls and deeds, not forming part of any individual collection, be deposited at the Norwich Central Library in accordance with the terms of the agreement recently entered into between the Norfolk Record Society and the Norwich Corporation.

8th December, 1934.

Two new members elected.

RESOLVED—(1) That the Society's Publications be sent gratis to the Courtauld Institute of Art; (2) that the question of supplying a notebook at the Bishop's Registry into which searchers could enter archæological notes be referred to the Secretary and Mr. Geo. A. Stephen.

The following gifts were reported:—

1. List of Norwich parish boundary plates from 1710 from Mr. J. E. Read.
2. Two notebooks by the late Canon Manning from Dr. Philip Laver, of Ipswich.

The suggestion that the subscriptions to the Norfolk Archæological Trust should be collected through the Society was approved.

The forthcoming commission of inquiry indicating the possible demolition of the churches of St. Edmund and SS. Simon & Jude was considered, and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, viewing with profound concern the proposals under the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, to demolish the 15th-century churches in Norwich of St. Edmund and SS. Simon & Jude, urges the Church authorities to explore the possibility (1) of St. Edmund's Church being devoted to some religious, moral, educational, or charitable purpose: (2) of SS. Simon & Jude being used as a central diocesan depository for episcopal, capitular, and parochial documents now scattered and neither satisfactorily housed nor scientifically arranged—a course which has been adopted in the City of Worcester.

9th March, 1935.

Seven new members elected.

RECOMMENDATION—That Mr. Edward F. de Carle Smith, F.C.A., be appointed Hon. Auditor in place of Mr. F. H. Barclay, deceased.

Resignation of Mrs. Ivo Hood and Mr. Ketton-Cremer as Editorial Secretaries having been received, RESOLVED—That the election of Mr. Percy Millican and Miss Mary Grace, M.A., be recommended.

With reference to request for an extra supply of off-prints of papers, it was RESOLVED—That, while clergy might have extra copies of papers relating to their churches without any payment beyond the printers' account, other contributors would be expected to pay in addition to the printers' account 10s. 6d. for every 50 or part of 50 off-prints beyond the 15 gift copies.

RESOLVED—That Canon Parsons be permitted to print his paper on the Boleyns in his *History of Salle*.

RESOLVED—That the following grants be made:—

1. £5 towards the Rev. E. D. Stone's expenses if permission be obtained for him to catalogue the contents of the Bishop's Registry.
2. £5 to the Norfolk Research Committee for excavating the woodhenge at Arminghall next summer.