

much enthusiasm, and that he is restoring it with the utmost care. The general outlines of the history of Hengrave Hall are well-known. From the hall, Mr. Wood proceeded to the church, of which he also gave a detailed description, and those who remembered the edifice, in times not far distant, when everything had fallen into dilapidation, were delighted to see how beautifully it had been preserved. It must be sufficient to add that this property has fallen into the hands of a gentlemen of taste and archæological knowledge, and that it is now better worth seeing than ever, as one of the striking historic places of the county. A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. R. Burrell, was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wood for their kind hospitality. Mr. J. Wood has recently become a member of the Institute.

Before separating the company were photographed in a group by Mr. H. Jarman, of Abbeygate Street, Bury St. Edmund's. Most of the party returned home by trains due out of Bury about six o'clock, but some remained to visit Fornham All Saints.

## ICKWORTH.

BY REV. SYDENHAM A. H. HERVEY.

About 100 years before the Norman Conquest, Bishop Theodred bequeathed his land at Ickworth to Bury Abbey. Soon after the Norman conquest, by an exchange of lands, the Abbey became possessed of Elvedon, and the owner of Elvedon became possessed of Ickworth. The new owners took the name of De Ickworth, and continued there for about eight generations. They died out about 1430. The ownership of Ickworth was then in dispute amongst several claimants, and was awarded by the arbitrators to Sir William Drury of Rougham. His cousin, Henry Drury, somehow became possessed of it, whose daughter and heiress was Jane. Jane married (1) Thomas Hervey, (2) Sir William Carew. Her first husband lies we know not where, her second in St. Mary's church at Bury. Jane Hervey, alias Carew, died before her mother, whose will was proved in 1476, and, therefore, never came into possession of Ickworth; but her son, William Hervey, did in due course, and Ickworth is still in the possession of his lineal descendant. Between the two there have gone by eleven generations of men, four centuries and a quarter of years.

These twenty-three generations, viz. eight of De Ickworths, two of Drurys, thirteen of Herveys, have between them had three successive mansion houses. The first mansion house stood to the east of the church, within a stone's throw of it. The foundations remain underground, and a dry summer reveals them, as night reveals the stars. Here and there a hewn stone or a brick may be seen working its way to the surface. Strange to say in this county of moats, there is no vestige of a moat. Possibly the brow of the hill made one unnecessary. In this original mansion we may safely imagine to have resided the eight

generations of De Ickworths, two of Drurys, and four of Herveys. The fourth Hervey would have been John Hervey, who died there very poor in 1630. Possibly the poverty of John Hervey was the primary cause of the house being allowed to decay, and the troublous times that came shortly afterwards increased what had already been begun. Sir William, the son and successor of John, resided at Ickworth only occasionally. Between 1650 and his death in 1660, we see him going there occasionally for a few days on matters of business. He had a house in Bury and a house in London, and, after his marriage in 1642 with Lady Penelope Gage, he resided at Hengrave. His son and successor, John, had office at court, and I don't think ever came near Suffolk except to be buried there. Dying in 1680 he left Ickworth hall to his widow for her life. Her widowhood seems to have been spent abroad. She died in Holland in 1700. So that for seventy years the mansion was practically deserted. In 1665 it was apparently occupied as a farm house. Edward Baythorne was the tenant, who had married Lady Penelope Gage's maid. The decay which may have begun owing to the poverty of the John Hervey who died in 1630, must have increased through the troublous times of the civil war, and through the seventy years of more or less desertion. But we are not left entirely to our imagination to know how it was faring. Sir Gervase Elwes, as he passed through Ickworth on his way from Denston to Bury during the latter part of the 17th century, noticed the waste that was going on in the estate. And a contemporary legal document speaks of the tiles as falling off by loads every day, and the plank floors rotting away. So it is no wonder that when John Hervey, afterwards first Earl of Bristol, came into possession of Ickworth on the death of his aunt in 1700, he found the original mansion a ruin and he levelled it with the ground.

And now begins the second mansion house. Being determined to live at Ickworth he fitted up a farm house there as a temporary abode. This is the house now known as Ickworth Lodge. Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim, came and a site was chosen and a plan prepared for a new mansion house, but it was never built, and Ickworth Lodge remained the mansion house for 130 years, viz., till 1830.

And now begins the third mansion house. In 1792 Frederick Hervey, fourth Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry, began the building of an enormous new house. The Rev. Joseph Sandys, an Irish clergyman, was put at Ickworth to superintend the work. Lord Bristol himself could never have seen more than the foundations, as he went abroad in 1793, and stayed there till his death in 1803. In 1830 the building was sufficiently advanced to be habitable, and Lord Bristol, the son of the Bishop, moved into it.

So much for the three mansions. The church has an Early English east window, triple lancet, and a good Decorated piscina on the north side of the nave. There are no monuments of any sort except flat stones. This under the circumstances is most unusual and creditable,

but whether accidentally or designedly so I know not. The village has completely disappeared. The rectory house stood near the church till about 1700, when it was burnt down. The Bishop of Norwich in 1712 issued a faculty exempting the rector from rebuilding it and allowing such materials as were left to be applied to the repairs of Chedburgh rectory. At the same time the rectories of Ickworth and Chedburgh were united. The object of all this is obvious. John Hervey had just come into possession, and was re-creating the park, and it was desirable to get the rectory out of the way. Parson's pond still remains to tell where the parson once abode. Ickworth was united to Horringer in 1852, having been a few years earlier separated from Chedburgh.

Of former rectors, Robert Butts was Bishop first of Norwich, then of Ely, dying in 1748. Thomas Knowles, who died in 1802, and Henry Hasted, who died in 1852, have both left theological works to tell of their attainments. Lord Arthur Hervey was Bishop of Bath and Wells till his death in 1894.

This is a rough chronological list of the portraits at Ickworth, more or less complete. The date is the date of death. The name in ( ) is the lady's maiden name. If the Institute would get a list of portraits from every house in the county, great or small, a useful work would be done.

Sir Nicholas Hervey, 1532.

Francis Hervey of Witham, 1601.

{ Sir William Hervey, 1660.

{ Susan (Jermyn), his first wife, 1638.

{ Lady Penelope Gage, his second wife, 1661.

John Hervey, eldest son of Sir William, 1679. 3 portraits. Lely.

William Hervey, friend of Cowley, 1642. 2 portraits.

{ Sir Thomas Hervey, 1694.

{ Isabella (May) his wife, 1686.

{ Sir Humphry May, 1630. C. Jansen.

{ Judith (Poley), Lady May. 1661.

Baptist May, 1698. Lely.

Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, 1683.

Mary (Hervey), wife of Sir Edward Gage, 1654.

{ Sir Robert Carr of Sleaford, 1682.

{ Isabella (Bennet), Lady Carr, 1696.

{ Henry, first Duke of Grafton, 1690.

{ Isabella (Bennet), Duchess of Grafton, afterwards wife of Sir Thomas Hanmer, 1723.

{ Sir Thomas Felton of Playford, 1709. Lely.

{ Lady Elizabeth (Howard) Felton. Lely.

{ John Hervey, first Earl of Bristol, 1751. 4 portraits.

{ Isabella (Carr), his first wife, 1693.

{ Elizabeth (Felton), his second wife, 1741. 2 portraits.

- Carr, Lord Hervey, 1723.  
 Isabella Carr Hervey, a child, 1711.  
 { John, Lord Hervey, 1743. 4 portraits.  
 { Mary (Lepel) his wife, 1768. 3 portraits.  
 Hon. Felton Hervey, a dead infant, 1710.  
 Hon. Thomas Hervey, M.P. for Bury, 1775.  
 Hon. William Hervey, R.N., 1776. Hudson.  
 Hon. Felton Hervey, M.P. for Bury, 1773.  
 Lady Elizabeth (Hervey) Mansel, 1727. 2 portraits.  
 Lady Louisa (Hervey) Smyth, 1770.  
 George Hervey, second Earl of Bristol, 1775.  
 Augustus Hervey, third Earl, R.N., 1779. Gainsborough.  
 Fred. Hervey, fourth Earl and Bishop of Derry, 1803. 2 portraits.  
 Hon. William Hervey, General, 1815.  
 Lepel (Hervey), Lady Mulgrave, 1780.  
 Lady Mary (Hervey) Fitzgerald). 1815.  
 Lady Emily Hervey, 1814.  
 Lady Caroline Hervey, 1819.  
 Augustus Hervey, midshipman, 1782. Gainsborough.  
 { John Augustus, Lord Hervey, R.N., 1796. Gainsborough.  
 { Elizabeth (Drummond), his wife, 1818. Kaufman.  
 Sir Charles Davers, 1806. Sir Joshua Reynolds.  
 { Charles; Lord Seaford, 1845. Lawrence.  
 { Elizabeth C. C. (Hervey) Ellis, 1803.  
 { Robert, Earl of Liverpool, 1829. Lawrence.  
 { Louisa (Hervey), his first wife, 1821. Romney.  
 Fred. Will., first Marquis of Bristol, 1859. Hoppner and Lawrence.  
 Lady Elizabeth (Hervey) Foster, afterwards Duchess of Devonshire,  
 1824. Kaufman.  
 { Fred. Will., second Marquis of Bristol, 1864. Grant.  
 { Lady Katherine (Manners) Jermyn, 1848. Grant.

Besides these there are two family groups by Hogarth and Zoffany; a replica of West's painting of the death of General Wolfe; a portrait of Madame Le Brun, by herself; two very fine pictures of Spanish princes, by and after Velasquez; portraits of Arbuthnot, Addison, Congreve, Milton, Cardinal de Retz, etc., etc.

#### LITTLE SAXHAM.

At about the time when the Wars of the Roses were dying out, Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Bedford, had in his household a young man from West Suffolk, named Thomas Lucas. For nine generations, and perhaps for many more, the fathers of Thomas Lucas had been settled, first at Bury St. Edmund's and then at West Stow. The young man prospered, and in course of time became

Solicitor-General to Henry VII., the nephew of his old master, Jasper Tudor. Finding Little Saxham divided into three small manors, viz., Gedding's alias Toppesfield's, Large's and Grace's, he managed to acquire them all, and there he built him a house. A manuscript in the British Museum contains the items of expenses incurred in the building of this house. Extracts from it have been published by Mr. Gage in his "History of Thingoe Hundred"; but it would be well if the Suffolk Archæological Institute would print the ms. in full. The printing of such things would be far more profitable than the printing of rechauffe's of what has been printed already, such as this article is. The house built by the Solicitor-General stood till 1773, when it was pulled down by Richard Crofts, M.P., and there remains to-day only the moat and some bits of masonry on its banks. But the foundations are still in the ground, and a dry summer reveals them. It is a pity that the recent visit of the Suffolk Archæological Institute to Saxham was of such a scrambling nature that it could throw no light whatsoever upon the building. Thomas Lucas died in 1531. He had built a chantry chapel on the north side of Little Saxham church, and had prepared a tomb for himself there, but he was not buried there. He bequeathed Little Saxham Hall to his grandson and heir, Thomas Lucas, and other lands at Saxham to his younger son, John Lucas. These two sold their inheritance shortly afterwards to Sir John Crofts of West Stow.

The ancestors of Sir John Crofts, like those of Thomas Lucas, had been settled for several generations, first at Bury and then at West Stow. He had been in the household of Mary Tudor, Queen of France, and when he built West Stow Hall he placed her arms over the entrance, where they may still be seen. His mother was Elizabeth Hervey, which accounts for the Hervey arms being in a window in the chancel of Little Saxham church. He died in 1558.

Another Sir John Crofts was great grandson to the Sir John who first acquired Saxham. In his time King James I. was an occasional visitor to the hall. More than one of his fifteen children held office at Court; his daughters were gay, masquerading young ladies, and it was reported that James was married to one of them.

Sir Henry was son and successor to Sir John. In spite of his connection with the Court he does not appear to have suffered severely in the Civil War. He represented Eye in Parliament in 1624, and Bury St. Edmund's in 1660. He died in 1667.

William was son and successor to Sir Henry. He was a courtier from his boyhood to the end of his life. During the commonwealth he was an exile, living in his own country house near Paris. He was created Baron Crofts, at Brussels, in 1658. After the restoration he entertained Charles II. at Little Saxham at least four times, viz., in 1666, 1668, 1670, 1676. The first visit is recorded in the parish register of Westley, whither the king rode to get a better view of Bury St. Edmund's. The second visit is recorded by Pepys, who was there at the time, and who

says that the king was drunk and could not see Lord Arlington when he came about state affairs. The third visit is recorded by the printing of the sermon that was preached before his majesty in Saxham church. A copy of this sermon will be found in the library of the Suffolk Archæological Institute. Amongst other visitors to Saxham hall in Lord Crofts' time were the Dukes of Monmouth and Buckingham, George Porter, and Baptist May, and one can imagine that their time was not entirely occupied in listening to sermons. Lord Crofts was visited on his deathbed by Evelyn the diarist, who was staying with Lord Arlington at Euston, and died childless in 1677. His younger brother, John, was Dean of Norwich from 1660 to 1670. Another younger brother, Charles, was, I believe, he who was shot in a duel by Jeffrey Hudson, the dwarf.

After the death of Lord Crofts, Little Saxham passed to his first cousin, Major William Crofts, who resided there, as did his son Anthony. But William, the son of Anthony, resided at West Harling, and henceforth Little Saxham saw little more of its owners. Richard, the son of William, represented the University of Cambridge in Parliament from 1771 to 1780. In 1773 he pulled down the hall. In 1783 he died, leaving an only child, Harriet, the wife of Sir John Sebright. In 1789 the hall-less estate of Little Saxham was sold to Charles, Marquis Cornwallis, who in 1795 exchanged it for West Stow with Robert Rushbrook, who in 1808 exchanged it for Rushbrook hall with Lord Bristol. A part of what is now Ickworth park lies in Little Saxham parish, and was once part of Little Saxham park.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, has a round tower of good proportions. A low recessed Norman arch inside the tower is a mystery, on which the recent scrambling visit of the Suffolk Archæological Institute threw no light. The chantry chapel on the north side of the chancel was built by Thomas Lucas, the solicitor-general, and dedicated to Our Lady and St. John the Evangelist. It was built that masses might be offered in it for the repose of the soul of the builder and his family and of Jasper, Duke of Bedford. But the Reformation came so shortly afterwards that but few masses could have been offered. It is now filled with the monuments of the Crofts.

Of the rectors of Little Saxham none seem to have left much mark behind them or to have risen to much distinction. Of eminent natives one may mention Henry Bennet, Lord Arlington, one of the Cabal ministry of Charles II. His mother being one of the numerous children of Sir John Crofts, was the reason of his being baptized at Saxham. The Dictionary of National Biography originally passed over Lord Crofts, but in a supplementary volume just published this omission has been rectified. Of eminent residents one may mention Francis Fauquier, who was Lieut.-Governor of Virginia from 1758 to 1768. Apparently he rented the hall in and about 1730, when the Crofts were just deserting it for West Harling. Also Philip Francis, the only son of Sir Philip

who was the probable Junius, resided at the present rectory (not then the rectory) for a part of each year from 1811 to about 1830.

The Parish Registers from 1559 to 1850 have been published. In the original register mention is made of a portrait of Sir John Crofts, drawn in 1612 in his 49th year. This picture was moved from Little Saxham to West Harling in the 18th century. Where is it now? A portrait of William, Lord Crofts, which was engraved for Gage's "History of the Thingoe Hundred," is at Althorpe, Lord Croft's second wife being a Spencer. Might not a complete list of Suffolk portraits be worth printing in some future volume of the Suffolk Archæological Institute?

### EXCURSION TO LITTLE WENHAM.

There are in Suffolk few places of greater interest than the Hall and Church of Little Wenham. Antiquaries have for some years past been sorely grieved to notice that these historic buildings of the 13th century were gradually falling into ruins. Efforts have been made to rouse sufficient public interest to secure them from utter decay; but it was not until the Hall was purchased by G. E. Crisp, Esq., of Playford Hall, that any prospect of saving these unique specimens of Early English architecture appeared. With his characteristic zeal for the preservation of ancient buildings, Mr. Crisp, as soon as he became the owner of what is locally known as Wenham Castle, set to work to stay further dilapidation, and to retain all the features and details of the early edifice. When satisfactory progress had been made in the work he kindly invited the members of the Institute to visit the Hall, to see those beauties of the architecture which had been concealed for so long a time under a massive growth of ivy.

The extent to which the excursion, held on August 31st, 1901, was patronised, proves how greatly his invitation was appreciated. Well-filled carriages started from the Cornhill, Ipswich, and were accompanied by numerous cyclists, who arrived to find other visitors in motor cars and carriages had preceded them. The attendance upon this occasion was equal to, if not greater than, that of the excursion to Icklingham.

The visitors first assembled in the church, with falling roof, broken-down pews, and desecrated chancel, bearing all the signs of neglect. Beneath the ruins and *débris* were marks of the skilful masons' hands which placed the stones upon each other. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Dr. H. T. Bensly, of the Diocesan Registry, Norwich, from which it appeared that efforts were being