

where they alighted at the Priory. Here the old boundary wall called for attention, as also the massive chimney, nearly hidden by the clustering ivy, the four allegorical figures in the porch, and the timbered exterior of the house itself. The Rev. C. R. Manning, having called the visitors around him on the lawn, read the following paper:—

#### HOXNE PRIORY.

On this spot I may first say a few words on S. Edmund, king and martyr, here put to death by the Danes. His history, more or less apocryphal, is related in the Saxon and other chronicles, and will be found in *Yates's History of Bury S. Edmund's*, and many other works. The following summary of it is taken from *Murray's Handbook of Suffolk*:—"Offa, King of East Anglia, visited Nuremburg, where Edmund, son of Alkmund, King of Old Saxony, lived, and had been born, on his way to Jerusalem. Dying on his way back, Offa, bequeathed his crown and kingdom to Edmund, who was a relation. Edmund accordingly set forth, and landed at Hunstanton, since called S. Edmund's Head. Thence he passed to Attleborough, where he spent a year in learning the Psalter, and in other good works. On Christmas day, 856, he was crowned by Humbert, Bishop of Elmham, and there, during his short reign, according to Lydgate and the rest, shone as a very constellation of virtues. In 869 occurred the great storm of invasion, during which the Danes, breaking southward from the Humber, plundered and destroyed all the great monasteries of the Fens, and took Thetford, one of the strongest fastnesses of the East Anglian kingdom. Edmund, defeated in a severe battle in that neighbourhood, fled to Eggesdune, now Hoxne. Thither the Danes pursued. Tradition asserts that the King hid himself under a bridge over the Dove, now called "Gold Bridge," and that a newly married couple, crossing the bridge by moonlight, saw the reflection of the King's golden spurs in the water, and betrayed him. Accordingly, S. Edmund pronounced a curse on every couple who should cross this bridge on their way to be married, and until the bridge was rebuilt, in the present century, a wide circuit was taken by bride and bridegroom in order to avoid it. It is thought that the King's bright armour is still to be seen on certain nights, glimmering through the water of the brook.

The Danes, having taken the King, beat him with "bats," bound him to a tree, and made him a mark for their arrows, till his body, says Abbo the Chronicler, was like a porcupine, or a thistle, or as S. Sebastian martyr, in his passion. His head was then stricken off, and flung into a wood. Bishop Humbert was also killed. After some time, the followers of Edmund, returning to the place, discovered the King's body, but could not find the head, until led by a cry of "Here, here, here!" which they heard in the wood, they saw it carefully guarded between the paws of a wolf, who gave up his treasure, and then retreated "with doleful mourning." Some time after the head had been restored to the body, it was found that they had become firmly united, and that the

only mark of former severance was a scarlet line. The representations of the severed head, or the head guarded by a wolf, and the crown with two arrows in saltire, are frequently found in glass or stone throughout Suffolk and Norfolk; all refer to the martyrdom and this legend. One probably genuine relic of this occurrence is the gilt iron cheek-piece of a horse's bit, which I exhibit to-day, found several years ago, seven feet below the bed of the stream, with the skull of a *bos longifrons*. It is probably Danish, and there are other examples in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, and at Copenhagen.

A wooden chapel was erected here, in which the King's body remained for 33 years, still perfect and uncorrupt, until about the year 903 it was taken to Bedricesweorth, now Bury S. Edmund's, and was placed under the care of a body of secular clergy. The reputation of that place greatly increasing, King Canute, in 1020 changed the foundation to that of a Benedictine Monastery, and thence arose the great house of Bury, that soon became one of the wealthiest and noblest in England.

The oak tree, to which tradition says S. Edmund was bound, existed till August, 1848, when it fell down; a cross has been erected on the site. It was 20 feet in circumference, and contained 17 loads of timber. When it was broken up, a piece of curved iron, possibly an arrow head, was found in the heart of it, and is still preserved. It was exhibited at Bury, when the Royal Archæological Institute met there in 1869.

A small religious house appears to have existed in Hoxne in Saxon times, dedicated to S. Athelbright, as it is mentioned in the will of Bishop Theodred II., in 962. Nothing further is known of it, but it may have formed part of the Bishop's palace, for Bishop Herbert, of Norwich, founded a cell here in connection with his Benedictine Priory in 1101, and Ralf, the Dapifer, rebuilt it from the ground, and yet the monks were only removed from the palace to S. Edmund's Chapel by Bishop de Brundevile, who was consecrated in 1226, and the reception for them was not complete until 1267, when Bishop Roger de Scarning consecrated a churchyard for them. The house only consisted of a Prior, and seven or eight monks from Norwich, and removable by the Prior of Norwich, who visited them annually. The monks kept a school for the children of the village, and supported two scholars themselves. There were similar cells belonging to the Priory of Norwich, at Lynn, Yarmouth, North Elmham, S. Leonards'-on-Mushold, and Aldeby. These cells, Blomefield observes, "were colonies, into which the monasteries discharged their superfluous members, and whither the rest retired, when infectious were feared at home. They were always dependent on their mother monastery, and were wholly supplied from thence, though they had revenues belonging to them separate, when given by the donors to be applied only to their use; and were fixed in order that the Bishop, when he was at his country seats or palaces, as those places might have a sort of chapter, and cathedral services in the churches there."

Of this priory or cell little more is recorded down to the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It is occasionally mentioned in wills. In 1375, John Elys, Rector of Ocle Magna, left to the repairs of the Chapel of S. Edmund at Hoxne, 3s. 4d., and one rood of meadow lying next Hoxne Bridge, in perpetual alms. Bishop Browne, of Norwich, in his will, dated 1445, gave 40 marks to the construction of the Chapel of S. Edmund, in Hoxne, when perhaps it was restored. In the register "Rix," there is mention of "three tapers before our Lady of Checkering, one before S. Edmund in the Chapel in Crosstrete, and one before S. Edmund's Chapel in the Wood," so that there were two distinct chapels of the name in the parish.

Wm. Castleton, the last Prior of Norwich, having a shrewd eye to the coming dissolution, made a bargain for himself beforehand, and alienated the property here to Sir Richard Gresham, taking the few monks back to Norwich. The endowment then consisted of a manor in Yaxley, and lands and rents in Denham, Thrandestone, and Horham, the Chapel of Ringshall, with tithes and land, and tithes in Homersfield. For this act, he obtained an absolution from Henry VIII., under the seal of the King's Vicar-General, 1st April, 1538, and in the same year he surrendered the Norwich monastery to the King, who re-founded it, and made Prior Castleton the first Dean. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, the site of the Priory and the estate came to the family of Thurston, who lived here for some six generations. John Thurston, in 1588, contributed £25 to the defence of the country, when threatened with the Spanish Armada, of which this year is the ter-centenary. The house in the main, the original Elizabethan one, was probably built by this John Thurston, on the site of the demolished Priory. It has a garden front with some good moulded timber, and a large panelled room to the left of the porch entrance, over which is another panelled-room, with the arch for a fire-place, and round the upper part of the walls of this chamber were paintings of the arms of the Thurston family and their alliances, which, it is much to be regretted, have been papered over, some 12 or 15 years ago. In the porch, are four large wooden figures of a semi-classical style. They are, apparently, Elizabethan, and may have guarded the staircase or entrance hall. One is in the costume of a Roman soldier, with a crown on his head, and a starry globe and compasses in his hand. The second is a somewhat similar figure, but naked, and with a lion's skin wrapped round him. He is not crowned, but has a similar starry globe, without any compasses. The third is a female, holding a sheaf of corn and a sickle; perhaps "Autumn," or Ceres; and the fourth, a female, with a basket of flowers, and a rose on her breast, perhaps "Summer." The wall next the road is of old materials, but otherwise there are no remains of anything older than the domestic buildings of the 16th century.

In 1878 some iron relics were found in the bed of the stream here, a sword, spear head, stirrups, spur, and horse shoe. They were

thought to be not earlier than the 12th or 13th century, and are preserved at S. Edmund's Hall.

The Rev. W. H. Sewell followed with a brief *resumé* of the life and death of S. Edmund, and the party were soon again on the road.

Passing the cross in a field on the right (about a 100 yards from the road), marking the site of the old oak, said to be the one against which King Edmund was shot, A.D. 870, they were soon put down at S. Edmund's Hall, built by Sir Edward Kerrison, in 1880, near the spot where S. Edmund was taken prisoner.

The cross stands on a pedestal, upon which is engraved—

"ST. EDMUND  
King & Martyr  
Nov<sup>br</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
870."  
Oak tree fell  
August, 1848,  
By its own weight.

Upon the opposite side is inscribed:—

"The tree which stood here is said by tradition  
to have been the one against which King  
Edmund was shot."

In the Hall was a small collection of curiosities, these were examined, and some attention was paid to what was supposed to be an arrow head, found in cutting up the tree already named. This curiosity was kindly lent by Lady Bateman. Dr. Taylor, of Ipswich, having given an impromptu discourse on flints, the party again took to their carriages, and passing over the Golden Bridge, to which Mr. Manning had referred, were driven to Diss Station homewards, having heartily enjoyed a delightful outing, and the richer by many valuable notes and sketches of the antiquities of the district.

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Among those who took part in the day's excursion were—Lord John Hervey, the Revs. F. Haslewood, F.S.A. (joint hon. secretary), Dr. Hinde (Honington), Dr. Jessopp, Dr. Cresswell, Dr. Raven (Fressingfield), the Rev. H. N. Grimley and Mrs. Grimley, Revs. F. G. Haslewood, LL.D., D.C.L. (Chislet, Kent), F. S. Barry, C. R. Manning, F.S.A. (Diss), W. H. Sewell (Yaxley), Donald Campbell, A. J. Bedell (Liverpool), Major and Mrs. Gelston (Bury), Mr. W. F. and Mrs. Laxton, Dr. J. E. Taylor, Mr. W. H. Jones and Mrs. Jones, Mr. E. F. Bisshopp, Mr. Freeman Wright (Needham Market), Mr. Robert and Mrs. Burrell (Westley), and many other ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the county.

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The Council are not answerable for any opinions put forth in this Work. Each Contributor is alone responsible for his own remarks. Authors would greatly further the interests of the Institute, and save much unnecessary expense in the correction of proofs, if they would be good enough to write clearly and on only one side of the paper.

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**RULES OF THE**  
**Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History.**

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1. The Society shall be called the, "Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History."
2. The object of the Institute shall be—
  1. To collect and publish information on the Archæology and Natural History of the District.
  2. To oppose and prevent, as far as may be practicable, any injuries with which ancient monuments of every description within the district, may from time to time be threatened, and to collect accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions thereof.
3. The Institute shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members.
4. Each Ordinary Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of 10s., to be due in advance on the 1st of January, and shall be considered to belong to the Institute until he withdraws from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary. A donor of £5 shall be a Life Member.
5. The Officers of the Institute shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and Honorary Secretaries, all of whom shall be elected for the year at the Annual Meeting.
6. The general management of the affairs and property of the Institute shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the officers, and of twelve members elected from the general body of the Subscribers, to retire annually, but eligible for re-election.
7. The Council shall meet to transact the ordinary business of the Institute, not less than three times a year. They shall have power to make Bye-Laws, appoint Committees and Local Secretaries, recommend Honorary Members for election by the Annual Meeting, supply vacancies that may occur during the year in their own body or among the officers, and to make arrangements for Excursions and other meetings. They shall also annually frame a Report and prepare the Accounts for submission to the Annual Meeting. At the Meetings of the Council, three to be a quorum, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.
8. The ordinary place of meeting shall be Bury S. Edmund's, but it shall be in the discretion of the Council to hold meetings at other places, if and when they shall think it advisable.
9. Each Member shall be entitled to free admission to the General Meetings of the Institute; and he shall also be entitled to the use of the Library and to a copy of each publication of the Institute; but no copy of any such publication shall be delivered to any member whose subscription is more than twelve months in arrear.
10. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of April or May in each year, or at such other time as shall be fixed upon by the Council.
11. All papers presented to the Institute shall thereby be considered its property, and the Council may publish the same in any way, and at any time, that they may think proper.



## REPORT, 1889—1890.

Our forty-second Annual Report finds the Society in as flourishing a condition as any of its predecessors, and there are abundant evidences that there is an increasing desire on the part of residents in the County to study the Archæology relating thereto.

It is with satisfaction that your Council are able to report that the programme arranged for an excursion into the neighbourhood between Stowmarket and Lavenham was successfully carried out.

For the third time Lavenham was visited in July 1889, the previous occasions having been in 1855 and 1877.

Members and their friends assembled at Stowmarket station, where conveyances were in readiness to convey the excursionists to Buxhall Church, where the rector, Rev. Henry Hill, briefly described the building wherein several of the Copinger family are buried, one of whom received a curious grant from Henry VIII. Progress was next made to the Church of Rattlesden, where Rev. John Barney heartily welcomed members, and the Honorary Secretary pointed out some of the features of the noble structure. Gedding Church was next visited. Here Archæologists found much to interest them, some small Norman windows, and one on the south side of the building giving rise to some speculation among Ecclesiologists.

The remains of the old moated Hall, at no great distance from the church, were kindly thrown open to members by Mr. Maidwell, the proprietor. By the kind thought of Rev. R. C. Temple, rector of Thorpe Morieux, light refreshments were in readiness upon the lawn for the excursionists, who after partaking of this hospitality adjourned to the church, which was described by its Rector.

The carriages then conveyed the party to Lavenham, where dinner was served at the "Black Lion." The noble church was afterwards visited, the Rev. Joseph M. Croker pointing out its architectural features. A perambulation of the town was then made, the Guildhall being thrown open to members, who found several relics of antiquity arranged in one of the rooms. The building was described by Mr. J. S. Corder, the architect, under whom considerable judicious restorations have recently been effected. The Market Cross and other features of interest did not escape notice. Upon the homeward journey a halt was made at Brettenham, probably the site of the Roman station Combretonium, the Rev. Canon Betham describing the principal features of his church. Resuming their seats in the carriages the excursionists were conveyed back to Stowmarket station, where the trains suited admirably to convey Bury and Ipswich members to their homes. Thus terminated the pleasant annual excursion.

The Evening Meeting, held at Ipswich, in the beginning of 1889, encouraged the project of holding such an one at Bury. At the suggestion therefore of some of the members of the Council, a very successful Evening Meeting and Conversazione were convened in February, 1890. Several papers were read, and a temporary museum formed, the Corporation Plate being exhibited through the courtesy of the Mayor, H. Lacy Scott, Esq.

The Council can once more congratulate the members upon the satisfactory condition of the Society, and that its numbers steadily increase. It may be noted that since our last report was published thirty-five new members have joined, three members have died, and nine have withdrawn.

The Council desire to express their regret at the loss by death of Sir Louis Stewart Jackson, Knt., a valued member of the Institute, and one of its Vice-Presidents.

The Charity Commissioners in their recent orders settling schemes for the administration of the property of the dissolved Corporations of Dunwich and Orford, have provided that one of the five representative trustees shall be appointed by the "Suffolk Institute of Archæology," &c. This is with the view of securing a trustee with technical knowledge upon the Trust, who will have a jealous care for the Municipal Insignia, Archives, and other things of archaic interest.

Suffolk affords ample scope for archæological research, and is not behind other counties in objects of antiquarian lore. Members desirous of following out some particular subject have a wide field still unexplored, for example, no one has as yet undertaken the subject of Church Plate. Several kindred and affiliated societies have taken this work in hand, and might not some zealous ecclesiologist be found to enter upon this task. With the approbation of the Archdeacons it might not be difficult to obtain particulars of all the Church Plate, both ancient and modern.

Our society indicates activity, and Part I of Volume VII. has been issued to members. Thanks to the kindness of one or two architects and friends, the illustrations for the same have been unusually numerous: and several Antiquarians and Artists have promised to aid the Institute. Our Balance Sheet will indicate that our finances are encouraging. Your Council, therefore, hopefully anticipate the increasing prosperity and utility of the Society, but venture to affirm that its welfare and usefulness very materially depend upon the union of all its members in promoting and fostering its welfare.

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THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE  
FROM JANUARY 1st TO

		Receipts.						
Jan. 1, 1889.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To	Balance in Bank, Current Account	...	80	8	4			
"	Do. on Deposit	...	95	0	0			
			<hr/>			175	8	4
"	Interest on Deposit	...				2	7	6
"	Subscriptions by Bankers and Mr. Stephens	...	58	14	6			
"	" Rev. F. Haslewood	...	31	0	0			
			<hr/>			89	14	6
"	Sale of Publications	...				5	5	8

I have examined the Vouchers and Bank Book,  
and certify the above account to be correct.

T. EDGAR MAYHEW, A.C.A.

*Ipswich, May 7, 1890.*

£272 16 0

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHÆOLOGY, &c.  
DECEMBER 31st, 1889.

**Payments.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Printers—Pawsey & Hayes, Vol. VII., part 1				42	10	10
"    Postage of same ... ..	1	19	2			
"    Receipt Books ... ..		12	6			
" <i>Bury Post</i> for 500 Circulars ... ..		8	6			
"    Pawsey & Hayes, printing 350 Programmes		12	6			
"    A. Spalding, for Excursion Cards ... ..		12	6			
"    "    Paper ... ..		3	6			
				4	8	8
"    Lithographer—S. H. Cowell ... ..	1	12	0			
"    "    W. Griggs ... ..		5	0			
"    Artist—Pococke ... ..		7	6			
				2	4	6
"    Advertising Meetings— <i>Bury Post</i> ... ..		2	6			
<i>E. A. D. Times</i> ... ..		19	2			
<i>Ipswich Journal</i> ... ..		2	6			
				1	4	2
"    Expenses of Evening Meeting ... ..		14	0			
"    "    Excursion ... ..		10	6			
				1	4	6
"    Postage—Circulars for Subscriptions ... ..		3	4			
"    "    Convening Council ... ..		2	6			
"    Programmes of Evening Meeting at Ipswich		8	3½			
"    "    Excursion ... ..		16	8			
				1	10	9½
"    Subscription to <i>East Anglian</i> ... ..		5	0			
"    Auditor ... ..		10	6			
					15	6
"    Rev. Hemsworth's Sub. (paid twice) returned				1	0	0
"    Mr. Stephens, Librarian's Salary ... ..	3	0	0			
"    "    for Postage and Parcels ... ..		12	5			
				3	12	5
"    Repaid Secretary as per last account ... ..	14	1	3			
"    Do. Balance Sheet ... ..		2	6			
				14	3	9
"    Secretary for Postage and Stationery ... ..	2	10	10½			
"    Do. Travelling arranging Excursion ... ..	2	7	5			
				4	18	3½
"    Cheque Book ... ..					2	6
"    Balance on deposit at Bankers ... ..	100	0	0			
"    Do. Current Account ... ..	95	0	1			
				195	0	1
				<u>£272 16 0</u>		

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## CORRECTIONS OF FORMER LIST.

- For Bohun, Edward, read Edmund.  
 „ Dawson and Turner MSS., read Dawson Turner MSS.  
 „ Light Polarized, read Polarized.  
 „ Boston, Addresses at, for S., read R. C. Winthrop.  
 „ Bunkill, read Bunker's Hill. Battle of.  
 „ Wintertown, read Watertown, Mass. Genealogies.