

SUMMER EXCURSION, JULY 29TH, 1920.

NEEDHAM MARKET, CODDENHAM, AND
HEMINGSTONE.

Owing to the high fares by rail and road our Summer Excursion had perforce to be limited to a somewhat circumscribed area.

We met on July 29th at Needham Market Chapel, but as nearly all public buildings have already been ably described, a few features only were dwelt upon.

In churches of this period it is customary to look for materials from an older church incorporated in the fabric. And here we found them. The Drip stone, of Early English work, over the Priest's door, providing an example. The carved panels of this door presumably date the building, for they contain the Arms of Ely and also those of William Grey, who was Bp. of Ely 1458-1478.

Mr. L. T. Lingwood showed us some of his excellent sketches of the exceptionally interesting roof and other portions of the church, taken before the restoration now in progress, see pp. 135-141.

On leaving the Chapel Mrs. Ransom took charge of the party and we inspected the Quaker Cemetery, and several old houses with overhanging gables, post and pane framework and massive oak beams; the staircase at the King's Head being much admired.

Proceeding to Coddendam, Mrs. Martin became our Guide and took us to the Crown Inn, which is a good specimen of Tudor work, once the property of the family of Woodhouse, of "Knights degree," who lived at Crowfield Hall, but came to Coddendam for the winter. Mr. Corder informed us that this house had formerly an overhanging upper story and corner post. Our attention was also directed to the ancient massive back door, iron studded and barred, and its twisted iron handle.

Within a few yards stands the P.O., lately the "Live and Let Live" Inn. The iron hanger for the sign is still in situ. Parts of this house possibly were here before the Tudor period, and it is supposed to have formed part of either the Monastery or Priory which existed somewhere in the Parish.

We next visited the church, where the Rector, the Rev. W. Wyles, read a fully descriptive paper, see pp. 127-134.

From Coddendam we went to Hemingstone, where Mrs. Martin, of Hemingstone Hall, welcomed us, and permitted us to have lunch in the garden, afterwards we were escorted over this splendid Elizabethan House by Mrs. Martin, who drew especial attention to the original staircase, to the curious carved lintils of the doors, and to the original bolts on the kitchen and back doors. Whilst Mr. Corder's extensive knowledge of domestic architecture was continually being appealed to. The date of the house is somewhat doubtful, but Mrs. Martin believes it to have been built by Mr. Joe Styles, gent, in 1568.

After cordially thanking Mrs. Martin, we went on to Stonewall, once Stonehall Farm, which Mrs.

Southgate kindly allowed us to inspect. The massive adze trimmed trees that support the framework of this house date its inception back possibly to the days of Henry VII., or even earlier, and the gavel forks and King Post and cross braces, recall the hall open to the roof, and the "Heling" Feast.

Leaving this attractive house with reluctance, we proceeded to another old house called Gooding Farm, or Old Hall Farm, and here Mrs. Gooding was expecting us. This house appears unknown to antiquarians, but is well worth notice, as it contains so many original Tudor touches. Its formation, chimneys, panelling, and plaster ceilings may be dated about 1600, the front having two slightly projecting gables lighted by three-light mullioned and transomed windows. The cross beam of the kitchen ceiling shows a neat plaster pattern formed of running scrolls.

The upper rooms contain many Elizabethan fittings, in the shape of door handles, hinges, locks, and bolts, especially noteworthy are two Elizabethan fireplaces with hearthstones, possibly more perfect than any in the county.

There is evidence that a wing of this house has disappeared, and that once it was a fair sized house for the period in which it was erected. And it possibly is the house described in Davey's notes as—"Oliver Thorne, gent, hath builded a commodious frame house in Hemingstone. He was son of Thomas Thorne, rector of Hemingstone and of Anne, daughter of Robert Gosnold, of Otley. His first wife was daughter of Alexander Morell, of Coddendam, gent by whom he had issue a daughter. His second wife was Alice daughter of William Bloomvile of Stonham Jernegan, gent."

Our next and last stage took us to Shrubland Park, where Lady de Samuarez gave us tea, after tea a visit was paid to what remains of the old Shrubland Hall, now used as a Dairy and dwelling house. In this Dairy, which was once a chapel, the Hon. Mrs. John Wood read a Paper on Shrubland and its associations which appears on pp. 123-126.

A most uncommon feature of this chapel is the employment of Italian terra cotta tiles as mural decoration, these are chiefly family coats and crests with Catherine wheels between. The association of this symbol in his ancient home must delight the spirit of the "erudite and mystical Bacon," for it is the symbol of the Minerva of Christianity, the Patroness of learning.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to those who had entertained us in such an hospitable manner at Shrubland, and then we turned our steps towards home.

The Excursion Party, numbering about 70, journeyed in brakes, motors, and on cycles, and expressed themselves well pleased with the outing. Our thanks are due to our Guides and Hostesses—and also to the weather.