

town was fortified under King Henry III. Mr. Ferrier, senior, having voiced thanks to Mr. Stephens, the exhibits were closely examined, and at about 6 p.m., the Suffolk archæologists bade farewell to their brothers of Norfolk after a memorable Excursion, equally enjoyed by the representatives of both counties.

GRAVES LOMBARD,

May 20th, 1929.

Hon. Excursion Director.

EXCURSION IN THE DEBENHAM DISTRICT.

The excursion to Debenham and its neighbourhood, held on Thursday, September 13th, 1928, was well-attended; the weather being exceptionally fine there was nothing to mar the day's pleasure. The company, whose cars and vehicles crowded the large open space before the Moot Hall, first assembled in the church, where Mr. V. B. Redstone, acting as director for the day, gave a brief description of its history and structure, for particulars of which, see Vol. XII of the Institute's Proceedings, p. 217.

DEBENHAM CHURCH.

The visit to the church was made more interesting by the fact that the new vicar, the Rev. W. G. L. Armstrong, who was to be inducted during the evening service into the benefice, was present, together with the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. After making a tour of the building the visitors, with the kind help of Dr. J. E. Gordon and other inhabitants of the town inspected the old Moot Hall, the 15th century houses, old inns and other dwellings of interest.

From Debenham the company proceeded to Crows Hall, and by the kind permission of Mrs. Moore, were enabled to use the grounds of the Hall for luncheon. Many persons took the opportunity of taking photographic views of the picturesque house and premises. One such view of the premises taken on a like occasion is reproduced in Vol. XII of the Institute's Proceedings, page 221. Before departure the Rev. E. Farrer, F.S.A., described the history of the hall and its structure.

CROWS HALL.

Mr. Farrer pointed out that the house which we see to-day, when originally erected, consisted of a main block facing the west, with gabled wings at either end, reaching the edge of the moat, and then running all along there was a series of one-storied buildings, divided in the centre by a square-headed entrance gateway

probably the guard house, with a shield of arms in stone over the gateway, and pilasters at the sides of the roof. Thus there would be formed a forecourt, and passing across that eastward from the gateway, the baronial hall of the mansion would be reached.

It would be noticed that of all this, only the northern wing remained, with a small portion of the aforesaid one-storied chambers, now used as a dining room, and gateway. Inside the house but little is left of its Tudor decoration. There is a very nice staircase at the end of the wing, which may have been there since the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the wide corridor on the floor above, with windows overlooking what was once the forecourt, is some wainscot of the Early Stuart period, with some fluted pilasters like those to be seen in the Ancient House at Ipswich. There is also to be seen in that corridor a door in walnut, said to be made of French wood, and although in a slightly dilapidated condition, is still beautiful; moreover, all the other bed-chamber doors are of a peculiar design, well described in "Country Life," V. 20, by Mr. C. J. Cornish, who says, "they are of oak, low yet handsome, with little thin latches and hasps, and each door is divided into four rows of very narrow panels, recessed in three thicknesses of wood, the inner panel being only one inch wide." They are certainly unique in Suffolk. In the excrescence which has been added during recent years, to render the house more habitable, some of the old wainscot has been used, removed from a bedroom, but certainly a portion of that hitherto described as being of the Stuart period.

Mr. Farrer also called attention to the row of buildings just outside the south-west end of the moat, seemingly rather large for a stable, and might have housed some of the retainers. On these buildings are nice plaques in terra-cotta, of a similar style and date to those used at Shrubland Old Hall, and on the Bacon tomb in Barham Church, which may be also seen in profusion at Layer Marney in Essex. These may possibly assign an earlier date to this row of buildings than that which can possibly be given to the remaining portion of Crows Hall seen to-day.

The shield of arms over the gateway at Crows Hall, gives us an approximate date for its erection, for the quarterings of the Neville family occur thereon, and these were brought into the Framlingham family by the marriage of Sir James Framlingham with Anne, daughter and heir of Robert Harne, whose mother was Margaret daughter and co-heir of John Marquess Montague, who with his brother the Earl of Warwick, "The Kingmaker," fell at the battle of Barnet in 1471. It is known that the Lady Margaret was at Crows Hall from the events which occurred there in 1519, so fully described by Dr. Copinger in his "Manors of Suffolk,"

but the shield over the gateway is exactly similar to that on the great tomb in Debenham Church, erected to Sir Charles Framlingham and his two wives in 1598; and Sir Charles was the grandson of Sir James Framlingham and his wife who was by birth a Neville.

Anne, the daughter of Sir Charles Framlingham married Sir Bassingbourne Gawdy of West Harling. She had two sons, Framlingham and Charles. The former succeeded to the estate in West Harling and the latter to Crows Hall, and here the family remained in possession till Charles Gawdy died in 1694, and it is said that even before his death he had sold the property to John Pitt, and that William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, sold it to James Bridges of Great Bealings and previous to 1781 it was in possession of Sir John Major Bond of Worlingworth and Thornham and so became a portion of the Henniker estate.

Our President, Sir John Wood, Bt., on behalf of the members present, expressed thanks to Mrs. Moore and the Misses Moore for the friendly and hospitable welcome they had extended towards their guests. The distance to be covered before arrival at Framsdén Hall was too great to enable a visit to be made by all to Boundary Farm, an old homestead well-known to Suffolk botanists on account of the purple flowers of the fritillary to be gathered there.

FRAMSDÉN HALL.

At Framsdén Hall the company was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Kersey to the old-home of the Kerses. Mr. Farrer gave a very full and interesting account of the old hall, the manor and its owners. He considered the charming aspect was similar to that it presented in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and pointed out the imposing character of the front and southern elevation of the house. He drew attention to its storeys and overhanging eaves and to the two fine gabled dormer windows in the roof. Part of the walls, he stated, once comprised the Baronial hall of the Radcliffe residence, and that the tradition of its having once been used for ecclesiastical purposes could not be supported. The Kingposts were pointed out as good examples of roof-construction of the 15th cent. Many interesting details—ornaments, carvings, bosses—were examined, the whole building was of such interest that the visit to Framsdén Church was curtailed to enable the arrival at Otley High House to be to time arranged.

HIGH HOUSE, OTLEY.

The High House, Otley, standing close to the boundary between Otley and Clopton, is near a bye-road leading to Monewden. The charming house is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schofield, who gave their guests a most enjoyable welcome. Mr. Farrer

acting as guide upon the occasion, described the premises and the various rooms. He considers that the L-shaped building may have been of a different shape in the 16th century. Its internal arrangements—a central hall or living room, with the kitchen to the right and the parlour to the left on entrance—were the most customary in ancient Suffolk homesteads. The one visible chimney stack rises between the hall and parlour. There are signs that at one time the upper floor was an overhanging storey, which fact, Mr. Farrer asserted, was established by the present existence of an overhanging storey at the west end of the house.

It was suggested that the ceiling of the hall, with its fine beams, was erected about the year 1500. The walls of the spiral staircase are composed of timber and herringbone brickwork, the structure is one of the finest in Suffolk. By means of the staircase access to an extensive cheese-room, bedrooms and roof was obtained.

Our guide, in his narrative, gave the history of the Armiger family, who were the probable owners, builders and residents of the High House. It was clearly shown that the name Armiger had no reference to the Latin "*armiger*," an esquire, but was a variant, as early as the 13th cent., of the name Ermegard, recorded in the 1327 Subsidy List, and as Oliver Ermeger in the Suffolk Feet of Fines of the same date. At Ipswich in 1461, one John Armigard was also known under the name Armyger.

Mr. Sydney Schofield, an architect of Christ's College, son of the present owner, has by skilful and judicious treatment revealed many of the ancient features of the building. The hall has now its early proportions, the fire-place has been opened and two windows have been revealed. The parlour has its moulded joists exposed, windows uncovered, and fireplace opened. The bedrooms present their early appearance. The old cheese chamber, 39 feet in length, has been thoroughly renovated—to be used for a library—for all that has been done to expose and preserve this interesting homestead the owner and architect deserve the thanks of all members of our Institute.

After making an examination of the house, and having partaken of a good tea, the members assembled in the hall to pass an unanimous vote of thanks, at the suggestion of the President, to Mr. Farrer for the great help he had given on the occasion, and to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schofield for their warm-hearted reception accorded to members present.

The lateness of the hour was the reason explaining the cause why only a small number of members proceeded to Otley Church, where the Rev. E. L. Collins, rector of Otley, awaited to receive them, and subsequently to guide them to Otley Barrow, an early earthwork of interest.