

THE FIRST EXCURSION.

The 1st Excursion of the season on Thursday, May 28th, 1931, to Grundisburgh and district, was marred, as the report in the "East Anglian Daily Times" described it, by a relentless downpour of rain, and not only so, but was accompanied by thunder and lightning, which kept us too long at Playford and curtailed our time throughout the day. As the account says: A few minutes before 11.30 a.m. the cars congregated at Playford, where some of the members sought shelter in the church, and others under the hospitable roof of the Hall. An Elizabethan house once inhabited by the Feltons. With kindly thoughtfulness, the Misses Crisp, whose beautiful home is a veritable treasure-house, had prepared an exhibition of objects of historical and antiquarian interest, all marked by explanatory labels or described by kind cicerones. The wonderful needlework pictures of Tudor and Stuart times, a room whose walls are entirely covered with coloured engravings, such interesting items as a dressing-case given by Nell Gwynne to her Royal lover, old firearms, a scold's bridle, and so forth, were all on view. Sensibly appreciative of all the kindness and forethought of the ladies of Playford Hall, the members had to hurry away.

Playford Church was next visited. The Rev. H. J. Baylis, D.D., described the chief points of interest, which, like so many others in this neighbourhood, has a tower, placed on the south side, the lower part forming a porch. "Thrift, thrift Horatio." In the ruthlessly restored chancel is a fine military brass (now mural), that of Sir George Felbrigg, about 1400. The building also contains a marble medallion portrait of Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846), the emancipator of slaves, who lived at Playford Hall, and lies buried, with his wife and only son, just outside the priest's door. Elsewhere in the churchyard is an ugly granite obelisk to his memory. Another medallion commemorates Sir George Biddell Airy (1801-1892), whose summer residence nestles by the roadside close by the pathway leading up to the knoll on which the church stands. The rain having ceased we pushed on to Culpho. I continue from the account. We were shown the interior of the small church of St. Botolph by the Rector, Rev. H. J. Baylis. This unpretentious little church contains a few ancient benches, and no longer justifies the description applied to it in the "East Anglian (Notes and Queries)" a generation since "a miserably" mean-looking little building."

No one lingered to look for traces of "the vanished Culpho Abbey," which exists only in the imagination of the Suffolk topographer Dutt. The fact that the church once belonged to the Abbey of Leiston, whence perhaps, the name of a local farmstead, the Abbey Farm, appears to have given rise to this fairy story.

Grundisburgh Church was reached "behind time." Here the Rev. E. Sutton briefly enumerated the points of interest, in a large, mainly Perpendicular building, entered through the base of a south tower of 18th century brickwork. A good rood screen remains with traces of flower and leaf designs on the panels. The nave is spanned by a double

hammer-beam roof, adorned with two tiers of angels and ornamental bosses. Just before the Reformation a little chapel was thrown out on the south side of the chancel. Its battlement has a flint inscription, soliciting prayers for the souls of Thomas Wall and Alicia, his wife (1527). Wall or A'Wall was a salter, of London.

The Rectory gardens, which the Rev. E. Sutton had kindly invited the Institute to use for luncheon, proving too damp for the purpose, the lunch interval was spent by some in their cars, by others in "Basts," the picturesque dwelling of Thomas Wall, now the property of Mr. J. Rowlatt. By the owner's permission the members had "carte blanche" to wander at will about this lovely timber-framed house. Erected between 1520 and 1525 Basts is in three storeys, the lowermost having some diapered brickwork in its walls. By his will dated March, 1530, Thomas Walls devised "the house in the wall called Basstes" to his daughter Katherine Colet, whose husband was a kinsman of Dean Colet. The skeleton of the house built by the London merchant more than four centuries ago is still intact. From its latticed windows the eye looks out on a pleasant garden and a group of Lombardy poplars.

The account goes on to say "The weather proved most propitious after lunch, but the programme did not permit of any lingering in the may-scented lanes. Hustle was the order of the day.

The Church of Burgh, set on a mound near the "Castle Field," where Roman remains have been unearthed, was inspected under the guidance of the Rev. G. M. Shallard, who spoke of the associations of the locality and the present building. A little Roman brickwork occurs in the walls of this much over-restored church. The Rector gave our members a most interesting account.

Thistleton Hall, in this parish, reached by a somewhat winding road, was well worth a visit. It occupies an ancient double-moated site. In the house is a panelled room with an elaborate Jacobean overmantel; all the rest is modern. Access to the Hall was granted by the courtesy of Major R. P. Creagh. Otley then claimed the excursionists. The Church, with a fine western tower, stands commandingly. It was largely re-built in the 15th century, to which belong some of its contents, including some excellent carved bench-ends, one of which bears the arms of Beauchamp impaling Fitzalan quartering Warren. (The Rector of this Church, the Rev. E. L. Collins, is an old Yarmouth Curate, like myself, as he was in charge of the "Mission to Seamen Institute" there).

Otley Hall, the home of the Gosnolds, a family ruined by loyal adherence to the cause of the Martyr-King, was visited by the kind invitation of Mrs. Arthur Sherston. Parts of the house date from about 1450; additions were made about 1500 and imposing chimney stacks added in Elizabethan days. The ground floor contains a parlour lined with linen-fold wainscot, and a hall with beautiful roof timbers and a contemporary screen. An excrescence constructed of timber framing with brick-nogging and carried up to a gable level with the roof, provides an excellent example of a stair-case or casing.

The sky having cleared, exploration of Mrs. Sherston's stately gardens was enjoyed, before the Archæologists moved on in sections to Helmingham Hall. This Hall is approached by a treble avenue of oaks, possibly planted when the present house was built by Lionel Tollemache in 1512. By kind permission of Mary Lady Tollemache, the gardens, occupying a large moated enclosure, where stood the earlier Hall, were seen, and the exterior of the Hall, the roofs of which are picturesque with clusters of ornamental brick chimneys and finials, inspected.

The near-by Church was the next item on the programme. It is notable for many fine monuments of departed Tollemaches. The largest of these commemorates four generations, to accommodate which a dormer window has been constructed in the nave roof. The walls are plastered with texts which the Rev. J. C. Ryle, incumbent in the forties (later the first Bishop of Liverpool) caused to be placed there as a counterblast to the self-righteousness of the illustrious dead here commemorated.

The more conscientious of the party next made a detour to visit Winesham Church, according to plan. It is a fairly large fabric, with many Perpendicular features. One interesting relic is a fragment of old glass in one of the South windows, depicting the wolf guarding the head of St. Edmund (the head is missing). The Rector, Dr. T. A. Walker, was most courteous and kind in shewing us over his church.

A bounteous tea, most generously provided by Mrs. R. Fetzter Taylor, awaited the archæologists at the old house, Basts, Grundisburgh. As the Rev. E. Farrer, F.S.A., in voicing cordial thanks to Mrs. Taylor, remarked, all enjoyed it, and he thought they all deserved it. The occasion of perhaps two-thirds of the company being assembled together in one building was seized for the holding of a brief business meeting. At this the following new members were elected: Miss Laura Fison (Thetford), Mrs. Howard Mason (Thetford), Mr. C. T. Giles (Hopton, Thetford), Mrs. Harold Martin (Pakenham), and Mrs. Harry Staddon (Ipswich).

It was much to be regretted that the hired motor coach was not in good travelling order, which was the cause of the Excursion Director and those on the coach not being present at the business meeting.

Thereafter those who could went on to Grundisburgh Hall, visited through the kindness of Lord and Lady Cranworth and finally to Westerfield Church, which had many points of interest by kind permission of the Rector, Rev. J. Boorman.

This Excursion was, perhaps, a little too ambitious, but great trouble was taken to make it a success.

G.L.

THE SECOND EXCURSION.

IN BLOOMFIELD'S COUNTRY.

Such was the heading given by the local papers to the very successful Excursion on Tuesday, June 30th, when, though favoured by an exceptionally fine day, the dust raised by the long string of cars was great.

Members were early at the starting point, Fornham All Saints Church, where we were helped by the Rector, Rev. L. G. Edwards, who remembered to produce a fine Elizabethan Cup (1566). The Church, a mixture of styles, Trans-Norman, Dec. and Perp., is chiefly of the latter; on a parapet is a series of capital letters and monograms. The front, hexagonal, is of unusual size. Several brasses remain, many being of the Mannock family. One, dated 1656, reads "Let no man steal away this brass but he who knows himself unworthy memory."

In the churchyard stands a Cornwallis tomb (1707) to a lady who, by desire, was buried with feet to the south. Reference was made to the Babwell Friary, formerly situated in the parish, and of the flight to it of Sir Thos. de Weyland (1289), Chief Justice of England, as a felon seeking sanctuary.

At Ampton (St. Peter) we were joined by rather too many late-comers, which caused delay for the rest of the day, necessitating messages being sent on ahead to Euston Hall and Thetford to explain the altered times of arrival. Members are asked to be courteous enough to inform the Excursion Secretary of their attendance and so enable him to make and keep to his arrangements!

The small Church was unable to seat all, so the Rev. H. Heap described this most interesting fabric to us grouped outside. Afterwards members crowded in to inspect the "Sealed Book" of Ampton, a great treasure, ably described by Rev. W. A. Wickham, the then Rector of Ampton, in Vol. XVII of our Proceedings. Jeremy Collier was Rector here 1679-1684. The Coket Chapel has a fine arch with inscription above "Capella perpetua Cantarie Johi's Coket." This Chantry was erected in 1479. Fine plate, the gift of the Calthorpe family, was on view, a paten of 1631, cup 1637, and flagon 1639; also an old chest bearing royal arms.

Before leaving the Excursion Sec. pointed out that en route they would pass the "Seven Hills" tumuli, a burial after a battle (?1173) and then "Rymer Point." This elusive spot as to its name and history—hitherto unknown—was now disclosed by the explanations of Mr. Cordy Wolton and Mr. V. B. Redstone, as being an oasis, or watering spot, in a dry land for the herds etc., belonging to the nine parishes whose lands all contrived to meet there. This was a most satisfactory piece of information and one to be recorded.

At Euston Hall we were welcomed by Lady Ipswich, the mother of the present Duke of Grafton, and under her guidance shown over the House. Before moving off for this pleasing tour, Euston being the scene of Robert Bloomfield's famous poem, "The Farmer's Boy,"

the Rev. W. Bowen, of Icklingham, kindly sang to us—as a reminder of the above—the old song which bears the same title (author of words and music unknown) and is the marching tune of the Suffolk Regt. Members were then divided into two parties, the second being led round by Miss Montgomerie. Better guides than these two ladies could not have been found! Royal portraits by famous artists, notable men of their day, great beauties, all of the Stuart period, with the necessary members of the Fitzroy family to complete the story, provided a veritable gallery of pictures. Luncheon on the lawns, a visit to the foreign (Italian style) looking Church near by, some marvellous Church Plate, and a final look at special pieces of furniture concluded a memorable visit. Lady Ipswich and all who contributed to our welcome were heartily thanked. N.B.—See Vol. XV of our Proceedings for account of the poet.

The Mayor of Thetford (Mr. J. B. Aspland) and Town Clerk, in their robes of office, awaited us at the foot of the Castle Hill, when several photographs were taken. May we sympathise with the Corporation and people of Thetford on the death of their leading official early in this year 1932. In his address of welcome the Mayor referred to the last visit of our Society in 1913, to which Mr. Redstone, on returning thanks, also alluded. Mr. Tyrrell Green then gave a brief account of the Hill, the surrounding earthworks and the (former) neighbouring monastery of Austin Friars. On adjourning to the Cluniac Priory Mr. Green was again in his element (in fact the Excursion Director was much indebted to his friend for great help in planning out the day, etc.), describing the ruins, now taken over by the Board of Works, very succinctly. Sir John Wood, our President, who had by then joined the party, acknowledged the debt we owed to the Mayor and Mr. Green in a happy speech. At the Guildhall, where tea was served, the Regalia were on view, and much interest was aroused in the collection of pictures there, given to Thetford by the late Prince F. V. Duleep Singh and arranged by the Rev. E. Farrer. The names of Suffolk interest amongst these works should be noted for reference.

They are: No. 6, Bolton family; 10, Colman of Brent Eleigh; 13 and 14, Crofts of Saxham; 16, Dandy of Combs; 20, Frere of Finningham; 23, Grigby, of Drinkstone; 41, Lewkenor of Denham; 48, Capel Lofft of Troston; 53, Mrs. Oliver of Sudbury (by Gainsborough); 55, Rookwood of Coldham Hall; 42, Strutt of Groton; 66, 67, 68, Wenyewe of Brettenham; 70, Arthur Young of Bradfield; and 78, J. Brooks of Bury St. Edmunds.

THE THIRD EXCURSION.

LOES HUNDRED.

For the 3rd Excursion of the season the members of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology assembled at Framlingham on July 30th, prompted in their choice by the success of the wonderful Pageant that had taken place there, only a short time previously.

On our arrival we were taken round the Castle and its walls. As the writer in the "East Anglian Daily Times" described it: The programme opened at Framlingham where the custodian, the spirited Bigod of the Pageant, gave a lucid account of this "Miniature Carnavon." He was thanked by the Rev. H. A. Harris, who also voiced his appreciation of the action of the Office of Works in permitting the party access to the Castle. Mr. F. A. Girling commented upon the ornamental brick chimneys, examples of a fleeting fashion, of which East Anglia had more than its share. They date probably from the Third or Fourth decade of the 16th century, on one of the chimneys each cardinal face wreathing through 180 degrees between base and cap.

From Framlingham we went on to Brandeston and Brandeston Hall, viewed by kind permission of Mr. H. C. Scrimgeour. Here Mrs. Austin very kindly pointed out objects of interest and asked the Excursion Director to read an account of the house, formerly the Elizabethan mansion of the Revetts, which stated that "The only original part of the east wing of warm Tudor brickwork, diaper patterned, was all that escaped the disastrous fire of nearly 80 years ago." Hard by, as the account says, is Brandeston Church, which has a much restored chancel, a 13th century font, some 15th century benches, with a rabbit and other animals on the ends, and a rich western doorway, retaining the original carved door. Attention was drawn to these and other features by the Rev. O. D. S. Chapman and Mr. V. B. Redstone, F.S.A.

A LINK WITH CATHERINE OF ARAGON.

The account goes on to say: One of the south windows in the chancel contains some 16th century coloured glass, of great interest. This includes kneeling figures of a monk in a blue gown, and a blue-robed abbot, and quarries depicting (1) a crown transfixed with arrows; (2) a crown over a rose; (3) the pomegranate emblem of Queen Katherine of Aragon, with the, in this case, significant motto (in abbreviated Latin) "Whom God hath joined, let not man put asunder." Mr. Redstone explained that the glass was evidently placed by John de Bury, Vicar of Brandeston, 1501-1511, probably in memory of his former superior, William de Coddenham, Abbot of Bury.

In a palisaded enclosure under the north wall of the nave, lies buried William Clubbe, Vicar of this parish 1770 to 1814, translator of Horace and author of many amusing poems, including the "Lament of Stephen Spink, the Brandeston Post-Boy."

From Brandeston we went back to Kettleburgh, where Mr. Chapman introduced the members to the Church of St. Andrew, which possesses a notable octagonal font. The angels round the bowl holding shields which bear the arms of Charles Ramsey and Kenton, thus enabling the font to be dated c. 1455. Part of the shafts of the chancel arch has been cut away to accommodate a Jacobean screen. Contemporary with the screen is the pulpit (1612), the door of which has been thriftily detached and screwed to the floor to serve as a lectern.

Before leaving the church a visit was paid, by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Walne, to Kettleburgh Hall (or the New Hall, where there is a massive Elizabethan chimney stack and an ornamental bay dating from late 16th century.

The account goes on to say "By winding ways some of the cars reached Hoo, others proceeding direct to Letheringham. Those who detoured to Hoo were rewarded by seeing a church of interest. At its west end is a noble brick tower, reminiscent of that of Linstead Magna's dismantled church. Within are a well-preserved font, having angels, with shields round the bowl, sedilia in a window embrasure, and a few monuments. These last include a stone for William and Mary Sheppard, which affirms that the lady died in 1757, "aged 188 years," probably the work of some wag, for the Rev. I. W. Darby, here in 1828, recorded simply "aged 88 years."

Mrs. Sherwood had kindly placed on view a list of incumbents, the flagon, some pewter and registers. The register book, beginning in 1663, has this curious entry, Feby. 27th, 1686: James Vandernell has a pas(s) made and was whiped according to law in the parish of Hooe.

LEATHERINGHAM CHURCH.

Luncheons were partaken of in our cars at Letheringham, after which, as the account says, the church held a crowded congregation, when the Rev. E. Farrer mounted the pulpit stairs to give an interesting sketch of the parish. On his left was the brass of Sir John Wingfield, 1389, annexed by a Yarmouth cleric, of which a local poetaster relates:

A fine brass plate at Letheringham
 (Which once the people stamped on)
 Of Wingfield: now fixed to the wall
 Restor'd by Lord Northampton.

About him were the sorry remains of the elegant and magnificent (but ill-kept) monuments of the Wingfields and Nauntons (Kirby). It is said the chancel was finally pulled down in 1789 and its contents plundered. Mr. Farrer told of the old Hall, home of the Boviles and Wingfields, the Lodge, the Priory, founded by Sir William Bovile in 1310, and the Nauntons' great house. The Boviles came about 1200, remaining for generations, until Sir John Bovile left the estates to his daughter Margery, whose second husband was a son of Sir John Wingfield, of Wingfield Castle. Here the Wingfields lived and Weever records many of their inscriptions.

One of the last of them was Sir Anthony, an executor of the will of Henry VIII and Comptroller of the Household of Edward VI. He died in 1553. Yet a brass, formerly at Letheringham, recounted how

"At Flodden Field did bravely fight and dye
 Of Wyngfield's sonnes the famed Sir Anthonye."

A rubbing of this brass was given by John Dunthorpe to David Elisha Davy, and the brass itself came into the hands of John Dallenger,

clerk to the Plomesgate Union, and was last heard of in a Woodbridge pawnbroker's shop. Mr. Farrer traced the descent of the property to the Nauntons, whose old Hall was not destroyed. The wings and porch were taken down, but five panelled rooms remained until 1919, when their panelling was taken to Scotland. The Lodge contained 3,000 square feet of oak panelling, all of which with a Refectory table, was removed to Scotland between 1915 and 1922. Horace Walpole has left a sprightly account of his visit in 1755. At the Hall he found "little in it worth seeing" but in the chancel he came upon eight considerable monuments and figures of Mr. Secretary Naunton's parents in glass "near 2-ft. high." All or nearly all gone.

The Letheringham part of the Excursion was particularly interesting to the Excursion Director; Naunton Hall being in his parish of Rendlesham. Formerly there were four "manors" here: "Naunton Hall," "Colviles," "Bavants," and "Caketons." History records that the ancient family of Naunton, settled in the parish of Rendlesham not long after the Conquest, and gave the name to Naunton Manor. In the time of Henry III Henry de Naunton married Emma, daughter of Tye or Tay, and by her had issue two sons, Hugo and Richard. The former resided in Rendlesham in the time of Ed. I. He had a grant of free Warren in 1308 and married Eleanor, daughter of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, by whom he had issue Hugo de Naunton, from whom descended the Letheringham branch, Sir Bartholomew Naunton and Sir Thomas de Naunton, Knt., who settled at Rougham, near Bury St. Edmunds. Sir Bartholomew Naunton, the 2nd son, resided at Naunton Hall, dying about 1374.

The account goes on to say :

Easton, that delightful village
Placed in district fine for tillage,
Where Wingfields dwelt in times of yore
And Nassaus since the Prince came o'er,

was, as James Clarke quaintly puts it, the last place of call. In the park, which is surrounded by "a serpentine wall," the Hall ruins and the Cockpit in the heart of a wood were inspected.

James Clarke (1798-1861), author of "The Suffolk Antiquary," grocer and draper of this place, is deemed worthy of mention in the Dictionary of National Biography. His gravestone is in Easton Churchyard, inscribed with a rhyme evidently inspired by recollection of the fate of Letheringham's memorials.

At Martley Hall, by the kind invitation of Mr. A. Brooke Smith, the members refreshed themselves with tea, catered for by the Excursion Director, after which followed a stroll through the charming gardens.

A PROTEST.

The Rev. Edmund Farrer presided at a business meeting, at which the General Secretary spoke of the danger threatening a group of old houses, overlooking St. Margaret's Green, Ipswich.

The Chairman recalled that the father of the present owner (who himself is equally anxious to preserve them) bought the property expressly to save it for Ipswich.

A resolution expressive of the wishes of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology that these old houses should be preserved was proposed by the Rev. H. A. Harris, seconded by Mrs. John Chevallier, and carried unanimously.

Afterwards a visit was paid to Easton Church, which concluded a most interesting Excursion. G.L.

THE FOURTH EXCURSION.

The title of "Off the Main Roads" on the Agenda for Tuesday, August 25th, was a warning—in fact, these same bye-roads rather curtailed the itinerary as originally planned out. It would have been very awkward to have encountered, as well as might, harvest wagons, etc., en route. The approach to Combs Church was almost a *cul-de-sac*. By the by, how many dedications there are in this immediate neighbourhood to St. Mary? This fine Dec. and Perp. building struck most people as being rather cold and colourless. May one hope that the "Galilee" under the Tower will be attended to, as with its double set of doors, etc., it could be used to advantage at ceremonials. Two chief points of interest were the old stained glass in the south aisle, with kings and prophets, mostly named, and saints with their symbolic histories. Fortunately a full description of the glass has been preserved for us by Watling, of East Stonham. It is said that more glass is in existence either in a museum or in the hands of the trade for repair, etc. The other notable feature was the pair of Dantzig made flagons, engraved with wondrous scenes, figures, animals, foliage and fruits, the gift of Orlando Bridgman, M.P. for Ipswich, who was buried here in 1731. Close by the Church is the stump of a Gospel Oak, with irons (?). The Excursion Director seized the opportunity for a short paper on these Holy Oaks, of which the best known in the country is at Polstead.

The visit to Barking (St. Mary), the Mother Church of Needham Market was a great success, as the Rector (S. H. de la Bere) was in his element when picturing its beauties to us. There were many points requiring elucidation which was at once forthcoming, and we owe him many thanks. Queer carving on stone mullions in the north aisle, fine work in wood, stone seats, and a collection which proved of great interest, in the Rectory, of books and prints, etc., referring to Barking, all added to the general enjoyment of the visit, capped by luncheon under a fine cedar. Elmsett (St. Peter) produced a fine font, the shafting of which seems to belong to this district. A fine kneeling figure of Ed. Sherland (1609), the home of John Boyse (d. 1643), one of the translators of the authorised Version, were subjects touched on by the Rector, C. F. B. Haslewood, who also read out quaint extracts from a Churchwarden's book of 1550-60.

It had been intended to visit and lunch at Offton Castle but the approaches forbade this. This spot was unvisited on the last excursion to this neighbourhood, probably for the same reason. It is well worth climbing up to explore and enjoy the fine view.

A cross-country run took us to Hintlesham, where the Rector, Rev. T. H. A. Morris, not long in residence, had made himself thoroughly acquainted with all that we required to know. A Timperley monument of 1400 date, another of that family incised on stone (1630), a quaint alms box (1688) and oaken furniture (door included) filled up the time until we were due and ready. Tea at the Hall, which is fully described by the late J. S. Corder in Vol. XIV, Part III of S.I.A. Here Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan gave us individually and collectively a hearty welcome, a splendid tea and a ramble over part of the House ending with a visit to the Redfern Museum. Our host having, with the co-operation of Miss Redstone, well known to fame in the County—just completed and issued the "Timperleys of Hintlesham"—was requested to address us briefly on the subject. Here he thoroughly caught our attention and concluded by announcing "that 149 original deeds and 9 files of MSS. (mainly abstracts from the State Records) would be presented to the Ipswich Free Library for the use of future students of the period." Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan were then deservedly thanked by our leading officers.