

on the evidence of the wire-ring, a type which has been identified in several cemeteries of this period.¹ Another Anglo-Saxon cemetery of the same date or earlier is suggested by the report of urns at Stow Park, Bungay, about 1½ miles to the south-west of the present site but as the pottery seems to have disappeared little can be said about it.²

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Christopher Eachard, Vicar of Cransford. In the spring of 1951 Lady Hamilton, of Cransford Hall, drew my attention to the discovery in Cransford Church of a slab commemorating a former parson of the parish. In reply to my enquiry, the present incumbent, the Revd. V. M. Harvey-Fuller, writes:— ‘During repairs to the sanctuary floor in 1950 a large slate slab 6 feet by 3 feet by 6 inches thick was uncovered 9 inches below floor level just to the south of the altar. It marked the spot where a former incumbent of Cransford was buried. The incumbent was the Revd. Christopher Eachard . . . and the inscription reads as follows:—

Here lieth interred the Body of the late Rev. Mr. Christopher Eachard of this church Vicar 48 yrs. He died the 17th of December A.D. 1743 aetat 71 and of Mary his wife.

On it was a beautifully carved crest of a harp and an eagle with a key in its beak. The crest was slightly oval.’ Unfortunately the slab was covered up again when the work was completed.

Now Cransford Church was visited in 1825 by the Revd. John Wareyn Darby, whose manuscript Church Notes are in the Ipswich Public Library. He noted the slab and inscription, with the addition of these words at the end: ‘who died 15th March 1747 aged 69’, referring, of course to the wife. Darby also noted the heraldry as follows:—

Erm. on a bend 3 millrinds (EACHARD), impaling, A chev. betw. 3 talbots hds erased and collared (ALEXANDER) Crest, An ostrich³ wings elevated in his beak a key.

It is clear, therefore, that this slab was visible in 1825 and that the chancel floor was raised at some subsequent date, thus covering the slab. Mr. Harvey-Fuller tells me that no-one now living in the parish can remember the work being done, nor can he find any record of it in the parish papers; so it was probably carried out

¹ Lethbridge, *Recent Excavations in Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk* (1931), Figs. 24 and 25 (Burwell, Cambs.); Leeds, *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology* (1936), Pl. XXXI (Camerton, Somerset).

² *Norfolk Archaeology*, vol. iv (1855), p. 315.

³ *Visitation of Suffolk, 1664* (Harl. Soc., lxi, 1910, p. 62) gives the bird as a ‘Swan.’

more than seventy years ago. It seems a pity that the opportunity was not taken in 1950 of raising the slab to the present floor level and so again bringing to light this memorial.

There is a full genealogy of the Eachard family in Campling's *East Anglian Pedigrees*,⁴ from which it appears that Christopher Eachard married Mary, daughter of Waldgrave Alexander of Ubbeston. The family, which originally came from Yarmouth, supplied no fewer than ten Suffolk incumbents, including John Eachard (?1636-1697) who later became Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University.⁵

L. Dow, F.S.A.

Roman Finds at Rodbridge, near Long Melford. Following notice that animal bones had been found in a West Suffolk County Council disused gravel pit at Rodbridge, near Long Melford (Nat. Grid. 00/856435), Miss E. M. Backhouse, of Sudbury, in August 1951 recovered from the same spot shards of Roman pottery.

On 29 September a member of this Society, who is interested in field work, undertook a planned investigation and unearthed, between that date and 21 October, the following items:—a Roman bronze *ligula* or spatula, about four inches long; a steelyard hook; a nail; two shards of Samian ware; approx. 50 shards of Castor ware; approx. 700 shards, some decorated but the majority small and broken, of Roman grey ware, including rims and bases; approx. 25 shards of Anglo-Saxon coarse ware; samples of charcoal and discoloured flints.

The gravel pits at Rodbridge (there are others on the right-hand side of the Borley road) supplied material for Acton Aerodrome, near Sudbury, in World War II. As far as can be ascertained, nothing of archaeological interest was ever reported, yet evidence of what are believed to be hut floors or refuse pits must have been noticed when the deep incisions were made in the ground. The site of the pit was originally arable land; the river Stour flows about 200 yards from the spot. The finds are at present in my possession.⁶

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⁴ *Norf. Rec. Soc.*, xiii (1940), pp. 61-63.

⁵ *D.N.B.*, xvi, p. 302.

⁶ Since this note was written, the gravel pit has been bulldozed by the West Suffolk County Council, but it is hoped that an arrangement will be made whereby any future excavations here will be carried out under the auspices of the Institute, subject to the agreement of the tenant and to certain conditions regarding the ownership and disposal of any finds. This is, of course, assuming that the bulldozer has not done irreparable damage to the site.