

NOTES

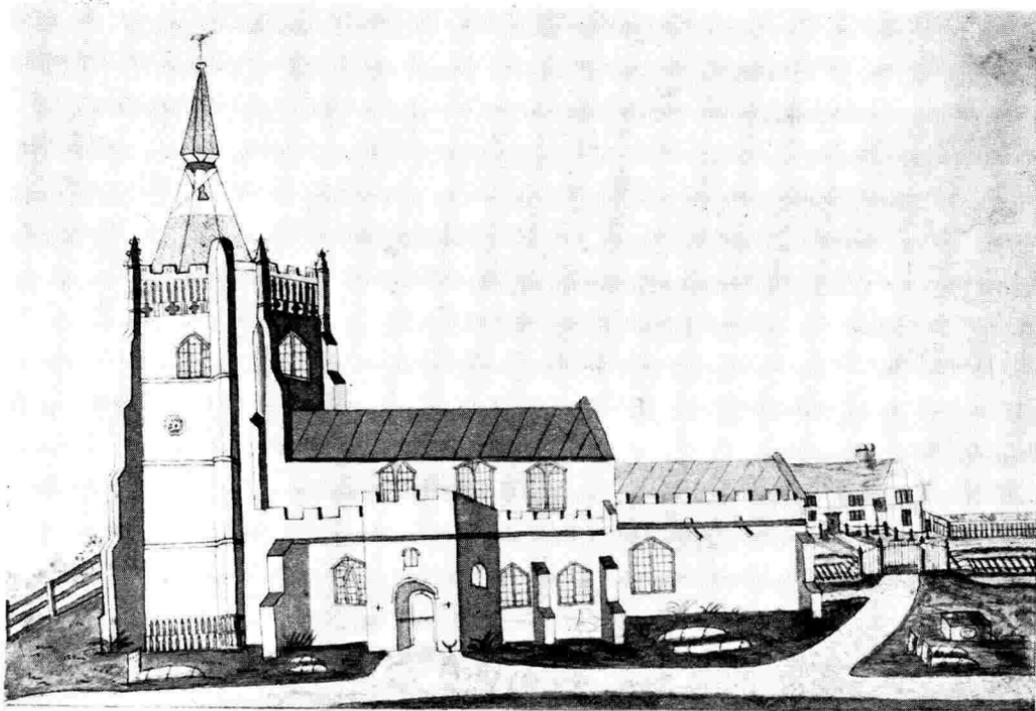
The Kettlebaston Alabasters. The Rev. H. C. Butler, Rector of Kettlebaston 1929–1964, sends the following addendum to the article which appeared in Volume xxx for 1966 of these *Proceedings*: 'I had in my possession until my retirement a letter written in 1864 by Lord Arthur Hervey, Archdeacon of Sudbury, to "Mr. Churchwarden Barton" of Hall Farm enquiring if it were true that repairs were being executed in the chancel wall, for which no permission had been given. It must have been at this time that the fragments were found.¹ The Rector from about 1840 to 1890 was John Robert Fiske who gave them to his neighbour, James Beck, Rector of Bildeston, who presented them to the British Museum in 1883. There are photographs of the originals in the church together with casts presented by the Trustees of the British Museum in 1934. Attention is drawn to the external niche on the S.E. buttress of the chancel. The lower part of the carving (in Caen stone) is an exact reproduction of the fragment of the Coronation of our Lady (Vol. xxx, Pl. XXXVIII). The upper part was carved from photographs of the same subject. The sculptor was W. J. Drew of Ipswich. The colouring is traditional. The wrought iron gates with Maria monogram are hung on the original hooks. This work was carried out in 1946 as a memorial to my brother'.

The Orford Alabaster (*Ibid.*, Pl. XL) has remains of dark green and yellow paint on the shaft down the centre and traces of pink paint near the bottom of the drapery. It was found in a cottage at the corner of Gedgrave Road (TM/42044974) in 1966.—*Editor.*

The former timber spire of Monks Eleigh Church. A folded sheet of thick damp paper describing the demolition of the spire of Monks Eleigh church came to light in July 1968 during the removal of the remaining foundation timbers which had themselves become unsafe. The paper was discovered in a small lead envelope nailed to one of the cruciform tiebeams, beneath the lead sheets and boarding. One side of the sheet contains an ink and wash sectional drawing of the spire with three plan levels superimposed and also an elevation, both at a scale of a quarter of an inch to the foot, indicating an overall height from parapet to weather vane of 64 ft. on a base diameter of 14 ft. 6 ins., a somewhat more slender structure than the sketch of the church in about 1790 indicates (Plate

¹ White's *Suffolk* (1874) states 'the church . . . is an ancient fabric much in need of restoration' and Kelly's *Directory* (1908) states 'the church was restored in 1829 and the chancel in 1902'.—*Ed.*

PLATE XXX



SOUTH View of Monks Eleigh Church, SUFFOLK. J.G. MARRIS.

Monks Eleigh Church about 1790 (showing part of the former Rectory).

XXX and Fig. 32).¹ The reverse side of the sheet contains the following faded note:

'Anno Domini 1845

In compliance with the report
of an architect who stated
the spire to be in a very
dangerous state it was taken
down in October 1845. The
contract by consent given to
Warren and Haw[kins?].

J. Makin Chw

It was very considerably out of the
perpendicular and the timbers very rotten.'

The rotten condition of the piers and cills of the exposed bell-house in the centre section of the spire was evidently the reason for the demolition. The notes on the left hand side of the section may be a proposal by the architect for the reinforcement of the weak section which was not implemented.

White's *Suffolk* (1844), states that 'the church (St. Peter) is a large and handsome structure with a tower containing six bells, and surmounted by a small wooden spire' and gives among the inhabitants:

Making, Joseph, farmer, the Hall
Hawkins, James, joiner
Warren, Zach., joiner (& beerhouse)

The 1855 edition says simply '... with a tower and six bells'.

Warren and Hawkins belonged to a timber yard which existed in the village, a fair sized concern employing up to forty people (including one named Mishak Bugg), who were summoned and dismissed by the ringing of a bell. The rebenching of churches as far away as Clacton was one of the tasks undertaken by the firm. The men would set out on foot for their destination on Monday and walk home on Saturday. Mistley church was definitely rebenched in this way and probably also Manningtree.

In about 1890 the yard passed out of the hands of Abraham Partridge to Robert Vince, who ran the business in a smaller way in conjunction with the Post Office until the First World War.

¹ The original drawing is not suitable for reproduction but the figure shows a careful tracing; the original has been deposited in the West Suffolk Record Office. The sketch of 1790 hangs in the church. The spire is mentioned in Northcote's *History of Monks Eleigh* (1930), p. 67, where it is said to have been erected in 1631.—Ed.

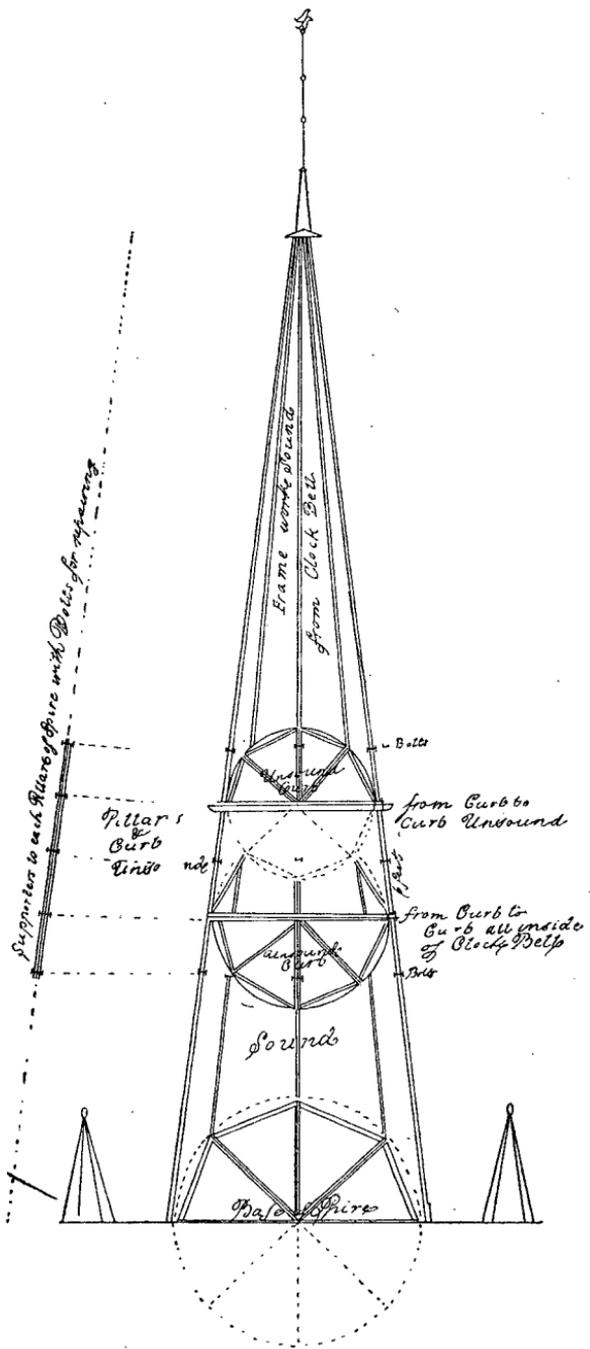
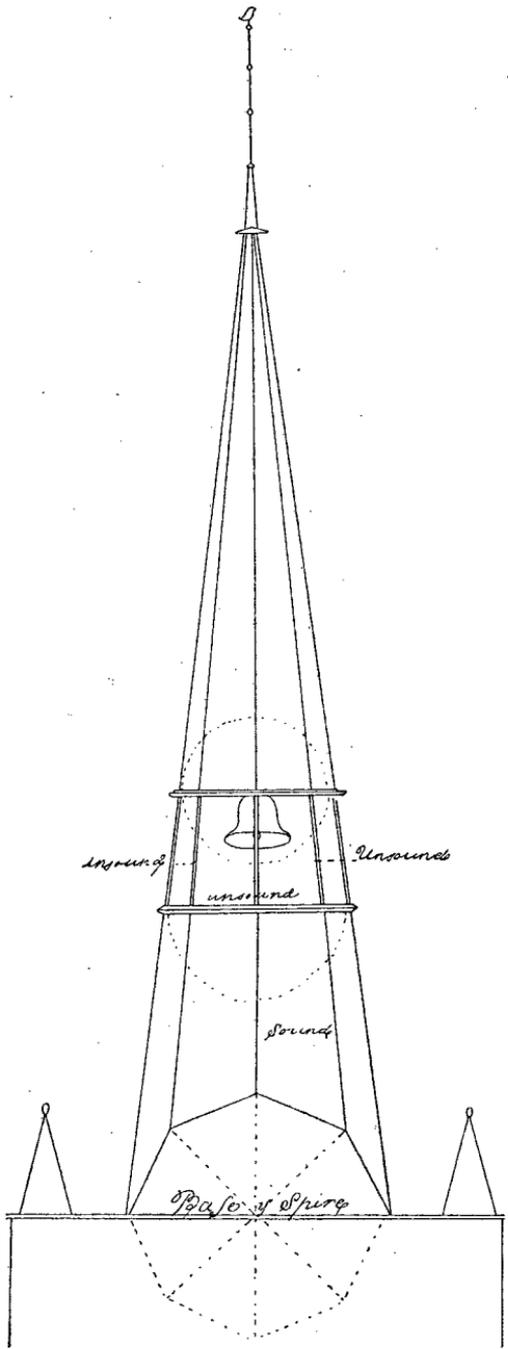


FIG. 32.—Drawings for Monks



leigh Church spire, 1845.

Robert Vince's son was nearly hanged 'playing Crippen' from the workshop beams and was only cut down in the nick of time.

Apart from the bell, now on top of the stair-turret, the only surviving fragment of the spire is probably the wrought iron wind vane post which was re-erected at parapet level in 1845. This has been repaired and is now back in place with a new vane tail.

ANDREW ANDERSON, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL.

Unpublished writings on Suffolk History. The following list of unpublished theses relating to Suffolk has been compiled from the *Theses Supplements* published by the Institute of Historical Research, London, and is a continuation of the list published in Volume xxvi, Part 1, p. 61 of these *Proceedings*.—*Editor.*

<i>University</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>
Oxford	D.Phil.	The maritime trade of the East Anglian ports, 1550-1590.	N. J. Williams	1952
Cam- bridge	M.Sc.	The influence of legislation and economic conditions on the rent of agricultural land since 1850, with special reference to East Anglia and with a statistical analysis of some East Anglian farm rents.	Carleen O'Loughlin	1953
Oxford	B.Litt.	A history of congregationalism in Suffolk from 1870 to 1940.	J. H. Bennett	1953
Oxford	D.Phil.	The borough and merchant community of Ipswich, 1317-1422.	G. H. Martin	1955
London	M.Sc. (Econ.)	The economic geography of the development and present position of Lowestoft as a port and holiday resort.	A. H. Woolner	1956
London	M.A.	A critical edition of Lydgate's <i>Life of Saint Edmund</i> , based on MS Harley 2278.	Mrs. Audrey Eccles	1957