

“Man without learninge and the remembrance of things past, falls into a beastlye sottishnesse, and his life is noe better to be accounted of, then to be buryed alive.”

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST & PRESENT



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON

Published by
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY
LAMPART HALL, NORTHAMPTON
ENGLAND
1950

VOL. I

PRICE 2s. 6d.

No. 3



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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST & PRESENT

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Published by the Northamptonshire Record Society
Lampport Hall, Northampton, England

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Printed by John Dickens & Co. Ltd., Northampton.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

LAMPOR T HALL, NORTHAMPTON

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National Provincial Bank, Ltd., Northampton.
Barclay's Bank, Northampton (Endowment Fund).
Northampton and County Trustee Savings Bank.

AIMS AND OBJECTS.

The Society was founded in December, 1920, with the objects of preserving historical records relating to Northamptonshire, and of publishing from time to time transcripts of documents of both local and general interest, with Introductions by competent authorities.

In 1934 the collections of the Society were conveyed to a body of Trustees. To secure the continuity of the work, an Endowment Fund has been established, now amounting to nearly £2,000.

Lectures and Exhibitions are held from time to time to further the knowledge and study of local history.

The Society carries out certain duties with regard to local records on behalf of the County Council.

THE RECORD ROOMS.

The Society's Rooms at Lamport Hall, Northampton, are open to students and members of the public on week-days from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and from 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m., except on Saturdays, when the Rooms are closed at 1.0 p.m. Students desiring to do research should apply to the Hon. Secretary for a copy of the regulations of the Trustees.

There are omnibus and train services to Lamport from Northampton and Market Harborough. The 'bus-stop (The Swan Inn) is three minutes walk from the Record Rooms. The Station is 15 minutes walk from the Record Rooms. Lamport is on the main road between Northampton and Market Harborough, and is nine miles distant from each. Comfortable accommodation can be had at the Swan Inn.

MEMBERSHIP.

There are now 581 subscribers. We aim at a membership of a thousand. THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SOCIETY is £1 1s. od., which entitles members to free copies of publications issued for the period in respect of which they have subscribed. A complete list of publications, with prices to members and non-members, will be found below on page 46.

Forms of membership and all particulars may be had from the HON. SECRETARY, LAMPOR T HALL, NORTHAMPTON, to whom all communications should be addressed.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

- Alexander-Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z.
All Souls' College, Oxford.
The Society of Antiquaries of London.
Ashby, E. J. & R. S., F.V.I., Northampton.
Banbury Public Library.
Barker, A., & Sons, Ltd., Earls Barton.
Bedfordshire County Library.
Berry Bros. & Bagshaw, Kettering.
Birkbeck College, University of London.
Birmingham Library, Margaret Street.
Birmingham Public Libraries.
Birmingham University Library.
Boston Public Library, U.S.A.
Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.
Bristol University Library.
Brown University Library, U.S.A.
California University General Library, U.S.A.
Chamberlain, W. W., & Sons, Higham Ferrers.
Chicago University Library, U.S.A.
The City Press, Northampton.
Cleveland Public Library, U.S.A.
Columbia University Library, U.S.A.
The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
The Royal Library of Copenhagen.
Cornell University Library, U.S.A.
Duke University Library, U.S.A.
Edinburgh University Library.
The Society of Genealogists.
Glasgow University Library.
The Guildhall Library, London.
Hammersmith Public Libraries.
The Library of Harvard College, U.S.A.
Harvard University Law School Library, U.S.A.
Haverford College Library, U.S.A.
The Henry E. Huntington Library, U.S.A.
Higham Ferrers and District History Society.
Huntingdon County Library.
Illinois University Library, U.S.A.
Inner Temple Library, London.
The Institute of Historical Research (University of London).
Iowa State University, U.S.A.
The John Rylands Library, Manchester.
The Library of Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A.
Kettering High School.
Kettering Public Library.
King's School, Peterborough.
Leeds University Library.
Leicester City Libraries.
Leicester County Archives Department.
Leicester University College Library.
Lincoln City Public Library.
Parts of Lindsey County Library.
Liverpool City Public Libraries.
Liverpool University Library.
The London Library.
London School of Economics and Political Science.
Library of the University of London.
Public Library of the City of Los Angeles, U.S.A.
Lund University Library, Sweden.
Magdalen College School, Brackley.
Manchester Public Libraries.
Manchester University.
Manfield & Sons, Ltd., Northampton.
Merchant Venturers, The Society of
The Library of the University of Michigan, U.S.A.
The Library of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A.
Missouri University Library, U.S.A.
Newberry Library, Chicago, U.S.A.
New College, Oxford.
The New England Historical and Genealogical Society, U.S.A.
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The New York Historical Society, U.S.A.
The New York Public Library, U.S.A.
Northampton Business and Professional Women's Club.
Northampton Central Townswomen's Guild.
Northampton Grammar School for Girls.
Northampton Grammar School.
Northampton High School.
Northampton Public Library.
Northamptonshire County Council.
Northamptonshire County Library.
Northamptonshire Printing and Publishing Co.
Notre Dame University Library, Indiana, U.S.A.
Nottingham Central Public Library,
Nottingham University College.
Oundle School.
Overstone School.
Oxford City Libraries.
Oxfordshire County Library.
Pennsylvania University Library, U.S.A.
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Peterborough Museum Society.
Peterborough Public Library.
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Raunds History Society.
Reading University Library.
The Royal Historical Society.
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Rushden Public Library.
The Soroptimist Club of Northampton.
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Texas University Library, U.S.A.
Toronto University Library, Canada.
Trinity College Library, Dublin.
University College, London, Library.
The Genealogical Society of Utah.
Victoria Public Library, Melbourne, Australia.
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, U.S.A.
Washington University Library, U.S.A.
Wellingborough Grammar School.
Wellingborough County High School.
Wellingborough Public Library.
Wilson & Wilson, Kettering.
Wisconsin University Library, U.S.A.
Yale University Library, U.S.A.

NOTES AND NEWS

By the death in April last of Mr. W. T. Mellows of Peterborough, the Record Society has suffered a most grievous blow. In a short biographical sketch in this issue his great services to scholarship are described and an attempt is made to give an impression of this remarkable man, whose loss is mourned by his many friends. He was a great benefactor of our Society, the most delightful of colleagues, and, in the considered opinion of a leading professor of history expressed shortly before Mr. Mellows's death, "the most distinguished local historian then at work."

NEW MEMBERS. Greetings to the forty-six members who have joined our ranks in the last twelve months. These include, in the Alexander-Turnbull Library, our first New Zealand member, and in the Public Library of Victoria at Melbourne, our second in Australia. The addition of the libraries of California and Missouri Universities brings the number of our institutional members in the United States of America up to thirty-five. Needless to say, this support from overseas is deeply appreciated. At home, we welcome to our list the Public Libraries of Leicester, Lincoln, and Liverpool, the County Library of Oxfordshire, Messrs. Chamberlain and Sons, Northampton, and the Northampton Townswomen's Guild.

THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL INDUSTRY. Encouragement from our industrial firms has again been most generously forthcoming, as our advertisement pages bear witness. To all these firms we offer our warmest thanks and are proud to be allowed to carry all over the world the latest news of the products of Northamptonshire energy and enterprise. We rejoice to report a high level of employment in both town and county and that the export figures in our shoe, leather, engineering, and other principal trades are being fully maintained.

ACCESSIONS. Some valuable and interesting manuscripts have been received since our last issue, including an early Harlestone charter presented by the Royal Historical Society, the Constable's Accounts of Little Billing, 1709-1805, presented by the Friends of the Record Society, and the Ward Hunt Collection from Wadenhoe, kindly deposited by Mr. George Ward Hunt, the present Squire. This collection contains, in addition to much earlier material, the letter books of George Ward Hunt, first lord of the Admiralty and Chancellor of the Exchequer in Disraeli's administrations.

A highly important accession is the collection of muniments of the Apethorpe estate and papers of the Mildmay and Fane families, now formally deposited by the Earl of Westmorland. Part of this collection was reported on by the Historical MSS. Commission in 1885. Some of these items were sold at Christie's in 1892, when eleven lots were secured by the British Museum (Add. MSS. 34,213-34,223). The diplomatic correspondence of the 11th Earl of Westmorland was sold in August, 1950, but the main collection, through the generosity and public spirit of the present Earl, is now available to students at Lampport. It contains a great series of charters and deeds from the 12th century, some manorial records, and such items as the household accounts of Edward Plantagenet, Duke of York, in 1409 and 1410, and a series of accounts of the College of Fotheringhay in the 16th century. Readers will remember Lord Brassey's kind gift and deposit in 1949 of armour, oak tables, and a portrait of Charles I from Apethorpe. It is pleasant that these, after a lapse of nearly half a century, should be re-united, though under an alien roof, to the family muniments.

STUDENTS. Our collections continue to attract scholars and researchers from at home and overseas. We look forward to the visit this autumn of a seminar of economic history students from Nottingham University for a week's intensive study of agricultural history, including field work, based chiefly on some early open-field maps and a great series of 18th and 19th century estate accounts in the Fitzwilliam Collection.

PUBLICATIONS. *Sir Christopher Hatton's Book of Seals*, edited by the late L. C. Loyd and by Lady Stenton, was published last May by The Clarendon Press in conjunction with the Society, in honour of Professor Sir Frank Stenton and as the Society's volume for 1941 and 1942.

EXHIBITIONS. In May we held in Northampton an exhibition of documents, portraits, handbills, etc., illustrating the political history of the borough and county from the middle ages. In June we had the pleasure of receiving members of the Local Authorities and their friends at Lamport, when we entertained them with an exhibition of records and photographs shewing our predecessors through the centuries grappling with the same problems of the poor, the sick, crime, education, transport and public health which are the concern of our elected representatives today.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON. The photograph of All Saints' on our cover was taken about fifty years ago by Mr. H. Cooper of George Row, Northampton, whose son and grandson, his successors in the firm, have kindly allowed us to reproduce it. This church was rebuilt after the Great Fire of Northampton in 1675 by Henry Jones, the Walgrave carpenter,* to the designs of Sir Christopher Wren. Charles II, whose statue is on the portico, supplied the necessary timber from his Northamptonshire forests. On a bench in front of this church, the poet John Clare used to sit and sun himself in his old age.

And now, for another year, good wishes to our readers, and please remember that new members of the Society, whether individual or institutional, are always most welcome (see p. ii). We hope you will enjoy this number in which we have once more tried to suit all tastes and to add to the sum of knowledge about Northamptonshire.

LAMPFORT HALL,

September, 1950.

* This talented man, who modestly described himself as a "carpenter" in his will, did much interior work at Lamport Hall, and was also the builder of Haselbeech Hall. G.I.

GRATIAE & DESIDERATA.

Our very grateful thanks to the kind and generous donors who have sent us so many of the books we asked for, for our reference library, also for the very handsome gift of a beautiful china tea-set and seventeen chairs, which have made so much difference to the comfort and enjoyment of both staff and students.

The following books would be extremely useful:—

T. Madox. *Formulare Anglicanum*.

F. Hudson, *Monumental Brasses of Northamptonshire* (1853).

A. Hartshorne, *Recumbent Effigies of Northamptonshire* (1876).

The Correspondence of Edmund Burke (1844).

Old Army Lists, Law Lists, Clergy Lists, Peerages, and Directories, also pamphlets and annual reports of local organisations, old handbills, sale catalogues, posters and old photographs.

The Dictionary of National Biography, complete with Supplements, price £36 15s. 0d.

The New English Dictionary, in two volumes (Oxford University Press).

More bookshelves are *badly* needed.

Copies of the first two numbers of *Northamptonshire Past and Present* may still be had, price 2s. 6d. each, plus postage.