

"Follow truth, and if it leads to the gates of hell,—knock."

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST & PRESENT



PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

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THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY
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ENGLAND
1951

VOL. I

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No. 4



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THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

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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 618 subscribers. We aim at a membership of a thousand. THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SOCIETY is £1 1s. 0d., 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.
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Banbury Public Library.
Barker, A., & Sons, Ltd., Earls Barton.
Bedfordshire County Library.
Berry Bros. & Bagshaw, Kettering.
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Birmingham Library, Margaret Street.
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Birmingham University Library.
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Brown University Library, U.S.A.
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California University General Library, U.S.A.
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Huntingdon County Library.
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Iowa State University, U.S.A.
The John Rylands Library, Manchester.
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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.
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The Library of the University of Michigan, U.S.A.
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Wilson & Wilson, Kettering.
Wisconsin University Library, U.S.A.
Yale University Library, U.S.A.

NOTES AND NEWS

ONCE more we have great pleasure in acknowledging our debt to those public-spirited leaders of industry in our Town and County who have again made it possible to publish this Journal, and, by the skilful display of their productions in its pages, have added so much to its interest and beauty. It is a privilege to help them to make known the quality of their wares, at home and overseas.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE. The great event of the past twelve months has been the carrying through by the three principal Local Authorities of the Shire of the scheme for a Northamptonshire Archives Committee, which will shortly take over from the Record Society its responsibilities for the records in its care and for the provision of facilities for students. This scheme, which, from the Society's point of view is to be regarded as the culmination of one side of the labours of over thirty years, is more fully explained in Professor Jacob's article in this issue. We prophesy a great career for the new Committee and wish it every success.

NEW MEMBERS. The membership of the Society continues to expand and we are now over six hundred strong, 63 having joined since 1st November, 1950, including the Commonwealth National Library of Australia at Canberra. Long may this expansion continue, for the Society has great tasks to perform not only in relation to the new scheme but as a publishing body, and for the promotion and encouragement of the study of local history.

ACCESSIONS. Mrs. W. T. Mellows has most kindly presented the greater part of her late husband's library of historical books to the Society. By her generosity an urgently felt need has been supplied, and the books are in constant use by both staff and students. Other interesting and important accessions include the English portion of the Marquess of Ormonde's muniments formerly at Kilkenny Castle, a series of court rolls of the manor of Greatworth and an inclosure agreement of 1637 for that parish. Mrs. D. Talbot has given us an early engraving of the scant remains of the ruins of Holdenby House.

SURVEY OF PARISH RECORDS. Now that the Poor Law Records (1834-1929) have been arranged and catalogued we have been able to start systematically on the much-needed Survey of Parish Records on behalf of the County Council and Diocesan Authorities. Many interesting items have come to light, and some dozen parishes have, very sensibly, as we think, deposited their obsolete records at Lamport Hall to be catalogued, cared for, and made available to students, reserving the right to withdraw them at any time should they be required at home.

NASEBY FIGHT. At Naseby we learnt that when the Act of 1894 setting up Parish Councils came into force, there was a fight in the church, which went on until one or two in the morning, to decide who should have the custody of the Inclosure Award. According to the present chairman of the Parish Council, "they came to blows, one got another down in one of the pews, and another threw the award over the vestry door to another chap to carry away, but he got stopped." However, the upstart Parish Council was in the end victorious. Naseby's concern for its records is highly commendable, but Parliament should surely beware of permissive legislation.

STUDENTS. Extensive use of our collections has been made by historians during the past year, and their task is easier now that we have made classified lists of groups of records under different subjects such as Military History; Inclosures; Parliamentary Elections; etc. The discovery of a Journal of Parliament in the reign of Elizabeth (Fitzwilliam collection) throwing new light on English constitutional history, has caused some excitement among historians of that period.

DESIDERATA. If any members who no longer require their back publications of the Society would return them to Lamport, we should be grateful, as students are clamouring for some of our volumes which are out of print or nearly so. Other books, sorely needed by us, and which we cannot afford to buy are the *Oxford English Dictionary*, an *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, a modern "Who's Who?", and the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Copies of the *Annual Register for 1828, 1842-1844, 1868*, and any after 1869, and old copies of *Burke's* or *Debrett's Peerage*, *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, or *Kelly's Directories* of any County would be welcome. Our best thanks to Mr. Oliver Wyatt for the sumptuous copy of A. Hartshorne's *Recumbent Effigies of Northamptonshire* which he has presented to the Society.

"NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & RUTLAND CLERGY, A.D. 1500 to 1900," by the late Rev. H. I. LONGDEN. This monumental and unique work, containing biographical notes of over 14,000 clergy, together with complete Indexes of Persons, Places and Subjects by W. L. White, will be ready next spring, and will be offered, bound as six volumes in red cloth, at ten guineas the set, if ordered before May 1st, 1952, after which date the price will be twelve guineas. In spite of its title, this is a book of world-wide interest, which should be on the shelves of every reference library. 90 sets will be available.

Our very sincere thanks are offered to our contributors, and to the Duke of Buccleuch, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and the Trustees of the British Museum for kind permission to reproduce portraits at Boughton House, Westminster Abbey, and the British Museum; also to the Northamptonshire Printing and Publishing Company and Mrs. C. A. Markham for their courtesies in lending the blocks of Northamptonshire crosses and to Mrs. Claridge for allowing us to use her delightful drawing of the churchyard cross at Higham Ferrers.

New members of the Society will be warmly welcomed from any and every part of the world. Will those who are ready to help on our good work by joining our ranks be so kind as to write to the Hon. Secretary, Lamport Hall, Northampton, and the necessary forms will be sent by return of post? The annual subscription is one guinea and there is no entrance fee.

LAMPOR T HALL.

September, 1951.

ERRATA in *Northants Past and Present* for 1950.

Page ii, 3 lines from bottom, "page 46" should read "page 47."

Page 11, note 2. "1925" should read "1825."

.. 39, §4. for "1826-7 7-8 Geo. IV c.lii R." read "1826-7 7-8 Geo. IV c.liv R."

.. 40, §11. for "1772-3 13 Geo. III c. 85 C." read "1772-3 13 Geo. III c. 87 C."

.. 41, §14. In the second line the number of the note should be 1, not 21.
