

Botton History Society



Newsletter Number 27 Autumn 1999

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Potton History Society Committee:-

Chairman	George Howe
Secretary	Jean McLennan
Treasurer	Anita Lewis
Programme/Publicity Secretary	Peter Ibbett
Committee Members	Boo Matthews
	John Kirkby
	Norman Parry
	Tony Crossley
	Ken Lawson
Newsletter Editors	Mr & Mrs Leigh

For access to the archives in our research rooms just telephone the key-holders;

Mr G. Howe	Potton 260935
Mr K Lawson	Potton 261209
Mr N Parry	Potton 260728
Mrs J McLennan	Potton 261867

Acknowledgements:-

Our continued appreciation to Mr Witten for displaying and selling our publications in Tysoe's Hardware Store.

We also thank the following for their continued support by advertising our meetings;

Lindsay's Bakery,
Tysoe's Hardware Store,
Harper's Barber Shop.

Society News

At our **March** meeting, unusual light entertainment was provided for us by Mrs D Vesey from Bedford. With the aid of her personal collection of small everyday items from times gone by she was able to create for us some vivid pictures of a way of life long since forgotten.

The chairman of St. Neots History Society, Mr David Bushby, showed a fascinating series of photos of St. Neots Market Square in **April**. The photos dated back to 1949 when local planners carried out a survey of adverts on the buildings. 50 years on, the images captured the essence of a typical post-war market town, with many small shops run by local families living above the premises.

In **May** we welcomed a speaker whose subject has always been very close to the heart of the Society. Mr M Petty, a former archivist of the Cambridgeshire collection and regular contributor to Cambridgeshire newspapers, told of the rapid expansion of the use of photography in the Cambridge area during the 19th century. Both portraiture and local scenes were in demand.

Our annual outdoor meeting took place in **June**, and for once even the weather was kind. A large group of members travelled to the Swiss Garden at nearby Old Warden, where two local guides provided the background information on the original creation of this garden in the last century and the recent restoration of this beautiful site.

As a prelude to this year's coach trip in **July**, Peter Ibbett presented an evening devoted to the many changes that can be seen at the boundaries of his current parish of Buckden. The beautiful slides which were used to illustrate his talk more than wetted our appetites for the forthcoming visit to a hidden corner which most of us have bypassed many a time when travelling north on the A1. See page 14 for a full report on the trip.

Our regular local evening took place in **August** when we heard more about Ken Lawson's graveyard discoveries during the cemetery survey. Norman Parry then explained that after the closure of the survey at the end of the year all the findings will be placed with the County Record Office. The limelight was shared by Keith Lawrence, who has recently completed his upgraded model of the Market Square, as well as recording in both words and pictures his early memories of Moggerhanger.

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Membership.

This year to date we have twelve new members, included in this figure are some who have re-joined. A warm welcome to you all.

Mrs Ball	Mr Curry	Mrs. Goldsmith
Mr & Mrs Ritchie	Mr & Mrs Green	Mrs Watson
Mr & Mrs Rice	Mr Guy	Mr Brookman

This brings the total membership to 103 + 6 Honorary Members.

Mr Jack Hutchinson has been made an Honorary Member of the Society in acknowledgement of his many years of service both to the Committee and to the History Society as a whole.

Cemetery Survey.

The recording of the existing memorials in the Sandy Road Cemetery is nearing completion. The cards detailing the information have been written up and checked and the typing into a Research Report is progressing. It has been decided that the project will continue until the end of this year so that all monuments relating to events prior to the year 2000 will be listed. In addition to this part of the project Ken Lawson has been recording all interments, whether a monument exists or not. To date his list includes over 3200 entries and it is his intention to continue to maintain this record for the benefit of future historians. The Society is very grateful to all those who helped in the recording of the inscriptions and particularly to Ken for his work in checking all the cards and for co-ordinating the overall project.

Microfiche

A portable microfiche viewer has been donated to the Society by Trevor Ball and is available for use in the Archive Rooms or on loan to members carrying out family history research. The following microfiche are held by the Society :-

Potton.

Baptisms	1813 - 1933.
Banns	1807 - 1929.
Marriages	1813 - 1931.
Burials	1813 - 1948.

Sutton.

Baptisms	1813 - 1983.
Banns	1824 - 1971.
Marriages	1813 - 1982.
Burials	1813 - 1983.

Cockayne Hatley.

General register	1701 - 1783.
Baptisms & Burials	1784 - 1812.
Baptisms	1813 - 1983.
Marriages	1754 - 1839. (Banns to 1811).
Banns	1825 - 1949.
Marriages	1841 - 1978.
Burials	1813 - 1970.

Also available is a microfiche copy of a computer print-out of the burials recorded in Potton parish register 1813 - 1948, Potton Cemetery 1882 - 1955, Sandy parish register 1813 - 1933 & Sutton parish register 1813 - 1983. The print-out was prepared by the County Council and there is some duplication, e.g. a burial in the cemetery may also be recorded in the parish register. Names do not always have the correct spelling.

Transcripts of the pre-1812 registers have been available in book form for some time, these books have now been reproduced by the Bedfordshire Family History Society on microfiche. The relevant start dates are, Potton & Cockayne Hatley 1602, Sutton 1538. A few other Bedfordshire parish records and other items are also available on microfiche. For details please contact Norman Parry.

The Carlton Mid Beds History Conference -5th June 1999

On behalf of the Society I attended the eleventh Bedfordshire Local History Conference, organised by the Carlton and Chellington Society. Over 50 delegates attended from Societies at Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Carlton, Clapham, Dunstable, Langford, Roxton and Toddington as well as some individuals such as our new County Archivist, Kevin Ward.

The idea of using a church as one of the venues, pioneered by Potton at one of the early conferences, has become a regular feature of these conferences. St. Mary's church lies outside Carlton with good views over the Ouse valley towards Harold. We were provided with a guide to the church and an opportunity to squeeze into the belfry and hear about the history of its bells, one of which dates from about 1490! The church hummed with conversation as old acquaintances exchanged information and new links were forged to continue the work of Local History in the future.

Lunch was dispersed between two local pubs and the village hall after which delegates wandered through the village to the Baptist Meeting House. This chapel provided its own distinctive character as the 'congregation' sat in the three cornered gallery listening to a talk on its history with two great oak columns forming a memorable frame for the three decked pulpit behind the speaker. Sadly the building is no longer used as the dwindling local numbers have seen an amalgamation with the Harold meeting. Its future is uncertain but it would be sad to lose such a perfect example of a rural chapel.

The conference returned to the Village Hall to hear short reports from society members about their current activities. The day finished with a slide presentation illustrating the fine range of buildings in Carlton. Local History in Bedfordshire remains in good health due to the continuing supply of enthusiastic 'grass roots' in the county. The conference will be held at Roxton next year.

Peter Ibbett

A Job Worth Doing

From a talk given at our August meeting

The land which is now the cemetery was purchased by a Mr. Alf Richardson from the estate of the late Elizabeth Lloyd for the sum of £400 for four acres in 1881. He then sold it to the Biggleswade Sanitary District.

The first burial at the Sandy Road Cemetery was on the 16th May 1882 and was a 2-year old boy, James Campling; the Minister was Richard Hoskins of the United Reform Church. The first adult was a Mr. George Kay who was 53 years of age.

The chapel was built probably in 1883/4 and the quotes for the erection varied from £296.10s from a J. Burnage of Potton to £520 from Harrisons of Bedford. I have not been able to find out as yet who actually built it, but I'll keep trying. The Chapel was refurbished this year, and it even boasts of electric lighting and heating now.

At first it was just a project to collect information and fill in the memorial cards but I very soon became interested in not only the gravestones that were there, but of the burials that had no stones to identify them. I decided to check the records during the winter months and try to create a record that was reasonably accurate. Once started, my interest was such that I was determined to complete the whole of the cemetery, and I found myself spending more and more time up Sandy Road. At the end of 1998 I had recorded more than 3,200 names from 116 years. I also spent a lot of the time talking to people visiting their relative's graves and found that they too were interested in the project and I was able from a very early period of time to help many people find the graves that they were looking for. The farthest one I was able to help was a gentleman from Australia; there was a visitor from Yorkshire and a young couple from Luton enquiring about ancestors who lived in Potton in the 1800s was the most interesting to date.

In the early days of the Sandy Road Cemetery very few of the relatives of the deceased could afford tombstones and it was only after the Second World War that more and more memorials were erected. Some of the earlier stones, especially those made from sandstone were becoming very worn and the inscriptions hardly readable in many instances. In most of those which were readable the inscriptions were very interesting.

My brother-in-law, Keith Lawrence, was also helping me in completing the cards - measuring the stones and recording not only the condition of the memorials but also where possible the stone masons who had erected them.

We found some of the inscriptions very moving and one in particular that affected us both was in memory of Hedley George Dennis who, passed away on March 23rd 1919, aged 19 months. The lettering was barely readable but we managed to decipher it and the inscription was:

*God has gathered in our darling
Placed our bud among the flowers
Taken back the child He lent us
To a better home than ours*

Other inscriptions left us with the thought - what happened? One example was that of a Ferndale Charles Carter who was killed at Luton Airport in 1943 aged 43. Was it the result of an air-raid? Another interesting inscription was erected by the students and patrons in memory of Richard Medway Musgrave who was the founder and teacher of the Potton School of Science in 1888. There are numerous memorials relating to Pottonians who have gone abroad and their ashes have been sent home for their final resting place. There are also memorials to those who lost their lives in the two Great Wars, including my old school friend Arthur Apthorpe who was killed only a few days after being sent to France. Another one that held my interest

was of a Jack Emery who died in a Malayan Prison Camp. I could not find his name on the War Memorial, but afterwards I found out that he had been living in London before the war, so presumably his name would have been on the memorial where his home was.

At no time during my investigation did I feel uncomfortable working on this project and after a time when I got more up-to-date, I found I was checking memorials of people I had known in my youth. I never thought of them laying there but I had a vivid picture of them being as I had known them alive, and it brought back some wonderful memories. When I was recovering from an operation and started my "Life and Times of an Ordinary Pottonian" I felt it only right to put these recollections in print.

What did affect me when I was researching the early years of the cemetery was the fact that so many children died. In the first ten years, according to the records there were over 130 burials recorded - all under the age of 14 (many of them under 5). In some cases it seemed that whole families had suffered two or more losses. One family in particular lost three children - at 18 months, 3 years and 6 years old - in the space of seven years. This was the Judge family (Thomas and Sophia) and I wonder if this was the family who lived in the old Post Office at one time. In the last ten years there have been only two young deaths recorded. It says a lot for modern healthcare.

The two oldest persons recorded are Louie Augusta Endersby who died in 1985 aged 109 and May Victoria Austin aged 101 who died in 1997.

In conclusion I would like to thank Mick Whittle (the caretaker) who keeps the cemetery in such clean and tidy condition and the town clerk, Mrs Mayne, for all the help they have given me in what I consider the most rewarding task that I have ever undertaken.

Ken Lawson

Historic Money Values.

Documents from the past often quote sums of money which brings up the question as to what these sums are worth in today's values. For example in 1879/80 George Bartle was charging 5½ d (old pence) per hour for a bricklayer's time and bricks cost £1-12s-6d (£1.62½p) per 1000. Obviously no direct comparison is possible because of the changes in the relative importance of services and commodities. The following table was produced by Evelyn M. Smith using figures relating to consumer goods over the ages. It can only be a rough guide but it is unlikely that any more accurate set of figures could be obtained elsewhere. The table was printed in the March edition of Family Tree Magazine and an extract is reproduced here with permission of the Editorial Director.

A sum quoted in any year should be multiplied by the index for that year to show the comparable value in 1998/9.

Year	Index	Year	Index	Year	Index
1275	564	1300	499	1325	553
1350	553	1375	451	1400	542
1425	517	1450	553	1475	626
1500	600	1520	412	1540	357
1560	213	1580	165	1600	123
1620	116	1640	103	1660	82.4
1680	99.3	1700	84	1720	88.8
1740	84	1760	87.5	1780	77.2
1800	36	1810	33.8	1820	41.7
1830	49.2	1840	43.8	1850	58.1
1860	42.9	1870	45.4	1880	48
1890	59.5	1900	56.7	1910	56.7
1920	21.8	1930	44.2	1940	35.8
1950	17.9	1960	12.7	1970	8.6
1980	2.38	1985	1.72	1990	1.29
1991	1.22	1992	1.18	1993	1.16
1994	1.13	1995	1.13	1995	1.09
1996	1.07	1997	1.03	1998	1.0

Sarah Carter 1793 - 1865.

A small bundle of documents was recently given to the Society by a descendant of a Thomas Baines, a market gardener of Everton Road who died in 1906. Amongst the documents was a small photograph of an elderly lady. This photograph had been produced by Webster Brothers of The Pavement, Clapham, London and it appears from the style to have been taken around 1860. Other items related to a Miss Sarah Carter who died 15 November 1865 in London and who was buried in Norwood Cemetery. A Thomas Carter was also mentioned as the person settling Sarah's debts.

A check through the Potton Registers shows a Sarah Carter baptised 11 October 1793 the daughter of John and Sarah Carter and a brother baptised 16 February 1797. The connection with Thomas Baines is that Susannah Carter, the daughter of Thomas married Thomas Baines in 1879 when both were in their 40s. The evidence points to the photograph being of Sarah Carter but there is no direct identification. If this is the case then this must be one of the earliest photographs in our collection.

The bills which formed part of this small bundle of documents make interesting reading, particularly in the light of the piece on old prices which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Nursing for seven weeks was charged at 7 shillings (35p) per week, refreshments at the funeral 4 shillings and a further 15 shillings also for refreshments presumably during the seven weeks. The doctor's bill for attendance and treatment during October and November was £3-7-6 (£3.37½p). The undertakers bill for the funeral came to £8-10-1 (£8.50) and this included the cost of a horse drawn hearse and a coach and pair for the mourners. The coachmen and bearers were paid 5s 6d (27½) each. The undertaker added a further 10s (50p) for his attendance at Doctor's Commons. This is a reference to the Court of Probate where Letters of Administration had to be obtained because Sarah had died intestate.

The bill for this totalled £3-12-7 (£3.63p). The account is signed by a John Berry who is designated as "Proctor, Doctor's Commons". This is one of those strange anomalies that one finds in local history; the Local Historians Encyclopaedia refers to the Doctor's Commons as a "college of lawyers in London. It had ceased to function by the 1830s and the building was demolished in 1867".

The total bill associated with the death of Sarah amounted to less than £19, I leave readers to decide whether the multiplying factor referred to earlier is appropriate in this case.

Norman Parry

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Did Sarah receive an invitation like this?

VICTORIA REGINA
POTTON CORONATION
FESTIVAL.
June 28th, 1838.

Dinner will be provided on the Market-hill for every Poor inhabitant at One o'Clock. Each Person and Family to come neatly dressed; and to bring clean plates, mugs or glasses, and knives and forks for their own use, and to take them away with them by a quarter before Three o' Clock. Silence to be observed at the sound of the Trumpet. All persons to behave with great decency Grace to be sung before and after dinner. All Orders given by the Committee of Managers to be obeyed.

No.

This ticket admits To Table No.

Transcribed from a photocopy in the CRO (CRT130Potton). Original owned by R. Wildman.

National Census Information

1881 Census.

For some time now a transcript of the 1881 census for the United Kingdom has been available on microfiche. Record Offices and main Libraries have usually held copies for their own and adjacent areas. The census which was produced as a collaborative project by the LDS Church and the Federation of Family History Societies has now been issued by the LDS on CD-rom for those who have suitable computers. The total cost of the 25 CDs is £29.75 making it an affordable resource for those engaged in family history research.

In addition the LDS have made available in CD format an update to their International Genealogical Index. Known as the British Isles Vital Records Index the set of six CDs cost £13.95 and contains about 4 million entries relating to marriages and baptisms which were not filmed for the 1992 version of the IGI. For those people with Internet access the whole of the IGI is now available on line. The popularity of the site means that at certain times access and downloading can be very slow but feedback from users is being used to improve the performance of the site and hopefully things can only get better. There are rumours that the LDS intend to make the whole of the IGI available on CD in the near future, a case of watch this space.

1901 Census

The 1901 census is due for release to the public on the first working day of 2002. Experience with the release of the 1891 census has led the Public Record Office and the Office of National Statistics to look at alternative means of making the information available. Currently most research by the public is concentrated at the Family Records Centre in London but estimates of the growth in the number of visitors to the centre show that the facilities will reach saturation point

by 2003 even without the 1901 census. The system as it is cannot cope with the additional demand that the new material will generate, containing as it does an estimated 2.5 million pages and 32 million names.

Advances in technology mean that many individuals, family history societies and other organisations have access to the Internet and all the information that is available there. The PRO therefore propose to digitise the 1901 census and to make it available to individuals who have the necessary equipment and to others through local services such as libraries and schools. The format envisaged will make it much easier for researchers to access the data than is possible with currently available census documents. This project is seen as the first step in a long term attempt to make the thousands of items in the PRO collections more readily available to the general public.

There is one major problem with this plan - cost. The work involved is beyond the resources of the PRO and they see the only way forward as being through a commercial partnership. To this end discussions are taking place with interested organisations under the Government's Private Finance Initiative arrangements.

As yet no proposals have been made as to what access is going to cost but it is clear that the involvement of a commercial organisation means that eventually the end user is going to have to pay for the service. In all the documents which have so far appeared this aspect has not been addressed. One would hope that with the short time available between now and the start date that a little bit of urgency has been injected into the programme and that the proposed targets will be met.

(Condensed from an article by John Wood in the August issue of Family Tree Magazine).

NJP

"To Buckden Eventually!"

Saturday had been one of the hottest days of the year but Sunday 25th July confined itself to a warm comfortable temperature. Our familiar Rolyn coach and its driver have become part of our tradition of going out to view the history around us.

We began our journey by passing through familiar territory at Gamlingay with its wide range of buildings, including the timber framed Emplins. Our route took us to the Gransdens, which originally stood either side of county borders, to pass an excellent example of a small post windmill. A detour via Eltisley with its large central green and Abbotsley with its four statues on the church tower enabled the party to arrive at St. Neots. The refurbished Market Square contains a mosaic of the Alfred Jewel which is believed to show the face of St. Neot.

The St. Neots Museum welcomed the travellers with its friendly staff, excellent displays and light refreshments. One member of the party was surprised to find himself on two photographs of ice-skating in one of the displays! The museum was much admired for its professional approach to local material.

The coach passed over the skew railway bridge on Paxton Hill before taking the road past Toseland Hall with its magnificent tudor chimneys. The road from Gravelly passed over the old roman route from Sandy to Godmanchester before arriving at the Offords. The hill above Godmanchester provided an excellent view of Port Holme which is the largest meadow in England. Huntingdon prompted memories of Oliver Cromwell and the Earl of Sandwich at Hinchingsbrooke House who is credited with inventing the sandwich to enable him to continue at the gaming table without interruption for a meal!

Food was provided by the George coaching inn at Buckden with the traditional ploughman's lunch. A walk to the church gave us the chance to view a range of local brick and stonework over 600 years.

A short walk took the party into the grounds of Buckden Towers where Katherine of Aragon was once imprisoned by Henry VIII. The work of the Claretian Missionaries had enabled the gatehouse and tower to be fully restored and put to use as part of a retreat centre. The Elizabethan Knot garden project was also on view.

The route home passed Grafham Water and Ellington where Samuel Pepys found a husband for a sister grown 'old and ugly'. Spaldwick, now by-passed, provided a glimpse into a more tranquil past with its old buildings and magnificent church spire. Kimbolton airfield was one of several World War Two sites passed during the day that gave reminders of the time when East Anglia was one large airfield.

After the open spaces of the Huntingdonshire Wolds, Kimbolton with its broad market place and House was a vivid contrast. Here in 1783 a number of locals had contributed to the disaster fund set up by Pottionians after the great fire. Our trip passed through the quiet villages of Pertenhall and Staughton before returning to St. Neots and Eynesbury. The road past the new Little Barford power station led back to Sandy and home to Potton.

My thanks to all who came and made it another enjoyable excursion into the wealth of history that surrounds us. I am sure that this particular Society tradition will continue in the future!

Peter Ibbett



Buckden Towers

A Family Tale of the Boer War.

October 1999 is the 100th anniversary of the start of what has usually been called the Boer War but which apparently we must now refer to as the 2nd South African War, (the 1st was the Zulu War of 1879). A number of Potton men served in S. Africa but as far as is known none of them were casualties. Amongst the ancestors of present Pottonians there may be some who were not so fortunate.

In our family there was an unconfirmed story that Thomas Parry, a brother of my grandfather had joined the army and had not returned from S.Africa. Earlier this year I discovered that the Victorian Military Society were producing a database of all known memorials to those who died in the war. A letter to the co-ordinator and a small search fee produced the information that a Pte. Thomas Parry of the KSLI (King's Shropshire Light Infantry) had been killed in a railway accident at Frederickstad in June 1900 and that his name appeared on the Regimental Memorial in Shrewsbury and also on the County Memorial in Hereford. Included for the fee was a photograph of the county memorial showing the names of 66 casualties including 14 men of the KSLI. Enquiries at the museum in Shrewsbury gave information that the term "railway accident" was used to disguise the fact that a railway track behind the British lines had been sabotaged by a Boer raiding force. Bad for civilian morale if the truth had been known!!.

Research was then undertaken through the Public Record Office at Kew and it was discovered that personal records of soldiers killed in action are not retained, all that was available was the casualty list and the medal roll of the KSLI which gave the information that Thomas had been entitled to the South Africa Medal with clasps for Cape Colony, Paardeberg and Dreifontein, actions which are described in the history of the war. The record does not state whether the medals were ever claimed by the family of Thomas.

The multi-volume history of the war gives brief details of the actions in which the KSLI were involved but much more information was obtained from the book " The 85th Kings Light Infantry" a history of the three regiments which had held that title and which became the 2nd Battalion of the KSLI in 1881. Both these books were obtained through the local library on the inter-library loan scheme.

The Family Records Centre has a separate list of Service casualties and from this a death certificate for Thomas was obtained. From other indexes in the FRC it was discovered that Thomas was married and had three children. Hopefully further research will enable me to connect to this other branch of my family.

NJP.

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The Price of Christianity

These note were taken from the front page of the microfiche of the Parish Register for Everton dated 1756.

Customary Fees

Churching 6d
Marriage by Bans 2/6d
Marriage by Licence 5/-
For additional trouble in making entries of each marriage to the late Act 1/-
Burial of a parishioner 1/-
Burial of a stranger 1/-
Breaking ground for a stranger if allowed by Minister 6/8d
Setting up gravestone in Churchyard if Minister gives leave 6/8d
Mortuaries due to Minister of Everton according to statute vide Hen 8c
Due to Vicar for burying in Church £2.2s
Due to clerk for burying in Church £1.1s (altered to £2.2s)
NB Alteration is plain forgery of Clerks J Horner
Examining register and making extracts 1/-
Publishing banns 1/-
Granting certificates 1/-

J. McLennan

A Visit to Cockayne Hatley

Extracts from the Diary of J.M. Neale in 1839 (from the Lambeth Palace Library) continued from the article in the PHS Newsletter of Autumn 1998

In the previous diary extracts, Mr Neale visited the Hall and the Church but found the Rector (and Lord of the Manor) the Hon. Cockayne Cust was not at home. We left him staying at the George in Hatley St. George. More diary extracts have now come to light and Neale is now to meet the Hon & Rev.- and not to be too impressed.

19 Dec. 1839 (f.86)

On returning to my rooms found a very civil note from Cust asking E.B. and myself to fix a day for visiting Hatley Cockayne and the surrounding churches. With EB's approval fixed Jan. 13th, the day after the Senate House and wrote to Cust at night to tell him so. We are to dine and sleep there and the visit will I think, nicely serve to fill up the awful pause between the Examinations & decision.....

Jan 14 1840 Tuesday (f.101v-103d):

Hatley Cockayne. Started with EB at 11. Own pony was very small but a most spirited little creature and tho' heavily loaded, we set off in capital style keeping along the London road for about eight miles, we there turned off to the left to take Foxton Church The next church we saw was Meldreth. Then to Whaddon ... here we baited the pony, who however, would not feed well and regaled ourselves with the best the house afforded, which was nothing very good. At about 3 we started again ; crossed the old North Road at Kneesworth and came to Bassingbourne ... The roads now began to get very heavy but we pushed on for Litlington ... We did not get out till 1/4 past 5 and with only 3/4 of an hour before dinner had the satisfaction of hearing that we had not above six or seven miles to go. Passing thro' Steeple & Gilden Morden, we came to Wrestlingworth where we took the other day(sic) and Mr. Cust's door finding our way with some difficulty at 1/2 past 6. They had not begun dinner.

My equanimity was much disturbed by the vision of three powder headed footmen but Mr. Cust came out himself and showed us to our rooms which are very comfortable as they open into each other and a bright fire was blazing in each. As I must now leave off, I shall leave my two heroes making a very hasty toilette, that is circumstances considered, for brasses are dirty work and altho' as Mr. Cust beatifully observed " a little water clears us of the deed " it takes anything but a little time to do so.

Well, we came down to the drawing room and were introduced to Lady Anna Maria Cust, her two daughters & two sons, a Lady something whose name I could not catch, a Mr. Quinton and a Mrs. Turton or Turpin. Soon after dinner was pronounced ready and an awful business it was. I sat between Lady ... and Henry Cust and talked very little. The conversation ran on a wonderful day's sport in Suffolk wherein 370 head of pheasant were killed, 200 is thought a prodigy in this county. We did not get into the drawing room until near ten and had very little music. EB and I looked over Fisher's Architectural Drawings of Beds. Which contain some excellent brasses and Carter's Antiquities which Mr. C. offered to lend us for the Camden - the very thing I wanted him to do. He told me that Carter in the last ten years of his life became a Roman Catholic.

We separated about Half past eleven having not had prayers and I was not sorry to find myself with EB at my ease. Put some brasses to rights and then after enjoying a comfortable quarter of an hour in my own room by the fire in a delightful armchair went to bed but whether it was the wine I had taken at dinner or the excitement or what did not sleep till towards morning and EB as he told me fared little better.

Jan 15 1840 Wednesday.

Was not called till 1/4 - 9. Found in the drawing room Miss Cust and Lady A.M. Kept up a pretty good conversation till Mr. Cust came in, with a Sir William something who is staying in the house but was ill last night. Then to breakfast where I sat between

Miss Cust and her brother and got on a little better than yesterday. After breakfast with Mr. Cust to the church of which I took a long account which I read to him and to which he professed himself pleased. Then walked in the garden. The church is a very pretty object from every part and the rectory is the bean (?) ideal of a rich clergyman's house. Came in and showed my brasses which were greatly entered into and at 1 I left in Mr. C's carriage with Henry Cust. He told me that in Constance is a fine brass to Robert Hallam, Bishop of Salisbury, who died whilst assisting at the council there in 1414. That it is common now to use brasses on the continent, that the last Bishop of Cologne is represented in that Cathedral in his episcopal robes, with his pastoral staff in his left hand and sword in his right, for tho' deprived of the title and power they still keep the insignia of Prince Bishops.

We passed through Wrestlingworth and then turned to the right to Eyworth, where we took a famous Elizabethan brass of 3 figs (the male with his hat on). The Church is full of the sepulchres of the Andersons. A plain slab points out the resting place of the Viscountess Verulam Baroness of S. Albans. Hence to Dunton where we found nothing particular and then returned to Wrestlingworth being forced to miss Gilden Morden the only Church in the county with a rood loft.

At Wrestlingworth was our chaise waiting; our little pony tho' the most willing and spirited little beast in the world and one that would (f.103d) kill himself if you gave him the reins, seemed fagged and he was completely knocked up last night, would eat nothing and was forced to have some gruel. The roads were dreadfully heavy from the complete breaking up of the frost. We drove to a lone public house in the parish of Croydon, put up there and dined on some excellent pork chops. The rain ceased, the pony [in] spite of the bad roads, went on very spiritedly and we reached Trinity at 1/4 past 7..... copied out several church schemes fairly.

A. Crossley

NOTICE BOARD

Correction.

Please note that the telephone number for Mrs J McLennan, the new Society secretary, is Potton 261867 and not as given in the Spring 1999 Newsletter.

--oo0oo--

Index

There is a great deal of valuable information hidden away and becoming rapidly forgotten in earlier volumes of our newsletter. Would any member be interested in taking on the task of compiling an in depth index of this material. The work could easily be carried out in your own home and in your own time scale. A home computer would of course make the task easier. Any volunteers please contact the editor on 01767 314024.

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Forthcoming Programme

18th-25th

To be announced

*Note 7.30pm start for A.G.M

26th-9th

Potton in 1899

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Newsletter no 28

Your articles, letters, comments and memories are always most welcome. Please pass items to Norman Parry, Mary Leigh or any committee member. The deadline for copy to be included in the next issue will be 1st February 2000.