

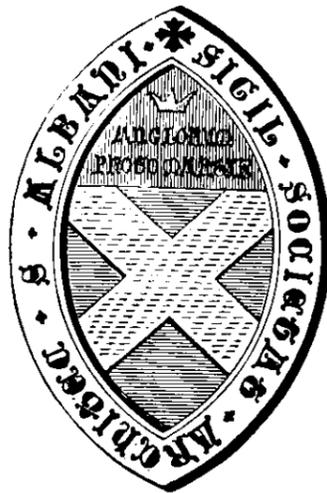
St. Albans Architectural

AND

Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS

1885.



St. Albans :

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1887.

St. Albans Architectural Society.

Founded 1845.

Patrons.

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THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.

President.

THE EARL OF VERULAM, Lord Lieutenant.

Vice-Presidents.

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S. ALBANS

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS.

JANUARY 23RD, 1885.

A General Meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall, S. Albans, at 3.30 p.m.

Present—John Evans, Esq., D.C.L., F.S.A., &c., in the chair; the Rev. Canon Davys and the Rev. H. Fowler, Hon. Secretaries; the Rev. J. Griffith, LL.D., G. U. Robins, Esq., Geo. N. Marten, Esq., with many other members and friends.

The minutes of the last Excursion Meeting of the Society were read and confirmed.

The Rev. Canon Davys announced that Viscount Cranborne had consented to be a Vice-President of the Society.

The following were unanimously elected members:—The Viscount Cranborne, M.A., John Edward Cussans, Esq., the County Historian (Hon. Member), Hellier R. H. Gosselin, Esq., Mr. James Savage and Mr. A. E. Gibbs (Ordinary Members).

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman, and unanimously adopted:—

“ This Meeting desires to express its grateful recognition of the
“ valuable services rendered to the Society by the late Hon. Local
“ Secretary, Mr. Ridgway R. Lloyd, and its sense of the serious
“ loss the Society has sustained by his death; and also its sincere
“ sympathy with Mrs. Ridgway Lloyd and her family in their
“ severe bereavement.”

The Rev. Canon Davys read a paper on "The Central Lantern Tower of Peterborough Cathedral," illustrating its history and the schemes for its restoration by means of numerous architectural drawings which he had prepared.

The Rev. H. Fowler read a note on "The Connexion of some of the Building Abbots of Peterborough with S. Albans Abbey."

The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to Canon Davys for his able and interesting paper, deprecated the unnecessary effacement of ancient features in the restoration of churches, also making allusion to some recent alterations in S. Albans Abbey, which he considered to be archæologically objectionable.

Dr. Griffith then read a paper on "The Parish Church of S. Leonard, Sandridge." He also announced the discovery of an ancient burial-ground in some gravel pits near Wheathampstead, from which a few relics, presumably Saxon, had been obtained.

Canon Davys made some interesting remarks on the roof and screen of the Chancel at Sandridge, comparing the arrangement with that existing at Arundel Church.

Dr. Griffith stated his belief that there was no evidence of a Monastic establishment having existed at Sandridge, referring to a communication on the subject with the late Mr. R. Lloyd.

The Chairman, in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Griffith, expressed a hope that the interesting screen, which he compared to that of Christ Church, Hampshire, would not undergo alteration.

Mr. Fowler announced the completion of a new book-case; also of the Society's pamphlet containing a List of Members, Catalogue of Books, and Rules for the Library, from which books could be borrowed by application to the Custodian, Mr. Bolton; the Library having been removed, with the consent of the Court House Committee, to the ante-room on the ground floor at the Town Hall.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman. In acknowledging it, Dr. Evans expressed a hope that the Society would take some steps for the preservation of the site of "The Holy Well."

GEO. U. ROBINS, Chairman.

EXCURSION MEETING, JUNE 4TH, 1885.

The Excursion arranged by the Committee was successfully carried out under the guidance of the Rev. Canon Davys. Members and friends met at Hatfield about 8 a.m. A Committee meeting having been held in the train, the party reached S. Mary's Church, Baldock, about 9 o'clock. Here a paper on its history and architecture was read by Canon Davys, who afterwards conducted the party over the Church, pointing out in detail its features and monuments. The Rev. H. Fowler read a note on the monumental inscription of Renau de Argenteim, a benefactor of the Church. The Rector, the Rev. Canon Kewley (since deceased), exhibited the parish registers (from which he read some interesting extracts), also an old chalice. The splendid oak screens, the font, brasses, tombs of the knights of S. John, and other relics were inspected with much interest.

The party then drove to Radwell, where a paper on the Village Church (All Saints') and its monuments was read by Canon Davys; after which, the Rector, the Rev. E. R. Gardiner, most courteously shewed his family pictures by Gainsborough.

Proceeding through Newenham, the party reached Ashwell at 11.30. After viewing the fine tower and ancient Lyche gate, members assembled in the Church (S. Mary's), where a paper was read by the Rev. H. Fowler on its history and some of the antiquities of the parish. The architectural features and mediæval inscriptions on the walls of the tower having been examined, lunch was partaken of in the Rectory grounds. The projected visit to "Arbury Banks" had to be abandoned from pressure of time.

After inspecting the "Ashwell Springs," the excursionists returned through Bygrave to Baldock, and proceeded by train to Hitchin. Here the fine Parish Church of S. Mary was ably described in an elaborate paper by Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, who pointed out its architectural details, monumental brasses, carved oak screens, and other church furniture, which were inspected by the party (here largely augmented) with much interest. Mr. Fowler gave some notes on the ancient marble effigies now deposited on the sills of the windows of the north aisle.

A General Meeting was then held in the Vestry ; Mr. G. Upton Robins in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed. The balance sheet, as audited, was passed. The officers of the Society were re-elected. The following were elected Ordinary Members:—The Hon. H. F. Cowper, Geo. Mowat, Esq., R. de B. Hovell, Esq., M.D., and Mrs. Harry Hine. On the motion of Dr. Griffith, seconded by the Rev. H. Fowler, Mrs. R. Lloyd was unanimously elected an Honorary Member, in gratitude for the important services rendered to the Society by the late Mr. Ridgway Lloyd. A sub-committee, consisting of the Secretaries, Dr. Griffith, and five other members, was appointed to arrange an autumn excursion, if found practicable.

The party then proceeded to the old Almshouses, called the "Biggin," under the guidance of Dr. Griffith, who gave an account of the Gilbertine Nunnery, which once existed on the site ; also of the Almshouses.

Hitchin Priory was then visited, some vestiges of the Carmelite Monastery being pointed out by Dr. Griffith, who exhibited an ancient deed and seal of the Priory, and gave an account of its origin.

The courtyard of the modern house of Mr. Delmé Radcliffe was also viewed, and the beautiful grounds.

A paper on "The Lynches," promised by Mr. Seebohm, was unavoidably postponed. The party were afterwards hospitably entertained in the "House of the Brotherhood," in West Street, by Mr. and Mrs. Tuke.

By the arrangement of Dr. Griffith, the visitors returned to the station through the beautiful gardens of Mr. Seebohm, thus terminating a very pleasant and satisfactory excursion.

J. GRIFFITH, Chairman.
