

Events in Old St. Albans

Collected by

CREGOE D. P. NICHOLSON, F.S.A.(Scot), F.S.G.

The London Gazette

From Saturday, February 18th, to Tuesday, February 21st, 1709
(i.e., 1709/10)

On Sunday the 19th Instant, about two in the Morning, the House of Mr. Francis Halford at St. Albans was broke open, and the following Goods stole, viz. 10 small Gold Rings, and 7 large ditto, 12 Ounces of broken Silver, Silver Corall, Thimbles, Plate, Buttons, 20 Ells of Holland, 3 pieces of Callicoe, 2 pieces of Norwich Stuffs, black and white, several pieces of Muslin, plain and striped, 4 Bed Ticks, and several other Goods; whoever stops the Party or Goods, and gives Notice to Mr. Francis Halford afore-said, or to Richard Stacy, West Smithfield, shall have the reward of 5£.

The London Evening-Post

From Saturday, March 21st, to Tuesday, March 24th, 1730

Yesterday came on the Election for the Borough of St. Albans in Hertfordshire, in the Room of Caleb Lomax, Esq; deceased: In the Morning the Lord Viscount Grimston gave a very elegant Breakfast at his Seat of Gorhambury near St. Albans, to Mr. Gape's Friends; after which his Lordship, Sir Tho. Saunders Seabright, Bart, and Charles Caesar, Esq; (the two Knights of the Shire) Francis Goulston, Esq; (the High Sheriff) Humphry Parsons, Esq; Richard Lockwood, Esq; with the principal Gentlemen of the County, rode, attended by about 300 Voters all on Horseback, to St. Albans, in order to Poll, which was continued for about three Hours and a half, and about Four Mr. Brassey flung up the same, when the Numbers stood thus:

For Thomas Gape, Esq;	396
Mr. Brassey,	136

Upon which the former was declared duly Elected: In the Evening the Lord Viscount Grimston gave a Ball to the Ladies, and the Town was illuminated, Bonfires made, and such great Rejoycings made there, as has not been seen for many Years: *which shews what Regard is paid to those Gentlemen who are elected with no other View than to serve their Country.*

The Grub-street Journal

Thursday, September 16th, 1731

We hear from S. Albans, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Clergy there, have collected near £120 for the relief of the sufferers by fire at Blandford, Tiverton and Ramsey: of this sum the Corporation gave 10 guineas, the R. Hon. the L. Grimston 10, and Mr. Gape 5.

The London Evening-Post

From Saturday, December 9th, to Tuesday, December 12th, 1732

This Morning at Four O'clock dy'd at his Sister's House in Wine Office-Court in Fleet-street, Thomas Gape, jun. Esq; Member of Parliament for St. Albans in Hertfordshire: He was a Gentleman universally respected, being a sincere Friend to his Country, and a Lover of all Mankind: His Estate of about £900 per Ann. for want of Issue, falls to his Brother, late a Dry-Salter.

The London Evening-Post

From Tuesday, December 19th, to Thursday, December 21st, 1732

Mr. Ashby has declined standing as a Candidate for the Borough of St. Alban's, in the room of Thomas Gape, Esq; deceased. Last Tuesday night the Corpse of the said Thomas Gape, Esq; was interr'd in a handsome Manner in a Vault belonging to the Family at St. Albans.

The Dublin Evening-Post

From Saturday, January 6th, to Tuesday, January 9th, 1732-3

LONDON.—We hear that a Stop is put to the Building of certain Aims-Houses at St. Albans by her Grace the Dutchess of Marlborough.

The London Evening-Post

From Saturday, February 24th, to Tuesday, February 26th, 1733

On Saturday several Workmen and other Artificers began to take down divers old Buildings at St. Alban's, by order of her Grace the Dutchess Dowager of Marlborough, in order to raise a noble Building for the Relief of 40 poor Families of that Town, and her Grace will leave a Sum sufficient to endow it for ever: The same is to be carry'd on with the utmost Expedition after a Plan she has already approved of.

The London Evening-Post

From Thursday, March 22nd, to Saturday, March 24th, 1733

Yesterday Morning her Grace the Dutchess Dowager of Marlborough set out for St. Albans, to take a View of the new Building which is already begun at her Grace's Charge, for the Reception of forty poor Families of that Town; to which charitable Design her Grace will leave a Sum sufficient to endow it for ever.

The Weekly Miscellany

Saturday. December 11th, 1736

A Statue of her late Majesty Queen Anne, is carving out of a Block of white Marble, by Mr. Rysbrack, of Oxford Road, by Order of her Grace the Duchess Dowager of Marlborough, in order to be set up in the Court of the New Building, which her Grace has lately erected at St. Alban's, for the Reception of a great Number of poor Families.

The Weekly Miscellany

Saturday, January 20th, 1733

On Monday the 8th Instant died of a Dropsy, Christopher Rawlinson, of Cark-Hall in the Parish of Cartmell in Lancashire, Esq; after two Days extreme Illness, and taking a Purge, at his Lodgings in Holbourn Row, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. A foul Draught of a Will was found, in which he left Dr. Rawlinson all his real and great Part of his personal Estate, to a considerable Value; but the Original is not yet found: In this he left Instructions to be buried in the Abbey Church of St. Albans, to whose Repair he leaves £100 another £100 is limited for the Expences of his Funeral; his Body to be wrapt in a Coffin of Sheet Lead, that to be inclosed in one of Heart Oak, cover'd with red Leather; and £200 for a Monument, to be made by Mr. Woodman, a Mason in Holbourn. He was formerly a Gentleman Commoner of Queens College in Oxford, where he was educated, under the celebrated Mr. Thwaites, under whom he improved himself so much in polite Learning, as also in the Saxon Tongue, that in the latter he published, in a most beautiful Manner, at his own Expence, King Alfred's Translation of Boetius de Consolatione Philosophiae.

The London Evening-Post

From Tuesday, September 4th, to Thursday, September 6th, 1753

ST. ALBAN'S, Hertfordshire.

This is to give Notice,

THAT the Fair, heretofore held on the 29th. Day of September, will be held this Year, and for the future, on the 10th. Day of October. That the Fair call'd Lady-Day Fair will be held on the 25th. Day of March, as usual.

And that the Horse-Fair will be annually held on the Feast of St. Alban, being the 17th. Day of June.

By Order of Court.

Will. Tannett, Common Clerk.

The London Evening-Post

From Thursday, February 1st, to Saturday, February 3rd, 1753

To be SOLD.

AN Estate of Inheritance, called the TOWNSEND FARM, at St. Alban's in Hertfordshire, now in the Occupation of Mr. Thomas Smallwood.

For further Particulars enquire of Mr. William Hunt, at the Sign of the Wool-Pack in St. Alban's.

The St. James's Chronicle; or, The British Evening-Post

From Saturday, May 28th, to Tuesday, May 31st, 1763

This Morning a Porter in Fleet-market, aged Sixty-three, walked for a Wager of Twenty Guineas to St. Alban's and back again, which he won by Six Minutes. He was allowed Twelve Hours to perform it in. The whole Ground measured 42 Miles.

E. Johnson s British Gazette, and Sunday Monitor

Sunday, September 4th, 1796

Monday se'nnight a lad, about the age of 15, came to the Woolpack inn, St. Albans, in the habit of a post-boy, to enquire after a place, but without success. In the evening, however, he found means to get into the servants lodging-rooms while they were asleep, took a pair of breeches from under one of their pillows, and stole from thence a purse containing two guineas and eight shillings; he then broke open some boxes, and took out several articles; after which he broke open a stable, took a horse, bridle, &c. and rode off as far as Dunstable, where he was taken, and immediately brought to St. Alban's, and committed to Hertford gaol for trial. Two watches and several other articles were found upon him.

NOTES

Roman Sites in Hertfordshire

Two, which I believe have hitherto been unrecorded, were recently brought to my notice.

The first is situated on Berkhamstead Common, near Frithsden Beeches. The angle of a room with flint rubble walls, with a floor of coarse red and buff tesserae, was exposed some years ago when sand was being dug for a bunker on the adjacent golf course. I have now visited the site and can identify it, should occasion arise.

The second is on Moor Park golf course and was discovered in similar circumstances but, owing to local lack of interest, a large portion of the building has been destroyed. A section of flint rubble walling is, however, still exposed, and any further developments will be reported to me. The site is on high ground, having a commanding view over the Colne valley, and its close proximity to the site of the Palace of the More is of very considerable interest. It is also only about three-quarters of a mile from the Hamper Mill site.

NORMAN DAVEY.

Finds at Harpenden

Roman and Belgic pottery of the first century, together with tiles and burnt material, have been discovered during building operations in Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, near a ford across the River Lea.

Roman pottery has also been found in a garden in Park Avenue, Harpenden, adjoining Rothamsted Farm.

It is hoped to publish details in our next volume of *Transactions*.

JAMES E. BROAD.

Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban.

Through the kindness of one of our members we are able to reproduce, as a frontispiece to this book, a photograph of the west front before Lord Grimthorpe replaced it by the present one. (See *Transactions* of 1937.)

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st December, 1938

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance, January 1st, 1938	56	17	0	Subscriptions: —			
Subscriptions	134	8	0	National Trust for Preserving Places of			
Interest on Investment ...	0	9	4	Historical Interest	2	2	0
				British Records Association	1	0	0
				Monumental Brass Society	0	10	0
				Congress of Archaeological Societies	2	2	0
				Donation: —			
				Mrs. Wheeler Memorial	4	4	0
				Lectures	47	2	4
				Excursions ...	2	16	9
				Transactions	46	8	1
				Library	2	11	7
				Stationery ...	5	14	11
				Postages	4	15	8
				Balance, December 31st, 1938	72	7	0
					£191	14	4
	£191	14	4				

C. E. JONES, .
Acting Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with Bank Pass-book and Vouchers and found correct,
HENRY E. ASPREY.

January 4th, 1939.

THE ST. ALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TRANSACTIONS
1936-1938
(Vol. V. New Series)

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