

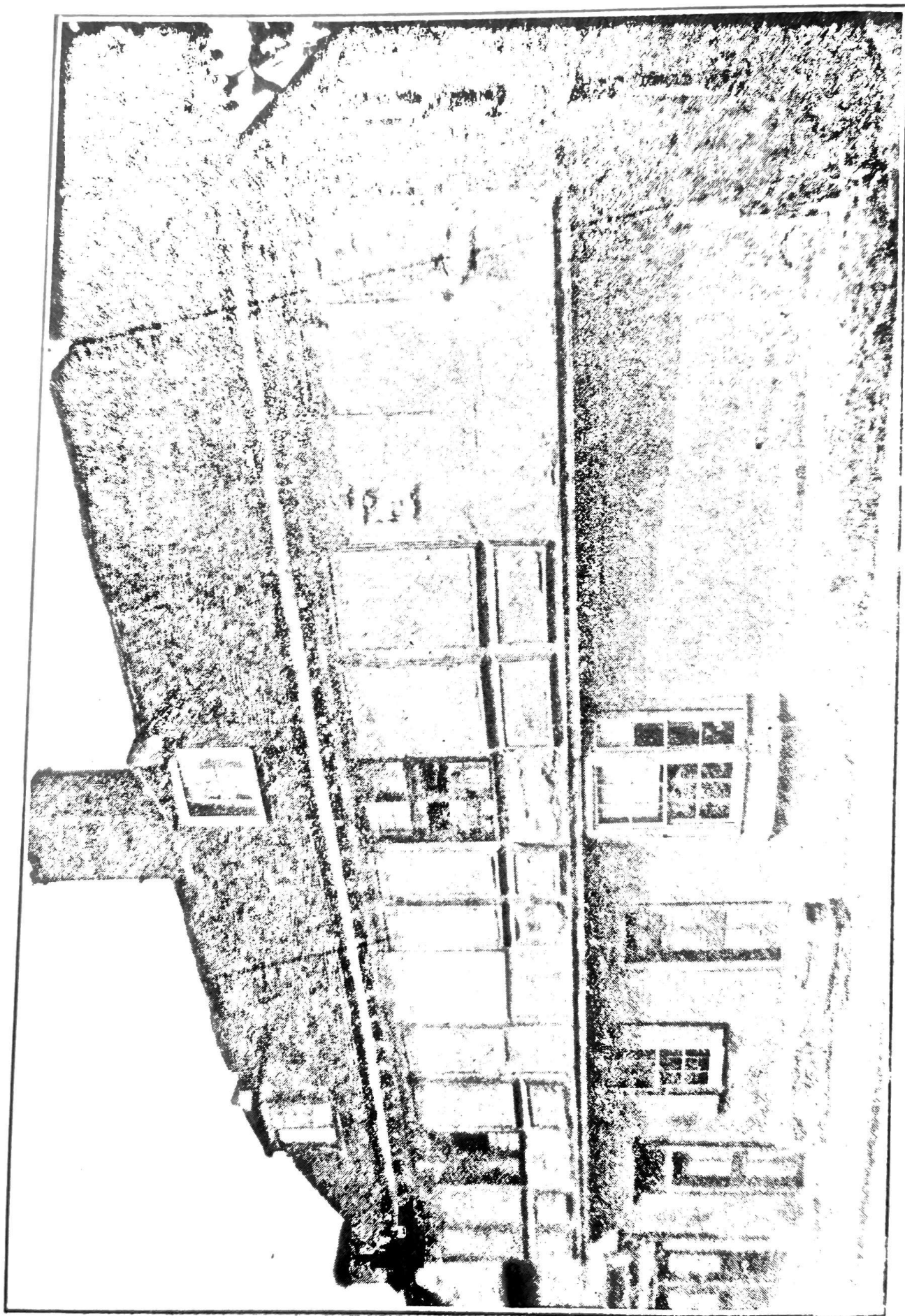
J. W. Langfield.
Feb 1928.

The Antiquities of Linton.

= = By = =

W. M. Palmer, M.D.

Reprinted from "Cambridge Chronicle,"
June 6th, 1913.



Photo]

ROBERT COLE'S HOUSE, Sixteenth Century. [E. W. Morley, Linton. (See page 12).

The Antiquities of Linton.

On Thursday, May 29th, 1913, the Cambridge Antiquarian Society made an excursion to Linton. A party of about seventy members and their friends arrived by the 2.8 train from Cambridge. They were met on Great Joiner's Close by Dr. W. M. Palmer, of Linton, who acted as cicerone during the afternoon. The following is an account of what was seen and an abstract of his remarks.

The name Linton is derived, according to the late Professor Skeat, from two Anglo-Saxon words meaning Flax-town. But whether it was so called because flax was cultivated there, or from the wild flax, the *Linum perenne*, which probably once grew plentifully on the Rivey Hill, as it does now about Babraham and on the Gogmagogs, he does not say.

Before the Norman Conquest the valley in which we stand was owned for several miles by the Saxon lady known as Edith the Fair, and after the conquest it passed into the hands of the Earl of Richmond. In 1087 the parish of Linton, as we know it now, was divided into four parts, each with a separate retainer of the Earl of Richmond as tenant. The parts or manors, were Great and Little Linton, Great and Little Barham. Little Linton extended from the river at Little Linton Farm to the Essex boundary over a mile away, and included Catley Park, where Sir Thomas Sclater, a well-known Cambridge man, built himself a mansion in the reign of Charles II. Great Linton extended from the county boundary near the village, to the Worsted Road, or Wool Street, and included the Rivey Hill, which is more than half as high again as the Gogmagogs. The Rivey has given its name to a

species of violet, the *Viola Riviniana*. An ancient enclosure on the hill-side, called Payne's Pasture, from John Payne, who lived in the house at the corner of Cole's Lane in 1600, was pointed out, and some rare plants which grew there mentioned. A little further along are the Furze Hills, or "Furrells," a former paradise for botanists, but now enclosed. Westrope Meadow was a common pasture along the river from the village street to the clapper stile, which was the boundary of the Manor of Little Linton. Since the Enclosure Act of 1840, it has been divided by a hedge, and part of it awarded to the parish as a recreation ground. From an entry in the Hundred Roll of 1279, it appears that the ford where Stanton's Lane crosses the river was known as Chilford, and taking into consideration the number of paths which converge on this meadow, it has been suggested that it was the Moot Meadow, the meeting place of the hundred of Chilford. The Manors of Barham are on the other side of the parish, what we call Linton to-day is chiefly Great Linton, with a small portion of Great Barham.

The boundaries of Linton market place were pointed out, viz., the "George and Dragon" (pulled down in 1912), William Hill's cottage (formerly a shop or an inn), Little Joiner's farmhouse (dated 1651), and the market house on the opposite side of the village street. A great part of this oblong is now occupied by Messrs. Holtum's premises. The space so occupied was, up to 1600, covered with market stalls or shops, in two rows with free passage all round, and a market cross next the street. In 1279 the Lord of the Manor received rents ranging from 2d. to 4s. for these stalls, and they are mentioned as late as the seventeenth century. Sometime in that century a large inn, the "Griffin," was built on the site. The yard of this inn, running through to Joiner's, may still be seen. Here the justices held their meetings. Sir Thomas Sclater, in one of his notebooks in the Bodleian Library, gives a long account of the licensing sessions held here in April, 1684. In the following century, part of the building was used as a woollen draper's, and the remaining portion re-named the "Crown." Here the London coach, on its way from Haverhill, stopped three days a week at 9 a.m., and on its way back on the other three days at 9 p.m. It was running as late

as 1830. Linton market was first held in 1246, when a charter for that purpose was granted to William de Say, Lord of the Manor, but was not held on this site until about 1280. Tuesday was the market day, and there was a fair of three days, August 9th—11th (St. Laurence's Day). Hildersham and Barham also had market rights granted at the same time, but Linton being the largest village soon eclipsed the others. In the seventeenth century the market was so populous that the Puritan party procured a lecturer from Cambridge to preach a special sermon every Tuesday, and it was put forward as a grievance against the Laudian Vicar in 1643 that he had stopped this sermon. Farmers must have been keener on sermons than they are now. During the Commonwealth, banns of marriage were published in the market, as recorded in the parish register. In the next century the market began to decline, but it died hard. The day was changed to Wednesday, and then to Thursday, but all in vain. Increased means of communication drew commerce into larger centres. In 1847, the market was little attended, and by 1864 it had ceased. It was about this time that the railway came to Linton. Several old men can remember the market in full swing, when a bell was rung at each inn to announce the market ordinary, when the arches of the market house were open, and it was used as such, and when the lock-up or cage under the staircase on the right sometimes had occupants, as well as the stocks on the left. An entry in the constable's accounts reads: "1674, April 19th, for watching a Quaker in the stocks, 8d." The stocks have disappeared, but the lock-up was shown. An antique fire engine, bought second-hand more than a century ago, and in use until a few years since, now stands under the market house. It was kept in the church until a few years ago. A directory of 1804 calls the market house a building of mean appearance, as of course it is, when compared with King's College Chapel.

Here we come into contact with the Paris family, who owned the Linton estates for about three centuries. Phillip Paris, the last of the race who enjoyed to the full the position and estates which he had inherited, lived near the market place. The site of the Manor of Linton is marked on an old map in Pembroke Treasury as being at the back

of the market place, and Phillip Paris, in his will dated 1557, directed his corn to be sold in the open market, near his dwelling house. I think that that old building in the corner may be a remnant of some of the offices of his manor house. Notice the old chimney. Phillip Paris when a young man had attended King Henry VIII. to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where consequently much Linton money must have been wasted. But after his time the money was wasted in a different way. Phillip at once declared for Mary, when Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen, for which he was knighted, and he henceforth remained a staunch Romanist, and his descendants followed him. For 150 years the Parises of Linton were regularly fined and sometimes imprisoned for sticking to the religion of their fathers. Twenty pounds a month they paid for all those years for not going to the parish church, and it eventually ruined them.

At the corner of Market Lane, where Turvey House now stands, there was formerly a small house with two gables, which was known as the Manor House. Three photographs of this were shown, all taken at different times before 1880. Perhaps the Manor Courts were held in this house. Two photographs were also shown of a half timbered building which stood between the market house and Horne Lane. This was taken down and the new house erected in 1900. A portion of the old building may still be seen in Horne Lane.

The Black Bull.

This is the substantial red brick building faced with stucco now occupied by Mrs. William Day. Viewed from the back, it has a much more ancient appearance than from the front. This was in existence as early as 1700. For on June 9th in that year Squire Millicent of Barham, writing to his friend Oliver le Neve, says: "We met at the Bull and drank the health of the honest gentlemen of Norfolk in two bowls of the old ingredients."

The Bull yard went through to Horne Lane near Our Lady's Bridge; a large malt-ing stood in it. At the Bull the Turnpike Trust met during the eighteenth century, and in the "Cambridge Chronicle" for 21st March, 1767, is an advertisement of the sale of the furniture of the lately deceased owner, Thomas Crane.

Linton Coffee House.

The existence of this shows that the town was quite up-to-date in the eighteenth century. Squire Millicent dates some of his letters from Linton Coffee House. Perhaps it was the building now occupied by the Literary Institute. Notice the face over the door. The Thomas Crane mentioned above, bequeathed a messuage adjoining the Bull yard, called the Coffee House, to his daughter Catharine.

The Unicorn or Red Lion.

A large inn called the "Unicorn" occupied the upper corner of Horne Lane in 1599, the name of the sign being derived from the Paris coat of arms. The present building probably dates from the eighteenth century; perhaps it was re-named after the Act of Union with Scotland; it was called the Red Lion in 1761. It was a noted posting house, and here the Colchester coach stopped every day either going to and from Cambridge as late as 1840. The stables extended down the lane as far as the red cottages. During some recent repairs a picturesque window was uncovered on the side of the house next the lane. The walls are very massive, with several queer little cupboards. There are moulded oak beams inside, and the chimney stacks are worth notice. Here the petty sessions were held in 1840.

On market morning a century ago this was a busy spot. At half-past nine the "Royal Regulator," Haverhill to London, drew up at the Crown, and an hour later the "Accommodation," Cambridge to Colchester, drew up at the Red Lion. Linton was then the hub of a small universe, but the coming of the railway diminished its importance.

There are many old houses to be seen on passing up the village street, but some of them have been faced with the dirty white bricks. Some exceptions are the house on the left with "1716" on the plaster work. The chimney stack looks older. This was the property of John Stacey, a surgeon, who died in 1596. He had a famous recipe for making an incandescent torch out of glowworms and quicksilver. The next occupant was Alexander Holt, who died in 1612. He had a son named Ferdinando, after the Lord of the Manor, and in his will particularly mentions the wainscot and bench boards in his house. The two last

houses on the right are also worthy of notice. A wreath, which perhaps once had within the initials of the owner, is over the door of one, and the other has an ancient dormer window. Both houses have three storeys besides cellars.

The Greenhill Messuage.

This was pulled down in 1911. It stood at the corner of High Street and Cambridge Road, and was a public house called the White Hart. It is mentioned in the Barham rentals as early as 1418. It was occupied by one tenant, but was theoretically divided into two parts, one being customary to the Manor of Barham, the other to the Manor of Great Linton. It is the only piece of ground belonging to Barham in this part of the village. In 1598 it was held by William Ridgewell, a wheelwright, at a quit rent of 4s. It is called "a little messuage with a little backyard, situated at the Green Hill." The perambulation of the Manor of Barham on Ascension Day always included this isolated portion.

This messuage was removed because it stood in the sharp angle made by the road here, which, since the advent of motor cars, became dangerous. This was not always the main road to Cambridge; previous to about the middle of the eighteenth century that ran alongside the slope of the hill, below Payne's pasture, and is now called the back road.

Opposite the Green Hill is an old farmhouse with the date 1693 on the chimney. This is being allowed to fall down. It belongs to the Linton Estate. It contains some ornamental plaster work over one of the fireplaces. It was divided into two cottages, with a peculiar arrangement of rooms. The staircases crossed like a pair of open scissors at the back of the house, so that the family who lived downstairs on the right had their bedrooms on the left, above the living rooms of their next door neighbour, and vice versa.

Several old houses with cellars on the right going down the hill to the Grip, one with a diamond paned bedroom window and a jutting out upper storey.

The Mansion House of the Flack Family.

The remains of this are now the Grip Farm. "Grip," a word still in use locally, meaning a stream which is sometimes dry. The grip here is usually dry, but sometimes

floods the whole road in front of the house. The Flack family had been living in Linton for many years, but rose to prominence only after the Restoration. Robert Flack was an attorney and steward of Linton and other manors. This was a much more lucrative profession than it is now. He died in 1703, bequeathing his new chariot and harness to his son-in-law, Christopher Green, a physician of Cambridge, on the condition that he would allow his wife (Flack's daughter) to ride over to Linton in it when she wished. One of the family was a boon companion of Squire Millicent, and like many convivial men of that age, died young. The attorney refused to administer his son's estate with its burden of debt. Millicent has much to say about the helplessness of Jack Flack's young widow, and the hardness of the father's heart. There are several monuments to the Flack family in the church. Robert's heir was his grandson, Barrington Flack, for whom a plan of the house and estate was made in 1731. It consisted of this capital messuage, with 10 acres of garden, orchard and meadow, including a bowling green, and 270 acres of land in the open fields. The plan exhibited was made by A. Maling, who kept a boarding school, one of his pupils being William Cole, the antiquary. It shows a row of trees standing along the edge of the path next the grip. The blocked-up gateway with brick pillars surmounted by balls, led into a courtyard. The smaller blocked-up gateway near the corner led into a garden house, which has evidently been allowed to fall down in situ. The plan shows that the house was of considerable size, and in 1674 it was returned as having 10 fireplaces, so it was more than half as roomy as Squire Millicent's house at Barham. In the map of 1599 this site was occupied by Alexander Holt and Robert Richardson. On looking at the house on the side next the garden it is apparent that the eastern and principal wing of the house has been reduced by about two-thirds. When this was done two roundels with date and initials were made on the new wall. The date has been read as either 1525, 1725, or 1825, and one of the initials as S. About the latter date the mother of the landlord of the Red Lion, named Shippey, lived here. On the north side of this wing are the remains of pargetting, and a piece of ornamental plaster containing the fleur de lys and a

peculiar design which Mr. Minns suggested was meant for a bunch of grapes issuing out of an acanthus leaf.

Inside the house there is some oak paneling, but most of this has been removed.

In the higher part of the garden are the interesting remains of a domed cellar or ice house. There were similar structures at Bartlow and Horseheath.

The situation of the bowling green can be traced in the present rickyard.

Burymead and Dovehouse Hill.

This consists of the first two meadows traversed by the footpath from the grip to the mill. Standing by the two trees on the hillock next Long Lane, the boundary of the old enclosure called Norton's Close can be plainly seen, and below it the mound on which stood the manorial dovehouse. The hedge on the right running from Long Lane to the river was the boundary between the Manors of Barham and Great Linton. The ground between this and the grip stream from Hadstock was known as Midsummer Meadow, and was not divided by a hedge as at present. The two enclosures beyond the Barham hedge were known as Brick Kiln Close and the Hop Ground. From this hillock a fine view of the Rivey and Barrington (formerly Ballingdon) Hill is obtained. In 1279 the Rivey Wood was a pasture, up to which extended the Manor of Barham. In the Hundred Roll it is called "Le Wivey." From this point attention was drawn to Sunken Church Piece, between the windmill and the river. This field name is found as early as 1500. On this spot in 1850 the Hon. R. Neville excavated a Roman villa, which he described in the *Archæological Journal* for March, 1851. A little further away on the opposite side of the river is the site of the Friary of Barham. Passing down by the Barham boundary hedge to the rustic stile, the negotiation of which was a delicate matter for some of the party, a narrow piece of meadow called the Friars' Rood was passed. This was obtained by a gift of the lord of the manor of two "swaithes" of grass to the friars of Barham for strewing their church on St. Margaret's Day (July 20th), she being their patron saint.

Hadstock Mill.

Although called Linton Mill, this was first built through an arrangement between the Bishop of Ely, who owned the manor of

Hadstock, and the Lord of the Manor of Barham, in the first half of the thirteenth century, or earlier. The river was diverted to make the present mill dam. The original course of the river can still be seen in the stony stream which trickles through the wooded pasture on the Hadstock side of the river. Over this stream there are the remains of an arch of Roman bricks, probably obtained from the Sunken Church Piece, which is close by. Across the mill dam, a beautiful modern house, Clopton's Meadow, and Allington's Churchway from Barham were pointed out.

The Old Market and the Green.

Passing by the water mill into Cambridge-shire, and up a narrow path between walls which contain ancient bricks, Green Lane was reached. This is so called because the garden in front of the brick house called the Old Manor House was once the village green. It was enclosed in 1840. The extent of the green may be seen from the position of the cottages which still surround it. Previously this space was called the Old Market, and it was here that Linton market was held from 1246 to about 1280. The stocks once stood on this green; a new lot were supplied in 1754 at a cost of £4. The Lord of the Manor of Linton once claimed to have the power of hanging thieves, ducking scolds, and pillorying false witnesses. His steward actually hanged poor Geoffrey Shepherd in 1272, for which he and the whole homage were arraigned before the next Cambs. Assizes. But William de Say had only received a game licence and a market charter; the other powers had been unjustly usurped during the Barons' War, and they were disallowed in an inquiry held in 1299. In the map of 1599 this lane is called "The way to the Old Market." The lowest group of inhabited cottages, then probably a farm house, is called "Fryars." It has much oak panelling inside painted stone colour. The old Manor House was once the residence of a tanner. The tan pits and sheds existed up to 25 years ago.

Linton Task House.

The plain whitewashed building separated by a yard from the "Waggon and Horses" in High Street is what is left of a parish workhouse, built in 1737 at a cost of £94. A task house stood on the same spot in 1580, and perhaps earlier; there are frequent charges amongst the parish records concern-

ing both. In 1737 the Master was paid a salary of 3s. 9d. a week, and the Dame or Matron 1s. 9d. a week. Some years later the workhouse was farmed by John Whiffin. He was paid 1s. 6d. per head for 20 inmates. Amongst the incidental expenses, tooth combs frequently occur. A horn book and a primer cost 2½d. For shaving the old men and "larning" the children a man was paid 9s. 6d. a quarter. When the Union Workhouse was built this Parish Workhouse was sold to the owner of the public house. It is now used as a meeting place of the Shepherds' Club.

The Old Vicarage.

Now a seventeenth—eighteenth century house, with quaint windows, and a broad winding staircase at one end. Once the residence of a doctor. Shortly to be pulled down and made into a political club.

There is a dovecote in the garden still, which is unusual—a survival of the time when the Vicarage stood here. For this was formerly the site of the Vicarage, which was first built on this spot about 1280. Master Geoffery, the newly appointed Vicar, finding there was no house to live in, built one on this bit of ground, which belonged to the church, but also happened to be part of the Manor of Barham, as most other houses on this side of the road were. The Lord of that Manor summoned him at the Cambridge Assizes for enclosing his garden, but the encroachment was apparently allowed. It continued to be the Vicarage until 1473, when a new agreement was made between the Vicar and the Rector (i.e., Pembroke College) concerning tithes. In this it was stated that the Vicarage was a great distance from the church, and that it was over troublesome, toilsome and dangerous for the Vicar to get to the church (about four minutes' walk), so it was exchanged with his consent for an unhealthy site between church and river. It was this agreement which enabled his successor 250 years afterwards to win a law suit concerning the title of carrots against Pembroke College. It paid 1½d. rent to Barham Manor, and occurs in the rentals as "The Old Vicarage."

Millicent Dwelling House.

This house situated in Mill Lane, not far from the High Street, was the cradle of the Millicent family, who became wealthy, and from whom Barham came

to Pembroke College. Very solidly built of oak, panelling inside chiefly painted stone colour. Noticeable doorway but modern windows. This site can be traced back to 1270, when the freehold was sold to Richard de Swaffham, clerk. The garden then abutted on the old market, but has been much reduced since. It had been in the possession of the Millicent family since 1420. Thomas Millicent who died in 1506, first calls it his dwelling house. To distinguish him from T. Millicent, at the Maypole, whom we shall meet with later, he was called Thomas Millicent in the lane, and so signed himself when he witnessed the will of Henry Paris, in 1462. In this house was born John Millicent, who acted as a spy for the Government during the dissolution of the monasteries, and amassed a fortune thereby, buying the Manor and Priory of Barham.

The Bell Inn.

Perhaps the oldest house in Linton. Massively built but small. Smallness points to age. There was no furniture to fill large rooms in the sixteenth century. It contains moulded beams, and good inlaid panelling. A newell staircase with central oak post built outside the house, the steps being built into the wall as it was made.

In 1500 this was the freehold of Thomas Malyn, and was with two acres of land in the open fields called Harp acre and Dung-hill acre, held by the service of the twentieth part of a Knights fee. This family continued to hold it for many years. It was called the Bell as early as 1670, when John Burgoyne lived here.

On one of the oaken beams "M.S. 48th Reg. 1814," is painted. Mr. Guy Maynard thinks this house may have been built as early as 1500, and the round topped panels added not later than 1560.

Chandler's.

This is a half-timbered house standing next the Bell. A symmetrical building with three gables facing the street. Under two of the gables is a large fleur de lys. Other pieces or ornamental plaster work are built into the walls, which are also ornamented with elaborate pargetting. The windows are recent, but they were once leaded and diamond paned. One of the doorways has carved spandrels. There is some good oak panelling in some of the rooms inside, some of which is protected by being covered with paper. In one of the bedrooms is a piece of

plasterwork, two cherubs pulling what looks like a Christmas cracker! The house is divided into two, and the same peculiar arrangement of staircases occurs as in the tumbledown cottage on the Greenhill.

The age of this house is puzzling. In 1465 it was the residence of Thomas Milsent at the Maypole. A century later it belonged to someone else. Yet it has the Millicent device, the fleur de lys built into it. Can this house be as old as the 15th century? (Someone suggested that the fleur de lys was only a stock pattern of a local plasterer, which is quite feasible). This message was known as Chandler's from Adam the Chandler, who lived here in 1380. An earlier owner was John Cok, who also owned a meadow by the river called "Cuxstool Meadow" where they ducked the "militants" of the fourteenth century.

Fire Hooks.

On the side of Chandler's hang two massive firehooks, which were used for pulling the thatch off burning buildings. Under the eaves of the red brick building nearly opposite, formerly the "Race Horse" Inn, hang rings, which it has been conjectured were originally intended for the insertion of the firehooks. Similar rings exist at the back of Mr. Forsdike's house, and there were others in the front before he faced it with brick.

A Village Tragedy.

The date 1812 on the buttress of the Manor House stable has the following story attached to it:—Shortly before that date most of the neighbouring buildings were burned down. It was supposed to have been the act of an incendiary and a large reward was offered for his conviction. This was gained by a young man who gave evidence which resulted in the conviction of his own father, who was hanged for the crime. The corpse was brought to Linton and buried on the north side of the Church. The ancient wheel cross marks the spot. (William Cole however, describes this cross as being in the same spot in 1743).

Robert Cole's House.

This stands at the corner of what was formerly called London Lane, because it led to the stone cross in the London road, now the Back Road. It is now called Cole's Lane, from Robert Cole, who was a "considerable meal man," and lived here in the eighteenth century.

It has a beautifully carved bracket next the grocer's shop, an elaborate corbel table, remains of pargetting, and ancient glazed windows. Through the latter, William Cole, the antiquary, may perhaps have gazed. For he was a cousin of Robert Cole, and when he was at a boarding school kept by a dissenter in Linton, used to spend Sunday with his cousin.

By this time, 4.30, the company were tired, hungry and thirsty, so the following items in the itinerary had to be deferred. John Jellybrand's house and sundial (1599), Old Chilford farmhouse, Sir John Lord's School (1556—1624), the Camping Close, the Parish Church of St. Mary, Trinity Gildhall (before 1520), the Gildhall Stone and Our Lady's Bridge.

In Mrs. Berney Ficklin's garden, in itself a sufficient attraction to bring visitors to Linton, the jaded antiquarians were now invited to regale themselves with a plentiful supply of home-made cake and bread and butter, to which they did ample justice. Here the company numbered over ninety. As soon as tea was over, Dr. Palmer read the following remarks on Mrs. Berney Ficklin's house and ground:—"You are now standing on what was once the Parsonage Meadow. Three hundred years ago and before, all this piece of ground between the village street outside that wall and the road leading to Our Lady's Bridge, belonged to the Parsonage of Linton, Pembroke College being then parsons. In early times the owners had been a Norman Abbey, to whom the great tithes of Linton had been given by an Earl of Richmond, soon after the conquest. For about 250 years after the Norman conquest a foreign monk lived in the parsonage house which stood on the site of this house, and managed the glebe and superintended the gathering of the tithe for the benefit of his Abbey. He was called the Prior of Linton because he was a monk, and there was probably never a house of religious men at Linton as there was at Barham. But bones have been dug up in this garden. During the fourteenth century the Norman Abbey found it more profitable to let the tithes to an English farmer at a fixed rent. The farmer neglected the buildings, and in 1418 it was complained against Nicholas Paris, 'Squyer' the farmer, that he had allowed the priory to fall into ruins. In 1440, the tithes came into the hands of Pembroke, and they allowed their tenants

to build small houses on the priory site. In 1599, Robert Hills, John Jellybrand, John Newman, and Richard Odell, all lived on the space now occupied by this house and stables. During the seventeenth century they sold this half of the Parsonage Ground, but reserved the Gildhall and the tithe barns on that side. The college kept possession of that side until last year when it was bought by Mrs. Ficklin. The large tithe barn has been taken down, after careful measurements and photographs had been taken. It stood by the river, and was 68 feet long, 27 feet wide, and 28 feet high. Here, I should like to say, that much of what I have told you to-day is either derived from or suggested by documents in the treasury of Pembroke College, particularly a plan of the greater part of the parish made in the year 1599 by Robert Millicent, of Barham, which gives the names of the occupiers of most of the houses. And I am very much indebted to the kindness of the present bursar in giving me free access to these documents.

The present house, although it looks older, was built about 1700. There is a definite statement to that effect amongst Mrs. Ficklin's deeds. A Linton man deposed in a law suit that he remembered the house standing on the corner of the parsonage ground, next the highway, called "The Great House," being built by John Lone, Esq., about 1700.

John Lone was a pushing Whig lawyer, of considerable wealth, who, caused much ill-feeling in the village. Backed by Pembroke College, of whom he had hired the great tithes, he tried to deprive the Vicar of some of his dues. But he had all the gentry against him and although he took his case to the House of Lords was defeated. He died in 1700, so the house must have been a little older. There is a remarkable epitaph to him in the Church, which states, after lauding his legal abilities and his loyalty to the Prince of Orange, that he was much esteemed by all except those who were enemies to King William, who were no friends to virtue, and who valued themselves only for that which is in itself not valuable—antiquity. From the tone of this epitaph, composed by his brother, we may conclude that John Lone had not been treated by the County to that intimacy which his great abilities and undeniable loyalty seemed to merit. The Tory Squire, John Millicent of Barham, who was put out of the commission

of peace when Lone was put in, has a parting kick for the Whig lawyer when he died—John Lone, “Esquire,” he writes to his friend Noll, is dead.—He lay in State some days and was buried in his own seat, as near mine as possible. I do not know whether he did this to be neighbourly.—As a matter of fact the idea of burying near the Millicent Chapel was to annoy that family. Lone’s estate was sold and the next inhabitant of this house we read about was Sutton John Coney, who lived here when William Cole was at school in Linton. Cole describes him as a large jolly, well-looking man. I suppose he was an extra big man, for he was known to his cronies as ‘Little John.’ He was a second cousin of Squire Millicent of Barham, and very friendly with him. On 22nd July 1700, Millicent writes to his friend Noll, “We remembered you on Linton Fair Day at Little John’s in a bowl of the old liquor.” Cole often dined at their house afterwards. Mrs. Coney he says, was a tall thin woman and much beloved of all her acquaintance. Coney had a brother who was drowned with Sir Cloudesly Shovell, off the Scilly Isles, on the return of the victorious British Fleet from the first taking of Gibraltar in 1707. He died in 1748 and was buried on the south side of the Church. His tomb has been pointed out to me as that of “that wicked man.” Cole has preserved a scandalous poem about him, gibing at him for not having received a legacy which he had expected from Sclater Bacon of Catley Park.

Another person who lived in this house was “the worshipful Thomas Westly, a Justice of the Peace for the County.” And as Coney and Westly were contemporaneous. I think the two portions of which the house is evidently made up, were then separate houses. The floors are on a different level, and the wall at the end of the dining room seems like an outside wall.

Westly was from Yorkshire, where he had at one time been a Member of Parliament. His reasons for settling at Linton were rather curious, they were that there was good fishing to be had here, and that there was a good meeting house—of which he became a member, and in the vestry of which he was buried when he died very ancient, in 1747. Cole’s remarks about him are as follows:—

“He was a most tediously ceremonious old gentleman, but an exceedingly good

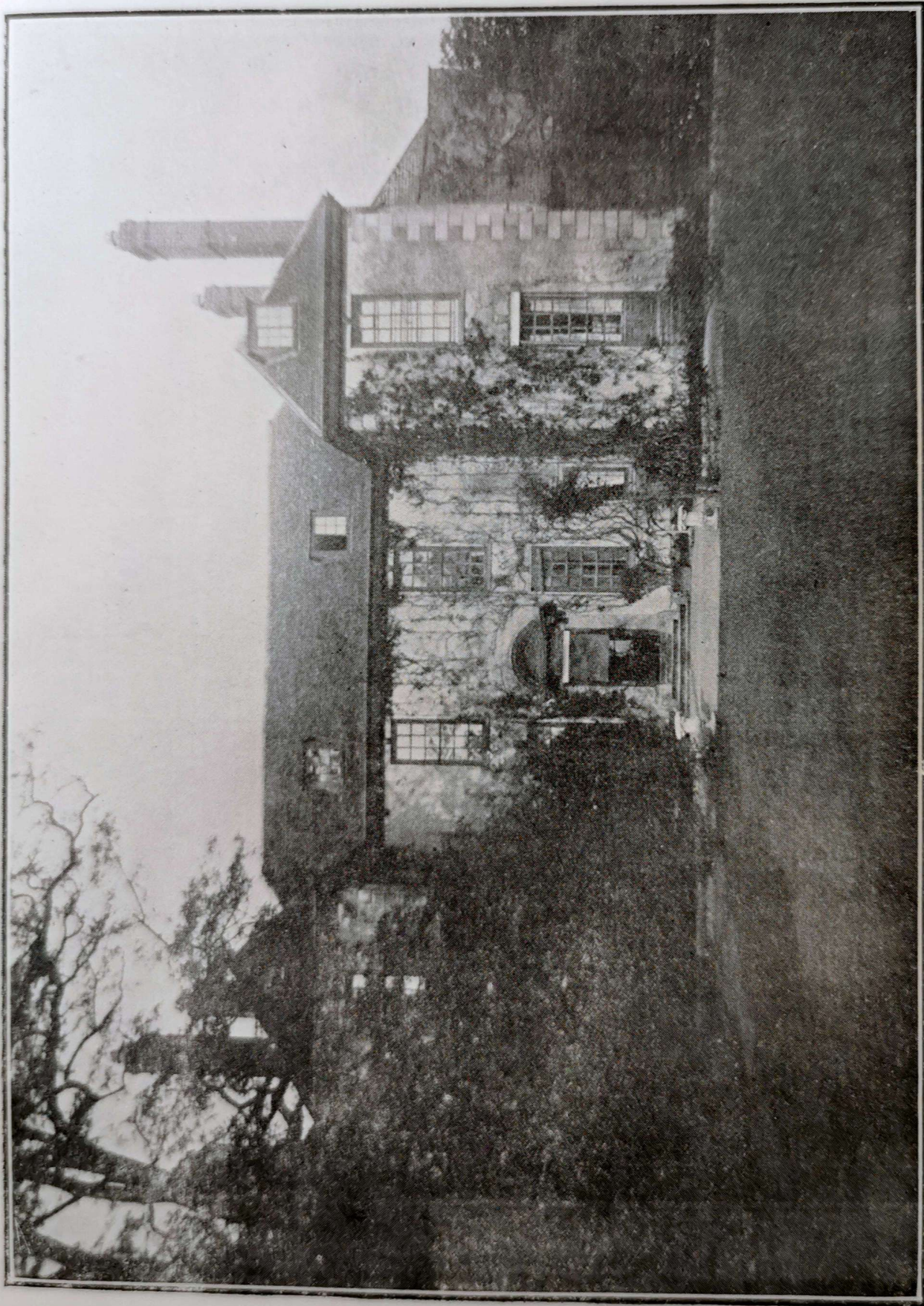
character and very friendly. He married his third and last wife, when he was more fit for his grave than matrimony." (Cole had never been married at all). "I went to visit him at Linton on his third marriage, the bride was a little deformed old woman, as formal and ceremonious as her husband. She afterwards married Mr. William Cromwell, a great grandson of Oliver the Usurper."

By this time the house had come into the hands of the owners of the Linton estate, and so into the possession of Edmund Keen, Bishop of Ely about 1770. The tympanum above the garden entrance was added about this time. The Bishop pulled down Sir Thomas Sclater's mansion at Catley. He took much of the internal decoration to the Palace at Ely, but this tympanum may well have come from Catley.

From 1772 to 1852, the two Edmund Fishers, who were successively Vicars of Linton, owned the house and lived here. In 1882 it was bought by the late Mr. Ficklin, uncle of the present owner, for a price which his friend Sir Alexander Cockburn told him was hardly the value of the bricks of which it was built. It was then a desolate abode, it had been uninhabited for some years and was reputed to be haunted. But during the thirty years which have elapsed since then, our generous hostess has converted it into what we see now, the beautiful home of a cultured English gentlewoman.

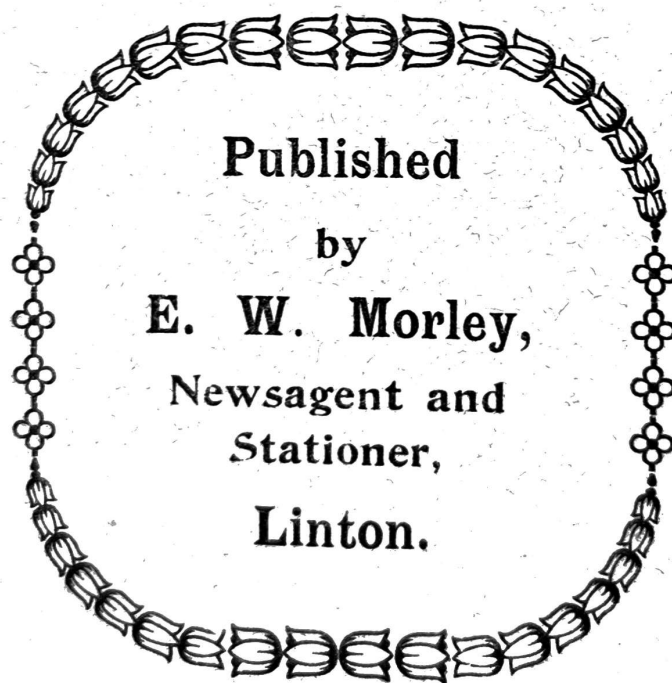
Mr. E. H. Minns, of Pembroke, President elect of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, in a felicitous speech, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Berney Ficklin and all who had contributed to the pleasant, but arduous afternoon's outing. This was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Stokes.

It is hoped that on some future occasion it may be possible to complete the unfinished itinerary and also to visit the extensive moat at Little Linton.



Photo]

[E. W. Morley, Linton.
GARDEN FRONT OF MRS. BERNEY FICKLIN'S HOUSE, Seventeenth Century. (See page 13).



Published
by
E. W. Morley,
Newsagent and
Stationer,
Linton.