

Sussex Archaeological Society's Autumn Meeting 1871

The Autumn Meeting of this Association took place on Thursday, when a large number of members and friends paid a visit to Withyham and Hartfield churches, and to Buckhurst (the seat of Earl de la Warr), to Old Buckhurst and to Bolebrook, the two latter places being possessed of much archaeological interest, as ancient residences of the Sackville family. The number of ladies and gentlemen present during the day was about 150, and, the weather being beautiful, and the country highly picturesque, a most enjoyable time was spent.

A special train was dispatched from Three Bridges to Withyham, which, after a short journey through the pleasant country lying around Eastgrinstead, Forest Row, and Hartfield, with a passing view of the ivy clad ruins of Brambletye Castle, reached the destination about 11 o'clock. At this point several gentlemen joined the party which had come by train, moved onwards through the village to the church. This building, situate up on a hill, and almost completely hidden by tall and handsome trees, presents a lovely picture of a country church, where an occasional glimpse of it is caught in passing. After the outer portions had been inspected, a curious old tablet of iron affixed to the wall of the chancel receiving a large share of attention, the company entered and examined the beauties of the interior. The inside is decorated in a peculiarly effective manner, with shields and other pictorial ornaments; and the whole of the windows are of stained glass, although the smaller ones appeared to be made up without any design of pattern or arrangement. They were, however, none the less pleasant to look upon for this reason, and were certainly unique. Among the monuments in the church, those of the Sackville family were the principal. One of them was a black marble tomb, standing in the centre of a chapel, erected in memory of Thomas Sackville, who died at the early age of 12. Reclining on the tomb, with a hand resting on a skull, was the figure of a boy carved in white marble of beautiful purity; while at the side knelt two figures that on the right hand side being a life sized statue of the father of the boy, in armour; that on the left side the mother dressed in the fashion which prevailed at the date of the monument which was 1728. Handsome bas-reliefs, also cut in white marble, represented the six brothers, on one side and the six sisters on the other, of the dead boy. An epitaph by Pope was carved upon a tablet at one end, and was as follows:-

Stand not amazed (Reader) to see us shead,
From drowned eyes vaine offerings to ye dead,
For he whose sacred ashes here doth lye
Was the great hope of all our family,
To blaze whose vertues is but to detract
From them, for in them none can be exact;
So grave and hopeful was his youth,
So dear a friend to piety and truth,
He scarce knew sin but what curst nature gave,
And yet grim death has snatch'd him to his grave,
He never to his parents was unkind,
But in his early leaving them behind,
And since h'ath left us and for e'er is gon,
What mother would not weep for such a sin.
May this fare monument then never fade,
Or be by blasting time or age decay'd,
That the succeeding times to all may tell,
Here lieth one that lived and died well.

Here lyes the thirteenth child and seventh son,
Who in his thirteenth yeare his race had run.

THOMAS SACKVILLE

A full explanation of the chief matters of interest was given by the Rev. T. F. Rudston Read (the rector), who said, in reference to

THE CHURCH

There is no record by which it can be decided at what exact period this church was built. It was probably built at the time when Norman architecture prevailed. It is difficult to say of any church that it is the one which was originally built on a particular spot; having had to do with entirely pulling down one very old church and partly doing the same to another, I have come to the conclusion that very many of what appear very old churches have nevertheless been rebuilt since their first construction. This has been proved in those about which I have been concerned, by the fact that in pulling down we have found moulded stones and grave stones walled into the building. No doubt the oldest part of this church is the tower and part of the chancel. The old rubble wall is to be seen on the outside of the south wall of the chancel.

In the reign of Edward I. (1290) we have records of the church. A grant was made by the Pope (Nicolas IV.) of the tenth of all benefices, to assist him in another crusade, which was meditated to relieve the Christians in the Holy Land from their Mohametan oppressors. Withyham Church was then valued at 45 marks, equal to about £30.

In the reign of Edward II. (1324), we find that Withyham Church was then attached to the Benedictine Priory of Morteyn in Normandy. The Earl of Morteyn was a large benefactor to his native place in Normandy, and he had much property in the neighbourhood.

Passing on to 1372, Withyham becomes a place of greater importance. It is called a Priory in a Royal Charter, and is honoured by having a Royal Patron. By a Charter of Edward III., the advowson of the Priory of Withyham is granted among other things to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. In 1403, William of Wykeham, the celebrated Bishop of Winchester, was patron of this church. Soon after Henry IV. gave the manor of Withyham, with the advowson of the church, to the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity, at Hastings. This was confirmed by Henry V., and it was from about this period Withyham became a Rectory, and had no more connections with any foreign religious house, for Henry V. dissolved, by Act of Parliament, all alien priories, and their estates were vested in the crown.

In the reign of Elizabeth this manor belonged to Lord Buckhurst, and also the advowson of the church, both of which have continued in the possession of his descendants.

As any person can see, on first entering this church, who has any knowledge of church architecture, great alterations must have been made in the plan of the original building. This church would, no doubt, suffer much, as all other churches did in Puritan times, but it suffered most from a fire which occurred on the 16th June 1663. The steeple (which there was at that time, it appears) was struck by lightning, which melted the bells – passed on to the chancel, and tore the monuments to pieces. The damage was estimated at £1,860; part of which was raised by Royal Brief, according to the custom of those days, in many other parishes. The restoration was completed in 1672. There are now six bells. On the smallest is the date 1715. Two have the date of 1674. Richard, the fifth Earl of Dorset, the figure kneeling at the centre monument, gave £40 towards the cost of completing the bells after the fire. He seems to have been a cautious man, as, when he offered to pay that sum, he bargained with the churchwardens that the cash should not be paid down until the bells were full and complete in their setting.

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The church, before the fire, probably consisted of a tower, a nave with north aisle, and the chancel. At the restoration the aisle was thrown into the nave, and a roof was made to span the whole, and a ceiling placed below, which must have taken off much of the architectural effect of the building, though it is perhaps more useful to the congregation now than it was before. It could be seen by an upright joint in the wall where the old wall was. The increase of accommodation got afterwards was not very great. So the church remained till the year 1841, when considerable improvements were effected under the auspices of the present Lord Buckhurst, then Rector of the parish. The South Aisle was added at that time. The east window was put in at the same period, but I never knew who was the artist employed in the execution. The other large window was opened since 1841 having been blocked up according to the custom of those days, for a monument to be placed in the recess. You will see a portion of an iron slab in the chancel, on which is inscribed "An.Dom. 1582. The 27th February, Dyed Richd Grage, parson of Withyham." You will find another iron memorial slab outside the east end of the chancel, which is of old date. They did not seem to mind in those days how they divided a word, as you will see on inspection.

The south window in the chancel contains figures of St. Katherine, St. Thomas of Hereford, St. George, and St. Edward the Confessor.

St Katherine's history is this: she was a woman of great piety, and professed boldly the Christian faith. At length the Emperor, who could not shake her faith, ordered her to be torn to pieces on revolving wheels armed with sharp points and blades, and that many of her persecutors perished while she remained unharmed. St. Katherine was afterwards beheaded with a sword; and it is further said, and frequently represented in pictures, that angels took up her body and carried it over the desert and over the Red Sea, and buried it on Mount Sinai, where a monastery was built in the eighth century. Her martyrdom at Alexandria took place A.D. 307.

Sir Thomas of Hereford was the son of William de Cantalupe. He led Henry II.'s forces at a decisive battle near Lincoln, and afterwards greatly assisted him in maintaining the peace of the kingdom. The Cantalupes were of Norman extraction, and came over with William the Conqueror in the reign of Edward I. Eleanor, daughter of Sir John de Cantalupe, married Sir Thomas West, ancestor of the late Earl de la Warr, who also bore the title of Viscount Cantalupe, and is thus the representative of the family of Sir Thomas of Hereford. He was buried at Florence, but his remains were afterwards removed to Hereford in 1287. He was canonised in 1330.

St. George is honoured as one of the most illustrious martyrs of the Christian church. He was beheaded about the year 300. St. George is the Patron Saint of England, and such peculiar regard has always been had to him that the Red Cross of St. George has been at all times displayed in the standard of England both on land and sea.

Edward the Confessor, crowned king A.D. 1042. He is represented in the window receiving a ring from a pilgrim, and there is a story attached to it. The story is this:- A beggar once asking alms of this Prince, he gave him out of charity a ring. Some time after, two pilgrims, Englishmen, being in Jerusalem, met a third, who saluted them, and having enquired what countrymen they were, delivered to them a ring, and bade them tell their King Edward that he was St. John the Evangelist, to whom he had aforetime at Westminster given a ring. He further desired them to inform the King that he would die in nine days. The pilgrims, though much surprised, went their way. Being weary they fell asleep, and upon waking found themselves in the County of Kent from whence they hastened to the King, who was in Waltham Forest, and delivered to him the message with the ring.

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This ring was kept in Westminster Abbey, and in commemoration of this succeeding kings were accustomed to bless rings on Good Friday.

THE SACKVILLE CHAPEL

For many centuries the Sackvilles have been buried here. Though Knowle, with its beautiful park, the gift of Queen Elizabeth to the Lord Treasurer Buckhurst, became in the year 1603 the chief residence of the family, and the house at Buckhurst either was pulled down or fell to decay, the chapel at Withyham continued to be the place of burial.

The brass plate on the south side records the death of Humphrey Sackville to whom there was a monument, but it was destroyed by the fire. The one on the north wall is to Richard Sackville, and Isobel his wife in the 16th Century; a monument also belonged to this couple, which was also destroyed. There was also a tomb to the Lord Treasurer Buckhurst, the 1st Earl of Dorset, who died 1608.

The centre monument is to the memory of Thomas Sackville, the youngest son of Richard, fifth Earl of Dorset, and Frances Cranfield, his wife. On the north side is a bas relief, representing six other sons; on the south side are six daughters. The monument is the work of Caius Gabriel Cibber. It cost £350.

The monument on the north wall, by Flaxman, is to the fourth Duke – the Duchess of Dorset above in alto relievo. The medallion represents the young Duke.

Next to this, by Chantrey, is a monument to the memory of the Duchess herself, and the two figures represent the Countess Amherst and the Countess de la Warr, lately deceased, her only daughters.

By the side of this is a monument to John Frederick, third Duke of Dorset, by Nollekins.

On a brass plate fixed in the south wall is an inscription recording the death of Lord Cantalupe, eldest son of the late Lord and Lady De La Warr.

GENEALOGICAL WINDOW

There is a genealogy of the Sackville family, shewing the descent in a straight line from father, to son, from Herbrand, one of the Knights, who accompanied William the Conqueror into England, to the fourth Duke of Dorset, and his two sisters. The descriptions begin in the upper corner to the right, and continue in lines across from right to left. Under all is written :-

"Nobilis familia Sackville hic expectat resurrectionem."

Above are the Sackville crests, the ram's head, and the estoile and coronet; the Cranfield crest, an antelope's head; and the Curzon crest, a red wyvern. Across the lights diagonally are four mottoes. In the first "Toujours loyal" – the old Sackville motto; in the 2nd, "Aut nunquany reutes aut perifice," another Sackville motto. In the 3rd, "Bon aventure," the Curzon motto. In the 4th, "Difficilia qua pulchra," the Cranfield motto.

THE BANNERS

Hanging round the Chapel are banners of the Earls and Dukes of Dorset, buried in this chapel, who were Knights of the Garter. The banner with the Sackville arms, on the north side, was formerly in the Chapel of St. George at Windsor, having, as is usual, been removed from thence upon the death of the Knight.

THE CEILING

The paneled ceiling is illuminated with shields of the Sackville arms, and of the West arms quartering Sackville; also with the Mortimer white and red rose, and the crampette, which are the badges of the family of the Earl De La Warr. This crampette of a sword was given to Earl De La Warr by King Edward III., after the battle of Poitiers, as an honourable distinction for the active part he had taken in the capture of John, King of France. The descendants of Sir Roger La Warr have ever since borne the crampette, together with the Mortimer white and red rose, which they had by marriage with that family.

After Mr Read had closed his address the company, under his guidance, started through the neat and spacious rectory grounds for Buckhurst, the road being a footpath running for the most part through the ornamental woods which skirt the park. High banks covered with ferns and wild strawberries, tall trees and thick underwood, all more or less tinged with the rich colours of autumn, with hill and dale in the path, agreeably varied the walk until the party entered the open space in front of the house by a rustic bridge over the rocky bed of a tiny rivulet, and then skirted the lake, upon whose banks were some strange earthworks like miniature forts, which gave rise to numerous surmises as to their use. From this point the approach to the house is up a gentle ascent, from which a magnificent view of the surrounding country can be obtained. Many objects of interest are visible in the Park itself, chief, perhaps, among them being the splendid rhododendrons, which flourish in all directions.

By the courtesy of the Earl de la Warr the house was open for the visit of the Society and their friends, but previous to their availing themselves of his Lordship's kindness, Mr Read gave a short description of the house. He said, in reference to

BUCKHURST

Withyham formed part of the hundred of Hartfield, in which are numbered some of the possessions of Robert ~~Earl of Mostyn~~ Count of Mortain. This powerful Lord received large and valuable grants from William the Conqueror, his half-brother, among which was the extensive forest of Ashdown, with its adjacent manors. By the rebellion and attainder of William, ~~Earl of Mostyn~~ Count of Mortain, his successor, all these honours and possessions escheated to the Crown and were divided by King Henry I among his adherents. The manor of Buckhurst was held on the terms of military service under the Barony of Pevensey Castle. The knights who assisted William to the throne of England were largely rewarded by him. Among them was Robert de Dene. This Robert de Dene was Lord of Buckhurst, and many other places in this county.

So early as the time of the Conqueror Buckhurst was a separate possession, held under a large and important barony. Shortly after mention is found of the same property when it was brought into the Sackville family with the marriage of Sir Jordan de Sackville with the Lady Ella de Dene. Sir Jordan (thus getting possession by right of his wife) lived in the reigns of Steven and Henry II. His grandfather Herbrand, who is the first in the genealogical window in the church, came first into England with the Conqueror.

In the year 1274 (Edward I.) we have a full description of the manor of Buckhurst in the enquiry made upon the death of Sir Jordan de Sackville. The jurors, amongst other things, say that there was good built dwelling-house; a garden also is mentioned and ground adjoining. Marled land is described as worth 6d per acre, and unmarled land 2d per acre! It is a remarkable thing that some

of the farms at this day bear the names of the tenants who occupied them in those early times – Grubbs, Ham, Hendel, Wyggs.

Ashdown Forest continued to be a Royal chase till the civil wars in the time of Charles I., when it was disforested and disparked – leaving, however, the small part of Stoneland still enclosed, in which, in the year 1668, there were 209 deer. This forest was rich in timber, and was well stocked with red and fallow deer. But in the year 1642 it was totally destroyed by “the malicious people,” as they were called of those times; the deer killed, the fences thrown down the woods wasted, and the whole forest laid open and waste. Being thus laid waste, the forest and park so remained till the restoration of Charles II., who gave a lease of the forest to the Earl of Bristol, which afterwards became void, and it was finally granted to Charles, Earl of Dorset, in the year 1678, in whose family it has since continued.

The company then passed into the dining room which is paneled with some curious oak carvings, purchased by his Lordship for £200 from Halnacre, near Bognor. These carvings are of a most interesting character, but unfortunately no name or sign by which they can be connected definitely with any ancient family is found upon them. Two figures upon them are, however, supposed to represent one of the Earls of Dorset and his daughter. An interesting letter from Lady Charlotte Pechell was read, from which it appeared that she had first discovered these carvings at Halnacre, but at that time there were more of them than had been afterwards when Lord de la Warr had obtained them for his dining room. Passing from the dining room into other rooms, many curious objects, choice pictures, and rich embroidery, were pointed out and explained by Mr Read, the most curious thing, perhaps, being a carving in marble, which was over the chimney piece in the room immediately adjoining the dining room. This was a representation of a female martyr lying upon a fire, the flames of which were richly gilt, with a golden light shining from the heavens, and with a dove descending towards the sufferer. The picture of Lady Cecilia Shirley, of Wiston, was also much admired. This lady married the Earl de la Warr, who was in 1630 Captain General of Virginia and the American Colonies, and whose name was given to the Delaware River, and afterwards to the Delaware State. The arms of the Dorsets and the Sackvilles, which were beautifully embroidered in wool upon the cover of a couch, and its cushions by Lady Russell, also received much admired attention. So many and beautiful objects came under notice in the mansion that it is hopeless to attempt anything like an exhaustive mention of them. It must be sufficient to say that more time than was, could have been, agreeably spent among the many works of art and relics of the past accumulated there.

A short and pleasant walk by the fields brought the party to Old Buckhurst, of which the only part now standing is the entrance tower, the stone staircase of which a number of gentlemen climbed to view the surrounding country, while Mr Read again obliged the remainder of the party with a short description of its ancient glories.

He said, in his description of

OLD BUCKHURST

All the visible remains, I believe, of the old mansion of Buckhurst is this tower near which we now stand.

Buckhurst House was for more than six centuries the mansion of the Sackvilles, ancestors of the ducal house of Dorset. It was, when inhabited, very spacious. It was approached by a drawbridge over a moat. It was 200 feet in front, had a depth of 200 feet, forming on the inside a square of the

width of 110 feet. It originally belonged to the family of Dene, and devolved to the Sackvilles by the marriage of Ella, with Jordan de Sackville, from whom the Dukes of Dorset are lineally descended. In the early part of the 17th century, after the Sackvilles had obtained from the Crown the more eligible residence of Knowle, a considerable part of this was pulled down, and the materials used for building the hospital called St. College, in Eastgrinstead, founded by Robert, second Earl of Dorset, in 1608. Before the destruction of old Buckhurst another house had been erected in Stoneland Park. It is said to have been designed as a lodge for the keeper; but received considerable additions from the first Duke of Dorset, who made it his occasional summer retreat. His son, Lord George Germain, afterwards created Viscount Sackville, had a lease of the place for his life. Stoneland was for some years inhabited by Lord Whitworth and the Duchess of Dorset, who much improved the house and grounds. It had then given to it the name of Buckhurst Park.

It is a tradition that the family left there for Knole because Queen Elizabeth was anxious to have the first Earl nearer to her than when at Buckhurst, that he might be residing at call in case of emergencies, for at that time the roads in Sussex were very bad – almost impassable. The reverend gentlemen added, he was not much nearer, but could more conveniently be reached, as the roads to it were not so extremely bad as those of Sussex. Indeed it had been said that the reason that the Sussex girls had such long legs, was because they had to keep dragging them out of the mud.

The next halting place was Hartfield, where the ladies and most of the gentlemen present accepted the hospitable invitation of the Rector, the Rev. E. Polehampton, to rest and refresh themselves at the Rectory, and afterwards proceeded to the Church, which, when it had been thoroughly examined, the rector gave a short account of. He said he knew very little about the church, and would be glad if anyone could give him some information. He believed, however, that it was built about the year 1350, and that the spire was an unusual class, there being only four of its kind in England. The church was dedicated to Saint Mary, and the patronage was now in the Dorset family, although it had been in that of the Earls of Thanet. There were a few interesting tablets round some of the pillars, which appear to have been put up in 1648. About five years ago the church was restored, when the roof (which probably was plastered over for about 150 years) was opened, and the beams exposed; but they are not in their original state, as decay had evidently necessitated the ends being cut off and replaced. Part of the old chancel roof remained. There were not many other interesting features, as there was no noble family connected with the church, but there was a very interesting relic of old times - a lich gate – at one entrance, which bore the date of 1520, which was believed to be about the time that it was built. The west window, which was a handsome stained glass one, was erected in memory of his (the rector's) brother, who died during the sieged of Lucknow, where he was chaplain.

After this the whole party took themselves to Bolebrook, where there awaited them an excellent luncheon, provided by the hospitality of Earl de la Warr; Mr and Mrs Edwards, of the Dorset Arms, Hartfield, who were the purveyors, having exerted themselves to the utmost, and most successfully carrying out his Lordship's instructions. The thanks of those present are also due to Mr and Mrs Whittome, the present occupiers of Bolebrook, for their additions to the luncheon, and for their kindness in placing the whole of their ancient tenement at the command of their numerous visitors. The luncheon was served in what used to be the hall of Bolebrook when in its glory, but is now the kitchen; the walls were decorated for the occasion with flags and evergreens, and had a very pleasant and tasteful appearance.

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The following ladies and gentlemen among others were present at lunch, Earl de la Warr presiding:- F. Barchard, Esq., Captain Barchard, G. Grantham, Esq., Rev. H. C. Champion, C. Bellingham Esq., Rev. E. Turner (Maresfield), Rev. W. De St. Croix (Glynde), Mr C. Hill, F.S.A., Mr George Smith F.S.A., Sir Walter Stirling, Mr Diamond F.S.A., Mr H.G.Hine, Mr H. Campkin F.S.A., T. St. Leger Blaauw, Esq., Rev. E. Polehampton, Mr J.L. Parsons (Lewes) and the Misses Parsons, Rev. H.T. Cole, Mr G.D. Sawyer (Brighton), Rev. F. Hepburn (Chailey), C. Powell, Esq., Rev. E. Green, Rev. W. Powell (Newick), Mr G.P. Bacon (Lewes), Rev. P. and Mrs and Miss de Putron, Rev. E. Bray, Mrs Rosseter, Rev T.F. Rudston Read, Mr J.J. Tourle (London), and Mrs Tourle, Rev. A. Eden, Mr and Mrs Thompson (Ashdown Park), Rev. J. Polehampton (Ightham), &c. &c. After lunch "The health of Her Majesty" was given by the noble Chairman, and was enthusiastically honoured.

Immediately after, his Lordship rose again and said there were one or two remarks that he wished to make, but he would not detain them long. It had been said of these societies that their usefulness was not on a level with their pretensions, but they had no pretensions, their object being simply to add to their stock of knowledge. Many societies had been formed to make researches into every department of human knowledge and inquiry, and he saw no reason why, when investigating questions relating to the future, they should absolutely ignore the past (applause). History in this country was verified and explained by monuments and buildings of past ages, and by studying what they relate n refer to, we were enabled to learn something of the manners, habits, and customs of the inhabitants who lived in times coeval with the date of those remains. These researches sometimes partook of a personal nature relative to the history of individual families, as in this case, the history of families was elucidated and explained by means of societies like this, and it was precisely on that ground that he felt grateful to the Sussex Archaeological Society for coming there on that occasion. These researches, relating to families, were somewhat narrow and restricted in their sphere of usefulness, because the history of private families was not generally speaking interesting to the country at large; but be that as it might, no doubt the range of the society's usefulness was increased by its investigations into the history of public and private buildings and the collection of antiquities, which tended to throw light upon the manners and habits of the people in by-gone times; and therefor the results of its labours frequently became of national value, and furnished important contributions to the literature of our times (applause). He had been reading the other day an article upon the objects of the Social Science Congress, in which the writer remarked that no such thing as social science had ever been discovered because the questions relating to social science were in a transitional state and rest upon no known basis. But that was not the case with archaeology; it dealt with objects and monuments, visible, real, and tangible, and was, indeed, a most interesting study. They formed a sort of peripatetic society, wandering about, associating business with pleasure, as on that occasion; of course, they could not always expect solid and substantial fruit, but they came to amuse themselves and he (the noble Chairman) hoped they had spent a pleasant and interesting day (applause).

Mr Francis Barchard said, although he rose as a volunteer without any command from the noble Chairman – he was afraid if he was a military man he would incur displeasure by so doing – yet he felt they would all back him when he said that they could not leave without conveying the thanks of the Sussex Archaeological Society to Earl de la Warr for the handsome way he had received them in Withyham and Hartfield (loud applause). More especially were their thanks due for the sumptuous entertainment he had so liberally given them (cheers). Certainly all the pleasure and information they had derived that day came from the noble family which was so well represented by the Chairman. In Withyham they were entertained with an able description of the noble monuments to

the ancestors of Lord Delawarr, but on passing on to Hartfield were told that there were no remains to be seen there. Nevertheless, he believed Hartfield itself was great in history; he believed – although Mr Polehampton had not pointed it out - that an Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Bradwardine was born in Hartfield (Mr Polehampton: “I am delighted to hear it,” laughter). But it had not been thoroughly established that the Archbishop had been born here. One history said he was born in Hartfield, another that his birth took place at Hatfield (Laughter), another at Heathfield and a fourth at Cowden (renewed laughter, and Mr Polehampton: “Oh, Cowden is too rich”). At all events, he was born in the Diocese of Chichester; not improbably in Chichester itself. Mr Polehampton had challenged anyone who knew anything about Hartfield to state it, and that was his (Mr Barchard's) excuse for wandering from the subject of the toast. The health of the noble chairman was drunk with loud applause.

Hi Lordship briefly returned thanks, and said he would propose that they adjourn as he had a few memoranda relating to Bolebrook which might impart some information; perhaps others would add to the stock.

The party then left the room, and inspected the house both inside and out. Very little of the original structure remains on the outside, although from the area it appears to have covered it must have been formerly a very imposing edifice. The only parts now remaining are the gateway, tower, and the north eastern portion of the house, which is occupied by Mr Whittome. Inside this latter part there are, however, several objects of great interest, especially the old and still solid oak staircases, and an upper room, paneled throughout with oak. There is also the laundry at the top of the house, with the little closet, beside the great open fireplace, for drying clothes. Lord de la Warr kindly gave the following particulars:-

Bolebrook is one of the earliest brick buildings in this county, being built in the middle of the fifteenth century. From what remains, the original plan may be traced. It probably was suffered to go to decay in the reign of James I., on the transfer of the property to the Tuftons, Earls of Thanet. There was a park and demesne. It was originally the property of the Dalyngrudges, of Bodiam, and passed to the Sackvilles by marriage of Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Dalyngrudge. The Tuftons succeeded to the property by marriage, and bequeathed the estate to charitable purposes. In 1770 it was sold under a decree of the Court of Chancery, and purchased by Lord George Germain, formerly Lord George Sackville, who, when created a peer by the title of Viscount Sackville, took from it his second title of Baron Bolebroke. Afterwards it was again united to the large possessions of the house of Dorset, in 1790, when it was bought by John Frederic Sackville, third Duke of Dorset, maternal grandfather of the present Earl De La Warr, whose father, the 5th Earl, succeeded to the Sackville estates through his marriage with Lady Elizabeth Sackville, daughter of the third Duke of Dorset. Her ladyship was the last of the old family of Sackville.

This concluded the programme of the day, and the party broke up into small knots and visited various places of interest which were to be found in the neighbourhood until it was time for them to leave. The whole of the arrangements were so happily carried out and so thoroughly enjoyed that all those who had the good fortune to be present will long preserve the pleasantest recollections of the visit of the Archaeological Society to Withyham and Hartfield.