

During the year 1907 it was found that the Bells of the Parish Church at Bardney could no longer be rung with safety owing to the rotten condition of the Bell Frame & Chime. The money for restoration & the addition of 2 bells was raised & the whole of the Tower cleared to enable the new beams & bell frame to be fixed: this involved moving the parish chest. The Vicar (Rev. Charles E. Lanig) took the opportunity of clearing out the chest, & found many interesting papers & documents about the Parish; Churchwardens, Constables & Overseers accounts from 1726, Registers dating from ~~1563~~ 1653, Apprentices agreements &c. These were put in order & many copied & the Vicar then determined to get all the notes & information possible for writing a history of Bardney. It soon appeared that all the ancient history of the parish was connected with the Abbey. Meantime some antiquarian friends had been persuaded the Vicar to obtain entrance to the Abbey & to make some researches. After much correspondence between Mr. Charles Bell the owner & Mr. C. Sorex (Buxton Sorex & White) an agreement was drawn up, by which on payment of £50 the Vicar was allowed to enter the field for purposes of excavation & research from 17 Feb. 1909 till 17 March 1911. Antiquarians in the neighbourhood were consulted. The Vicar drew up "Notes on Bardney Abbey", delivered a lecture to the members of the South Naturalists Union & to an enthusiastic audience at Bardney. The letter on page 2 was sent out & on over £50 being promised, the agreement was signed on 17th Feb. 1909.



*1st letter*

DEAR SIR,

I venture to enclose some particulars about Bardney Abbey (which may already be well-known to you) with a view to showing what an important place it was in early Christian England. No plan or engraving or idea of the various buildings can be obtained after diligent search and enquiry; and it is much desired by some archæologists that the site should be excavated and a plan obtained of the foundations.

It is now possible to obtain an entrance for excavating purposes, and in view of the visit of the Royal Archæological Society in the coming summer, it would be most interesting to have something uncovered as soon as possible.

But the owner will not allow entrance to be made till £50 is paid down; tools and labour would probably run to another hundred pounds. Before undertaking any responsibilities in the matter I am trying to find out if there would be anything like a general desire and adequate support for such a scheme. If this interests you, I should be grateful for the promise of a subscription, if the plan proceeds.

The excavating will be done under my personal supervision with the advice of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, Vice-President of the Royal Archæological Institute.

The following well known gentlemen in Bardney support this scheme, and will be responsible for the proper use or return of any monies sent for this purpose:—Rev. Charles E. Laing, Vicar; Thomas Sidebottom and Fred Thompson, Churchwardens; J. D. Blanshard, J.P.; E. Brackenbury, A. Dury, John S. Sharpe, J.P.; W. Smithson, A. L. Treadgold and W. Varlow.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

Bardney Vicarage, Lincoln.

January, 1909.

The following subscriptions have been paid or promised:—

The Council of the Royal Archæological Institute, a first grant	...	...	...	5	0	0
Mr. A. Whinfield (Worcester)	...	...	...	4	0	0
Mr. W. R. Fane	...	...	...	2	0	0
The Dean of Lincoln	...	...	...	3	3	0
Rev. A. F. Sutton	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. R. E. Cole	...	...	...	2	2	0
Rev. W. O. Massingberd	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. F. M. Burton, F.G.S.	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. C. E. Laing (lecture and concert)	...	...	...	2	5	0
Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville	...	...	...	2	2	0
Mr. C. C. Sibthorp	...	...	...	5	0	0
Mr. R. M. W. Sibthorp	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mr. F. Thompson	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. W. Varlow	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. E. Brackenbury	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. A. L. Treadgold	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. J. D. Blanshard	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. A. Dury	...	...	...	0	5	0
Capt. J. S. Reeve	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mr. W. Smithson	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. A. S. Leslie Melville	...	...	...	1	1	0

On 17th. Feb. 1909 the agreement was signed & the Vicar went up to the site & began work, at a place N. E. of the Church where a stone projecting seemed to indicate the corner of a wall. A hut some tools & fencing were procured & the work proceeded very fast owing to the many Volunteers who came to assist. Three chambers were opened out & some tools, lead, glass & pavement found.

No plan or engraving whatever could be obtained of any part of the ancient buildings, so the work was without proper direction & consisted in following & trenching walls. This led to discovery of some coffins & skeletons. On April 16 Mr. W. H. St. John Hope visited & acting on his advice (the Vicar was away from home ill) work was commenced in another part & the Chapter House was found & also what afterwards proved to be the South Transept of the Church.

Visitors began to come





2nd letter

DEAR SIR,

In a letter sent out to various Antiquarians in January last, it was stated that it was possible to obtain excavating rights on the site of the Ancient Abbey at Bardney, and it was suggested that if any persons interested in this kind of research would communicate with me it would be possible to proceed very soon.

The answers to this letter were very encouraging, and produced £67 in promises, which was sufficient for the payment of £50 to the owner, and preliminary expenses of printing, tools, hut, fencing, and postage. The owner, on being approached, seemed to suggest that unless we made an agreement with him at once the opportunity would be lost.

So I now have to report that we have signed an agreement, paid £25 down and promised to pay another £25 on August 19th, and we have obtained all necessary permission to excavate for 2 years and 1 month.

The excavating began on the day that the agreement was signed (February 19th) and considerable progress has been made. Commencing where a certain stone suggested a corner we have opened out on both sides about 250 feet of good solid walls, 2 feet 6 inches and 3 feet wide, and opened out two large chambers, 42 feet by 15 feet and 48 feet by 15 feet; one of these contains a large corner fireplace and pavement extending 14 feet 3 inches by 12 feet. Glass, pottery, lead fragments and nails have turned up, and three or four small interesting pieces of brass and a small pair of pliers; these might indicate a workshop where a large fire was necessary: but at present no one really able to report has been able to visit us; these particulars are mentioned to show that the promise for the near future is excellent, and that the mounds do not merely contain rubbish as the appearance of some of them suggest.

We can pay all the initial expenses, but have not a farthing to pay for digging, as the little money in hand is being spent on a caretaker; but at present, in 15 working days, volunteer diggers have put in 350 hours' work, this has all been done freely and willingly by men who come up when they can, and at present no less than 32 have been to help and will come again; this enthusiasm of Bardney people, about the Abbey, is excellent and will probably continue; but for organised work we must have some more money, for the amount of excavating to be done is enormous.

Our thanks are due to the following list of subscribers, also to our honest diggers. Also to Messrs. John Sharpe, W. Varlow, J. D. Blanshard, A. L. Treadgold, for fencing, wheelbarrows, planks and carting; to Mr. Mastin for much help and making the bridge over the moat.

It is probable (though not settled at present) that members of the Royal Archaeological Institute, on the occasion of their visit to Lincoln in July, will visit Bardney; if this is arranged we shall, by the kind permission of Mr. J. D. Blanshard, open the tumulus known as King's Hill, and we shall be anxious to have as much as possible of the Abbey Site uncovered by that time.

I shall be very pleased to add your name to our list of subscribers, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that every shilling now sent to me will be spent on actual digging as we can see our way to all initial expenditure.

The Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural and Archaeological Society have passed an unanimous resolution of approval of this scheme and have appointed a small Committee who will visit, advise, report, and make plans, &c.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING,

BARDNEY VICARAGE,

LINCOLN,

March, 1909.

Vicar of Bardney.

1st Photograph  
taken by  
Sgt. Taylor of  
Battersea  
May 1910

Photograph  
taken by  
Sgt. Pacey of  
Bardney  
June 1910.

The following subscriptions have been paid or promised:—

	£	s.	d.
The Council of the Royal Archaeological Institute, a first grant	5	0	0
The Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society	1	1	0
Northampton and Oakham Archaeological Society	1	1	0
The Louth Naturalists' Union	0	10	6
Mr. A. Whinfield (Worcester)	4	0	0
Mr. W. R. Fane	2	0	0
The Dean of Lincoln	3	3	0
Rev. A. F. Sutton	1	0	0
Rev. R. E. Cole	2	2	0
Rev. W. O. Massingberd	1	1	0
Mr. F. M. Burton, F.G.S.	1	0	0
Rev. C. E. Laing (lectures and concert)	2	16	0
Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville	2	2	0
Mr. C. C. Sibthorp	5	0	0
Mr. R. M. W. Sibthorp	1	0	0
Mr. F. Thompson	0	5	0
Mr. W. Varlow	1	1	0
Mr. E. Brackenbury	1	1	0
Mr. A. L. Treadgold	1	1	0
Mr. J. D. Blanshard	1	1	0
Mr. A. Dury	0	5	0
Capt. J. S. Reeve	1	0	0
Mr. W. Smithson	0	5	0
Mr. A. S. Leslie Melville	1	1	0
Rev. J. Conway Walter	1	0	0
Mr. H. Gamble	0	10	6
Mr. S. R. Sills	0	10	6
Mr. James Thropp	0	10	6
Rev. J. A. Penny	0	10	0
Rev. S. E. Jeans	0	2	6
Capt. H. N. Reeve King	1	0	0
Very Rev. Dean Howard	0	5	0
Mr. K. Lee	0	1	0
Mr. C. Turnor	1	0	0
Miss L. Ruston	1	1	0
Rev. T. A. Stoodley	1	0	0
Rev. H. F. Allison	0	5	0
Rt. Rev. Dr. Mitchinson	1	0	0
Rev. A. Hunt	0	5	0
Rev. Canon Leeke	0	10	0
Mr. A. Shuttleworth	5	0	0
Rev. S. Rowlands	0	2	0
Mr. J. Maiscy	1	1	0
Miss E. Curtis	0	5	0
Mr. T. Crowder	0	2	6
Mr. Kaye	0	2	6
Miss Shepherd	0	2	6
Mr. J. Smithson	0	10	0
Mr. H. R. Brown	0	2	6
Mr. Poole	0	1	0
Mr. T. H. Sowby	0	5	0
Mr. Chas. Robinson	0	1	0
Rev. A. T. Hall	1	1	0
Mrs. Tempest	1	1	0
Mr. William Scorer	1	1	0
A Friend	0	1	0
Mr. Bailey	0	2	0
Mr. R. A. Stephen	1	0	0
Mr. E. Townhill	0	10	6
Mr. Docking	0	2	6
Mr. Travers	0	0	6
Miss Laing	0	5	0
Rev. F. Broadhurst	0	10	0
Mr. P. T. Laing	0	5	0
Miss Creasey	0	2	0
Mrs. Cockett	0	5	0
Miss Sharpe	0	5	0
Mr. H. Stanley Maples	0	5	0
Mr. C. H. Sowby	0	5	0
Rev. Canon Maddison	1	0	0
Rev. Canon Foster	0	10	0
Mr. P. Cragg	0	10	6







Taken by Serg Taylor. Coffin, much broken, in chamber adjoining North side of Choir.

When it was known in June that the members of the Royal Archaeological Institute were likely to visit the site during their weeks visit to Lincoln, extra unpaid labour was put on & the following photographs were taken. Bennett of Lincoln shows the results.



MIDDLETON CROWDER DURY ELMITT DIXON MOWBRAY COUNSELL VICAR



The Richard Hoincastle Slab, found on 8 July 1909

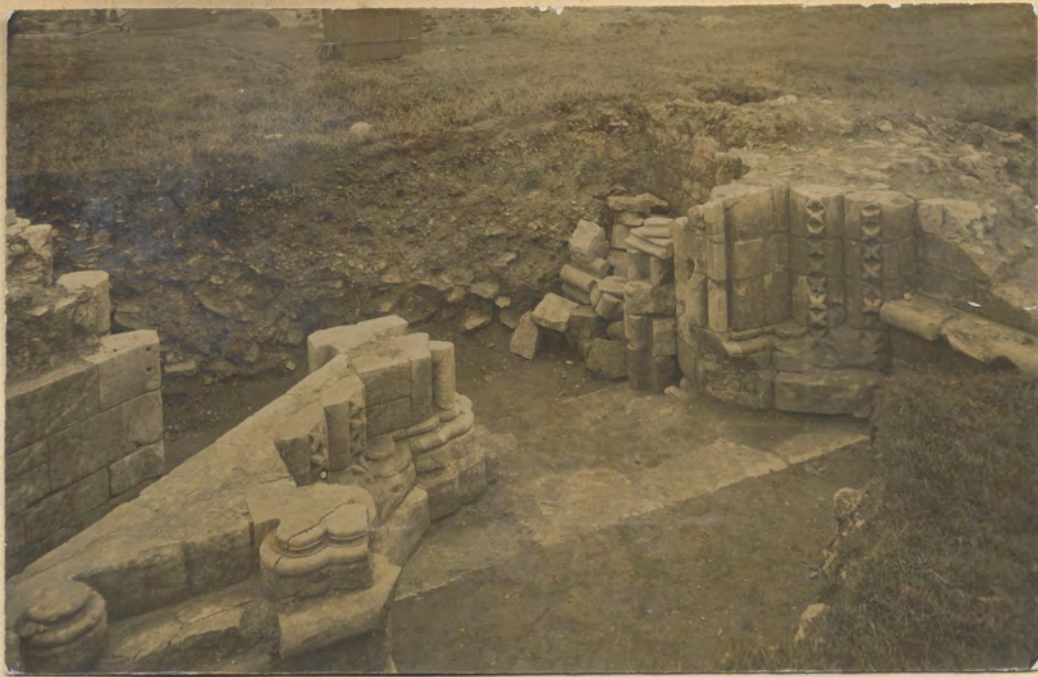


Altar Slab in South Transept 15 May 1909



General View of Stone





South West Door  
in West Front



EWER

Pieces of Lead

Seal?

Hoe

Norman  
work

Stone  
hands.

Fettle

Buckle

BARDNEY ABBEY RELICS



South Aisle  
of  
Presbytery

BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS



General View  
before fence was  
moved to include  
the Church.

BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS







BARDNEY ABBEY.

Some Results of the Excavations

The question as to what may be the result of the excavations so busily progressing on the site of Bardney Abbey remains still to be answered. But that they will yield something of archaeological importance is pretty well established. The conclusions are more or less indefinite. As the Vicar of Bardney, the Rev. C. E. Laing, who is undertaking the operations, observed to our representative, "We are working very much in the dark. We have no plans, and as yet the excavations only give an indication here and there of the lines on which we should proceed." But those indications grow more definite as the careful spade and shovel feel their way. There is no doubt that in one place the main wall of the Abbey has been uncovered.

monster of a gargoyle, which evidently did not serve the purpose of a spout is also amongst the interesting results of the adventure, and is to be seen reposing in the centre of our third picture.

Then the reader may turn to our fourth picture, which was specially placed for Harrison's camera. The urn is a very fine piece of pottery which was fortunately raised almost intact. A water ewer, probably, and very likely of the fifteenth century. Then there are several curious ornaments in pewter, and an ivory spindle, all useful food for the antiquary. And quite a museum of antiquities reposes in the Parish-room. Old chisels and knives, a peculiarly twisted pillar, glazed tiles, the huge heads of enormous nails, a sword hilt, a pair of hands carved in stone into an attitude of prayer, a pair of old pattern pliers and a distinctly modern pair of nut-crackers, the relic probably of a picnic party of the nineteenth century.

These and many other discoveries have resulted from the adventure. They are encouraging as far as they go. But they are



THE PROSPECT.

This picture gives a good indication of the probable line of the building and of the solid character of the masonry.

Special photo by Harrison's, Lincoln.



A SIDE CHAPEL.

The Altar steps in the foreground are in perfect preservation. The Altar slab is reared up on its original site in the background. At each side will be noticed beautiful half-clusters of pillars.

Special photo by Harrison's, Lincoln.



A FEW FRAGMENTS.

The hideous looking gargoyle curiously enough formed a base stone, and not a spout.

Special photo by Harrison's, Lincoln.

Norman, medieval, or whatever it may be, there is no doubt about it that it once supported the weight of a fine building. And whatever its period, the Norman Cathedral of Lincoln was as nothing compared to these five feet walls of dressed and bevelled masonry, which tell us of the stupendous monuments which those perfervid of monasticism raised to the glory of God. The workers are carefully following the line of these walls, and they hope by so doing to eventually gain the plan and direction of the Abbey itself. Then the discoveries can be realised systematically. For the present, however, they run from surprise to surprise. And one of the most surprising stands plump in the centre of the wall aforesaid where reposes a huge column of Tattershall brickwork. Fully five feet thick, and projecting like a buttress, there is simply no accounting for it. It is called Tattershall brickwork because the walls of Tattershall Castle are of the same material. But, so far, that is all there is about it.

More understandable, if less important, is the little side chapel, a view of which we are enabled by the enterprise of Harrison's to reproduce. As our readers will see, the discoveries include an altar base, with an altar slab distinctly marked with five crosses. In front are the altar steps, still unbroken, and at each side a beautiful half cluster of pillars. The little chapel is only 12 feet across, apparently, but it is probable that the pillars mark not the side walls, but the bases from which ran the arches upon which the vaulted roof was supported. One of the floor slabs bears certain lettering, amongst which the words T.R.; LIN.; and O, are all that are decipherable so far.

To the west of this lies what was evidently the kitchen. At any rate the excavations have laid bare what appears very like a fire-place, full of charcoal ashes. The doorway is plainly marked, and about the place were found thousands of pieces of coloured glass, with leaded lights, some in excellent preservation. And a few feet underneath, the soil is rich with stone coffins, of various periods and some strongly pointing to Saxon construction. Whatever their date, the skeleton remains are wonderfully well preserved. And they lie as we dispose our dead to-day, from east to west, with hands crossed reverently over the breast. Round about, the earth turned up quite a number of interesting relics, but these are to be spoken of in their turn. Glazed tiles are fairly common, so are stones with the mason's marks, and generally with the rude carving I.H.S. A



A BEAUTIFUL WATER EWER.

Special photo by Harrison's, Lincoln.

as nothing in comparison with the no to which the little expedition is looking forward. Our readers will probably remember the prospect, Ethelred, the Saxon king; Oswald, king and saint; Queen Osfrida, and Gilbert of Ghent, all whose last earthly rest, either in the Abbey itself, or in the tumulus known as King's hill, half a mile beyond. It is a splendid speculation. No one of the voluntary workers takes up his spade without feeling that before he lays it down may be his lot and privilege to find national treasure. And it is an honor which will be all honour, for every spade of earth, so far, has been turned out pure interest in the cause. We may say, however, that the prime need of the enterprise is still help, either in service or money. In the latter particularly now, because the needs of the garden, taking many voluntary workers away. The Vicar, the Rev. C. E. Laing, now slowly recovering after a serious illness, will be glad to acknowledge contributions, large or small.



Dear Sir,

In thanking you for your subscription to the Bardney Abbey Excavation Fund, or if you have not already subscribed, in asking for your help, I beg to report that very considerable progress has been made, and that in view of the visit on Saturday, July 31st, of the members of the Royal Archaeological Institute, I have thought it well to spend all the money in hand on labour, and get as much outline shown as possible by that date.

After following many walls of buildings and opening out a side chapel, we at length found the Church, at the N.W. corner and soon found the west front; this extends about 60ft. and from the pillars, doorways and staircase appears to have been vast and magnificent. The walls of the Church have now been followed, and show a cruciform building about 260ft. long and 60ft. wide with a north transept, S.E. side chapel and cloisters on the south. Carved stones, many of them perfect and beautiful of Saxon, Norman and early Eng-

lish periods have been unearthed; in the side chapel an altar base and broken slab with five crosses, a sunken piscina and several inscribed slabs in the pavement.

We have scarcely touched the Convent buildings as yet or found either of the gateways. Under the agreement I am bound to leave the site level, and to replace grass, etc.; but it is a thousand pities to fill in the Church again; the beautiful carved work and bases of pillars (one cluster 6ft. high) should be left exposed: so it is time already to see if it is possible to raise funds to buy the site of the Church with Transept, Side Chapel and Cloisters; then to store up all the carved work and build a wall round it with the tons of useful stone which have been dug out.

If this could be done we should leave the interior of the church for a time, make sure of excavating the other buildings before 19th March, 1911, the date when our agreement ends, and then do the church carefully at our leisure.

We are still having help from many willing volunteers, and I am pleased to be able to say that all the money paid for labour has been to men otherwise out of work.

I submit the account of the money received, and would gladly welcome any further donations for excavating purposes, or promises of help towards purchasing the site.

I am Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	95	7	11	Mr. C. Bell	50	0	0
Visitors' Box	9	4	6	Solicitor	1	1	0
Pamphlets & Post				Printing & Photos	5	3	9
Cards	1	10	0	Fencing	13	0	0
To balance	6	19	2	Hut & Tools	3	4	6
				Postage, Telegrams,			
				&c.	4	17	10
				Wages paid	22	17	0
				Due before 31st July	12	7	6
				Insurance	0	10	0
	£113	1	7		£113	1	7

The following subscriptions have been paid or promised:

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The Council of the Royal Archaeological Institute, a first grant	5	0	0
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The Louth Naturalists' Union	4	0	0
Mr. A. Whinfield (Worcester)	2	0	0
Mr. W. R. Fane	3	3	0
The Dean of Lincoln	1	0	0
Rev. A. F. Sutton	2	2	0
Rev. R. E. Cole	1	1	0
Rev. W. O. Massingberd	1	0	0
Mr. F. M. Burton, F.G.S.	3	16	0
Rev. C. E. Laing (lectures and concert)	2	2	0
Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville	5	0	0
Mr. C. C. Sibthorp	1	0	0
Mr. R. M. W. Sibthorp	0	5	0
Mr. F. Thompson	1	1	0
Mr. W. Varlow	1	1	0
Mr. E. Brackenbury	1	1	0
Mr. A. L. Treadgold	1	1	0
Mr. J. D. Blanshard	0	5	0
Mr. A. Dury	1	0	0
Capt. J. S. Reeve	0	5	0
Mr. W. Smithson	1	1	0
Mr. A. S. Leslie Melville	1	0	0
Rev. J. S. Conway Walter	0	10	6
Mr. H. Gamble	0	10	6
Mr. S. R. Sills	0	10	6
Mr. James Thropp	0	10	0
Rev. J. A. Penny	0	2	6
Rev. S. E. Jeans	1	0	0
Capt. H. N. Reeve King	0	5	0
Very Rev. Dean Howard	0	1	0
Mr. K. Lee	1	0	0
Mr. C. Turnor	1	1	0
Miss L. Ruston	1	0	0
Rev. T. A. Stoodley	0	5	0
Rev. H. F. Allison	1	0	0
Rt. Rev. Dr. Mitchinson	0	5	0
Rev. A. Hunt	0	10	0
Rev. Canon Leeke	5	0	0
Mr. A. Shuttleworth	0	2	0
Rev. S. Rowlands	1	1	0
Mr. J. Maisey	0	5	0
Miss E. Curtis	0	2	6
Mr. T. Crowder	0	2	6
Mr. Kaye	0	2	6
Miss Shepherd	0	10	0
Mr. J. Smithson	0	2	6
Mr. H. R. Brown	0	1	0
Mr. Poole	0	5	0
Mr. T. H. Sowby	0	1	0
Mr. Chas. Robinson	1	1	0
Rev. A. T. Hall	1	1	0
Mrs. Tempest	1	1	0
Mr. William Scorer	0	1	0
A Friend	0	2	0
Mr. Bailey	1	0	0
Mr. R. A. Stephen	0	10	6
Mr. E. Townhill	0	2	6
Mr. Docking	0	0	6
Mr. Travers	0	5	0
Miss Laing	0	10	0
Rev. F. Brodhurst	0	5	0
Mr. P. T. Laing	0	2	0
Miss Creasey	0	5	0
Mrs. Cockett	0	5	0
Miss Sharpe	0	5	0
Mr. H. Stanley Maples	0	5	0
Mr. C. H. Sowby	0	5	0

3rd letter sent out  
in July 1909 with  
good results.

Turn over



Rev. Canon Maddison	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. Canon Foster	...	...	...	0	10	0
Mr. P. Cragg	...	...	...	0	10	6
Miss Saunders	...	...	...	0	2	0
Miss Shepherd	...	...	...	0	2	0
Rev. Canon Crowfoot	...	...	...	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Hemmans	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. E. M. Clements	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. Canon Skelton	...	...	...	0	10	6

				£	s.	d.
Rev. E. L. Trotter	...	...	...	0	5	0
Rev. Chancellor Worlledge	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. J. Harding	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. J. S. Sneath	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Ruston	...	...	...	2	0	0
Rev. F. Bashforth	...	...	...	0	10	0
Mr. W. S. Hewitt	...	...	...	1	1	0
Sir Hickman Bacon, Bart.	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. M. Wright	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mr. H. C. Hawley	...	...	...	1	0	0
Rev. E. Giles	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mr. Coningsby Sibthorp (2nd Don.)	...	...	...	5	0	0
Rev. C. T. Hoskins	...	...	...	0	2	6
Mr. C. B. Collinson	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. P. Townell	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. W. W. Smith	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. T. H. Skinner	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. Snow	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mr. Hugh Johnson	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mr. W. V. R. Fane (2nd Don.)	...	...	...	0	10	0
Mr. H. A. Peake	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. W. Holden	...	...	...	0	2	6
Mrs. Arnold	...	...	...	1	1	0
Sir Charles Seely, Bart.	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. Cecil N. Wray	...	...	...	0	0	7
Visitors box, February	...	...	...	0	5	0
Visitors box, March	...	...	...	2	4	8
Visitors box, April	...	...	...	1	19	4
Visitors' box, May	...	...	...	4	14	11
Visitors' box, June	...	...	...	0	5	0
A Friend	...	...	...	0	1	0
A Friend	...	...	...	0	1	0

Mr. Wilfred Bond is most kindly making plans and the G.N.R. have lent us planks, wheelbarrows, &c.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

OUTLINE OF FAMOUS ABBEY OPENED OUT.

The following letter from the Vicar of Bardney, Lincolnshire, is interesting in view of the new discovery at Bardney Abbey of the tombstone of Richard Horncastel, the abbot, who died in 1508. This discovery, following the previous ones in the north and south transept, the chancel, and Lady chapel, proves the value of the find, and leads archaeologists to hope that they are on the eve of even more important developments. For years there was nothing but a green tumulus to indicate the treasures that lay beneath. Local legend asserts that a Benedictine abbey, founded in the eighth century, stood once on this spot, and that Ethelred, King of Mercia, abbot of the monastery, was buried here in 718.

To the Editor of "The Standard."

Sir,—We are now in preparation for the visit of the Royal Archaeological Institute on July 31, getting the outline of the Abbey Church opened out. It had originally a west front, with centre and two side doors, with a small passage leading up a staircase, five steps of which are complete. The front was vast and magnificent, with decorated pillars and crockets, measuring 61ft. inside. The length of the church was about 254ft., with north transept, side chapels on the south-east, and cloisters on the south side.

In front of a side altar we have evidently found the burying place of some of the abbots—seven slabs are already uncovered. One is a fine Purbeck marble slab, much broken, and contents rifled. All these are lying east and west. One enormous slab, which had been moved at some time or another, is lying north and south, propped up by stones, showing marks of having been levered. It is marvelously perfect, and measures 8ft. 2in. by 3ft. 9in., and is 7in thick. The inscription is perfect, and it bears the figure of an abbot engraved deeply in the centre under three canopies, clothed in Eucharistic garments, holding in his hands a shield surmounted by a crown.

This stone covered the grave of Richard Horncastel, abbot from 1466 to 1507. He resigned in consequence of his great age, and died (so the inscription says) in 1508.

The pillars in the nave of the church are coming out well.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
**CHARLES E. LAING.**  
 Bardney Vicarage, Lincolnshire.



Sey. Taylor



BARDENRY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

Daily  
Sketch  
24 June  
1909



The result of excavations at the Bardenry Abbey site, Lincolnshire, is illustrated in the first photograph, the chancel step being in the foreground, and the altar slab marked by crosses. To the right and left are a couple of fine pillars. (2) The Vicar of Bardenry (Rev. C. E. Laing) and his excavating staff.  
Photographs by Bennett, Gainsborough.

Staircase &  
Reshard from  
inside West Front  
of the Church  
showing action  
of fire. much  
charcoal & ashes  
found here



Bennett



10

# Bardney Abbey Excavations.

Bardney Vicarage, Lincoln,

22nd July, 1909.

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that very considerable progress has been made with the excavations at Bardney Abbey, and in view of the visit on Saturday, 31st July, of the members of the Royal Archaeological Institute, I have put on all the labour the accounts would afford, in order to get as much outline as possible shown by that date.

After following many walls of buildings and opening out a side chapel, we at length found a large wall running E. and W, following this westward we soon found large corner buttresses, which lead us on to the west front of the Church; from the remains which are considerable, it is easy to see the Church was vast and magnificent. We have now trenched the whole outline of a cruciform building with north and south transepts each with two eastern chapels, in length about 260 feet, and breadth 62ft. inside. We have dug out a great deal of the presbytery, which has produced on the south side the bases of four very large Norman pillars, the cylindrical portion of these was 7ft. in diameter, on the inside of these pillars there is disclosed a low narrow wall which marks the extent of the quire stalls. The part of the presbytery screened off by the Norman arcade contains at least eight engraved tombstones, one of them very remarkable from its size and perfect condition, 8ft. 2in by 3ft. 9in. and 7 inches thick, with the engraved figure of the abbot, under a triple canopy, vested with chasuble and crosier. We have also dug out a side chapel which contains an altar base and broken slab with

five crosses, a floor piscina and footing of the screen, pillars, &c. From the pillar in the west front to the last pillar in the nave there are nine pillars on each side, five of these are dug out and each vary a little in design.

We have scarcely touched the conventual buildings, but can locate the cloisters, chapter house, abbot's house, and there remains still a tremendous amount to be done, that will be full of interest.

Of course our difficulty is money, but all that has been done (and visitors are astonished at the amount) has been done for £100, including £50 for right of entry.

The remains are so fine that it seems impossible to bury them again, so our next difficulty will be to purchase the site.

We shall gladly welcome visitors, specially experts, whose advice we much need.

A plan will be ready by 31st July.

I am, sir,

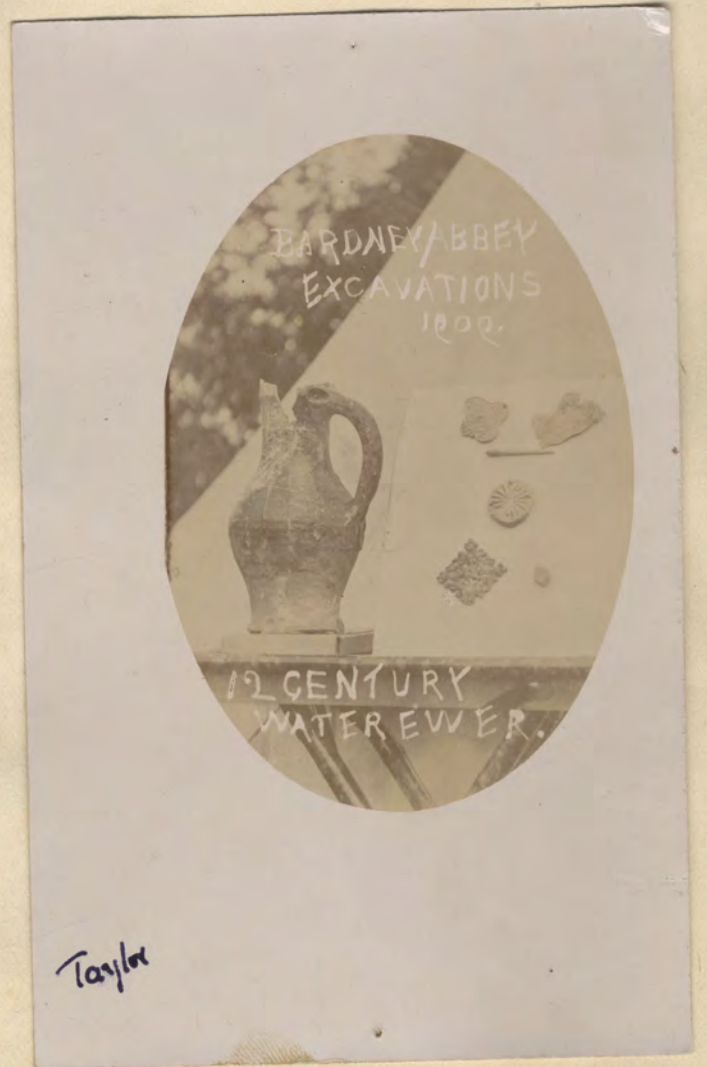
Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

Altar in South Transept



Taylor



Taylor

Printed for the members of the  
Royal Archaeological Institute  
just before their visit on 31 July 1909.

Ewer rather broken. Mended  
by Mrs. Laing.



On June 16, it was decided to work into a mound about 100 yds N.W of the South Transept: after a little work an excellent Norman wall was found, this was followed Westward, then round a large buttress, continued Westward, which lead to another large buttress with a huge boulder stone shaped, in situ, then to a doorway & it then became evident that the West Front of the Church was found. Work here proceeded with patience & perseverance round the reshard then to the main west door, on to the next reshard, a staircase & the S.W. door with elaborate transition decoration. The Church having at last been found indicated the lines upon which to trench the walls & gradually the whole outline was traced.

On July 8th the Hoicastle Slab was found

On July 12th Mr. W. Bond visited, gave much useful advice & began to draw plan of the Church



One of the  
Lipilian's  
which carried  
the central  
Tower

Bennett



Staircase  
inside  
West Front.

Bradford



On 21 July Mr. W. H. St. John Hope visited. gave many useful hints & expressed approval of the progress made since his last visit.

Lincoln Echo  
2 Aug 1909

ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

CLOSING DAY OF THE LINCOLN VISIT.

The closing day of the visit of members and friends of the Royal Archaeological Institute to Lincoln was reached on Saturday, and a specially interesting event had been reserved for the finale, this being an inspection of the discovered site of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Oswald at Bardney. In the morning the remains of the Cistercian Abbey at Kirkstead had been viewed, with the Chapel of St. Leonard, and luncheon was partaken of at the Eagle Lodge Hotel, Woodhall Spa. A brief visit to the ruins of Topholme Abbey preceded the drive to Bardney, where the Vicar (the Rev. C. E. Laing) accompanied the archaeologists, and showed the important results of the excavations that have been conducted during the past few months.

Recently the whole of the west part of the church has been laid bare, and many interesting pieces of early stonework have been brought to light. Among these are the tombstones of three early abbots, that of the 27th abbot, and of several others connected with the Abbey. The Vicar explained that it was easy to see that the church was vast and magnificent. The whole outline of a cruciform building, with north and south transepts, each with two eastern chapels, had been traced. A great deal of the presbytery has been dug out, and disclosed on the south side the bases of four very large Norman pillars. The part of the presbytery screened off contains the tombstones alluded to. A side chapel has also been discovered. This contains an altar base and broken slab, with five crosses, a floor piscina, and footing of the screen and pillars. Many of the stones are very good examples of Norman work, and a remarkable feature of some of the pieces is that the surfaces are as regular and clean as though they had been quite recently cut. A Saxon headstone, evidently from the summit of a narrow window, is amongst the discoveries, and there is a hideous-looking gargoyle taking the form of a man's head.

The tombstones found in the abbot's burial ground were for the most part elaborately carved. The finest was a massive stone weighing about two tons, 8ft. 2in. by 3ft 9in., and 7ft. thick. It was delicately chiselled, and was in perfect preservation. A Latin inscription round the stone, translated, reads: "Here lies Richard Hornecastel, sometime Abbot of this Monastery, who died the first day of the month of October, Anno Domini, 1508. On whose soul may the Lord have mercy. Amen." Under a triple canopy is the engraved figure of the abbot, vested with chasuble and crozier. Other stones found relate to the following: Roger de Barowe, abbot, who died 1355; Michael Gare, prior, 1505; Robertus Fosse, a brother; Robert D'Thornton, prior; William Sotheroe, sub-prior and sacristan, 1526; Richard de Goldburgh, a soldier; Johannes de Thalbert, chaplain, 1403; Thomas Clark, rector of Partney, 1505; and Thomas Elkington, brother, 1457. Then there are more tombs with the inscriptions illegible. One is of purbeck marble, and in the shape of a coffin lid. It is expected that the excavations will continue for two years, but funds are urgently required for the work.

Tea was partaken of in the vicinity of the site, and the party returned to Lincoln, to break up for the return home, after a most educational and enjoyable stay in Lincolnshire.

On July 31, the members of the Royal Archaeological Institute on the last day of their visit at Lincoln came to the Abbey. Sir Henry & Lady Howarth, Lady Winchelsea & about 35 members came, also many friends from Lincoln & a great many people from Bardney & neighbourhood. The weather though fine during the afternoon had been threatening all day or many more would have come. Tea at 4hr in the Tent after which the Vicar addressed the assembly (at the invitation of the President Sir Henry Howarth) in the South Transept, on the history of the Abbey & site. Mr. W. H. St. John Hope gave a most interesting address (unfortunately not reported) on the Architecture of the Church & the President spoke on the value of such sites & thanked Mr. Laing & the people of Bardney for their zeal & enthusiasm in the work.

Aug. 15 A very beautiful & calm Sunday evening. Evensong was sung in the South Transept & the Vicar preached to about 600 or more people. The Museum being finished during the previous week served as a Vestry.

THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

A VISIT TO BARDNEY ABBEY SITE.

The members of the Royal Archaeological Institute concluded their visit to Lincolnshire on Saturday, when an extra day was allotted, ready for the purpose of inspecting the important excavations in progress on the site of the ancient Bardney Abbey. Occasion was, however, taken to view other interesting places in the district. First the party were conducted over the Kirkstead Abbey remains and the chapel of St. Leonard, the capella extra portas of the abbey, by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope. Then the visitors next drove to Woodhall Spa, and after luncheon at the Eagle Lodge Hotel set out for Topholme, where they saw scanty but interesting remains of a Premonstratensian abbey, founded by Alan and Gilbert de Neville in 1160.

Thence carriages conveyed the members to the site of the great Benedictine abbey of St. Oswald, where the Rev. Charles E. Laing, the vicar of Bardney, awaited them. Unfortunately there is no record as to when the abbey was really founded. Willis ascribes it to Ethelred, who became Abbot of Bardney in 712, but Bishop Tanner fixes it before 697, because Queen Asfrida, murdered in that year by Northumbrian nobles, had previously taken the bones of King Oswald, her uncle, to Bardney Abbey. The monastery was burnt down by the Danes, but was rebuilt by Remigius and Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln, early in the twelfth century.

The excavation work has been in progress about five months, under the superintendence of the Vicar. Until six months since the whole of the labour was undertaken by voluntary workers, but in view of the visit of the Institute, hired labour was then introduced. At the outset a side chapel was opened, and then a large wall running east to west was discovered. Mr. Laing determined to follow this westward, and so large corner buttresses were dug out, which led to the west front of the church, and from the remains which were considerable, it was easy to see that the edifice was vast and magnificent. At the west front the excavators came across the foundations of a main doorway with a smaller doorway at each side. Beyond the doorway to the south of what was the main entrance are some stone steps, which evidently led to a building over the porch. At the base of the pillars here, signs of fire are clearly distinguishable. The excavators have now traced the whole outline of a cruciform building with north and south transepts, each with two eastern chapels, about 260 feet long and 62 feet wide inside. Much of the presbytery has also been revealed, and the latest finds on the south side are the bases of four very large Norman pillars, the cylindrical portions being 7 feet in diameter. On the inside there is disclosed a low, narrow wall marking the extent of the choir stalls. The portion of the presbytery screened off by the Norman arcade is the abbots' burial ground. Undoubtedly the finest tombstone found is that of the 27th Abbot of Bardney. This memorial is in a perfect state of preservation, measures 8ft. 4in. by 3ft. 8in., is 7in. thick, and weighs about two tons. It is most delicately chiselled. A Latin inscription round the stone, translated, reads:-

Here lies Richard Hornecastel, sometime Abbot of this Monastery, who died the first day of the month of October, Anno Domini 1508. On whose soul may the Lord have mercy, Amen.

At the head are three elaborate canopies, and immediately under these appear the figure of his soul being carried by angels. Then follow the words: "O Lord Jesu, accept my spirit." A full length figure of an abbot is beautifully cut out. He is clothed in eucharistic garments, the chasuble being of the English shape, and the end of the stoles and the apparels of the alb are plainly shown. He holds a crozier and a shield, with a heart and "I. H. S." on it. Other tombstones have been brought to light including one to the memory of Roger de Barowe, Abbot, 1355; an earlier one, dated 1340, but with name undiscernible.

The base of the high altar and the foundations of two side chapels have also been dug out. From the pillar in the west front to the last pillar in the east there are nine Norman pillars on each side. These are of beautiful architecture, and all vary in design. Friday the workmen located the chapter house, and found two very fine benches. The gatehouse, the firmarium, and the abbot's dwelling have yet to be excavated. Records show that the infirmary was a most luxurious dwelling, and interesting developments are expected here.

A heap of stones have been gathered of many periods of architecture. Several stone coffins have been dug up, but only in one case, where the top was broken, were the contents disturbed, the Vicar himself seeing to the burial of the bones. This coffin was hewn out of a solid piece of stone. The Vicar showed the visitors many of the interesting objects discovered, including a fetter lock and a portion of another, which show that at some period prisoners were confined in the monastery; a green glazed ewer of fine shape, with handle probably fashioned in the 15th century and bearing thumb and finger impressions at the foot; a greenish yellow glazed utensil similar in design to a modern panchon, thick glass in lead, numerous pieces of stained glass, a peculiar iron buckle, several old knives, an ancient key, numerous small pieces of richly ornamented lead, probably from coffins or tombs; an old plough spittle, a crisset with four holes, at some time filled with oil and used for lighting purposes; a gracefully carved cornice piece with gold still adhering to the stonework, a handsome engraving of chain armour on stone, a stone seal impression, a bronze ring with cameo in centre, a penny piece of Edward IV., another bronze coin, a baked clay mould, a stone mould, fragments of pottery and pewter, a large yellow glazed tile, etc.

The members were much impressed with what they saw, and enjoyed the address from Mr. Laing concerning the excavations, which will probably be carried on for two years. As he said, there remains still a tremendous amount to be done. Of course, their difficulty was lack of money, but all the work that had been accomplished had been done for £100, including £50 for right of entry. Their next difficulty would be to purchase the site.

After tea on the site the party returned to Lincoln.

ANGLO-GERMAN ARBITRATION. — The Foreign Office has notified an exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Germany renewing for a further period of one year an agreement signed in London on July 12th, 1904, "providing for the settlement by arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise between the two Governments."

Yorkshire Post  
2 Aug 1909





Figure of Priest in Dalmatic  
Aels, amice & maniple, with  
Book of the Gospels. 3ft-1in high  
found in Stratican N.W. corner of  
Treasurer's - 17 Aug 1909.

Taken by Midgley

This figure showed signs of Red paint on the Dalmatic & gold on what appears to be the base of a spiridicon, but these gradually faded on coming to the light.

The parish Church is dedicated to the Glor of God in memory of S. Lawrence, thus there may be a link between the Abbey & the parish Church which it appears the Abbey served.



Council Marham Vicar

Smith Beave Craven Mrs. Gibson

Photos taken by  
Midgley  
Aug 1909

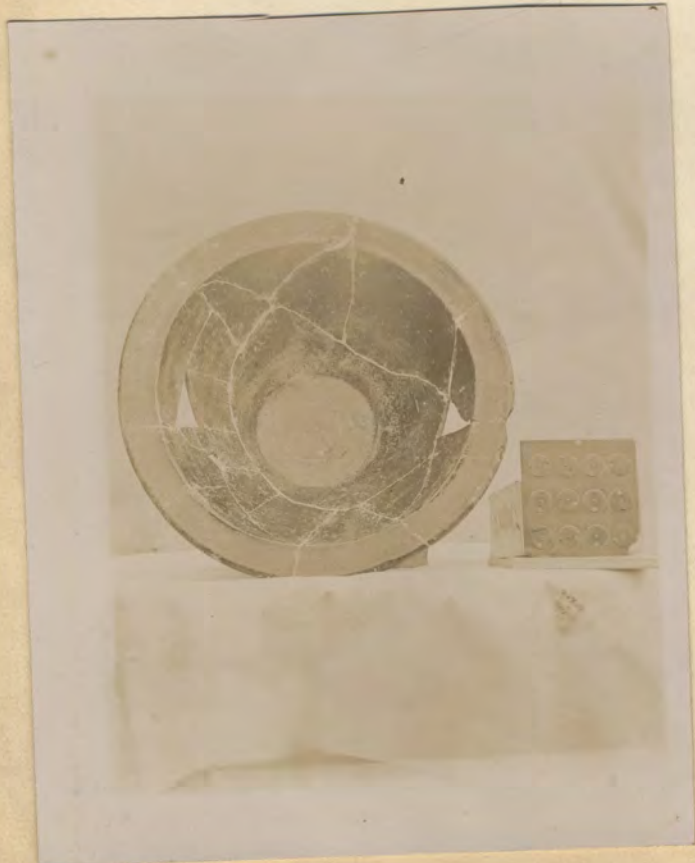


ated by the good audience.  
**ROYALTY VISIT BARDNEY ABBEY EX-**  
cavations. On Monday afternoon, Her Royal  
Highness Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig  
Holstein, (niece of King Edward VII) accompan-  
ied by Baroness von Eckhardstein, the Hon. Miss  
Hawke, Mrs. Ballard, Major Brownlow, and Mr.  
Weigall, motored over from Woodhall to Bardney.  
They were met at the Abbey by the Rev. Charles  
E. Laing, Vicar of Bardney, Mrs. Laing, Miss  
Veronica Laing, and Mr. Drury. The Vicar  
showed the party over the excavations, and gave  
a short history of the Abbey in his usual interest-  
ing manner, after which Her Royal Highness and  
the ladies of the party did some excavating and  
succeeded in unearthing the second pillar in  
the Nave of the Abbey Church. Mrs Laing en-  
tertained them to tea at the Vicarage, and they  
visited the fine proportioned old Church of St.  
Lawrence, much admiring the east window,  
chancel roof, reredos, etc. Her Royal Highness  
expressed great satisfaction at all she had seen.

5 Oct 1909



Taylor  
July  
1909



Taylor  
July 1909  
Bark found  
at West End  
of the Church.  
found in 19 pieces.  
& reconstructed by  
Mrs Laing.

**UNEARTHING AN ABBEY.**

**The Bardney Excavations.**

**VISIT OF ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.**

The visit of the Royal Archæological Institute to the Lincoln district should really have terminated on Friday, but in view of the important discoveries on the site of Bardney Abbey, it was resolved to devote an extra day to inspecting the excavations there.

On Saturday the members of the Institute entrained for Kirkstead, and, having viewed the remains of Kirkstead Abbey, which was founded in 1139, and the Chapel of St. Leonard, drove to Woodhall Spa, where they partook of luncheon. Subsequently they proceeded to Topholme, where there are scanty, but interesting remains of a Premonstratensian Abbey, founded in 1160, and thence to the site of the great Benedictine Abbey of St. Oswald at Bardney.

This monastery is said by some authorities to have been founded about 704 by Ethelred, but others fix the date much earlier. There certainly must have been an Abbey in existence at Bardney in 672, for in that year Queen Osfrida took the bones of her uncle, King Oswald, there. Thirty years previously Oswald was slain by the Mercians at Maserfield (known now as Oswestry), and his head and arms were exhibited on wooden stakes. They were rescued in the following year, and carried to Northumbria. The hands were kept in a silver box at St. Peter's Church at Bamborough, and the head was interred by St. Aidan at Lindisfarne, and removed in 875—within the coffin of St. Cuthbert—to Durham. The Bardney Monastery was burnt to the ground by the Danes in 870, but was refounded by Remigius and Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln, early in the 12th Century. The last Charter of Royal Consecration was received in 1505. In addition to Oswald, Ethelred, his wife Osfrida, who was murdered in 697 by Northumbrian nobles, and Gilbert de Gaunt are said to have been buried at the Abbey.

**What Excavations Have Brought to Light.**

The excavations have been in progress about five months, under the superintendence of the Vicar of Bardney (the Rev. C. E. Laing), who explained to the visitors on Saturday what progress had been made.

From the remains, which were considerable, the rev. gentleman said it was easy to see the Church was vast and magnificent. They had now trenched the whole outline of a cruciform building, with north and south transepts, each with two eastern chapels, in length about 260 feet, and breadth 62 feet inside. They had dug out a great deal of the presbytery, which had produced on the south side the bases of four very large Norman pillars, the cylindrical portions being 7 feet in diameter. A low narrow wall was then disclosed, marking the extent of the choir stalls. The part of the presbytery screened off by the Norman arcade contained at least eight engraved tombstones. They had also discovered the foundations of two side chapels, and had located the cloisters, chapter house, and abbot's house. From the pillar in the west front to the last pillar in the nave there are nine pillars on each side, which each vary a little in design.

The architecture revealed is of beautiful character, and the tombstones found in the abbot's burial ground are for the most part elaborately carved. The finest is a massive stone, weighing about two tons, 8 feet 2 inch by 3 feet 9 inch, and 7 inches thick. It is delicately chiselled, and is in perfect preservation. A Latin inscription round the stone, translated, reads:—"Here lies Richard Hornecastel, some time Abbot of this monastery, who died the first day of the month of October, Anno Domini, 1508. On whose soul may the Lord have mercy, Amen."

Under a triple canopy is the engraved figure of the abbot, vested with chasuble and crozier. Other stones found relate to the following:—Roger de Barowe, abbot, who died in 1355; Michael Gare, prior, 1505; Robertus Fosse, a brother; Robert d'Thornton, prior; William Sotheroe, sub-prior and sacristan, 1526; Richard de Goldburgh, a soldier; Johannes de thelbert, chaplain, 1405; Thomas Clark, Rector of Partney, 1505; and Thomas Elkington, brother, 1467. Then there are more tombs with the inscriptions illegible. One is of purbeck marble, and in the shape of a coffin lid.

**Stone Coffins are Unearthed.**

Several stone coffins have been unearthed, but only in one instance were the contents removed. In this case the lid was broken, and the Vicar himself saw to the burial of the bones. Mr. Laing showed the visitors several of the relics discovered, including a fetter-lock and a broken portion of another which show that at some period prisoners were confined in the Abbey; a glazed bowl and glazed water ewer with fine handle and thumb impressions at the foot, a cresset with four holes used for lighting purposes, several knives, stained glass, pieces of beautiful ornamented lead, a bronze ring with cameo in centre, several knives, an old plough spittle, fragments of pottery, pewter, etc. As the Vicar said, the buildings discovered are so fine it seems impossible to bury them again, and an endeavour should be made to purchase the site. Amongst the buildings not yet touched are the gatehouse—a very important one—and the infirmary, situated next to the Abbot's dwelling. The records show that the infirmary was a very luxurious structure. It is anticipated that the excavation work will last for two years, but funds are urgently needed to carry it on.

After partaking of tea on the site, the party returned to Lincoln much impressed with their visit.



Taylor



Last pillar N.W. Nave



Tower pillar



Pillar in North Side of Nave  
uncovered by Connell & Pacey  
July 1909

General View  
July 1909





## AN APPEAL

to the County of Lincoln and all  
lovers of Ancient Sites to preserve

## Bardney Abbey



To purchase the Site of the Church,  
Cloisters, Side Chapels and Chapter  
House, and to Excavate the Domestic  
Buildings, will require

: : £1,000 : :  
towards which we have £240.

## BARDNEY ABBEY.

The Vicar of Bardney, the Rev. C. E. Laing, is making an appeal for funds wherewith to purchase the site of Bardney Abbey Church cloisters, side chapels, and chapter house, and to excavate the domestic buildings. The total sum required is about £1,000, towards which there is in hand £240. The scheme of excavation commenced in February of this year, on payment of £50 to the owner of the site, for which consideration the work was to be allowed to extend over a period of two years and a month. The excavations have revealed much that is intensely interesting. Those responsible have been able to employ some men who would otherwise have been out of work, though nearly all the work has been done by volunteers. If the site can be purchased, the Vicar states that a stone wall is to be erected round it, and I hope his endeavours to raise the money will be entirely successful.

LINCOLN ECHO  
27th Oct. 1909

The appeal which the Vicar of Bardney, the Rev. C. E. Laing, is sending out through the county for assistance in preserving the site of Bardney Abbey deserves a very generous response, and we are glad to believe that that result is being arrived at. Of the important chapter Bardney Abbey fills in the history of Lincolnshire little need be said. What is more to the point is that, with a high courage, the Vicar has taken upon himself the task of excavating a large portion of the ruins, sufficient surely, to whet the appetite of any interested in antiquarian remains. But this is only the edge of the scheme. For £1,000 the whole scheme of bringing the entire site to light could be carried out, and there could be reached the whole twenty pillars instead of the half dozen at present uncovered. Up to the moment, £240 has been raised, £160 of which has been expended, and the result has been to lay bare a series of walls, pavements and slabs that have aroused not merely interest but astonishment at their extent and beauty. It is not, of course, to be believed that the work will be crippled now for lack of funds, and such widespread publicity has been given to the work that anyone at all interested must feel constrained to take at any rate some part in carrying it to completion.

Louth News  
30 Oct 1909

Another envelope whose contents are worthy of attention is "An Appeal to the County of Lincoln and all lovers of Ancient Sites to preserve Bardney Abbey." On the cover of the booklet sent out is a brief statement to the effect that to purchase the site of the church, cloisters, side chapels, and chapter house, and to excavate the domestic buildings, will require £1,000, towards which they have £240. The little book is written by the Vicar of Bardney, the Rev. Charles E. Laing, who has taken such an active part in the excavation of the fine old building. It contains a great deal of interesting information, and is fully illustrated. It ought in itself to constitute a powerful lever in the request for financial assistance. On Feb. 19th last excavation began on a bare field, and now six of the twenty pillars of the nave have been uncovered, and some striking architectural features are disclosed.

The "visitors' box" at Bardney has been a valuable source of revenue, and incidentally it gives proof that the visitors to the work are deeply impressed, for in August alone £20 within seven-pence was the result of voluntary aid by those who saw the work. The illustrations in this little book include a sketch plan of the parts excavated up to September, 1909, views of the site to-day and six months ago, and a good series of photographs of the articles discovered.

Within a couple of weeks we shall have seen

The Rev Charles E. Laing, of Bardney Vicarage, Lincoln, forwards me an interesting pamphlet illustrating the ruins of Bardney Abbey, and appeals to the County of Lincoln and lovers of ancient sites to preserve the Abbey.

It will no doubt be known to some of my readers that a scheme for excavating the great Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, St Paul, and St Oswald was inaugurated in February of this year, when an agreement was signed consenting to excavate for a period of two years and one month in return for a payment of £50 to the owner of the estate.

The work of excavating has proceeded most satisfactorily hitherto, and many visitors have expressed their surprise at the quantity and quality of the remains unearthed, though at present only six of the twenty pillars of the nave of the church are uncovered.

The architectural features of the church are striking. The chancel is entirely Norman, and has on either side an arcade of four bays. The bases of these remain, showing that the cylindrical portion of each was seven feet in diameter. The high altar has been absolutely destroyed, but three altar slabs have been uncovered in the side chapels.

The tombstones in the pavement are some of them most remarkable, and include four abbots, three priors, one sub-prior and sacristan, one precentor, one rector, one chaplain, one soldier, and some others at present undeciphered. These are full of historical interest, having names and dates clearly showing.

The church has been discovered to be 254 feet long and 61ft 6in wide, with north transept, and two side chapels forming the south transept. The seating of the chapter house appears to be quite complete on the north, south, and west sides, and the mounds showing the lines of the cloisters, refectory, cellarium, and kitchen are clearly defined;

Scunthorpe News  
30 Oct 1909.

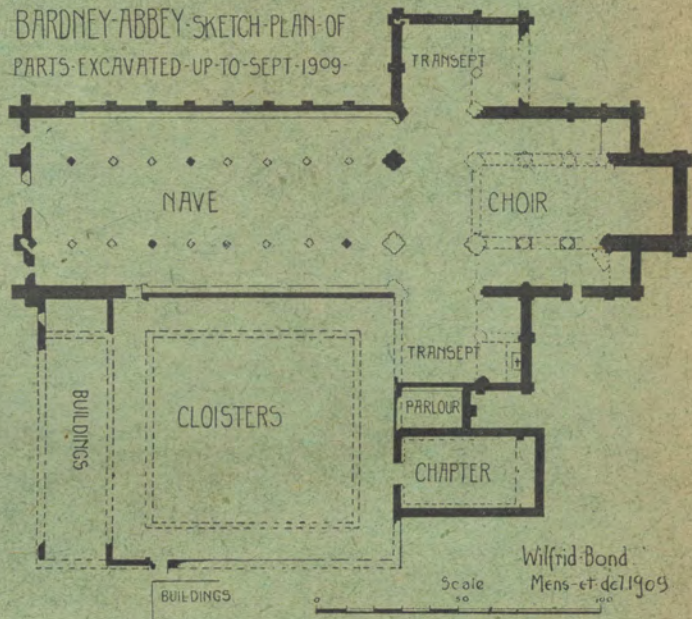
but the work on these is only just begun. The gateways have yet to be discovered, but the site of the infirmary is known.

£1,000, it is estimated, would cover the whole scheme. £240 has been raised, and £160 expended. The organisers of the scheme have been able to employ some men otherwise out of work, and hope to be able to do more in this way during the coming winter. The Rev Charles E. Laing is superintending the work, but is acting under the advice of Mr W. H. St John Hope, Mr G. D. Hardinge Tyler, and other members of the Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society.

The organisers hesitate in starting a scheme which to business minds might seem unreasonable from the expense of buying 2½ acres of land for £200 an acre, which for other purposes could not be valued at more than £70 or £80; but they are in the hands of the owner, and, knowing all the circumstances, many are urging them on to attempt to complete the scheme well and satisfactorily. The Rev Charles E. Laing will be glad to receive small subscriptions at the vicarage, Bardney.



BARDNEY ABBEY SKETCH PLAN OF  
PARTS EXCAVATED UP TO SEPT. 1909



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SOME NOTES

on

## BARDNEY ABBEY

(2nd Edition)

by the

Rev. CHARLES E. LAING,

Vicar of Bardney, and Author of  
"Some Teachings on the Book of Common  
Prayer."

Price 2d., to be sold for the benefit of the  
Excavation Fund.

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A SET of 7 PRINTS, Postcards,  
6d., post free 7d.

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A SET of 10 PHOTOGRAPHS,  
Postcard size, 1/8 post free.

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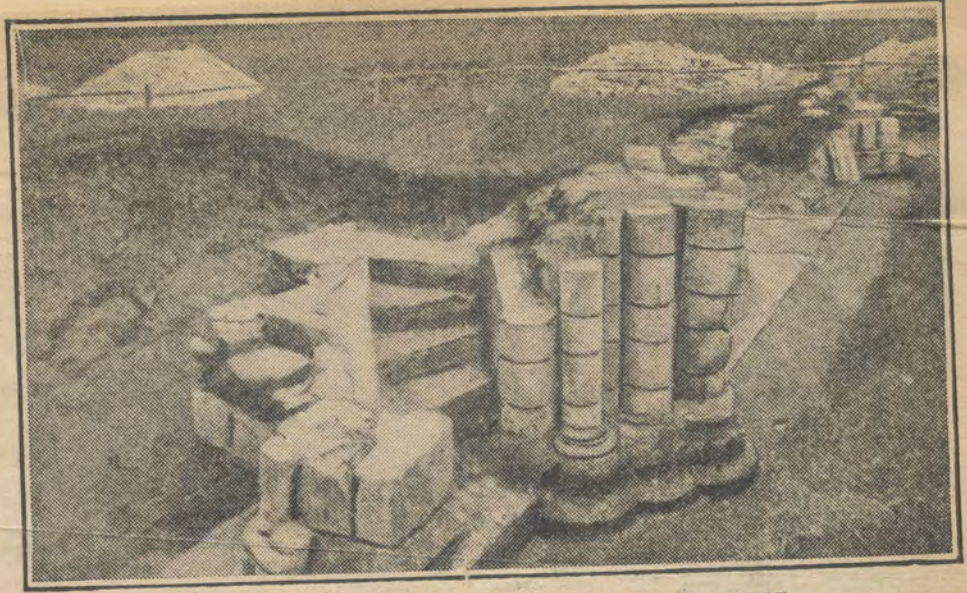


**BARDNEY ABBEY.**

A thorough excavation of the site of the famous Abbey of Bardney has been going on owing to the efforts of the Rev. Charles E. Laing (Bardney Vicarage, Lincoln), who has been proceeding under the expert advice of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope and of various members of the Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society, while the parts that have come to light have been carefully measured by Mr. Wilfrid Bond. His plan shows a church 254ft. long and 61ft. wide, with north and south transepts, the latter consisting of two chapels. On the east side of the great cloisters were a parlour and a chapter-house, but the work of excavating the cloisters, refectory, cellarium, kitchen, infirmary, and gateways has still to be accomplished.

But the recovered remains of the church are of great interest. The chancel is entirely Norman, with an arcade of four bays on each side. The nave roof was supported by 20 pillars, and the bases of six of these have been uncovered. Three altar slabs have been found in the side chapels, but the high altar is destroyed beyond recovery. The seating of the chapter-house is quite complete on three sides. Twelve tombstones have been identified, beginning with that of Roger de Barowe, who was elected in 1342 and died in 1355, and ending with the last Abbot but one, Richard Horncastel, who reigned from 1466 to 1507, and whose memorial is a fine piece of work. It will be remembered that Bardney, which is a Benedictine foundation, dating from the end of the seventh century, was the oldest of the Lincolnshire houses that survived the ravages of the Danes. After the Conquest its lands fell into the hands of William's nephew, Gilbert of Ghent, who restored them to the Church, and at the close of the Conqueror's reign the house was rebuilt and rededicated to St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Oswald.

Last February operations began after the signing of an agreement to excavate for two years in return for a payment of £50 to the owner of the site. It is now proposed to buy 2½ acres at the owner's price of £200 an acre, which is, no doubt, much in excess of the agricultural value of the land, but may be justified on the score of its antiquarian value. If purchased it would be transferred to the National Trust for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trust. It will need a surrounding wall, which would cost about £50, and wages for 18 months' further excavation would absorb £270. Altogether the cost would be at least £1,000, of which £240 has been raised and £160 expended. A large amount of free labour has been given by the Bardney men. The subscribers to the fund for purchasing the site include Lord Brownlow, Lord Londesborough, Mr. C. C. Sibthorp, Colonel J. S. Rusten, the Baroness von Eckhardstein, and the council of the Royal Archaeological Institute, who have made two grants. A sum of over £30 was placed in the visitors' box during July and August. Among the subscribers towards the cost of excavation are Archdeacon Bond, Mr. R. C. de Grey Vyner, and Mr. W. H. St. John Hope. Contributions may be sent to the Vicar, as above.



BARDNEY ABBEY, SOUTH-WEST DOORWAY AND STAIRCASE.

**EXCAVATION OF BARDNEY ABBEY.**

**A NOTABLE ATTEMPT.**

The Rev. Charles E. Laing, vicar of Bardney, Lincoln, has since last February been engaged upon the work of excavating the great Benedictine Abbey at Bardney. Originally he agreed with the owner, by the payment of £50, to be allowed to excavate there for two years and one month.

"There remain eighteen months to complete the work," says Mr. Laing, "and it cannot be done unless we have a full gang of men at work, so one important reason for purchasing the site of the church is, that we may close that part of the work for the present, and excavate the domestic buildings till the time of our agreement runs out, and then complete the church carefully at our leisure." He therefore proposes to raise £1,000 in order to complete the full scheme, of which already £240 has been obtained. If purchased, he states that it is proposed to transfer the site to the National Trust for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trust.

The excavations which have been carried out by the vicar, under the advice of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, Mr. G. D. Hardinge Tyler, and some members of the Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society, have established the fact that the church was 254ft. long and 61ft. 6in. wide, with north transept and two side chapels forming the south transept. The seating of the Chapter House, the vicar states, appears to be quite complete on the north, south, and west sides. The mounds showing the lines of the cloisters, refectory, cellarium, and kitchen are clearly defined, but the work on these has only just commenced. At present six of the twenty pillars of the nave of the church are uncovered, while a number of interesting tombstones have been discovered in the pavement, including those of four abbots, three priors, one sub-prior and sacristan, one precentor, one rector, one chaplain, one soldier, and some others at present undeciphered.

Much of the excavating work has been undertaken voluntarily by residents in the district.

**EXCAVATION OF BARDNEY ABBEY.**

The scheme for excavating the great Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Oswald, Bardney, Lincolnshire, now being carried on under the auspices of the Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society, is one which should appeal to the support of all lovers of ancient sites, and more especially to those connected with the historic county in which the remains of the old Abbey Church are situate.

According to a statement issued by the vicar of Bardney, under whose superintendence the work is being organised, the excavations, which were only commenced this year, have been proceeding most satisfactorily, and many visitors have expressed their surprise at the quantity and the quality of the remains unearthed, although at present only six of the twenty pillars of the nave of the church are uncovered. The architectural features of the church are said to be striking, the chancel entirely Norman, with on either side an arcade of four bays, and the church 254 feet long and 61 feet 6 inches wide, with N. transept, and two side chapels forming S. transept. The tombstones in the pavement are some of them most remarkable, and full of historical interest, having names and dates clearly showing, as in those of the following: Three abbots, Roger de Barowe, 1342-1355, Hugh de Braunston, 1379-1385, Richard Horncastel, 1466-1507; three priors, Robert de Thornton, Michael Gare, 1527, Robert Fosse; a sub-prior, William de Sotherey, 1526; precentor, John de Stepyng, 1420; rector of Partney, Thomas Clark, 1505; chaplain, John de Tathwell, 1403; soldier, Lord Richard de Goldesborough; brother, Thomas Elkington, and others. The seating of the Chapter House appears to be quite complete on the north, south, and west sides, and the mounds showing the lines of the cloisters, refectory, cellarium, and kitchen are clearly defined.

It is pointed out that, as under the agreement with the owner of the site (whereby in return for a payment of £50 permission was given to excavate for two years and one month), there now remain eighteen months only to complete the work; and, further, that, as this cannot be done unless a full gang of men are employed, an important reason is shown for the purchase of the site of the church. Could this be effected, the part of the work on which excavation has already been begun might be closed for the present, and the excavation of the domestic buildings carried on until the clearing of the church could be completed at leisure. For the sum of £1,000 the purchase of the site and the expense of the whole scheme could be covered. Very nearly half of the work already done has been by volunteers, without payment (chiefly by Bardney men), but to complete the scheme it is necessary to have an organised gang, which would also help to provide employment for some of the men out of work during the coming winter. An earnest appeal is, therefore, now being made to the generosity of the public for funds to enable the above most desirable (in every way) scheme to be carried through. If completed, it is proposed to transfer the site to the National Trust for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trust.

Contributions, large or small, will be greatly welcomed, and should be sent to the Rev. Charles E. Laing, Bardney Vicarage, Lincoln, from whom also, on application, an admirably illustrated booklet, descriptive of the excavations, and also photograph postcards of the same may be obtained.

*The Queen  
19 Nov. 1909*





BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
GENERAL VIEW.



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
WEST FRONT STAIRS.



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
INNER SIDE OF WEST FRONT.



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
TOMBS OF THE ABBOTS.



THE HORN CASTEL TOMB. 27TH ABBOT OF BARDNEY 1466-1507.

Reproduced by  
Russock





BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
NAVE PILLAR ON NORTH SIDE.

8  
Photographs  
taken by  
Mrs. Codd  
Sept. 1909



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
WEST FRONT ENTRANCE.



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
NORTH-WEST NAVE PILLAR.



BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.  
SUNDRY STONE-WORK.



8 Oct 1909

The Vicar met Mr Charles Bell at Mr. Scores office in Lincoln, paid £50 deposit & signed contract to purchase 3 acres of the site for £500.

14 Oct 1909

Lord Londesborough sent £10.10.0 towards purchase of the Site & the Royal Archaeological Institute voted 2nd Grant of £5.

During October 7389 Appeals were sent out.  
All Slabs & pillars covered up for the Winter  
Began work at the Tree & worked Northward towards Refectory.

During November 6877 Appeals were sent out  
The new bridge over the moat was completed  
The Well & the Oven were discovered.

Work continued all the Winter in the Domestic Buildings at the Gateway & walls being South of Kitchen & connected with the moat, also along the wall inside the South moat, to discover if possible the Gateway

The Museum was distempered & fitted up

During December 4397 Appeals were sent out

1910    do    January    17    do    do

Working at the Infirmary

During February 346 Appeals were sent out

Working at West Gateway

During March 3815 Appeals    do

Mr. W. Fane bought Mr. W. H. St. John Hope

Uncovered Tombstones & Pillars



10,000 of these sent out with the Green Appeals in March -

### Bardney Abbey Excavations.

The Excavations have been continued through the Winter with very satisfactory results, and in the Summer when the parts covered for protection from frost and bad weather are again exposed, there will be much of enormous interest to all lovers of antiquities and historical ruins.

But hard times and election fever have seriously affected the flow of subscriptions, and now they seem to have ceased altogether, so we have been obliged to dismiss two of our five men.

We are delighted to be able to report that a generous benefactor, whose name will not appear just yet, has guaranteed the £500 for purchase of 3 acres of the site, so that all the most important parts are now secure. Towards this £500 we can pay at once £155, as the Baroness von Eckardstein has most kindly raised her promised subscription of £10 10s. to £50.

The Title Deeds will for the present remain in the hands of the guarantor, but eventually we hope the site will be conveyed to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest.

In answer to the Appeal lately sent out, very nearly £200 has been received, including the raised subscription mentioned, and 270 sums of 2/6 or under.

We are thankful that our Scheme has prospered so well in a comparatively short time, but we want now, in round figures, £350 for the purchase, and at least £250 for further excavations: this is more than our former estimate, but the printing and postage have been a very large expense.

So we are hoping that a great many lovers of ancient sites and historical ruins, will send us some help. Subscriptions may be large or small, and may be sent for the Purchase Fund, or for the Excavation Fund, to me, or to the Lincoln Branch of the Union of London and Smiths Bank

Bardney is 9 miles from Lincoln, on the Boston line, and the Abbey Site is 1¼ miles from Bardney Station

BARDNEY VICARAGE, LINCOLN,  
March, 1910.

11 June 1910

#### BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

(To the Editor of the "Lincolnshire Chronicle.")

Sir,—Would you most kindly give me the hospitality of your columns to call the attention of your numerous readers, once again, to the Bardney excavations. It appears that there is an idea that they have been closed. This must have arisen from the fact that the valuable parts were covered in for the winter; but work on other parts has been proceeding very satisfactorily all the winter through, and the whole site is now open for inspection. There is a great deal to see, including much more of the church, a paved chamber, the kitchen, the refectory, with bases of the tables, one of the dormitory pillars, the well, and part of the guest-house, etc. So we are hoping for many visitors this summer, not only because we are glad for them to be interested in such work, but also because, for the most part, they are very generous to us when they come (there is no charge for admission); and we are very hard up for money. As no account has been given since the appeal was issued, I should like to add the following figures, with grateful thanks to our many subscribers:—Receipts: For excavating, £304 7s. 8d.; for purchasing of site, £219 18s. 8d.; for photos and postcards, £36 7s. 6d.; total, £560 13s. 10d. Expenses: Hut, museum, fencing and tools, £45 10s.; sundries, £2 12s. 1d.; towards purchase, £151 1s.; telegrams, messages, etc., £2 2s. 4d.; insurance, £1; postages, £56 18s. 6d.; printing appeals, photos and postcards, £2 9s. 9d.; for entrance to site, £50; wages, £137 7s. 11d.; balance in hand, £11 12s. 3d. Our small balance leaves us in immediate danger of being obliged to cease labour, but this would be most disastrous, as there is still an enormous amount to be done. The appeal was issued in the first place to the county of Lincoln, and about £300 of the amount raised has come from the county. The excavated parts have been most carefully examined and measured by Mr. Harold Breakspear, F.S.A., and the result is that we shall have the most complete plan of a Benedictine monastery in England.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING,  
Vicar of Bardney.

£ 102

#### BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

To the Editor of THE ONLOOKER.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable columns for the following statements:

These excavations have been continued through the winter with very satisfactory results, and in the summer, when the parts covered for protection from frost and bad weather are again exposed, there will be much that is of enormous interest to all lovers of antiquities and historical ruins. But hard times and election fever have seriously affected the flow of subscriptions, and now they seem to have ceased altogether. So we have been obliged to dismiss two of our five men.

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Yours, etc.,  
CHARLES E. LAING,  
Vicar of Bardney.

Bardney Vicarage,  
Lincoln, March 2, 1910.



Photographs taken by Dr. Hermitage Day May 1910  
Some of these appeared in his article on Bardney Abbey  
in the August Number of the Treasury Magazine.



In the  
Museum.



South side of the Quire





S.W  
Doorway  
of  
Church



Broken Staircase near the Well.





Back  
of  
Fireplace  
in  
the  
Infirm



South Transept.





Last  
pillars  
N.W  
in  
Nave



General  
view  
of  
East End  
of  
Church  
looking  
towards  
S.E.





Staircase  
in  
West  
Front.



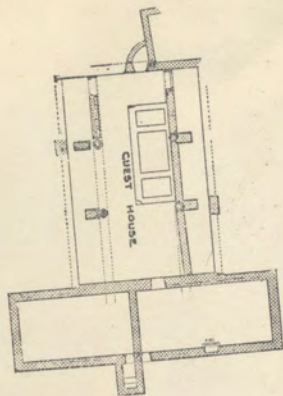
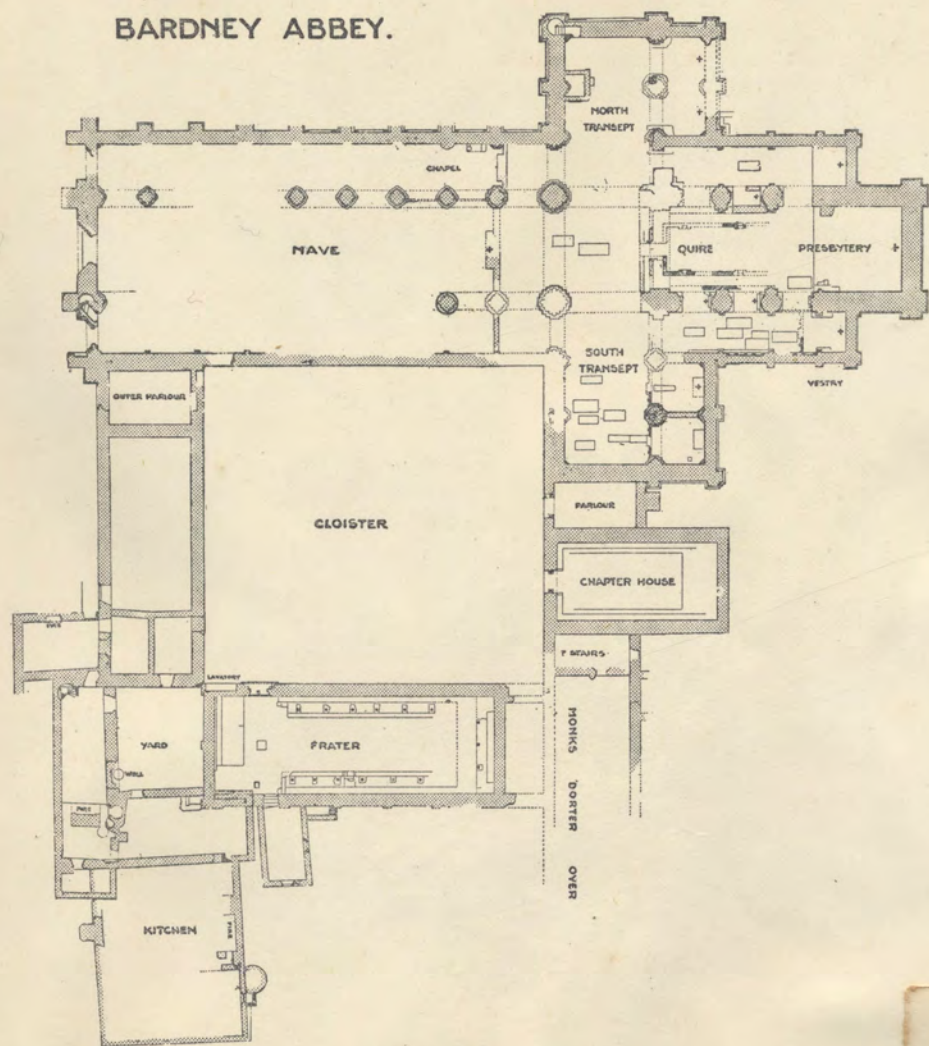
Coffin  
from  
Chapter  
House

Coffin  
lid  
found  
in  
Chamber  
N.E.  
of the  
Church



Mr Harold Brakspear spent a week at the Abbey during May & produced this plan.

### BARDNEY ABBEY.



BARDNEY ABBEY.  
HAROLD BRAKSPEAR F.S.A.  
GRESHAM, Notts. & DIST.

...m Romanum offered difficulties. First was necessary to get rid of the noxious parasitic plants, such as the *caprificus*, or wild fig, which were doing serious harm to the old masonry, especially at the tops of the arches of Titus and Septimius Severus. Also to keep down the growth of the *Parietaria officinalis*, lichwort, which covered the sides of the temples of Saturn and the Diva Faustina. This done, he turned his attention to the growth of grass as a protection of the tops of old walls and other surfaces against the disintegrating action of heat and frost. Layers of pounded potsherds, covered with a thin layer of mould, were laid on the raw edges of the wide walls or on other exposed surfaces, upon which grass was carefully sown. Commendatore Boni has a great belief in the efficacy of this as a protection against the ravages of weather, and advises that it should be adopted also in the Colosseum. As to the



In the  
Museum

(Pacey)

from "The Times" of either  
23 or 25 July 1910.



BARDNEY ABBEY.

VISIT OF LOUTH NATURALISTS', ANTI-QUARIAN AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

Fired by the enthusiasm of the Vicar's address on a previous occasion, together with the important results from time to time recorded in the Press, and favoured by the fine weather, a large company of members and their friends spent a most enjoyable afternoon on Thursday last week, being received by the Vicar, who explained in his graphic style the various points of interest which have been unearthed up to the date of the visit. Standing on the spot supposed to have been the resting place of King Oswald's body, whither it was brought by his niece Osfrida, in 672, Mr. Laing told the visitors they were standing on the most historic site in the diocese, where at that time were 300 monks. The well-preserved details of some of the carved stone-work was subject of general comment and the still standing supports of the tables in the refectory added a touch of realism which made the past live again in the minds of those present, the tops of the tables also being preserved and stored in the museum. One of the finest preserved monumental slabs was that of the Abbot Richard Horncastel, 1466-1507, where the lines and lettering are in a wonderful state of preservation. The kitchen has recently been unearthed, as well as one of the dormitory pillars, the well and part of the guest house. The importance of the abbey in the time of its glory may be judged from the fact that the annual income could not be less than £16,000. The Vicar believes that eventually they will have the most complete plan of a Benedictine Monastery in England. The superior of the abbey was denominated the Lord of Lindsey, had a seat in the House of Lords, and a dwelling-house or palace in London, for his residence during the session of Parliament. The foundation of the first abbey is still doubtful, for Leyland who visited the abbey about 1530, says: "The monks hold opinion that the old Abbey of Bardney was not in the very same place where the new one is, but at a Grange or Dayre of theys a myle of." "A part of Bardney parish," the Vicar writes, "on the road to Wragby, is called Bardney Dairies, and the road continues to Kingthorpe (it would be very interesting to know whether this road coming from Wragby, through Kingthorpe and Bardney Dairies, has any connection with 'King's Hill,' and the 'Conny Garth' which are on the same side of the Abbey site." The Vicar interspersed legend with fact, and held all interested to the end. What was seen during the short time spent there but emphasised the words of a former writer (once President of the Society, Mr. A. R. Yeoman) speaking of the destruction of the abbey when "ensued that senseless, fanatical iconoclasm which wiped out of existence most of the incomparable ecclesiastical structures built at a time when piety, wealth, labour and art went hand in hand in the construction of fitting temples for pure religion," and when the site of the monastery was granted to Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, who was sheriff of the county in 1541. Standing by these again unburied walls and pillars, again to quote the writer mentioned above, "one cannot but feel sad for the founders' laid not only the physical, but also the mental and spiritual foundations whereon our existing religious structure stands, and its stability is mainly due to the fact that the fundamental principles are cemented by their blood. We should like to hear the vesper bell ring once more, and see the long line of cowed brethren file into the Abbey Church. The wish is vain. The wild wind is the only constant mourner over their graves. Men are too busy to remember they ever existed. Not ours the scoffer's jeer, not ours to think or say they lived in vain; they were but links, even as we are, in the great human chain, whereby

Men may rise on stepping stones  
Of their dead selves to higher things."

Impressive even in ruins, one can but dimly guess at its former majesty, but the message it still conveys may be as insistent and important as the principles inculcated orally from this very spot a thousand years ago, and the sentinel-like Minster on the horizon, silently overlooking the scenes of former greatness, eloquently speaks of the continuity of the ennobling influences which go on pointing upwards to the highest side of human life and conduct.

All honour be to the present Vicar, who, by physical and mental toil, is striving to reveal to the present day world something of what lies beneath. Our hope is that the much needed financial support may continue to flow in and enable him to carry out the full desire of his heart. At the close of the examination and description given by the vicar, the PRESIDENT (Mr. B. Crow) thanked him for his address on behalf of those present, and the Rev. T. LONGLEY seconded it, the VICAR briefly replying. Among those present, beside those mentioned above, were the Rev. G. Hall and Miss Hall, the Rev. F. Freshnev, the Mayor of Louth (Mr. T. Gelsthorpe), Mr. M. Smith, Mr. L. Behrens, Mr. H. F. V. Falkner, Mr. C. Mason, Mr. J. Larder, Miss Knight, Miss Ashwell, Miss Davies, and several of the senior scholars of King Edward VI. Girls' Grammar School.

Bardney Abbey.

BY A RAMBLER.

"De yer cum from Bardney?" This is a phrase that is frequently used in the fens of Lincolnshire when anyone leaves a door open, and yet how few know of the old tradition which gave rise to the saying? How often a byword lingers for generations after the cause, or the author of it has passed into oblivion, and how long a building remains hidden beneath the green coverlet which nature speedily provides to cover up the works of man and preserve them for the wonder and admiration of the antiquarian of after generations.

So was it with the ruins of the once famous Bardney Abbey, until the enthusiasm and determination of the Vicar (the Rev. C. E. Laing) laid bare the secrets of the past locked in the grass-covered mounds about a mile from Bardney Station.

The saintly King Oswald is renowned in tradition for his acts of charity. One Easter Day, while at dinner with Bishop Aidan, the almoner reported a great number of needy persons were begging alms of the King, who immediately ordered the meat set before him to be carried to the poor and the dish cut in pieces and divided among them. At this sight the Bishop laid hold of the King's right hand and said, "May this hand never perish," and Bede says "that the hand, afterwards kept in a silver case in St. Peter's Church, Bamborough, remained entire and uncorrupted."

Thirty years after, King Oswald met his death at the hands of his cruel enemy, Penda, King of Mercia. His remains were conveyed by his niece, Osfrida, in 672, to the great Abbey at Bardney, which at this time was supposed to contain some 300 monks.

The Mercian Monks, in their long-standing animosity against the Northumbrian who had gained supremacy over them, refused to open their gates to the wain which held the remains of the late King, so they spread a covering over it and left it outside their doors, but all night they saw a pillar of light blazing heavenwards above the wain, visible in nearly all the province of Lindisse. In the early morning they eagerly threw open their gates, and carried in the bones with all reverence, washed them, and placed them in a chest, and hung over them the gold and purple banner which had waved in battle before the holy king. Many miracles took place at Bardney in consequence and the Abbey was greatly enriched by the gifts of devout pilgrims. Tradition says that the monks were so sorry for having shut their doors upon the Saint's body, that afterwards the doors were never shut for fear of infringing the laws of hospitality and keeping out a Saint unawares. Hence the story of Bardney and the open door.

When the Boston Ramblers visited Bardney last week, they were astonished to find the remains of the Abbey so extensive and in such a good state of preservation. The first foundation was destroyed by the Danes, Inguar and Hubba, who overran all this part of England in 870. But it was re-built in 1086 by Gilbert de Gaunt, who was buried in the Abbey in 1094. His son, Walter, renewed the Charter in 1115, and gave richer endowments in 1125. During succeeding years it received rich accessions of property, and was visited by King Henry IV. in 1406.

The excavations reveal that a church existed here of great magnificence, being 254 feet long and 61ft. 6in. wide, with north transept and two side chapels forming the south transept. The chancel is entirely Norman and had on either side an arcade of four bays. The bases of these remain and show that the cylindrical portion of each was seven feet in diameter.

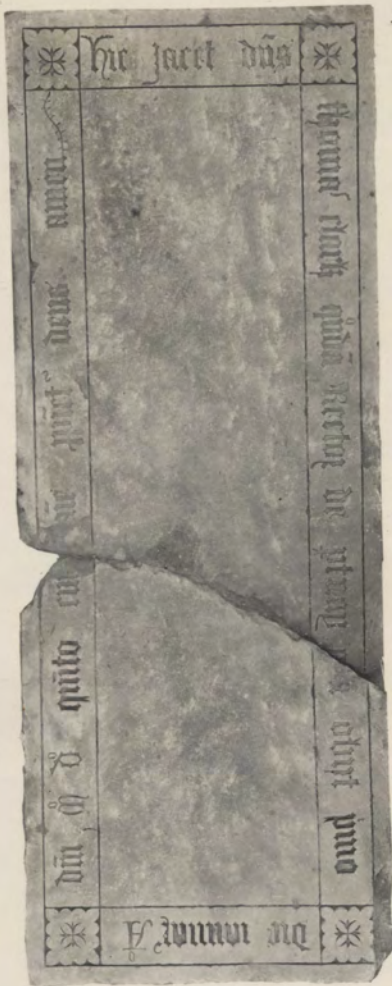
Among the tombstones in the pavement are those of four abbots, three priors, one sub-prior or sacristan, one precentor, one rector, one chaplain, and one soldier. Some fine specimens of stone-carving and numerous fragments of old pottery, and stained glass, together with domestic tools, etc., have been found and

may be inspected by the visitor in the temporary museum in the grounds. The foundations of the refectory, with its stone benches, and the stone supports for the tables, are in an excellent state of preservation, as are also the domestic offices, with the monks' cells, the bakehouse and the brewery.

So much has already been accomplished that it is hoped the money will be forthcoming to complete the Vicar's design, which is to enclose three acres, comprising the most important part of the ruins, with a wall built from the loose stones and preserve them for the future. Tons of earth have already been excavated by willing workers in the locality, but there is still a great amount of labour required to accomplish the task.

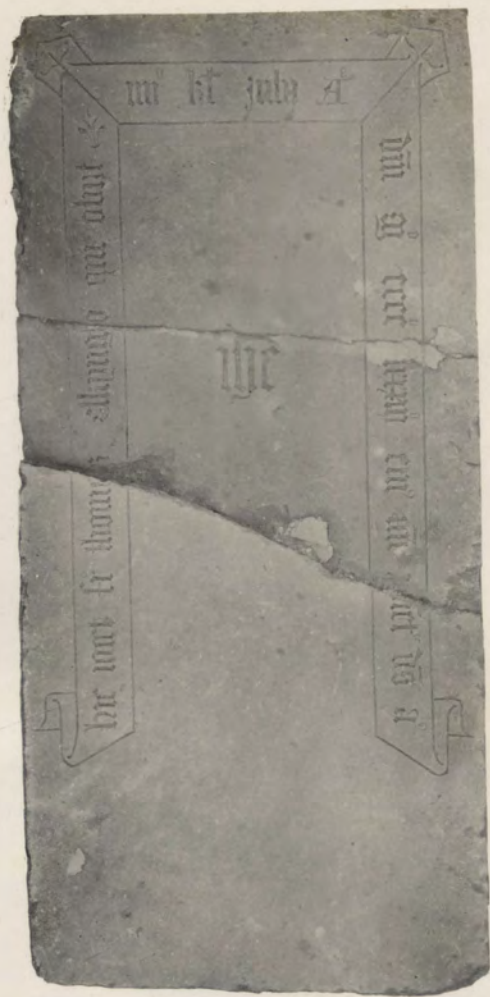
The doors of Bardney Rectory are always open to receive subscriptions towards this worthy object, and visitors are always welcome to inspect these ancient landmarks, which reveal a chapter in local history of which very little is known, and prove the important part played by Bardney Abbey in early English times and the Middle Ages.





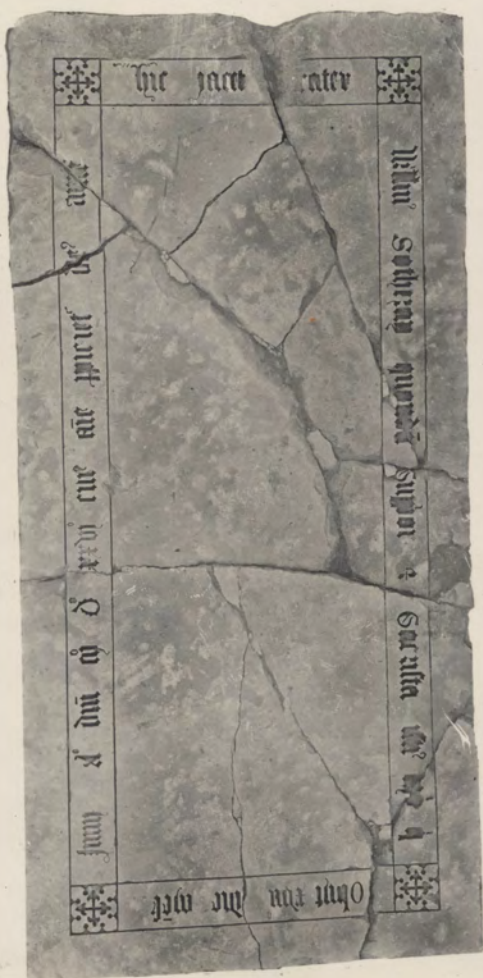
HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

THOMAS CLARK sometime  
Rector of Partney. 1505



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

FR. THOMAS ELKINGTON 1467



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

WILLIAM SOTHERAY Sub Prior & Sacristan  
1526



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

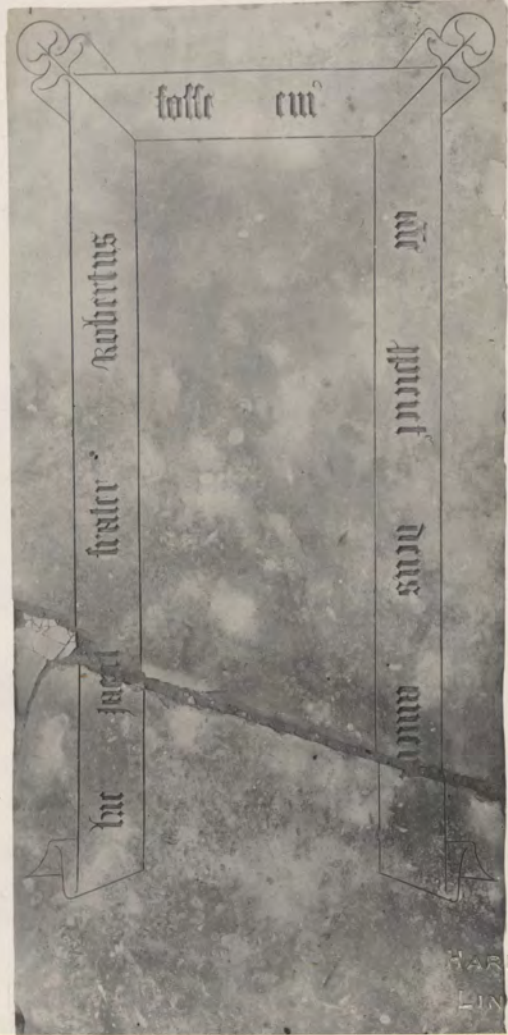
LORD Richard of GOLDBOROUGH. MILES





HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

JOHN of TATHWELL Capellanus 1403



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

FR. Robert FOSSE.



6. TOMBSTONE OF FR. ROBERT.

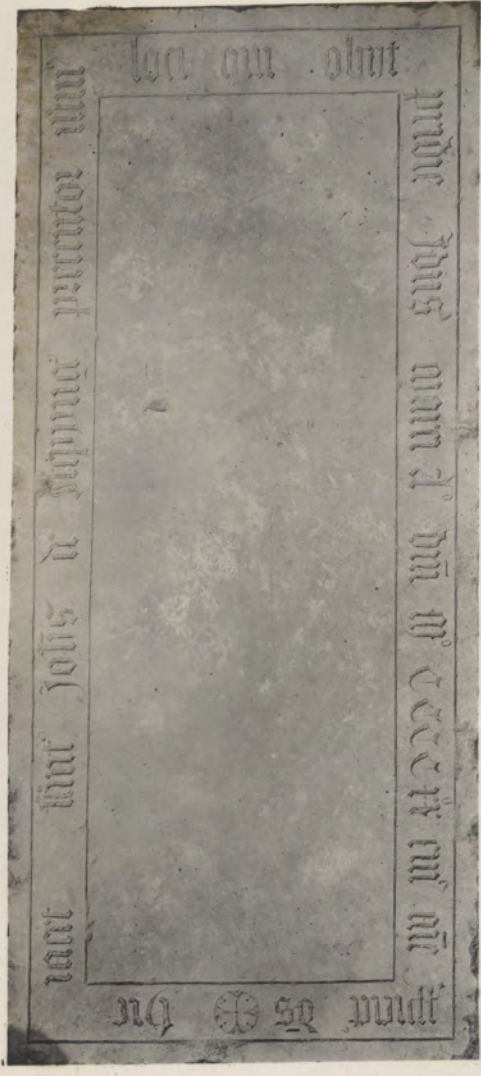
HARRISON, PHOTO.



(8) HORNCASEL TOMB.

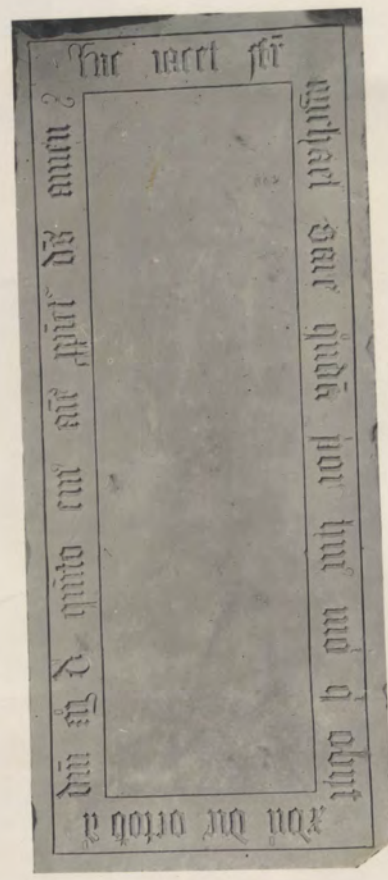
HARRISON, PHOTO.





HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

JOHN of STEPYNG Presentor 1420



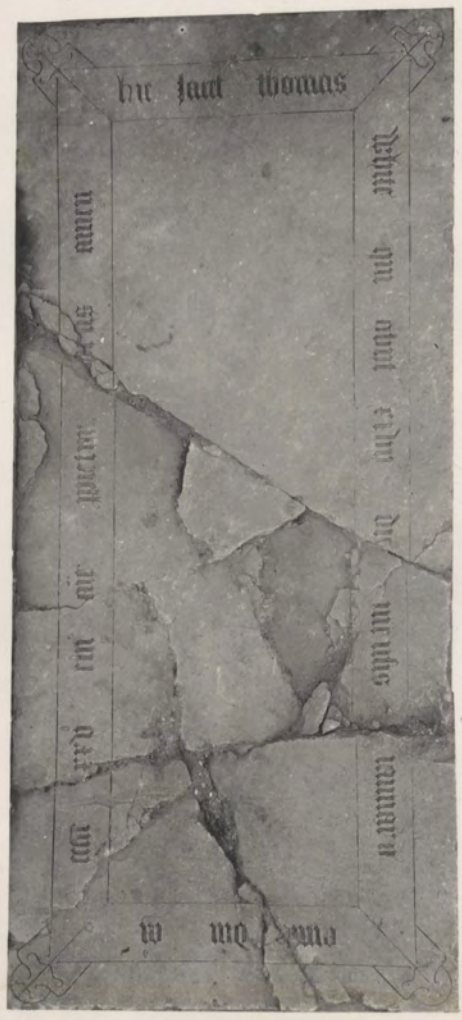
HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

Michael GARE PRIOR 1505



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

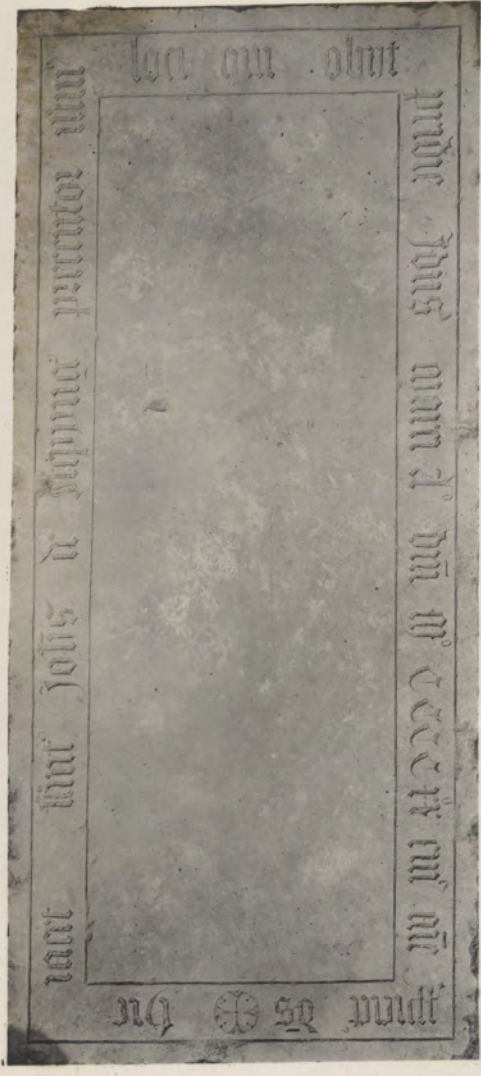
JOHN & ALICE



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

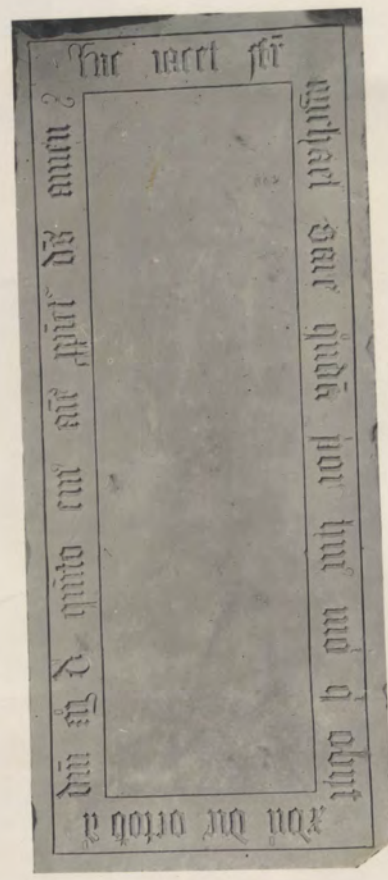
THOMAS WHITE 1525





HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

JOHN of STEPYNG Presentor 1420



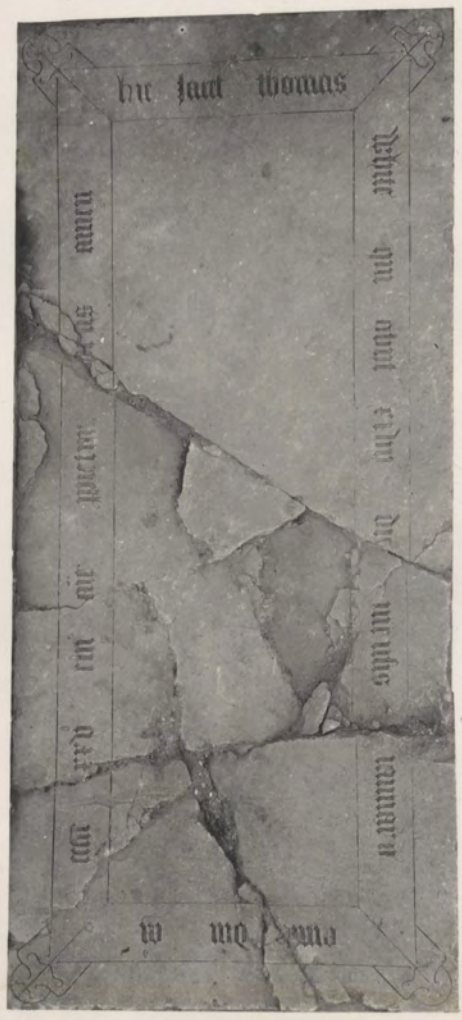
HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

Michael GARE PRIOR 1505



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

JOHN & ALICE



HARRISON,  
LINCOLN.

THOMAS WHITE 1525





View of  
Pillars  
North Side  
of  
Nave



Refectory  
showing  
Stumps  
of  
Tables  
/  
Pulpit Steps



Brick Hole  
in  
North Side of  
Nave.  
Tidy Betty?





CROWDER      COUNSELL      LAING (VICAR)      ELMITT      CLIPSHAM.  
16 THE BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATORS.



1 & 4,  
Heads of bearers  
of Refectory Tables.  
2, Figure  
of Deacon.  
3, Base of  
Infirmary Pillar.

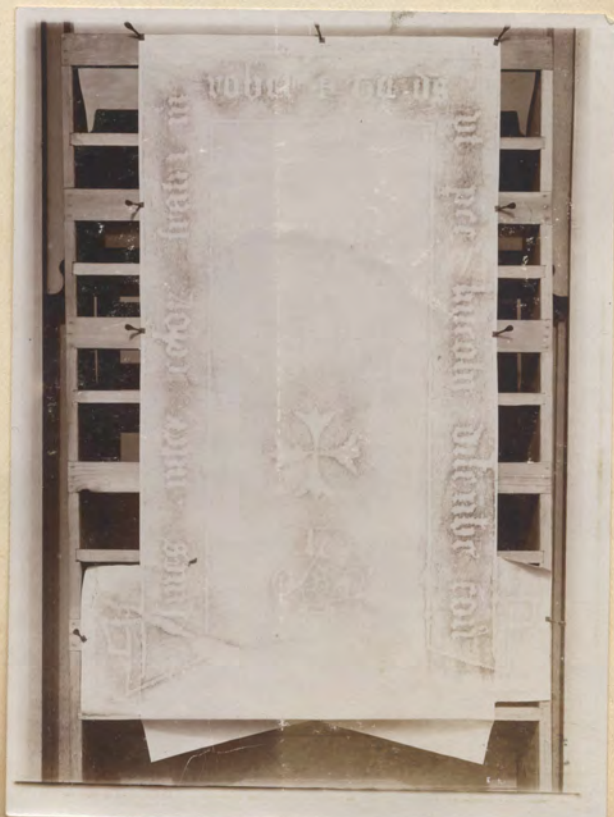
1    2    4  
   3  
BARDNEY EXCAVATIONS.

18 June 1910 The Lincoln District Guilds Union held their Annual gathering. Canon Hodgkinson said the Office standing close to the spot at which the Abbots sat. The Vicar instead of a sermon gave an address, on the history & architecture of the Buildings. Over 500 members came & in preparation for the visit the remaining pillars on the North Side of the Nave were all cleared.

SERVICE IN BARDNEY ABBEY RUINS.— Hundreds of people on Sunday evening attended a full service of evensong conducted in the ruins of Bardney Abbey by the Vicar of Bardney (Rev. C. E. Laing). The surpliced choir attended and the Vicar, in the course of an impressive address, dwelt on the history of the Abbey. Amongst the most interested in the congregation was the well-known Lincolnshire historian, Mr. Henry Winn, of Fulleby, who is claimed to be the oldest parish clerk in England.

Lincoln Echo Leader  
18 Aug 1910

Photograph  
of a  
Grass Rubbing  
by  
Canon Fowler  
Sept 1910





24 June 1910. Rev. Charles E. Laming met  
Mr. Charles Bell at Mr. Scover's office  
in Lincoln, the conditions of the purchase  
of 3 acres were read & the Conveyance signed

30 June 1910 Mr. Scover wrote saying  
that the matter of the purchase was  
completed & £510 paid to Mr. Bell.  
of this £510 the Vicar paid £160  
The Guarantors paid £350!

Laus + Deo



Oct. 26 & 27 Mr. Haver  
Brakpear spent two days  
in measuring & planning  
parts excavated since his  
visit in May last.

Lincoln Echo 31 Oct 1910

It will be a relief to all interested in the  
Bardney Abbey excavations to know that the  
large Horncastle tomb slab has been safely and  
skilfully moved, and is now fixed to the wall in-  
side the parish church. As the slab weighs  
over two tons, great credit is due to Mr. A.  
Smithson and Mr. Tether for the removing and  
fixing without the slightest damage to this very  
valuable archaeological find.

SERIOUS MOTOR ACCIDENT

Arch. over Dream. East of  
Dormitory  
Freeman  
Sept 1910.



Photos. by Rev. H. Rundle  
All Saints Day 1910.



Remains of Inner Gateway



Entrance to oven close to the Well



Oct 26. & 27 Mr. Harold Brakspear came to measure & plan work done since his visit in May last: which included a great deal of trenching West of the Church, disclosing Guest Houses, a domed Gardenbe & remains of the inner Gateway also much work at the Dormitory & Rere Dotted also the Mill also Stable like buildings 280ft long & ft broad.

Oct 27 The Horncastr Slab was safely moved & fixed against the South Wall of the Parish Church.

Oct 28 - Nov. 5 Covered all Tombslabs, both Altar Slabs West front & some of the pillars, for the winter

During the winter months, erected a wall on the North boundary & the South & fenced in the whole three acres

Filled in all the Chambers, outside our limit, west of the Church, filled up the site of the Windmill.

Placed 158 loads of Stony Soil on Bells road

### BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATORS.



REV. CHARLES E. LAING, VICAR OF BARDNEY, AND HIS HELPERS.

Daily Graphic 11 Feb. 1911

mistress, with gratifying results, as can be seen months after. (See article)

### BARDNEY ABBEY.

#### PROGRESS OF THE EXCAVATIONS.

The Rev. Charles E. Laing, vicar of Bardney, Lincoln, has forwarded to the DAILY GRAPHIC an account of the Bardney Abbey excavation scheme. By his efforts and the assistance of generous donors portions of the Abbey have been cleared, and the purchase of three acres, including the whole site, has been accomplished. This was accelerated by the loan without interest of an anonymous friend, who paid £350 to the account of the fund and does not desire interest. But for this help, says Mr. Laing, the whole site would have been covered in and levelled next March, never to be seen again, and before the plan could possibly be completed. The expenditure amounts at present to just over £1,000, and in order to complete the work and repay the guarantor a considerable sum is still necessary.

Portions of the Abbey were built in early Norman times, followed later by the north transept, the nave, and the west front, which was completed in the thirteenth century. The excavations have defined the cloister, with doorways leading into the church, the chapter house, and the frater. The chapter house is shown to have been rectangular in shape and small in comparison with the church. Much of the site of the frater has been cleared, and exhibits a row of tables on either side in front of stone seats and the high table at the east end. Many of the stumps or legs of the tables are in situ, broken off, but five tops with carved heads have been found and are now in the museum. The pulpit steps are much broken, and it is not clear how the pulpit was arranged.

Archæologists and those interested in historic sites will undoubtedly join in the hope that Mr. Laing may be provided with the necessary funds for the completion of the undertaking.



1911

37

Bell refused to let us have the road of ground covered  
by excavated soil & turf. So rather than be in his hands  
on March 17th 1911 determined to remove the whole inside  
our own Boundaries. Six very large heaps of soil  
& 4 of turfs. Putterjill & Maston helped  
Todd & Stephenson lead the stones... but it involved  
much labour & 5 more men were employed.  
This brought the funds very low, so a Rebat was  
drawn up 10000 Cms ordered & these were sent out  
beginning on 3 Feb. to all subscribers & others

March 7th 1911. Crowder found the Reverse of the  
Abbey Seal in a cart rut near the gateway: this  
rut was filled with soil taken from the heap dug  
out at the South West corner outside the Church



Photograph of Reverse of Abbey Seal  
& an impression therefrom

(Rev. H. Rundle)



Photos. by Rev. H. Rundle  
All Saints Day 1910



Chamber at North End of Dormitory



Reve. Doter.  
Drain 80ft by 4ft.



Report printed & issued Jan & Feb. 1911

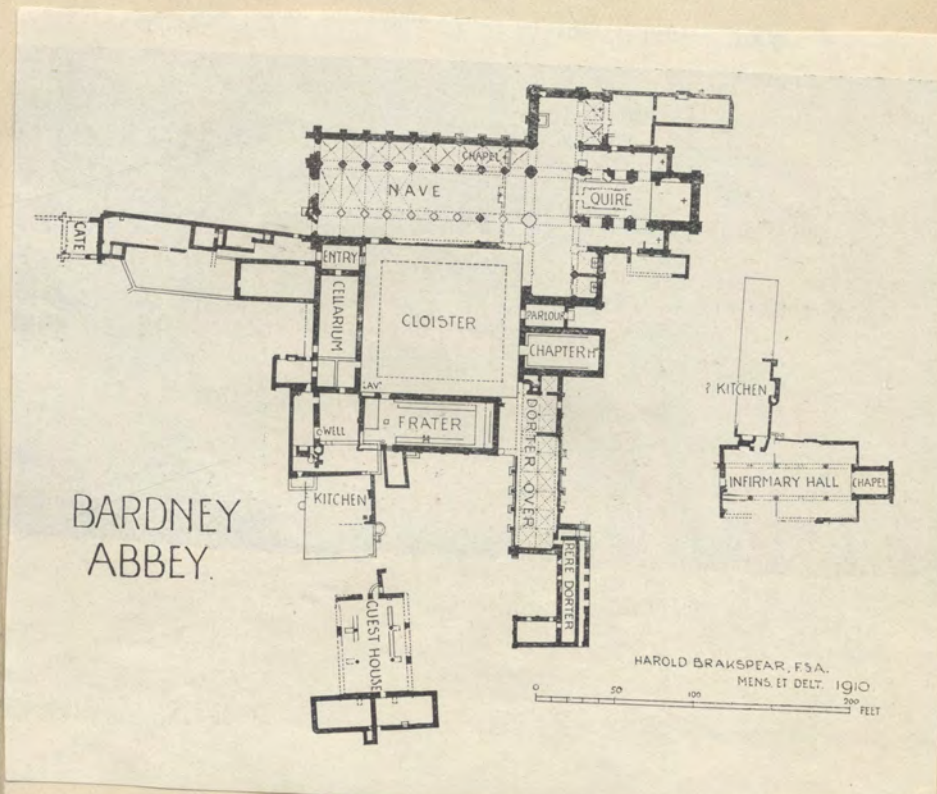
# A REPORT

of work done and the present condition of the

## Bardney Abbey

### : Excavations :

together with a full list of the Subscribers and Accounts. . . .



BARDNEY VICARAGE,  
LINCOLN,  
February, 1911.

Dear Sir,

Since an Appeal was issued to the County and all Antiquarians, on behalf of the Bardney Abbey Excavation Scheme, much money has been sent to me with very many most encouraging letters and a great deal of work has been accomplished, but as an enormous amount of work remains to be done and the funds are running very low it seems an opportune time to present a report of the use of the money that has been so kindly contributed.

I. THE CHURCH, with the exception of the South Aisle and South Arcade, has been cleared. It consists of a presbytery of four bays with aisles, stopping short of the east end, transepts of three bays with eastern chapels, and a nave of nine bays with aisles. It is 260 ft. long by 61 ft. wide, and 130 ft. across the transepts.

The Church was built slowly, beginning with the presbytery in early Norman times, followed by the South transept, the North transept and one bay of the Nave afterwards, four bays were continued in the early part of the thirteenth century, and the west front was completed about 1240. The high

Altar must have been against the east wall, the quire occupied the two western bays of the presbytery, and the Nave Altar was between the first pair of pillars in the Nave.

Indications of at least twelve other chapels have been found, and the floor, especially of the South aisle of the presbytery and the nave, are covered with monumental slabs of unusual interest.

Two Altar Slabs are lying close to the spot in which they were in use, and these we hope to replace.

The Monumental Slabs at present number 44, and there are many more to be uncovered in the South aisle of the nave.

It may make this report a little more interesting to many to give the following list of them :—

1. Lord Richard of Goldesborough, miles.
2. John of Tathewell, Chaplain 1406.
3. Thomas Clark, Rector of Partney 1505.
4. Fr. Thomas Elkington, 1483.
5. William Sotheray, Sub-Prior and Sacristan 1526.
6. Fr. Robert Lincoln.
7. Fr. Robert Fosse.
8. Robert Thornton, Prior.
9. Michael Gare, Prior 1505.
10. Hugh de Braunston, Abbot 1482.
11. Richard Horncastel, Abbot 1466—1507.
12. Roger de Barowe, Abbot 1352.
13. John of Stepyng, Precentor 1420.
14. John Sav . . . . . 1440.
15. John and Alice . . . . . 1444—1446.
16. Thomas White, 1525.
17. Fr. Robert Aydayn.
18. Richard Borrell, Confr and Thomas de Hlm, Sub-Prior 1527.
19. Thomas de . . . . . 1506.
20. Fr. William Radclyffe.
21. Matilda Papyky, 1433.
22. Robert Marton.
23. (Inscription all broken),
24. John de hokton de harton.
25. Roger Baynthorpe.
26. (Inscription badly broken).
27. John Bracy, 1415.
28. Joanna Bracy.
29. John . . . . .
30. John Jolyf.



31. Emma Draper.
32. John and . . . . .
33. Radulphus Lewyn, Chaplain of S. Andrew de Bardenay.
34. Thomas de . . . . .
35. A fragment with an altered and unreadable date.
- 36 & 37. Much broken.
38. Richard Grene.
39. Fr. William B . . . . . 140.
- 40, 41, 42 & 43. Inscriptions badly broken.
44. William Etton.

The Horncastel Slab which is most remarkable, having been at some time moved from its original site, was in danger of destruction from the weather, so it has been safely removed and is now fixed against the south wall inside the Parish Church.

2. THE CLOISTER is quite clearly defined, but at present we have found no signs of the inner arcade, there are doorways leading into the Church, the Chapter House and the Frater.

3. THE CHAPTER HOUSE is rectangular, and small in comparison with the Church; the stone seat which surrounded it appears to be intact, but other work pressing, this has been left for the present as it comes within the limit of the purchased portion of three acres.

4. THE FRATER. A good deal of this has been cleared and reveals a row of Tables on either side in front of stone seats and the high table at the East end; also the drain at the S.W. corner, pantry arrangement, and doorways to the cloister and towards the kitchen.

Many of the stumps or legs of the tables are *in situ*, broken off, but no less than 5 tops with carved heads have been found and are now in the Museum; the pulpit steps are much broken, and it is not clear how the pulpit was arranged.

5. THE DORTER over a long sub-vault was a long and strong building, the floor supported by eight pillars of which the bases of five have been uncovered; here also much work has yet to be done.

6. THE RERE DORTER at the South end of the dorter 80 ft. long and 4 ft. wide has been cleared out; it has the drain and pit inside on the East side, and a chamber at the North end and another projecting westward at the South end.

7 & 8. TWO PARLOURS have had very little done to them at present.

9. THE CELLARIUM also has to be excavated, but at the South end of it a Courtyard has been nearly cleared and has disclosed some rough paving, a well, an oven and a fireplace.

10. THE WELL, 17 ft. deep, has been pumped out, emptied and searched; one pewter plate fairly perfect, another broken in half, the connection between the bucket and chain, the bottom of the bucket, several pieces of leather, and a great quantity of animal bones were found.

11. THE GATEWAY due West of the Church, has been found, dug out, carefully planned and filled in again as it lies outside our limit; there appears to be a cobbled roadway from the Gatehouse to the West door of the Church.

Remains of another gateway, almost demolished, were found on the South side of the . . . . .

could possibly be completed. The account has been paid by subscriptions. The £350 is to be paid back, but no interest is being charged on it. But for this most generous and timely gift, the whole site would have been covered in and levelled next March, never to be seen again, and before the plan

15 & 16. GUEST CHAMBERS. Two sets have been carefully trenched and planned, one set is filled in again, being outside our limit. In both sets great alterations have at some time been made, probably for farm purposes. The set of chambers West of the Church contained the foundations of an inner gateway, 2 pits and a domed garderobe, and remains of a handsome canopy.

17. A PAVED CHAMBER with 2 doorways and fireplace has also been cleared, 5 steps of a staircase remain at the S.W. corner.

18. THE KITCHEN has been found, but only the fireplace is cleared as yet.

19. A very curious hole in the floor of the Nave, showing much signs of fire, perhaps made and used for melting the lead during the demolition of the Church.

20. The Headless figure of a Deacon, probably S. Laurence (in whose memory the Parish Church is dedicated), and half the figure of S. Anthony, both found in the Church.

The purchase of 3 acres has been accomplished owing to the generosity of (at present) an anonymous donor who has paid £350, the other £160 as shown in the account has been paid by subscriptions. The £350 is to be paid back, but no interest is being charged on it. But for this most generous and timely gift, the whole site would have been covered in and levelled next March, never to be seen again, and before the plan could possibly be completed.

The question of conveying the Site to Trustees does not occur yet as it is in debt, but it is still unsettled whether it should be conveyed to the National Trustees for Historic Sites or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees.

The 3 acres are now defined and being enclosed, a large portion of the fence is a stone wall, 2 ft. 3 in. thick, built (without mortar) of the stones excavated in various parts, the rest is a fairly strong wooden fence which will gradually be replaced as the stone wall is continued.

The conveyance includes a right of footway from the nearest point to the road and also a right of way for carts from the West end of the Church to what is known as the " Pudding Pan " Entrance (the original Gateway).

When it is remembered that no plan or engraving could be obtained to guide the work, and that it was 3 months before the Church was located, our subscribers will, we hope, consider that the results are really remarkable and that the money has been well spent.

My original estimate for the whole scheme was £500 for purchase and £500 for excavating; if allowance is made for the large expenses of printing, postages, Museum and tools, the estimate will not be so very far wrong, but it will be seen that we still need a great deal more money to complete the scheme satisfactorily.

I hereby tender my very best thanks to all the

subscribers, and particularly to Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., whose advice has been invaluable, also to Mr. Wilfred Bond and Mr. William Watkins, Architects, and to the G.N.R. for much help in the way of planks and wheelbarrows.

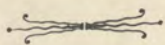
I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.



# SUBSCRIPTIONS.



Excavation.		Purchase.		Excavation.		Purchase.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Rev. F. H. Allison	0	5	0	Dr. W. H. B. Brook	1	0	0
Rev. D. C. O. Adams	0	10	6	Rev. H. Birch	0	5	0
Rev. James Adderley	0	10	0	The Earl Brownlow	5	0	0
Mr. F. W. Alington	0	10	0	The Countess Brownlow	2	0	0
Miss E. C. Abraham	0	10	0	Rev. W. M. Bone	0	10	0
Mr. H. Allenby	1	0	0	Mr. J. Berry	0	10	6
Anon.	0	5	0	Miss Barton	0	2	6
Anon. E.M.C.	0	5	0	Rev. W. E. Brown	0	1	6
Anon. O.H.	1	0	0	Mr. H. A. Badham	1	1	0
Anon. B.T.M.	1	0	0	Mr. J. A. Brooke	5	0	0
Anon. Grimsby	0	2	6	Rev. F. Buttershaw	0	1	6
Anon. Oxford	0	5	0	Miss L. E. Beedham	0	3	6
Anon. Bow	0	2	6	Prof. F. C. Burkitt	0	7	9
Anon. H.	0	3	3	Mr. C. J. Bolam	0	2	6
Anon. Hull	0	1	6	Rev. E. S. Bengough	0	10	6
Anon. E.L.P.	0	10	6	Mr. A. B. Wilson	2	6	0
Anon. A.N.D.	0	5	0	Barkworth	0	2	6
Anon.	0	2	3	Mr. R. C. Bacon	0	2	2
Anon. M.E.S.	0	2	6	Mr. T. W. Brogden	0	10	6
Anon. A.H.B.	0	2	6	Rev. Canon Bayley	0	2	6
Anon. E.H.	0	1	6	Mr. W. Boyd	0	2	6
Anon. E.S.G.	0	1	6	Mrs. Charles Brook	1	0	0
A Country Priest	0	5	0	Col. Browell	0	10	6
S. Andrew's Choir	0	3	0	Mr. W. Herrond Bell	1	1	0
Rev. F. Brodhurst	0	10	0	Mr. H. Birchenough	2	2	0
Mr. F. M. Burton	1	0	0	Mr. H. L. Langton	1	0	0
F.S.A.	1	0	0	Brackenbury	1	0	0
Rev. F. Bashforth	0	10	0	Mr. H. W. Birks	1	1	0
Sir Hickman Bacon	5	1	0	Mr. T. H. Burroughs	1	0	0
Mr. E. Brackenbury	1	1	0	Miss E. Curtis	0	5	0
Mr. J. D. Blanshard	1	1	0	Mrs. Cockett	0	5	0
Ven. Archdeacon	1	1	0	Rev. R. E. G. Cole	2	2	0
Bond	1	1	0	Mr. W. A. Cragg	0	10	6
Rev. F. C. Brother-	0	7	6	Rev. Canon Crow-	0	1	0
ton	0	7	6	foot	0	1	0
Rev. Canon Bramley	0	10	6	Rev. E. M. Clements	1	0	0
Major le Breton	0	10	0	Mr. C. B. Collinson	1	1	0
Rev. J. B. Booth	1	0	0				

Sir Charles Seely	1	1	0	Rev. C. C. Ellison	1	1	0
Mr. Shipley	1	0	0	Rev. F. J. Eld	0	5	0
Sir Montagu Chol-	1	1	0	Rev. W. C. Emeris	2	2	0
meley	1	1	0	Mr. V. R. Fane	4	0	0
Rev. A. B. Cheales	0	10	0	Rev. Canon Foster	0	10	0
Rev. J. Cockshott	0	2	0	Rev. F. H. Fuller	0	10	0
Miss Curtis	0	5	0	Mr. W. Farrer	1	1	0
Miss G. Curtis	0	5	0	Rev. J. Fernie	0	10	6
Mr. J. S. Collitt	0	5	0	Mr. J. D. Fisher	0	5	0
The Misses Crane	0	5	0	Mr. A. Ranken Ford	0	2	6
Mrs. Cholmeley	0	5	0	Rev. Canon J.	1	10	6
Rev. R. D. Clarke	0	2	6	Fowler	0	10	6
Mr. W. J. Stracey	0	10	0	Mrs. Fulford	0	10	6
Clitherow	0	10	0	Rev. H. K. Fry	0	2	6
Prof. S. H. Capper	1	0	0	Mr. J. F. Fare-	0	5	0
Mr. Roger Clark	5	0	0	brother	0	5	0
Rev. J. F. Chamber-	0	10	6	Rev. J. P. Faun-	0	10	0
lain	0	10	6	thorpe	0	10	0
Major J. H. Cham-	0	10	0	Dr. H. Fraser	0	5	0
berlain	0	10	0	Mr. Fernie	0	1	0
Mr. A. L. Crosfield	1	0	0	Rev. W. Fowler	1	1	0
Rev. H. Couchman	0	5	0	F.F.F.	0	3	0
Mr. A. Dury	0	5	0	Mr. H. Gamble	0	10	6
Mr. T. A. Dyson	0	5	0	Rev. E. Giles	0	3	0
Rev. Canon Du	0	1	1	Mr. J. D. Gibson	0	1	0
Buisson	0	1	1	Guild of St. Nicholas	0	10	6
Rev. R. Duke	0	1	1	Rev. H. Gibling	0	10	0
Mr. G. P. T. Drake	0	5	3	Rev. H. E. Goffe	0	2	6
Rev. A. W. Drake	0	2	6	Rev. C. B. Goodacre	0	5	0
Miss Duke	0	5	0	Miss M. Gurney	0	1	0
Mrs. Dymoke	0	10	6	Miss A. Gurney	0	10	6
Mr. J. C. Dawber	0	10	6	Mr. E. Gilliat	0	10	6
Rev. H. P. Marriott	0	5	0	Rev. A. Goldes-	0	5	0
Dodington	0	5	0	borough	0	5	0
Rev. E. Hermitage	0	2	6	Mr. G. Gadsby	0	5	0
Day	0	2	6	Mr. S. A. Gimson	0	2	6
Mr. Griffith Dearden	1	1	0	Mr. G. P. Gildea	0	5	0
Mr. O. S. Tyrwhitt-	0	2	6	Rev. Stephen Glad-	0	1	0
Drake	0	2	6	stone	0	1	0
Rev. E. Donaldson	0	10	6	Mr. W. Garfit	0	1	0
Mr. W. Dawson	0	5	3	Mr. C. G. Griffiths	0	2	6
Miss Ruth Dodds	1	0	0	Mr. J. A. Greenwood	0	5	6
Mr. E. V. Dykes	0	10	6	Mr. T. Gelsthorpe	1	0	0
Rev. Prebendary	0	2	6	Mr. V. Clifford Gib-	0	1	0
Deedes	0	2	6	bons	0	1	0
Rev. Chancellor H.	0	2	6	Rev. A. T. Hall	0	1	1
Davey	0	2	6	Very Rev. Dean	0	5	0
Mrs. Dasher	0	10	6	Howard	0	5	0
Miss Dobie	0	10	0	Rev. A. Hunt	0	5	0

Rev. Canon Hem-	1	1	0	Mr. P. Laing, Old-	0	5	0
mans	1	1	0	ham	0	5	0
Mr. Cuthbert Hard-	0	10	6	Very Rev. the late	8	3	0
ing	0	10	6	Dean of Lincoln	8	3	0
Mr. W. S. Hewitt	1	1	0	Rev. Charles E.	6	5	5
Sir C. H. Hawley	1	0	0	Laing, lectures, &c.	6	5	5
Mr. W. Holden	0	10	6	Rev. Canon Leeke	0	10	0
Rev. Canon Hutton	1	1	0	The Earl of Londe-	10	10	0
Mr. W. H. St. John	0	5	0	borough	10	10	0
Hope	0	5	0	Mr. J. A. Langley	0	10	6
Mr. E. Hutchinson	1	0	0	Mr. W. J. Letts	0	5	0
Rev. Canon Hodg-	0	10	0	Mr. W. Ledbrook	0	10	0
kinson	0	10	0	Mrs. Longridge	0	5	6
Mr. G. H. Horsfield	1	1	0	Mr. Charles Letts	0	10	0
Mr. G. D. Hillyard	0	10	6	Mr. A. G. Little	0	5	0
Mr. H. Horncastle	0	5	3	Miss E. R. Ledbrook	2	2	0
Mrs. Harvey	0	10	0	Miss M. J. Lightfoot	0	3	0
Mr. H. E. Holman	0	10	6	Lincoln District	5	0	0
Mr. Hayes	0	10	0	Guild Union	5	0	0
Rev. J. Hill	0	2	6	Mr. A. S. Leslie	1	0	0
Miss M. Hookham	0	5	0	Melville	1	0	0
Mr. B. Hammond	0	10	0	Rt. Rev. Dr. Mit-	2	1	0
Mr. G. R. Harding	1	1	0	chinson	2	1	0
Mr. H. Horncastle	0	10	6	Mr. Maisey	1	1	0
Professor Hales	0	10	6	Mr. A. H. Leslie	7	2	0
Mr. G. Hubbard	0	10	6	Melville	7	2	0
Rev. E. E. Hodgson	0	10	0	Rev. W. O. Mas-	2	2	0
Mr. I. R. Hatfield	1	0	0	singberd (the late)	2	2	0

Rev. A. du B. Hill	0	5	0	Rev. Canon Maddi-	1	0	0
Lord Heneage	0	5	0	son	1	0	0
Lady Heneage	0	3	0	Miss Maisey	0	10	6
Rev. G. E. Jeans	0	7	6	Mr. Mackintosh	0	5	0
Mrs. H. Johnson	1	0	0	Lincoln & Notting-	1	1	0
Rev. W. T. Jennings	0	10	6	ham Architect So.	1	1	0
Mr. R. Jones	0	2	6	Mrs. Mackinder	0	10	0
Rev. C. E. Johnston	0	5	0	Rev. N. J. Miller	0	5	0
Mr. R. Judson	0	2	6	Rev. W. D. Macray	0	2	0
Lady Jennings	0	2	6	Mr. L. J. Mitchell	0	2	6
Mr. J. Jebb	0	3	0	Mr. C. F. Moysey	0	10	0
Miss M. Jefferies	1	1	0	Col. S. Matthus	0	10	0
Rev. Dr. Jessop	1	0	0	Mr. N. H. Martin	1	1	0
Mr. A. L. Jessop	0	10	0	Sheriff Mackenzie	0	10	0
Miss Kempley	1	1	0	Mr. Merryweather	0	10	0
Dr. L. J. Kirk	0	2	9	Mr. H. R. Maynard	1	1	0
Mr. C. E. Keyser	0	10	6	Miss Nesbitt	2	0	0
Kiss Kershaw	0	2	6	Rev. J. R. Oloren-	0	2	6
Mr. Larder	0	10	6	shaw	0	2	6
Miss Laing	0	5	0	Mrs. D'Oyly Old-	2	2	0
				ham	2	2	0

Mrs. Overton	2	7	0	Rev. Canon Skelton	0	10	6
Mr. C. E. Orwin	0	10	0	Mr. J. S. Sneath	1	1	0
Mr. J. Palmer	0	2	6	Mr. C. H. Sowby	0	5	0
Rev. J. A. Penny	2	10	0	Miss Sharpe	0	5	0
Mr. H. A. Peake	0	10	0	Rev. A. F. Sutton	1	0	0
Rev. W. A. Purey-	1	0	0	Mr. W. W. Smith	0	5	0
Cust	1	0	0	Mr. T. H. Skinner	0	5	0
Mr. W. Parker	0	2	6	Mr. Snow	0	5	0
Mr. J. B. Paynter	1	1	0	Mr. Sutton Sharpe	2	2	0
Mr. James Parker	0	5	0	Mr. G. P. Skipworth	0	10	6
Miss Puckle	0	10	6	Mrs. V. Smith	1	0	0
Rev. L. T. Purcell	0	10	6	Rev. S. Stamp	3	3	0
Mr. H. Plowman	0	5	0	Miss M. Swift	0	10	6
Mr. C. A. Parker	0	5	3	Mrs. F. Smith	1	1	0
Rev. H. Pooley	0	2	6	Mr. J. Surfleet	0	2	6
Mr. C. A. Peake	0	10	0	Mrs. H. Snow	1	1	0
Mr. William Pearce	1	0	0	Prof. A. Steward	0	10	0
Dr. Marten Perry	0	10	0	Rev. H. Urling	0	5	0
Mr. G. Palmer	2	0	0	Smith	0	5	0
Mrs. Pachell	0	2	6	Rev. W. H. Payne	0	2	6
Capt. J. S. Reeve	4	0	0	Smith	0	2	6
Miss L. Ruston	1	1	0	Rev. W. J. Stobart	0	2	6
Capt. H. N. Reeve-	1	0	0	Mr. R. C. Stewart	0	2	6
King	1	0	0	Major P. A. Skip-	1	0	0
Miss J. Ruston	2	0	0	worth	1	0	0
Royal Archaeological	15	0	0	Miss Shirley	0	5	0
Institute	15	0	0	Society of Anti-	5	0	0
Col. J. S. Ruston	1	0	0	quaries	5	0	0
Mr. F. Raimes	0	10	6	Mr. H. Smith	0	10	0
Mr. J. P. Rylands	0	5	3	Col. C. A. Swan	5	0	0



## Accounts from Jan. 1st, 1909 to Dec. 31st, 1910.

### EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Museum, Hut, Tools and Fencing	56	13	0
Wages .. .. .	210	13	5
Post, Telegrams and Parcels ..	57	14	7
Printing Appeal, &c., Post Cards, Photos. and Envelopes ..	116	13	9
Insurance and Sundries ..	4	7	10
Mr. Bell, for Entrance ..	50	0	0
Solicitor .. .. .	1	1	0
Mr. Bell, for Purchase ..	510	0	0
Balance in Bank .. ..	54	8	1
„ in hand .. .. .	0	4	0
	£1061	15	8

### RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions :			
For Excavating ..	423	4	2
For Purchase .. ..	225	17	4
Sale of Post Cards, Photos., Notes and Plans .. ..	62	9	1
Guarantor .. .. .	350	0	0
Interest .. .. .	0	5	1
	£1061	15	8

## Eastern Morning News.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th, 1911.

### BRINGING BACK ANCIENT GLORIES.

Near the pleasant village of Bardney, nine miles out of Lincoln, there has been in progress for some time now a work of intense interest to the archaeologist and antiquary. This village of Bardney has a history which dates back to far distant times, and it is with those distant times that the work in question has to do. It forms a great link with the past, and its effect is to show to the world the glories,

so long hidden, that once were Bardney's. In Druidical times, as the Rev Charles E. Laing, the vicar of Bardney, tells us in an interesting pamphlet, there seems little doubt that this spot, on the banks of the Witham, was adopted as a place for settlement; at that time there were few spots in the Fens where a settlement was possible. Parenthetically we may look into the meaning of the word Witham, since there is a section of Hull which is so designated, much to the mystification of the majority of people. Hull has its Witham, and there is a Witham near Grantham, and it is here that the river which later on runs by Bardney has its rise. The word Witham, Mr Laing suggests, is most probably an ancient British or Druidical name, "Wye" or "Gwy," standing for "river," and "ham" for "holme" or "home." How this explanation affects our Hull Witham will be seen when it is remembered in what close contiguity the spot stands with regard to the river Hull. This is all by the way, however. We are concerned with the ancient village of Bardney, and with the great abbey that came to be erected there; which abbey, later, was ruthlessly destroyed, as were so many of our glorious ecclesiastical buildings. Whether this was the first abbey that Bardney could boast seems open to some doubt. Leland, who visited the abbey that stood in 1530, speaks of the monks as being of opinion that the abbey of that day did not stand on the same ground as that which had preceded it. There is ground for the belief that the first abbey at Bardney was founded before 697 A.D., because it is recorded how Osfrida, murdered in that year, had previously "brought the bones of King Oswald to Bardney Abbey." It is suggested that Ethelred, the husband of Osfrida, was not the founder of the abbey, but the rebuildier. There are numerous records about this old-world place. King Oswald, slain in battle, in 642, was deprived of his head and arms. These dismembered parts of him were carried to Northumbria, and kept in a silver box. Thirty years after Queen Osfrida, the slain man's great niece, rescued his bones, and brought them to Bardney.

OF the £54 8s. 1d. balance at least £30 is required for necessary charges in making the plan, and for legal correspondence, etc.

The Rev. Charles E. Laing has a good set of slides and will gladly lecture on the Abbey where a lantern is provided, in return for a collection for the Fund.

26 PHOTOGRAPHS all different—2d. each.

7 POSTCARDS all different—1d. each.

PLAN—2d.

NOTES ON ABBEY—2d.

Packet containing all the above, 5/- post free.

BARDNEY ABBEY is  
1¼ miles from Bardney Station  
which is 9 miles from Lincoln  
on the G.N.R. line to Boston.

Bank :  
UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS',  
LINCOLN.

YORKSHIRE POST.

MAY 15, 1911.

## NEWS OF THE NORTH.

### THE EXCAVATION OF THE SITE OF BARDNEY ABBEY.

An appeal is being made for further funds for the excavation of the site of Bardney Abbey, Lincolnshire, undertaken a year or two ago by the Rev. Charles E. Laing, vicar of Bardney. The Benedictine Abbey at Bardney was founded at an early but unascertained period. It was destroyed by the Danes in A.D. 870, and, after being in ruins for 200 years, was rebuilt in the reign of the Conqueror by Bishop Remigius and Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln. The buildings stood upon six acres of land in a moated enclosure of 25 acres, and the possessions of the abbots, which received the last charter of Henry VII are conjectured to have comprised 20,000 acres and an annual income of the present value of £16,000. Until the excavations began in 1908, the moated space enclosing extensive grass grown mounds were all that marked the site of the great monastic house. In the latest report on the excavation illustrated by photographs, the Vicar of Bardney gives copious details of the results up to date. The church, with the exception of the south aisle and south arcade, has been cleared. It consists of a presbytery of four bays with aisles stopping short of the east end, transepts of three bays with eastern chapels, and a nave of nine bays with aisles. It is 260 feet long by 61ft. wide, and 130 feet across the transepts. Indications of at least twelve chapels have been found, and the floor, especially of the south aisle of the presbytery and the nave are covered with monumental slabs of unusual interest. Those visible number 44, and there are many more to be uncovered in the south aisle of the nave. The cloister is quite defined, and a good deal of the frater has been cleared. The purchase of three acres of the site has been effected, but £350 of the purchase money has been advanced as a loan without interest, and is to be repaid.



The Standard  
8 Feb. 1911

### BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

The Rev. Charles E. Laing, vicar of Bardney, Lincolnshire, has issued a report on the progress of the excavations at Bardney Abbey, which is situated within 1½ miles of Bardney Station, and nine miles from Lincoln, on the Great Northern Railway Company's Boston line. The report states that the abbey, with the exception of the south aisle and the south arcade, has been cleared, and the excavations show that the old Norman church consisted of a presbytery, four bays with aisles, stopping short at the east end, transepts of three bays with eastern chapels, and a nave of nine bays with aisles. It was 260ft. long, 61ft. wide, and 150ft. across the transepts. The assumption of archaeologists is that the church was built slowly, the presbytery having been commenced in early Norman times. The north transept and one bay of the nave were built afterwards, four bays early in the thirteenth century, and the west front about the year 1240. The High Altar must have been against the east wall. The quire occupied the two western bays of the presbytery, and the Nave Altar was between the first pair of pillars in the nave. The monumental slabs at present number 44, and there are many more to be uncovered in the south aisle of the nave. One of them is in memory of Richard Horncastel, abbot from 1466 to 1507.

43  
March 12. 1911 Vicar taken ill & with the exception of one short visit was not at the Abbey again till 25 Aug 1911

During this time the men worked at the Clunds & finished it in the middle of August & then began the Ditcher. More pillars & tombstones were discovered & the whole effect very fine indeed.

View from  
heap of stones  
in West Dorway  
looking due East

Photo by  
Rev. H. Rundle  
Sept 1911.



View from  
Wash next corner  
looking N. E.







S. Laurence  
Church

Bairdnes

Sept-1911

Photos by  
Rev. H. Rundle







Inside Nave of  
the Abbey Church  
showing large  
tombstone  
10ft x 4ft 6in  
& small fragments  
of the brass canopy.

(Sept 1911  
Rev. H. Rundle)

14 Sept 1911

BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Will you allow me to make the following statements about Bardney Abbey?

It is well known to a great number of people that extensive excavations have been going on now for two and a half years, with remarkable results. We have just finished the whole area of the church, which is 260ft. long, 61ft. broad, and 130ft. across the transepts; the excavating has disclosed considerable remains of 30 pillars, two altar slabs, and 80 monumental slabs of unusual interest *in situ*, 54 of which have inscriptions dating from Abbot Roger de Barowe, 1352, to William Sotheray, Sub-Prior, 1525.

The refectory contains not only the stumps of the table legs, but also the triangular-shaped trestles (with carved heads) that carried the tables; the dorter, reredorter, chapter house, kitchen, and well are full of interest.

The purchase of three acres, which contains the bulk of the buildings, has been completed at a cost of £583; of this sum £350 has been paid by a guarantor, whose name for the present is not to be known, and is lent without interest, but is to be paid back when possible. The site cannot be conveyed to proper trustees till this debt is paid.

To our sorrow, we have lost the Tattershall mantel-pieces and perhaps the Castle; the remarkable chapel at Kirkstead Abbey is fast going to decay, and this because they are not in the hands of proper trustees. The Bardney site is in many ways unique, and now seems to be the time to bring these facts to general knowledge.

I venture to appeal to the country, and particularly to the county of Lincoln, to pay this £350, and then the site will be conveyed, either to the National Trust or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees.

To the various appeals for excavating and purchase, which have brought in about £830, the county has responded well. I shall be pleased to send copies of our accounts to any one; our solicitors are Messrs. Burton, Scorers, and White, Lincoln, and our bank is the Union of Smiths, Lincoln.

Bardney is nine miles from Lincoln, ten miles from Woodhall Spa, and the abbey is one and a half miles from Bardney Station. I am sorry to add excavating is now ceasing for want of funds.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
CHARLES E. LAING, Vicar of Bardney.

London Times  
9 Oct 1911

BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO."

Sir,—Owing to a prolonged absence from home through sickness, I have been unable to send any reports of progress at the Bardney Abbey excavations. I shall now be very much obliged if you will allow me to say that the whole site of the ancient Abbey Church is cleared, and presents a very remarkable sight, the like of which is scarcely to be seen anywhere. The remains appear of 30 pillars and over 100 tombstones, about 60 of which have inscriptions.

Some of these must be covered up for the winter, and perhaps may not be visible again for a long time, as our funds available for excavating have come to an end.

Perhaps some of your readers would like to help us to continue the work. We are losing the beautiful fire places at Tattershall Castle. The chapel at Kirkstead is fast going to decay. These are in the hands of private owners. It may be worth while for Lincolnshire to make an effort to preserve Bardney Abbey, which will be in the hands of proper trustees.—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES E. LAING.

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In Sept & Oct. 1911 a great many visitors.  
 The Lord Bishop of Lincoln & Mrs. Hicks  
 The Dean of York. The Dean of Lincoln & Mrs. Fry.  
 Lady Stanhope. Mrs. C. E. Keyser Pres. Brit. Archaeol. Soc.  
 Sir Culbert Quiller. Mrs. A. H. Melville. Mrs. Viques Re



**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**

Office Stamp.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1/2d. being reckoned as 1/2d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Woodhall spa

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }



Handed in at 4.30 P.M. Received here at 2.37 P.M.

TO { Laing Bardney

Her Highness arriving with party  
 Chas. Laing this afternoon driving  
 direct to Prime many thanks.  
 will not be able to  
 have tea. Weigall

**BARDNEY.—THE ABBEY EXCAVATIONS** were again honoured by Royalty on Wednesday. Princess Marie Louise, of Schleswig-Holstein, who was accompanied by Lord and Lady Hardwick, Miss Hawkes, and Major Brownlow arrived at 3.39, and were met by the Rev. Chas. E. Laing, Mrs. and Miss Laing. After being shown round the ruins, her Royal Highness dug for three-quarters of an hour, and, after having had tea at the Vicarage, the party left Bardney about 6 p.m., expressing great pleasure in all they had seen, being greatly surprised with the amount of work that had been done since their last visit two years ago.

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this T

**CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD WEIGALL'S HOUSE PARTY AT**



THIRD ROW (AT BACK): Mlle. PARDEUX, MR. OLIVER LOCKER-LAMPSON, CAPTAIN WEIGALL, EARL OF HARDWICKE, MAJOR BROWNLOW, MISS GLOSSOP.  
 SECOND ROW (IN CHAIRS): THE COUNTESS OF DARNLEY, MISS HAWKE, PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, MRS. ARCHIBALD WEIGALL, BARONESS KATHLEEN VON ECKARDSTEIN.



**BARDNEY ABBEY.**

**Further Discoveries.**

**A RE-INTERMENT.**

Under a very large Purbeck marble slab in the middle of the Nave of the Abbey Church, a vault was discovered about a week ago. In it was part of a body, which

was taken out and put into a small coffin. All the other bones that have been found scattered about the Church have been carefully collected, and these filled a large coffin.

On Tuesday, 17th Oct., 1911, the Dean of Lincoln, assisted by the Vicar (Rev. Charles E. Laing), Rev. W. Benson Brown, Rev. A. Hunt, Mr. H. B. Cartman, Mr. A. Drury, and Mr. F. Thompson, churchwardens, and

in the presence of about 50 people, conducted a short service of re-burial. Both coffins were placed in the vault and filled in, and the broken slab is being replaced. At the close of the ceremony the Dean said a few words with regard to reverence for the Christian dead. It is a matter of congratulation that what could be done to repair the wilful rifling of the many tombs in times of spoliation, has been reverently performed, and that these bones are now free from any further irreverence or disturbance.



**THE RE-INTERMENT.**  
The remains disturbed during the excavations of Bardney Abbey were reverently re-interred by the Dean of Lincoln on Tuesday. Photo, Harrison, Lincoln.

The  
Lincoln  
Leader  
Advertiser

21 Oct 1911

Coffins of bones found in 3 graves & scattered about the Church, ready to be placed in the vault, under large broken Purbeck marble slab



The Dean  
of Lincoln  
conducting  
the service  
17 Oct 1911

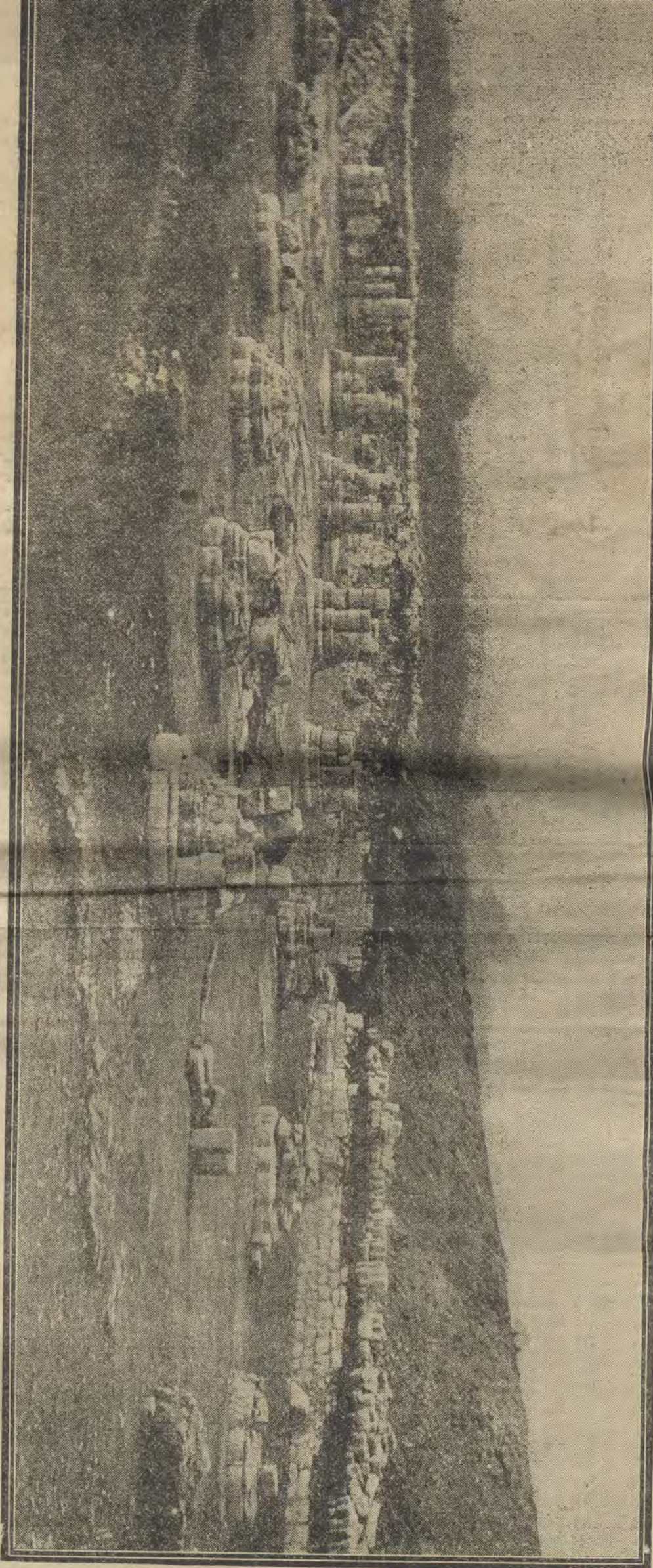
Mr Cartman.

Rev. A. Hunt  
Rev. B. Bram

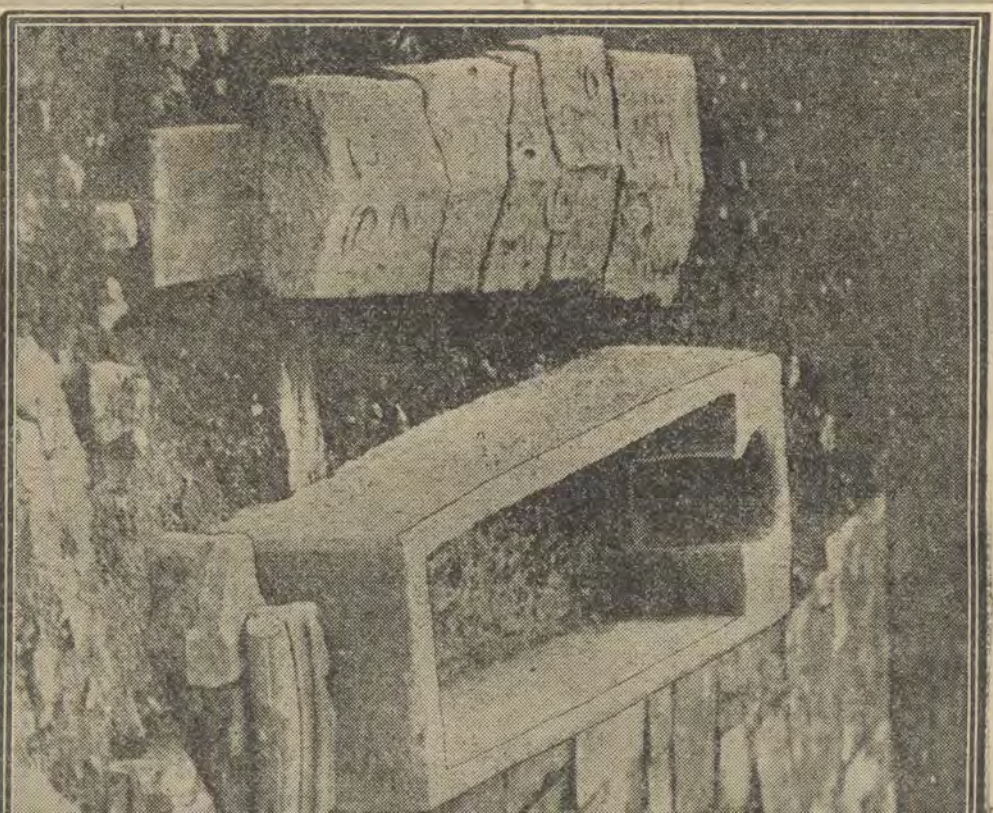
Vicar Dean



EXCAVATING BARDNEY ABBEY : SOME REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES.



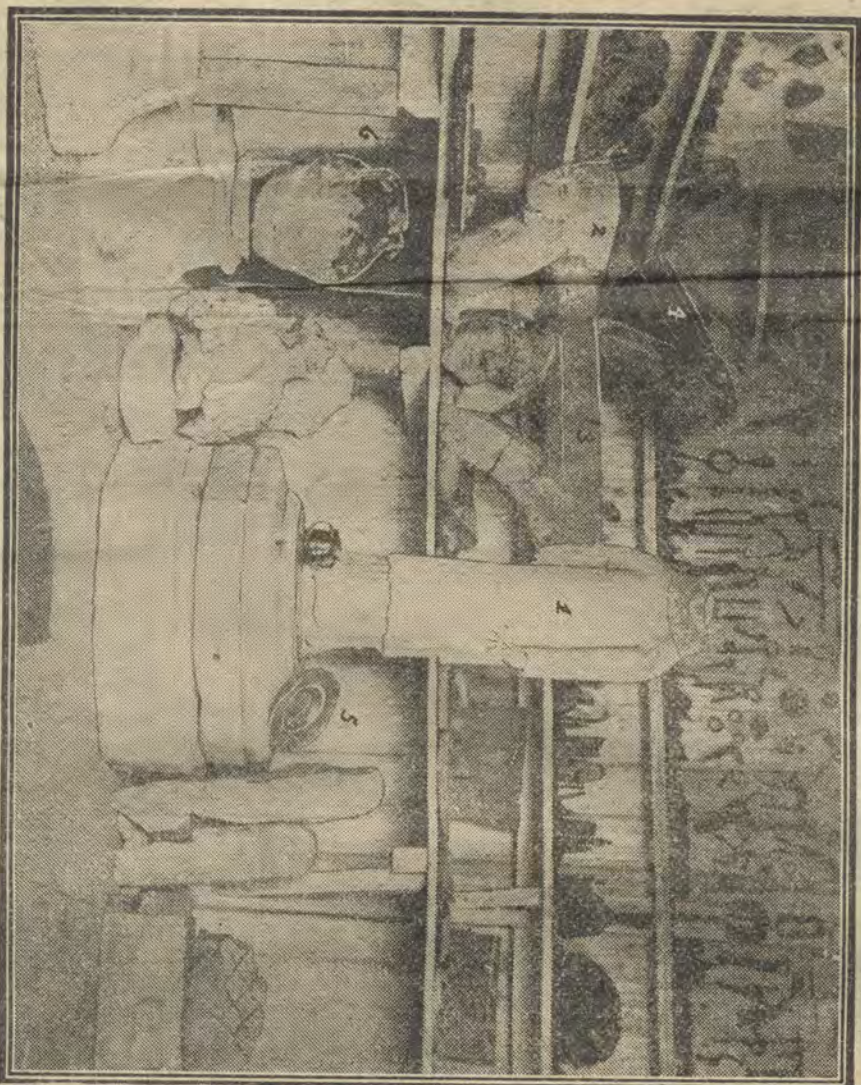
General view of the Abbey taken from the choir, showing bases of the pillars down here and much of the original pavement.



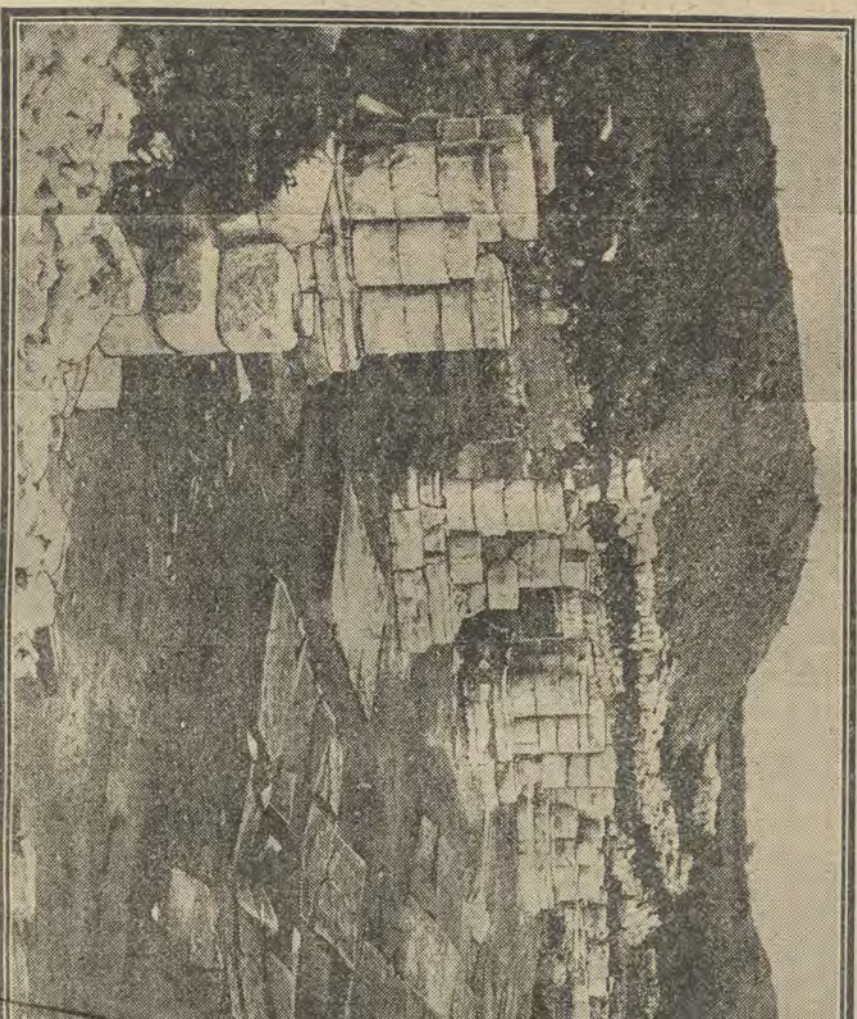
Stone coffin found whilst excavating the Chapter House.



The Vicar of Bardney exploring a vault discovered under a monumental slab in the church.



A corner of the "Museum." Photograph shows: 1. Headless figure of St. Lawrence, with portion of gridiron in his hand. 2. Pewter plate rescued from the well. 3. 4. Carved stone trestles that supported the Refectory Tables. 5. keys, locks, tongs, &c., are illustrated on the wall.



Bases of pillars down south side of nave.



## BARDNEY TREASURES.

### HISTORIC ABBEY REVEALED.

#### REMARKABLE RELICS OF A BYGONE AGE.

The picturesque village of Bardney, built beside the River Witham almost under the shadow of Lincoln's stately fane has, during the last two or three years, been excavated from the obscurity that hides the merely commonplace and transformed into a veritable archaeological Mecca which has attracted, and will continue to attract, antiquarians and kindred experts from all corners of the kingdom. Where, not long ago, the eye discerned naught save acres of stubby grass dotted with irregular and mysterious mounds, at the present time stand revealed the remains of a once great and noble abbey. Bases of massive columns which, ages ago, lent grandeur to a pillared nave; remains of elaborately ornamented capitals; richly engraved epitaphs on marble slabs; fragments of imposing doorways; skilfully wrought figures of saints; altar tables, and numerous other finely preserved relics of an erstwhile flourishing house of God have been displayed to our wondering eyes.

Buried treasure indeed! Here is wealth: stones charged with priceless memories—memories of the mighty has been—recalling days when devoted monks moved silently between the hallowed walls of Bardney Abbey, and bowed their tonsured heads in simple faith before the High Altar.

Historians inform us that the original Abbey of Bardney was in existence before the year 697, when Ostrida conveyed King Oswald's bones there to be buried within its peaceful precincts. King Ethelred, world-tired after his reign of 29 years, retired to its solitude in 704, and is supposed to have been buried at a spot less than half a mile east of the monastery. In 870 it was fired by the Danes and burnt to the ground. For more than 200 years it remained a wreck, and then, in 1086, was rebuilt by Gilbert de Gaunt, who died eight years later, and was buried within the walls he had so recently erected. The charter of that time was signed by Remigius, the builder of Lincoln Cathedral, and Archbishop Lanfranc. It was renewed by Walter de Gaunt in 1115, and the document is still in existence. Other charters conferring gifts upon Bardney Abbey were confirmed by Eugenius III., Bishop of Rome 1145—1153, and in 1156 by Nicholas Brakespear, Pope Adrian IV., the only Englishman who ever became Pope.

Henry IV., attended by a large and gallant retinue, visited the abbey in 1406, and gave audience to the Bishop of Lincoln and Lord Willoughby de Parham. Its last Royal Charter was conferred in the reign of Henry VII., 1505, and shortly afterwards the entire fabric was destroyed—a mere incident in the desolate scenes enacted during the great suppression. In course of time every vestige of the once great pile disappeared, and wayfarers saw placid cattle grazing on grass-covered hillocks that little suggested the secrets there entombed.

The modern chapter in the fascinating story of Bardney Abbey was begun in February, 1909. On the 19th of that month the vicar of the parish (Rev. Charles E. Laing) imbued with zeal to obtain, if possible, something more tangible than tradition of a building so pregnant with historic charm, commenced excavating on the site. Helped by a small band of enthusiastic workers, his labour soon earned generous reward. Progress was made from day to day laying bare court, cloister, aisles, transepts, chapels, and the almost complete plan of the abbey rebuilt by Gilbert de Gaunt in 1086.

To-day the remains of a church 260 feet long by 61 feet wide, and 130 feet across the transepts may be seen; traces of twelve side chapels and the bases of thirty pillars. Nearly one hundred tombs of Abbots, Knights, Priors and soldiers have been uncovered, sixty-one of them bearing still legible inscriptions and dating back to 1352.

In one of the chapels is an altar stone engraved with the five crosses, and in the choir are remains of a four-seated sedilia. The foundations of the High Altar are exposed, and a few of the choir steps are there *in situ*, hollowed by the footprints of long-forgotten pilgrims. The nave and transepts are paved with monumental slabs, and the bases of four particularly fine columns mark where the central tower stood. In the refectory a row of tables on either side are revealed, with stone seats to correspond and the high table at the east end. The Chapter House, dorter, reredorter, infirmary, guest-chambers, mill (with original millstone), well (which is 17 feet deep and fed by a copious spring), the kitchen, stables, and the cellarium have been more or less explored and welded, link-like, into the nearly completed plan.

A temporary museum of "odds and ends" has been arranged on the site of the excavations, and the collection is one of engrossing interest. It includes the headless figure of St. Lorraine, in whose memory the village church of Bardney is dedicated; three stone trestles with carved heads that supported the refectory tables; the base of a pillar from the infirmary; and large ewer and pewter plate recovered from the well; a milk jug of extremely rare bronze ware, and a whole miscellany of tools, keys, knives, tongs, harness, fittings, &c. By no means of least interest are the many specimens of architectural mouldings which embrace excellent examples of Norman axe work, different stages of dog tooth, nail head, and chain armour. The vicar, however, is especially proud of the original seal of the Abbey, which was discovered last April just outside the south-west doorway. An impression of it may be seen in the British Museum attached to a document dated 1348.

And thus one might continue to describe these truly remarkable relics unearthed under such romantic circumstances by the vicar and his handful of helpers. But, alas! no matter how zealous and self-sacrificing the workers in such a cause as this may be, money is all-essential to complete success. Funds are urgently needed now, and if they are not forthcoming the task, so near achievement, must cease.

From time to time the vicar has issued appeals for financial assistance that have won a generous response, a sum of about £830 being subscribed to the expense of excavating and purchasing the site. The bulk of the buildings occupy a space of three acres, which has been bought at a cost of £583. Of this amount £350 has been advanced by a guarantor, who prefers to remain anonymous. The money has been lent without interest, but has to be repaid when possible. With this debt undischarged, the site cannot be conveyed to proper trustees. Therefore, the vicar "appeals to the country, and particularly to the county of Lincoln, to pay this £350." Immediately that is accomplished, the site will be conveyed to the National Trust or to the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees. With the fate of Tattershall Castle still rankling in the minds of all who value

The spirit of antiquity, enshrined  
In sumptuous buildings,  
his appeal will most surely not be in vain.





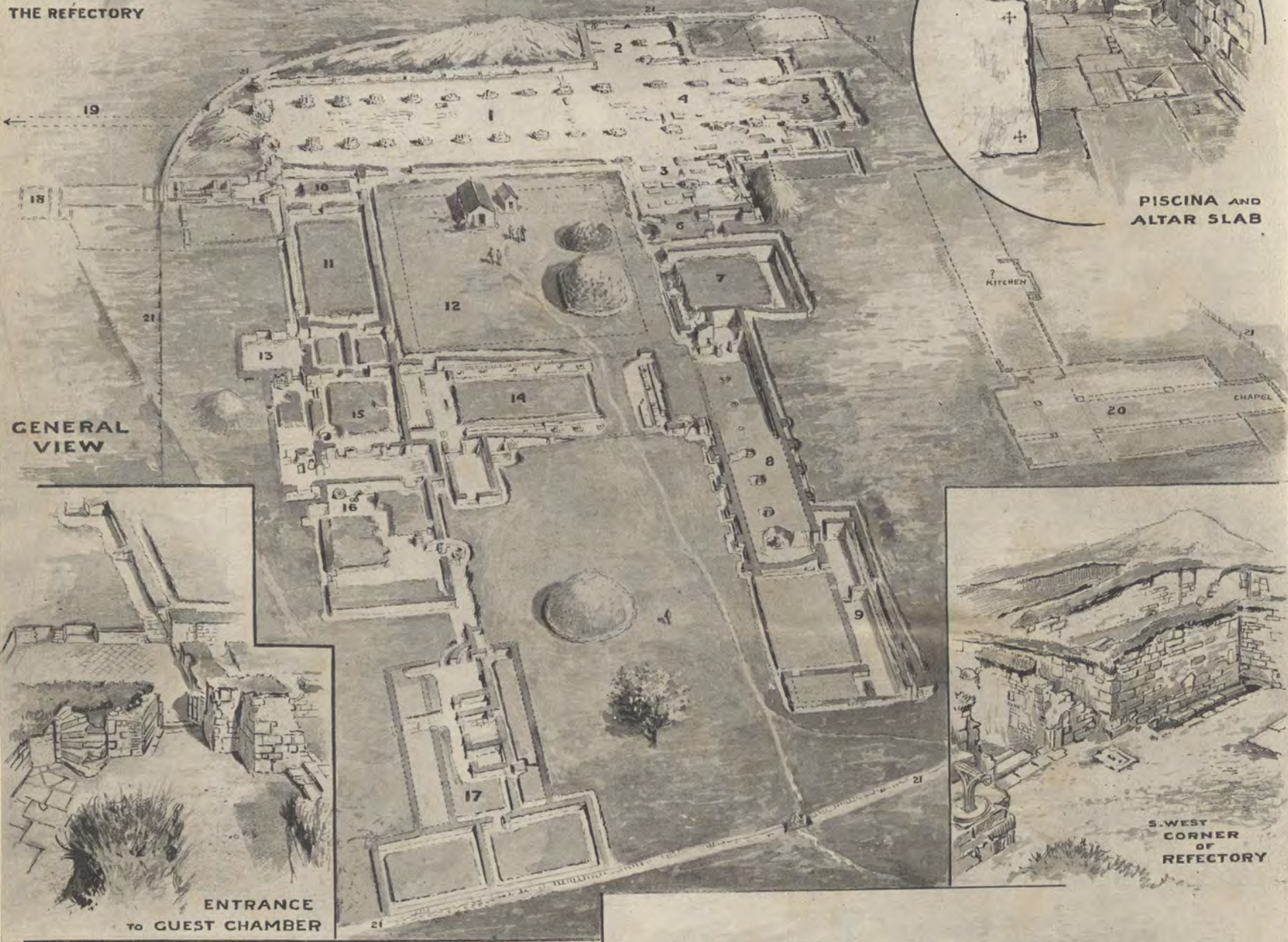
THE REFECTORY



THE SITE AND MOAT BEFORE EXCAVATIONS BEGAN FEB. 1909



PISCINA AND ALTAR SLAB



GENERAL VIEW



ENTRANCE TO GUEST CHAMBER



S. WEST CORNER OF REFECTORY



OVENS IN KITCHEN, AND WELL



NAVE, AND SIDE DOOR OF WEST FRONT

UNEARTHED FROM MOUNDS: THE REMAINS OF THE FAMOUS OLD BARDNEY ABBEY, TO WHICH IT IS HOPED TO ADD MANY NEW DISCOVERIES.

Two years ago, a number of mounds, three-quarters of a mile or so from the village of Bardney, in Lincolnshire, marked the site of the once-famous Benedictine Abbey, a place famed before the Norman Abbey was built as the spot to which Osfrida brought the mutilated remains of Oswald, king and saint, who was killed fighting for Christianity against Penda, the heathen King of Mercia, in 672. It was this Osfrida who afterwards married King Ethelred. She was murdered in 697; and thereupon, her husband resigned his crown to become a monk at Bardney Abbey, where he had buried his Queen. He is spoken of as the founder of the Abbey in 704, but it is more likely that he restored it, or rebuilt it, and was its first Abbot. In the past two years very thorough excavations have been going on on the

site, with interesting results, some of which we illustrate. A few days ago the burial service was conducted by the Dean of Lincoln over a number of skeletons and bones disturbed during the work of excavation. The figures in the drawing of the general view refer to the following: 1. Nave. 2. North Transept. 3. South Transept. 4. Choir. 5. Presbytery, Bardney Abbey Church. 6. Parlour. 7. Chapter House. 8. Monks' Dormitory Foundations. 9. Rere Dorter (Dormitory). 10. Entry. 11. Cellarium. 12. Cloister. 13. Guest Chamber. 14. Frater (Refectory). 15. Yard and Well. 16. Kitchen. 17. Guest House. 18. Gate. 19. Roadway leading to outer gate at moat. 20. Infirmary and Chapel. 21. Wall built from stone excavated, and fence enclosing purchased area of three acres.

*A. B. Robinson  
Bardney  
Feb. 1911.*



# WHERE ETHELRED THE KING BECAME A MONK: BARDNEY ABBEY.

DRAWN BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, W. B. ROBINSON.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, Oct. 28, 1911.—666

## BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS.

(See Illustrations.)

WITHIN a moat enclosing twenty-five acres of land, about three-quarters of a mile from the village of Bardney, there were, two years ago, a large number of mounds, some with a stone here and there just level with the ground. These marked the site of the once famous Benedictine Abbey, dedicated by the Norman builders and Sir Gilbert de Gaunt in memory of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Oswald: a spot far famed long before the Norman Abbey was built, for hither the mutilated remains of Oswald, King and Saint—killed fighting for Christianity against Penda, heathen King of Mercia—were brought by his niece Osfrida in 672. This Osfrida afterwards married King Ethelred. She and her husband were benefactors to Bardney Abbey; and, after the Queen was murdered in 697, the King resigned his crown and became a monk there, where he had buried his Queen. Ethelred is spoken of as the founder in 704, but this probably means the restorer or rebuilder—that is, finding the buildings unworthy and inadequate, he caused them to be enlarged and improved. Ethelred was probably the first Abbot, but it appears that two Priors ruled before his election in 712.

During the excavations, which have been going on for two-and-a-half years, nothing that can definitely be called Saxon has been discovered, with the exception of two carved stones. In 1527 Leland visited the Abbey and leaves this statement: "The monks hold opinion that the old Abbey at Bardney was not in the very same place where the new is, but at a Graunge or Dayre of theirs a myle of." There is a farm about a mile from Bardney called Bardney Grange, but after careful examination of the supposed site, nothing was found to indicate the presence of any buildings there, so the excavations have been continued on the site of the Norman Abbey, and it is still hoped that remains of the Saxon buildings will be discovered.

The digging began at a spot where a grass-covered stone seemed to indicate the corner of a wall. This turned out to be correct, and walls going south and west were followed till three rectangular chambers were trenched outside and cleared inside. These appear to have been some sort of workshops, as lead, pottery, glass, some tools, some paving, and a large fireplace were found. Proceeding on, never leaving a wall, nothing of importance was discovered. Mr. W. H. St. John Hope came down to visit the site, and after examination advised trying at another spot, which turned out to be the Chapter House, and led on to two chapels, in one of which the altar slab, pushed off its base, was found. Still it was not evident what these chapels belonged to; and further examination of the whole site led to digging into another mound, which disclosed a well-built Norman wall, 3 ft. 6 in. thick, running due east and west. Following this westward led round two buttresses, then to a doorway, and the west front of the church was discovered. The outside walls were trenched all round the church, and the transepts found: since then the whole interior of the vast church has been dug out. Its floor was on the average about 4 ft. 6 in. below the surface, and in some places between 6 and 7 ft. below; the walls were just below the surface. At the present time the whole interior presents a remarkable appearance, as there are considerable remains of thirty pillars, a fine south-west doorway, two altar slabs, and eighty monumental slabs of unusual interest and importance, dating from Abbot Roger de Barowe, 1352, to William Sotharay, Sub-Prior, 1525.

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The chief gateway has been found, excavated, planned, and filled in again; also the mill and the stables, 280 feet long: these lie outside the three acres which have been purchased and fenced in. Inside the fence, besides the church, have been found the following buildings: the chapter house; a slype or parlour; refectory, cellarium, courtyard and well, an oven and fireplace, the kitchen, a paved chamber, the infirmary, two sets of guest-houses, the dormitory, with three large chambers adjoining; and the rere dorter. These are all trenched, and some dug out; but there remains an immense amount of work to be done.

The museum is full of all sorts of things found during the digging and in the well: beautiful specimens of carved work, Norman, Early English, and Decorated; five of the triangular stone trestles with carved heads that carried the refectory tables, a very fine figure of St. Laurence (headless), a pewter plate, a coffin-paten, glass in fragments and in the lead, a great deal of pottery, two whole ewers, one bason, a small jug, spurs, knives, keys, tools, scissors, a pair of nut-crackers, buckles, brass fragments, much lead, a few coins, and other curiosities. The most important find is the reverse of the seal in use in the Abbey in 1348: it is quite perfect, showing the figures of St. Peter and St. Paul and an Abbot with a crozier under canopies (copies of this seal are given in Dugdale's "Monasticon.") It is much to be hoped that the obverse of this seal may also be found.

The generosity of a benefactor (whose name is not to be made known at present) has, by lending without interest £350, enabled the Vicar of Bardney, with the help of a large number of contributors, to purchase and fence round three acres which contain the bulk of the Abbey buildings. Till this £350 is paid back, the site is in private hands. It is much to be desired that this debt should be paid and the site conveyed either to the National Trust or the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees, who will take care that there is no repetition of the vandalism at Tattershall or the wasting to decay of the chapel at Kirkstead, both in this immediate neighbourhood.

*Article written by the Vicar.*

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Large jar  
found in the West  
Highly ornamented  
little jar  
Brown & yellow

Highly glazed 2  
handled jar  
Dark bronze

All pieced  
together by  
Mrs. Lanis.

Photos. Harrison, Lanis  
21 Oct 1911



Staircase  
inside West Front

pieces piled up  
found close by.



The Excavations work was stopped on Sat 28 Oct 1911 partly for want of funds; but the weather was getting bad, visitors had fallen off & Counsell & Chipsham had an offer of a better job that was likely to last - through the winter.

Oct 30. Col. Swan K.C.B. sent £5. (his 2nd Donation)

Nov. The Royal Archaeological Institute made a further grant of £20 towards the Excavation Fund: the first instalment of £10 was sent to the Vicar on 21st Nov: 1911

Dec. The Vicar opened Smithson's front shop in which to sell Postcards, Photographs & Notes. & the descriptive guide printed by Moxton & Sons.

This little plan did not succeed much.

1912

One man (Counsell) put on to work on 8th Jan. & on 11 March. Chipsham joined him. Crowder beginning first week in April.

Report for 1911 with accounts was printed in March by Ruddocks & about 1000 sent out.

(See other side)

During March, April & June, the Chapter House, Sloyd or Parlour & the rest of the Refectory were cleared, nothing of importance found. Some glazed tiles remain in situ in the Chapter House & the end of the Sloyd ending with a recess & put very like a wardrobe.



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*A Report*  
*on the present condition of the*  
**BARDNEY ABBEY**  
**EXCAVATIONS**  
*with Accounts,*  
*&c., for the year*  
**1911**



LINCOLN:  
 J. W. RUDDOCK & SONS, PRINTERS.

## Bardney Abbey Excavations.

BARDNEY VICARAGE,

MARCH, 1912.

Dear Sir,

I beg to send you the following report of work done and monies received during the past year.

The agreement with the owner of the whole site terminated on 17th March, 1911. In preparing for this, the owner was asked to let on hire about a rood of land on which stood 11 large heaps of soil and stone. This he refused to do, so a wall was built the whole length of the North side, the soil removed inside and the waste stone sold; this cost £20, but it employed some men out of work and led to finding the reverse of the Abbey Seal. This seal had been overlooked in the excavation and emptied in a barrow full of soil on one of the heaps: we believe we know whereabouts it was dug up, and considerable search has ensued for the obverse, but without success so far.

Unfortunately, I was taken ill in March, and away for five months: during this time 3 men steadily set to work to finish the excavation of the whole area of the Church, and this was completed in August most satisfactorily. This work revealed remains of each of the pillars on the South side of the Nave, and some more Tombstones in situ.

2

(25) Roger Baynthonpe and Elizabeth his wife, without a date, but in the centre of the large slab 7ft. 8in. by 3ft. 6in. is engraved a heart bleeding from five wounds.

(45) Robert and William and John Althops, undated, two floriated crosses in upper centre portion of the slab.

(46) Large Stone, 10ft. by 4ft. 6in., much broken, once containing elaborate brass, of which 5 pieces and some rivets are in the museum, inscription all wrenched away, as also the figure, four shields and canopies.

Underneath this slab was a vault, containing some human bones; these were placed in a coffin, and all the other bones found scattered about the Church in a large coffin and all reverently re-interred in this Vault and the slab replaced.

(47) Frater Walter de Langton, Prior, without date, but the inscriptions inform us that he was a bachelor in Canon Law and reconstructed the fishpond and the orchard.

(49) Johanna, the wife of John Browne, of Bardney, merchant, 1334; this is the oldest date found; the stone has a long cross, full length.

(50) Agnes, sometime the wife of Robert Ky.....ay, undated.

(51) Frater Richard Smythson, Prior 1420.

(48) Thomas (C)ole, 1506.

3

Work was then carried on in the kitchen without much satisfaction, the drain (disclosed running in, last year) was found to end in a small cesspool about 3ft. deep and covered with a millstone—here was found a large mass of fallen brickwork and several knives.

Some more work has been done at the South end of the Dormitory and also in the Parlour.

Weather stopped the work at the end of October, funds were failing and the men able to get another temporary job, but it is hoped to begin again early in the spring with the same men, and clear the parlour, chapter house and refectory.

Now that the work is confined to 3 acres, there is increasing difficulty in disposing of the material dug out: the only way which appears at present to get over this is to purchase another strip of land 12ft. wide from our South boundary to the main road and construct a permanent road, this will use an enormous amount of waste material, give us a proper entrance and enable us to get the waste stone away much more easily. This with a bridge over the moat would cost £50, and the money does not come in freely for purchase, but till something like this is done the work cannot be satisfactorily completed.

We had a great many visitors during August, September and October, and all were much interested; the early enthusiasm in the immediate neighbourhood has passed, but we have very many friends and well-wishers and hope for a very satisfactory year in 1912.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS DURING 1911.

EXCAVATIONS.

£	s	d	£	s	d		
Anon., H.	2	0	0	Mr. C. E. Keyser	2	2	0
do. A.N.D.	0	5	0	Mr. A. M. Livesey	5	0	0
Mrs. Allanby	0	2	6	The Lord Bishop of Lincoln	1	1	0
Miss Arnold	1	1	0	The Very Rev. the Dean			
Anon., F.C.	2	0	0	of Lincoln	2	0	0
do. J.C.D.	1	1	0	Rev. C. Langton	0	2	6
The Misses Bailey	0	2	6	Rt. Rev. Bp. Mitchinson,			
Mr. T. W. Brogden	1	1	0	4th Donation	1	1	0
Rev. C. G. Barton	0	2	6	Mrs. Muir	0	5	0
Rev. W. E. Boulter	0	5	0	Mr. W. D. Macray	0	5	0
Miss S. A. Bell	0	2	6	Rev. J. B. Maul	0	10	6
Mr. J. E. Boswell	0	2	0	Mr. W. K. Morton	0	10	6
Mr. F. Burt	1	1	0	Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville,			
Mr. R. E. Boothby	0	10	0	2nd donation	1	0	0
Mrs. Brackenbury	0	10	0	Mrs. Newsum	1	1	0
Mrs. Birkmire	1	0	0	Mr. Pilcher	1	1	0
The British Archaeological				Mr. J. Paul Rylands	0	10	6
Association	2	2	0	Mrs. Ruston, 2nd donation	5	0	0
Rev. R. J. Clarke	0	5	0	Miss L. Ruston, do.	1	1	0
Mr. T. Crowder	0	2	6	Mr. Robson	1	0	0
Cleggan Friends	0	4	5	Messrs. Ruddock & Sons	0	10	6
Mrs. Chadwick	1	1	0	Royal Archaeological			
Mr. W. Chandler	0	5	0	Institute (3rd grant)	10	0	0
Mr. Cooke	0	15	0	Miss Shepherd	0	5	0
Mr. Craster	0	5	0	Mr. Will Stephenson	1	1	0
Miss Clements	0	10	0	Rev. Canon Skelton	0	10	6
Mr. J. Cooke	0	3	0	Colonel Swan, C.B., 2nd			
Rev. E. S. Dewick	1	1	0	donation	5	0	0
Rev. F. Dolby	1	0	0	Rev. G. W. Trendell	0	2	6
Mrs. Davy	1	1	0	Mr. T. Taylor	0	5	0
Mr. Bernard Everard	1	1	0	Mrs. Tempest	1	0	0
General C. Fagan, 2nd				Mr. Valant	0	2	6
donation	0	10	6	Mr. John Venn	1	0	0
Mrs. K. Faulkner	1	1	0	Rev. Canon Wright	0	5	0
Mrs. Franklyn	5	0	0	Rev. J. Bowstead Wilson	1	1	0
Mr. C. H. Goodman	0	2	6	Rev. Chancellor Worledge	0	2	6
Mr. J. A. Greenwood	1	0	0	Rev. Canon Williams	1	1	0
Mr. E. Godson	1	1	0	Messrs. Wright & Co.	1	0	0
Mr. G. Gurnhill	0	2	6	Very Rev. the Dean of			
The Marquis of Granby	5	0	0	York	1	0	0
Colonel Hardinge	5	0	0	Mr. R. C. Vyner	5	0	0
Mrs. Harrison	0	10	0	Sale of Waste Material and			
Mr. Hopper	0	10	0	Hay	10	0	4
Mr. H. Hitchcock	0	5	0	Visitors' Box	24	18	9
Mr. A. Hall	1	1	0	Sums under 2/6	0	4	9
Miss Ingold	0	10	6	Lectures	2	1	6
Mr. F. Ingle	1	11	0				

We acknowledge with gratitude a further grant from the Royal Archaeological Institute of £20 (of which £10 is paid), not only for the usefulness of the money but as showing that our scheme so far is good and has official approval. Through the kindness of Mr. C. E. Keyser, the President, we have also the help and approval of the British Archaeological Association.

From the accounts it will be seen, 1st—that the purchase fund is at a stand still, as the legal expenses of conveyance have swallowed up the receipts for the year. 2nd—that the funds are very low, as there are some liabilities to put beside the balance in hand and some has been spent in wages this year. 3rd—that more money is wanted both for the excavation and for purchase. Seeing the many difficulties with which we are surrounded at the present time we cannot expect much money to come in, so any small donation will be very welcome.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING,

Vicar of Bardney.

TOWARDS PURCHASE OF SITE.

£	s	d	£	s	d		
Anon., F.C.	1	0	0	The Very Rev. the Dean of			
The Misses Bailey	0	2	6	Lincoln	1	0	0
Rev. W. E. Boulter	0	5	0	Rev. C. Langton	0	2	6
Miss Clements	0	1	0	Rev. J. B. Maul	0	10	6
Rev. Canon Cole, 3rd				Mr. W. K. Morton	0	10	6
donation	1	1	0	Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville,			
Mrs. Davy	1	1	0	2nd donation	1	0	0
Mr. G. Gurnhill	0	2	6	Messrs. Ruddock & Sons	0	10	6
Rev. F. Hales	0	10	6	Mrs. Wilson	1	0	0
Mr. A. Hall	1	1	0	Messrs. Wright & Co.	1	0	0
Mr. F. Ingle	0	10	6	Sale of Waste Material and			
Mr. C. E. Keyser	1	1	0	Hay	4	10	2
The Lord Bishop of Lincoln	1	1	0	Visitor's Box	4	6	7
				Sums under 2/6	0	0	6

Already acknowledged and accounted for £711 10s. 7d.

ACCOUNTS FOR 1911.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENSES.				
£	s	d	£	s	d		
Balance in Hand	0	4	0	Tools, etc.	3	2	2
in Bank	54	8	1	Wages	95	5	4
Subscription for Excava-				Post and Telegrams	17	7	4
tion	97	3	5	Parcels, Rates and Insur-			
Subscription for Purchase	13	8	6	ance	3	16	8
Boxes for Excavation	24	18	9	Printing	39	13	3
for Purchase	4	6	7	Legal Expenses	21	0	0
Sale of Stone and Hay,				Architects, &c...	9	2	0
Excavation	10	0	4	In Hand	0	2	7
Sale of Stone and Hay,				In Bank	43	18	0
Purchase	4	10	2				
Lectures	2	1	6				
Sale of Post Cards	22	0	9				
Sums under 2/6	0	5	3				
£233	7	4		£233	7	4	

A Grant of £5 placed in 1910 account for Purchase Fund, has been transferred at the request of the Royal Archaeological Institute to the Excavation Fund.

A Descriptive Guide to the Excavations, with 37 illustrations and Notes, post free 1/-.

- Notes on the Abbey, 2d.
- 30 different Photographs, 1½d. each.
- 10 different Post Cards, 10 for 6d.
- Loose broken Stones, 1/- per ton.
- Strong Soil, 6d. per load.
- Garden Soil, from the turf heaps, 2/- per load.

Bardney Abbey is 1¼ miles from Bardney Station, which is 9 miles from Lincoln on the G.N.R. Line to Boston.

Bank: Union of London & Smiths, Lincoln.



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 June 18. The Seal was sent to Sir C. Hercules Read at the British Museum, who kindly had a cast made & a most excellent impression (also one other kept for the British Museum) this impression showed on either side of the Abbot's head the letters R. G. Richard Gainsburgh was Abbot from 1318 to 1342.

The document, referred to in *Juydale*, in the British Museum, sealed with this seal is dated 1348. This was during the Abbacy of Roger de Barowe, whose Tomb Slab has been uncovered in the Presbytery, the name on which is just decipherable

Gainsburgh News 5 Feb 1912

...orman, district officer of the Board of Trade, will speak.

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The Rev C E Laing writes from Bardney Vicarage:—"It may be of interest to antiquarians and others at Gainsburgh to have the following piece of information: During the excavations at Bardney Abbey, the reverse of the Abbey Seal in use in 1347 has been found, in wonderful preservation. A document in the British Museum dated Michaelmas 21 Edw. iii (1347) is sealed with this seal. The authorities at the British Museum have just had a cast and most excellent impression made of the seal, and the details have come out very clearly. On either side of the Abbot's head are the letters R.G., and this clearly identifies the date of this seal as having been made during the Abbacy of Richard Gainsburgh, who was Abbot of Bardney from 1318 to 1342."

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COMING EVENTS.

... 6. - W.M.C. and I. Cycling Club



Two Snapshots by a Visitor  
 Miss Gildon



July 23 - 27. 1912  
 Mr. H. Brakspear visited the Abbey & did much work towards the completion of the plan.



Mr. J. D. Blanshard having given permission to the Vicar to open the Kings Hill, 300 copies of the enclosed circular were sent out to subscribers chiefly in Lincolnshire

BARDNEY VICARAGE,  
LINCOLN,  
1st August, 1912.

DEAR SIR,

Permission has now been obtained to open the mound at Bardney, known as the "Kings Hill."

This mound which has the appearance of a long barrow is the traditional burying place of the Saxon King of Mercia, Ethelred, who resigned his crown after the murder of his Queen Osfrida, and became a Monk at Bardney in 708.

Ethelred and Osfrida had been great benefactors to the Abbey and there the Queen was buried. In 712 Ethelred was made Abbot, and after signing the Charter for Croyland Abbey, died in 716.

It is not easy to account for the Abbot being buried half-a-mile from his Abbey, unless the site of the original Abbey was changed, or that the existence of a large barrow suggested a suitable spot, but the tradition has always lived, and the mound was originally surmounted by a Stone Cross which has long since disappeared.

The opening of this mound will commence, D.V. under proper guidance, on Monday, 26th August next, and will probably take 2 or 3 days, and is being undertaken as part of the Bardney Abbey Excavation Scheme; the cost will be about £5 as the site will be restored to its present condition. As some of the subscribers to the Abbey Excavation Fund might object (this lying outside the Abbey precincts) I should be very glad to receive any donations towards the expense, the surplus (if any) going to the Abbey Fund.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

The Site is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Bardney Station on the road to Wragby.  
Motors can get up to the site or stay in the road, 200 yds. off.  
Post Cards of "The Kings Hill" 1d. each, by post  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Many letters were received in answer to this containing over £11 towards the expenses.

Also letters of advice from  
Rev. W. Greenwell  
Prof. Boyd Dawkins  
Arthur J. Evans.

As the undertaking appeared to be a larger one than was at first supposed, it was necessary to fence round the site because of the cattle & to put up the tent, so the Vicar began preparations on Tuesday 20th August.



The King's Hill, Bardney.



## ANCIENT BARDNEY.

### EXCAVATIONS ON THE OLD ABBEY SITE.

(By an Antiquarian Correspondent.)

The mid-Lincolnshire village of Bardney, with its old-time Abbey site, where delving below the ground in search of lost history has been in progress for the past three years, is now, owing to the continuous stream of visitors, well in the public eye.

There are few days but what the ground yields something new in the way of finds or of things already found being properly assigned or classified. Still there is a deal to be done before the last word can be said about the excavations. The financial means for pursuing the work and the manual force employed are limited. This, against the vast accumulation of rubbish spread over the site, from one to three yards in thickness, makes the task a long-drawn labour; but in the hands of the Vicar, the Rev. Charles E. Laing, it is pursued with unflagging energy.

The great mounds which marked the Abbey site were well-known, and, although somewhat altered in outline, will long continue. But it is not so well known that within half a mile, and at equal distance from the village, is a single mound of considerable size, which has come down from unrecorded time grey with the traditional title of "The King's Hill."

#### The Mound to be Opened.

This has naturally been coupled with the Abbey, and as the Abbey figured in the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History, they, if not actually in fact, are most certainly associated in tradition. This association in the present month has so materialised in the hands of the Vicar that it is to be put to the arbitrament of the spade on Monday, Tuesday, and possibly Wednesday, August 26th, 27th, and 28th. A circular to this effect was issued from the Vicarage on the 1st proximo, of which the following is an extract:—

"Permission has been obtained to open the mound at Bardney, known as 'The King's Hill.'"

This mound, which has the appearance of a long barrow, is the traditional burying place of the Saxon King of Mercia, Ethelred, who resigned his crown after the murder of his Queen Osfrida, and became a monk at Bardney Abbey in 708.

Ethelred and Osfrida had been great benefactors to the Abbey, and there the Queen was buried. In 712, Ethelred was made Abbot, and after signing the Charter for Croyland Abbey, died in 716.

It is not easy to account for the Abbot being buried half-a-mile from his Abbey, unless the site of the original Abbey was changed, or that the existence of a large barrow suggested a suitable spot, but the tradition has always lived, and the mound was originally surmounted by a stone cross, which has long since disappeared.

The village of Bardney, and the two mound sites are situate a few yards above the dead level of the neighbouring Fens, or, to put it more clearly, just above flood-line, the village being separated by a slight depression—a flood valley—the drainage of which is marked by the ubiquitous "willow by the water course."

#### An Artificial Earthwork.

This "King's Hill" mound has not, to all appearance, been hitherto explored. It is an artificial earthwork in a ring fosse (originally about 3½ yards broad), with an outer diameter of about 33 yards. This leaves about 26 yards for the mound, which is three to four yards in height; but, being pear-shaped in plan, with its broadest end to the south, it does not cover the whole of the ground enclosed in the fosse. The nature of the ground admitted of this being a wet-ditch, which it still is in part, the remainder being a boggy depression, growing rank grass or reeds. Where the grass is disturbed the composition of the mound is found to be local—sand, clay, brown flints, water-worn pebbles, and sharp shingle. The entrance to the mound is a grassy ridge pointing south-west or toward the town.

This latter feature, which is well defined in and beyond the ditch, does not read as an original or necessary adjunct to a grave mound or tumulus, hence it may be a Norman castalet, assignable to its first lord of that ilk, Gilbert de Gand, the great Lincolnshire Baron, who founded Rufford Abbey, on one of his Nottinghamshire estates. But this point, all being well, stands to be made clear before the present month has run its course.

price: Newland, Lincoln.—Adv.  
OPENING OF KING ETHELRED'S Tomb.—The opening of the tomb of Ethelred, King of Mercia from the year 675 to the time when he was made an Abbot of Bardney in 702, has been commenced. It lies about 1½ miles north of Bardney station, and the Rev. E. C. Laing, who inaugurated the opening up of the Bardney Abbey Ruins, is superintending the work. So far about a quarter of the mound has been turned over. It is believed that the bones of King Ethelred, buried here, will have vanished by now, but the stone coffin may be discovered or some other imperishable material. A peculiar feature of the barrow is that a layer of clay, evidently imported from some distance, goes through the mound, and is exposed to view as the mound is cut through. Several experts have watched the digging operation, and the flints, nails, metal, etc., found are taken to a tent near by. Among the well-known archaeologists who have been down are Canon Fowler (Durham), Canon Cole (Lincoln), Canon Sutton (Brant Broughton), Mr. C. E. Keyser, (President of the British Archeological Association), Rev. F. Huxley, the Very Rev. the Dean (Dr. T. C. Fry), Mr. F. Stephenson (Alfretton), Mr. W. J. Letts (Lincoln), Mr. Fane (Fulbeck), Mr. Skipworth (Tattershall), Rev. Fernie, Rev. E. Wimbush (Hutton), Rev. H. F. Allison (Scotterne), Rev. H. Giblin (Sneland), and several lady experts. Some of the clergymen took pick and shovel, and some of them also lent a hand. The operations will continue some days.

Fr. Friday 30 Aug 1912

BARDNEY EXCAVATIONS.—Nothing has as yet been discovered in the excavations at King Ethelred's tomb at Bardney. The continued operations now show the sand and the clay so mingled as to suggest that the mound has been entered at some time. The work continues to attract much attention. Sir George and Lady Warner, Dr. E. Mansel Symeon and Mrs. Symeon, Mr. and Mrs. Greenbank, Miss Ruston, Dr. and Mrs. Slocock (Spilsby), and others interested have visited the ground.



## BARDNEY MOUND.

### THE RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS.

(By a Special Correspondent.)

This "King's Hill Earthwork," a well-known feature about one mile north-west of Bardney, and near the Wragby Road, was noticed in these columns on the 22nd instant, as about to receive attention by the opening and careful examination of the contents, a task falling to the Vicar of Bardney (the Rev. Charles E. Laing) and the staff so long and successfully engaged in the exploration of the remains of the old-time great Abbey lying some little distance west.

This mound, which has not been touched or tampered with during living memory, has been an object of interest in mid-Lincolnshire, throughout that extensive county, and a considerable distance beyond. To such an extent has this been so that the closing days of August were especially set apart for its internal examination. The owner of the soil gave his ready consent, with the proviso that after the examination the ground should be made good and its old appearance restored.

The site was temporarily railed round, a booth was erected for shelter, and all made ready by the 26th instant. The best advice tendered by experts was to give first attention to the ditch or fosse enclosing the mound by cutting through it. This, owing to almost continuous rain and the wet state of the ground, proved impossible—on this occasion at least—so operations had to be confined to the mound itself. These were to take the form of removing the turf and cutting or turning over the whole mound. The incentive was the possibility of finding secondary interments away from the primary one, which might have been previously disturbed.

#### Willing Volunteers.

The broadest end of the long mound was cut to a straight face and the cutting went on yard by yard, some willing volunteers taking hands at pick and spade. As the face of the ground to be operated upon gradually increased in height the constructive character of the mound began to reveal itself. Below the top soil—two feet or so in thickness—beds of sand or clay varied in colour and thickness, presented themselves, covering the earliest deposited material in the orthodox mound building form. The top soil began to yield broken specimens of comparatively modern objects—flat roofing and floor-tiles, green glazed pottery with raised ornaments, coarse earthenware, portion of a scythe of bone-stone, fragment of a millstone, bones, etc. The lower strata yielded nothing further. Flints and hard chalk-stone were plentiful, as were other fragments of rocks, which have travelled to that low-lying district from greater distances than the high lands on the north or east of the county. These were of the superficial drift that constitutes the fertile soil of the district, which proves that the mound was constructed of local material.

The second day found the workable face contracted in length as the mound narrowed in width with the fall of the strata trending one way only (westward), which implied the eastern side had, at some earlier date, been cut away; it further implied that before this cutting away was done, the mound was a round one, in which form it agreed with the circular or ring-fosse that enclosed it; in other words, that the "long mound" hitherto so attractive to the antiquarian, was not its original form.

The third day yielded a second surprise, i.e., that the so-called long-barrow had in its turn received previous attention; its long form had been centred, and a false centre fixed westwards of the original one when it was a circular mound, and there a great search had been made to the level now driven, or even below it. To such an extent was this carried that the whole section of the hill at this half of its length had the appearance of being turned over and its original stratification destroyed.

The result of these labours at the hill extends little beyond the knowledge that the barrow or mound was originally larger and circular in its outline, thus conforming with the fosse; that in this original or extended form it was as "a flat-topped mound" inhabited, roughly speaking, in Edwardian times (1272-1377), the evidence of which is the superficial finds.

#### A Rifled Tomb?

Although some little remains yet to be done connected with the present commendable search for information, the odds are that the true history of this earthwork will never be known. If it was a burial mound, the present search is in a rifled tomb. A fragment of bone believed to be that of a human skull, has been found that yields some slight evidence in this direction, but all the labour points to the cutting away of the east side having been done with a view to reach



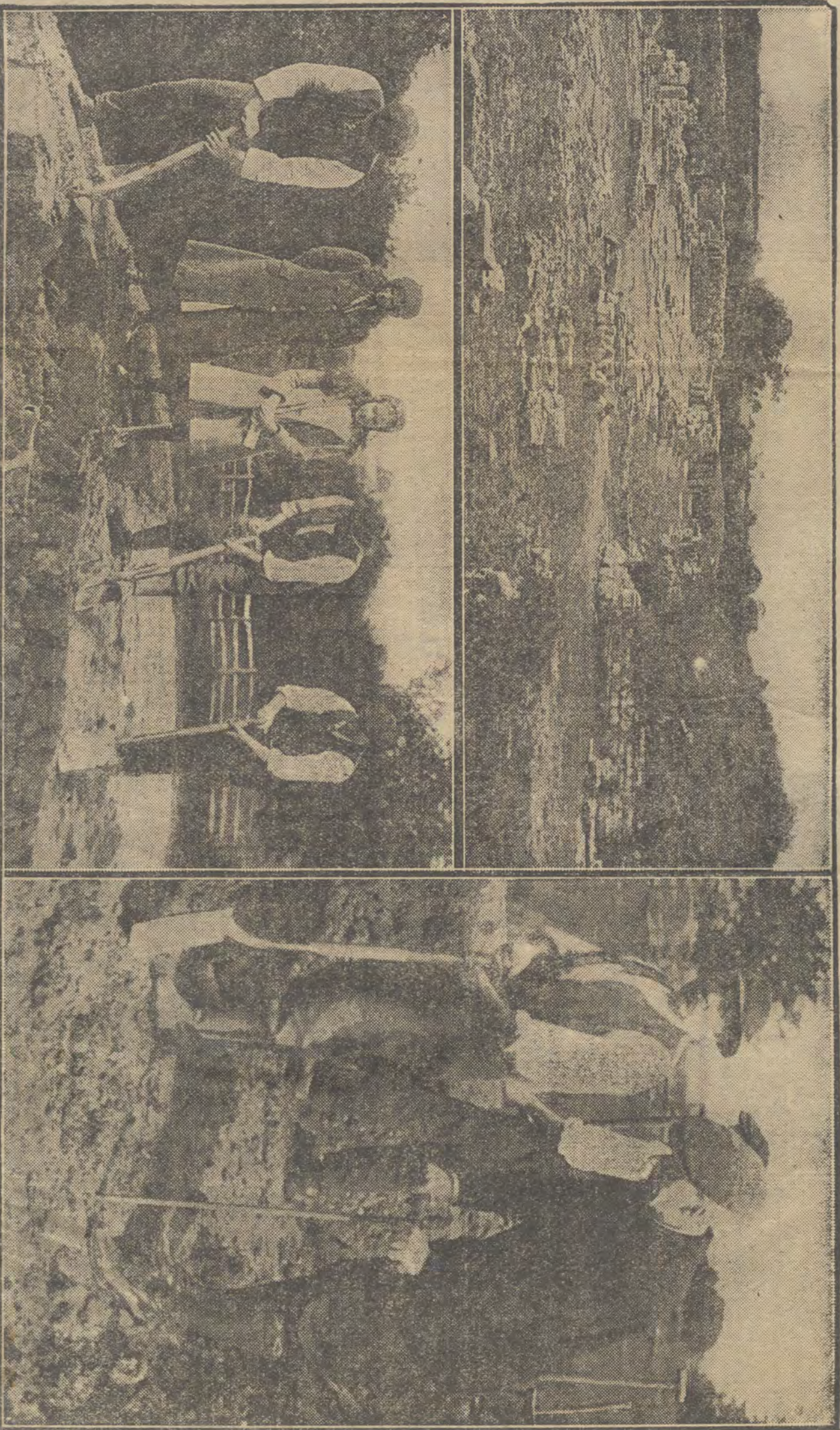
A TOMB TWELVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

Archæologists are busy at the present time opening the tomb of Ethelred, King of Mercia, who died and was buried at Bardney, near Lincoln, in 716. After his abdication in 704 Ethelred became Abbot of Bardney, and his tomb is in the abbey. Our pictures show the work in progress and the Rev. E. C. Laing, vicar of Bardney, who inaugurated the excavations, looking on, with Mr. E. C. Keyse, of the British Archæological Association.



Hull Daily News. Tuesday 3rd Sept 1912

VICAR AND VILLAGERS DIGGING FOR KING ETHELRED'S FOUNT AT BARDNEY.



The vicar of Bardney, near Lincoln (the Rev C. E. Tainig), aided by the local doctor and some villagers, including the village postman, is making excavations in a ground believed to be the burial place of Ethelred, the Saxon King of Mercia, who, after resigning his crown, became Abbot of Bardney. Photographs—(1) The excavations at the Abbey; (2) Digging for the king's tomb; (3) Vicar making borings.—('News' photographs).



### A VISIT TO BARDNEY ABBEY.

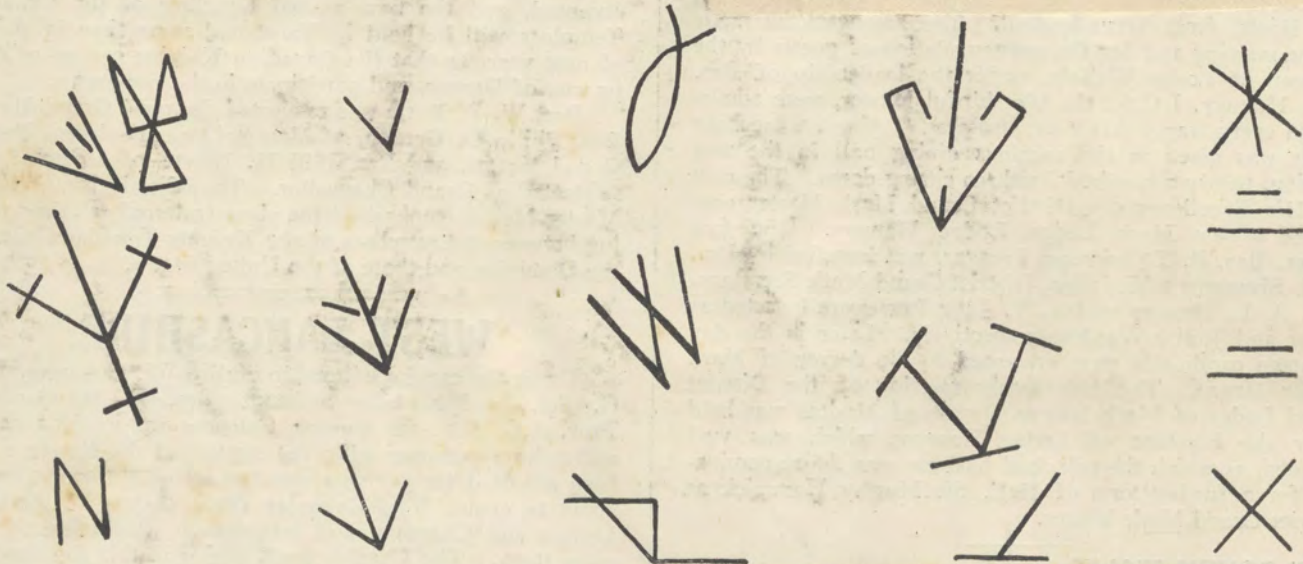
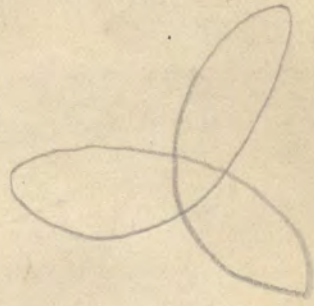
While spending a very delightful holiday as the guest of Major Moseley at Gayton-le-Wold, many unusually interesting scenes were unfolded to one satiated with the humdrum life usually passed in South London. Among those that awakened the greatest interest was a visit to the excavations at Bardney Abbey, which have been carried forward by the Vicar of Bardney during the past four years. The whole place is so interesting—archæologically, historically, ecclesiastically, and Masonically—that almost anyone could spend a day amidst the ruins with interest and advantage.

The visitor should first purchase a guide-book, and sit down in the Refectory for a short time to digest its details. Afterwards the following should be visited in order—Church, Cloister, Chapter House, Frater, Dorter, Rere Dorter, Parlours, Cellarium, Well, Gateway, Windmill, Stables, Infirmary, Guest Chambers, Paved Chamber, and Kitchen. Afterwards a few minutes could most happily be spent in the Museum.

The latest move, the opening of the King's Mound, we were told, would be begun in four days' time (26th August, 1912), and great expectations of some find in connection with King Ethelbert, sometime Abbot of Bardney, were openly expressed by the workman who acted as our guide.

Major Moseley and his son were very patient with me, and allowed me to spend over an hour in the Chapel and Refectory examining the stones for Masons' marks. They

These 2 in  
South Transcript.



were many, and most were found again and again in different parts of the ruins. As these cover three acres of land, it can easily be seen that there is much material for investigation—in fact, much more than twice that acreage was covered by the original buildings.

Of the Masons' marks themselves much could be written. The majority of lines were straight, and the angles were chiefly right (square) angles or acute. Many parallel lines also were used. Of curves only three separate marks were discovered; one had two curves, making a fish-like figure; a second had three curves linked inside what could be an imaginary equilateral triangle; while the third had six curves, linked inside an imaginary hexagon.

Unfortunately, the writer had no drawing materials with him, and only made rough sketches of what he saw upon the covers of envelopes that were in his pocket. A few of these, and these the simple ones, are shown above. Those that are most complicated consisted of combinations of two or more of the simple designs.

Gayton-le-Wold.

CHARLIE WOODS.

#### FREE MASONS' MARKS AT BARDNEY ABBEY.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Referring to the enquiry of your correspondent, the whole of the Masons' marks to be found at Bardney Abbey are the "Construction Marks" of the Ancient Masons by whom it was built.

As Secretary of the York Division of the Worshipful Society of Free Masons (Operative), I was last year instructed to visit Bardney, to obtain copies of all the marks, and to lay them before a general meeting of their Society. It was then found that every one of the Bardney marks was in accordance with the old rolls and lists of marks which have been handed down to the Operative Masons.

All the ancient Temples and Abbeys were built under the same regulations as the Temple of King Solomon, that is to say, (I Kings VI, 7) "built of stone made ready before it was brought thither." To perform the work under these regulations required every stone to be properly fitted and "marked," so that it could be placed in its correct position on arrival at the site of the building.

In the first place there is a "marked diagram" for the east, south, west, and north wall, and each stone has a mark to show to which side it belongs. Then there is the direction mark, to show the number of the stone from the corner.

The course mark gives the number of the course of stones to which it belongs.

The joint mark tells the number of each joint, and the number of the next stone on each side.

The basis mark gives the proper bed or basis upon which the stone is to rest.

The Jesod, or "five point mark," gives the proportion of the building, as for instance, the length three times the width.

The head stone mark shows which is the very top row of stones.

The Free Masons were divided into Divisions (see FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 11th September 1909, p. 125), and each division placed a mark on the building to show by whom the work was carried out.

In case of a very large Abbey the work was too great for one Division, and Lodges from another were called in, this accounts for the fact that two of the Division marks are found at Bardney.

W represents Westminster Division, and Y is the York Division mark.

Fortunately the ancient system of marking has been carefully preserved by the Masons Societies and Companies.

If your correspondent "Enquirer" will send the marks he has to me I will have them compared with the York division information, and give him the meaning of them.

Yours, etc., CLEMENT E. STRETTON,  
Secretary, York Division.



62  
1912 June & July. Work proceeding in the Kitchen  
& Refectory, both finished.

August Dug out the space between the East End  
of the Refectory & the West Side of the Dormitory  
No remains of the Staircase found, but a little  
drain like entrance at the South End, discovered  
some time since, proved to be the entrance to a  
horse shoe shaped kiln or fireplace, made of bricks.





1912. The weight of the carved stone in the Museum  
Sept. was breaking down the floor: there was ~~was~~ much beautiful  
carved stone lying about that was likely to be ruined  
so the Vicar determined to build up the walls of the  
parlour & roof it in, this was done, & the wardrobe  
at the East End filled in. The figure of S. Laurence  
placed on its original pedestal, shelves made & all  
the stone collected & stored up.

November. After covering up for the winter at the end of October  
much work tidying up & repairing the North boundary  
Wall.

Photo of  
Winter repairs



1912 July & Aug. The Rev. Canon Fowler took great pains to read the diamond shaped inscription on the Tombstone of John & Joan Jolyf.

(No. 29)

at present the rendering appears to be thus

Hic habet terra simul pariterque Johanna vocantur  
Uxor Jolyf tumulante

Here earth hath (them) together and both alike are called Joan or John

The wife of John Jolyf and John (himself) are buried here.

Laid both together and in name alike  
Earth holds John Jolyf here & Joan his wife.

Rev. Canon Cole.

No. 47.

Hic jacet frater Walterus de Langton Bachalarius  
in jure canonico quoda prior isti me  
Qui construxit de novo placiam minutorum  
apud Southray cum clausura et ponte  
obit . . . xxxj  
Cuius ai pprope ds. Amen.

The placia minutorum would be the moated temporary residence of the minuti, or monks and novices who had been bed.

At the back of the farmhouse known as "The Poplears" at Southrey, there are remains of an ancient building, & the moat is still clearly defined on three sides.



1912 Sept. The Vicar appealed to the Home Office, for an expert & authorized list of the tomb-slabs, measurements & inscriptions, but the Department of the Board of Works after some correspondence, regretted their inability to do anything for a site in the possession of private owners.

This, & the fact that the money for the purchase was guaranteed, not given, & also the failure of the Vicar's health, led to correspondence with Miss Weigall, who consented to a letter drawn up by the Vicar & promised a further £50 if the rest could be raised "in a reasonable time".

## Bardney Excavations.

BARDNEY VICARAGE,

LINCOLN,

NOVEMBER, 1912.

DEAR SIR,

For several reasons the time has come when a determined effort should be made to free the site of Bardney Abbey from debt.

The present position is as follows: the total price of the three enclosed acres, legal expenses, and interest is £582 1s od; of this £232 1s od has been paid from our Purchase Fund, and £350 by a Guarantor, who has made no charge for interest. The conveyance is made out to me, but the deeds are in the hands of the Guarantor's Solicitors, therefore the site is *in debt*, and in the *hands of private owners*.

A recent correspondence with the Home Office relating to an authorized and expert list of the tombstones, and the inscriptions (which are acknowledged to be unique) ended,

because the Department of the Board of Works could do nothing for a site in the hands of private owners. Societies like the National Trust for places of historic interest, and the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees will not accept the site while there is a debt on it. Meantime, the covering up for the Winter, and uncovering in the Spring must gradually damage the inscriptions, weather and exposure also disintegrate portions of the stones and walls.

I have a list of the stones and inscriptions, done as carefully as we can, with much help that I gratefully acknowledge, especially to Canon Fowler, Canon Cole, Rev. J. Fernie, Rev. R. H. Baker, and others, but there ought to be an official and certified list and account of inscriptions and measurements.

Out of 53 inscriptions 20 are local names and nearly all the rest were connected with Lincolnshire. If you are one of the very many who have already helped our funds kindly take this as a further report of our scheme. To all others I venture to appeal, especially Lincolnshire people, to put our plans in a safer position than they are at present, by freeing the site from debt.

As I am sure many would like to help who can only afford a little for a matter that is more a luxury than a necessity, I suggest a 6d subscription, so I ask for 16,000 sixpences, or 8,000 shillings or £400, and this because, besides the £350, there is the cost of printing and posting this appeal, and the construction of the wall round the site.

I am very pleased to be able to add, that if the rest can be raised "in a reasonable time," Mrs. Weigall will give 2,000 sixpences, £50, also

Mr. J. S. Sneath	...	42	sixpences,
Mr. J. B. Paynter	...	42	"
Mr. C. J. Sharpe	...	42	"
Mrs. Nicholls	...	5	"
Visitors box, 1912	...	180	"

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.



Copies of this letter were sent out chiefly to Lincolnshire people, in November.

The following letter was also sent to 49 newspapers, every paper published in Lincolnshire & 10 London & other papers.

BARDNEY VICARAGE,

LINCOLN,

18th NOVEMBER, 1912.

DEAR SIR,

I am asking the Editor of every Newspaper in Lincolnshire, and some others, to publish the enclosed letter, or such parts of it as he thinks well.

As this is a <sup>matter of</sup> County interest I hope you will grant my request.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

This letter appeared in  
 The Yorkshire Post  
 The Lincoln Echo.  
 The South Advertiser  
 The Lincolnshire Chronicle  
 The South Observer  
 The Lincolnshire Star

THE NOTTINGHAM GUARDIAN,

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1912.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Lincolnshire people who are proud of the antiquities of their county ought to co-operate in providing the modest sum required to free the site of Bardney Abbey from debt. Situated beside the river Witham, about nine miles from Lincoln, this ancient structure has a history which goes far back into the dim past. It was in existence in the seventh century, and at the beginning of the eighth Ethelred, the Saxon King of Mercia, died there, just after he had signed the charter of that other great abbey of Croyland. Then came the Danes, who burned the edifice to the ground, but after the Norman Conquest it rose again in its splendour, remaining so until the devastating days of the Tudors. The recent excavations have revealed the bases of the massive columns which lent grandeur to the nave, remains of elaborately ornamental capitals, and a large number of tombstones and inscriptions, many of them local names and nearly all connected with Lincolnshire. Antiquarians have, indeed, revelled in the treasures, but relics of the past of this kind make a far wider appeal, and the vicar of the parish, the Rev. Charles E. Laing, who has devoted himself whole-heartedly to the work, should have little difficulty in obtaining the £400 required to clear off the debt. In a letter sent to us, he suggests a sixpenny subscription, stating that several substantial sums have been promised on condition that the rest of the amount is raised "in a reasonable time." It may be noted that societies like the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and the Lincoln Diocesan Incorporated Trustees will not accept the site while there is a debt upon it. Even at a time when so many demands are being made upon the purse, this appeal ought to meet with a ready response.

A note appeared also in  
 The Shepness Herald.



South Observer 29th Nov. 1912.  
 Hull & Lancashire News 30th Nov. 1912.

## BARDNEY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS

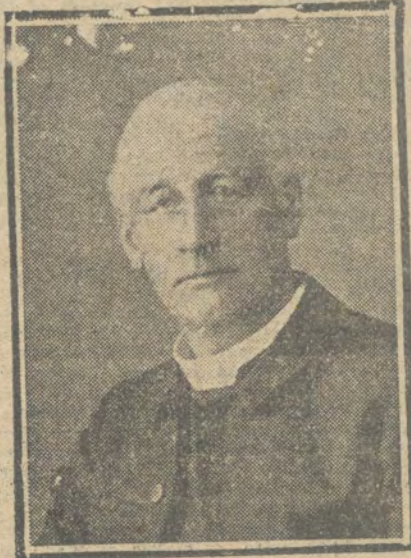
### Urgent Appeal for Funds to Complete the Work

A most important work—the excavation of the ruins of Bardney Abbey—is in progress, but more funds are urgently needed to carry the work to a successful issue. The vicar, the Rev Charles E. Laing, has taken a very active personal interest in the work, and we trust that his appeal which appeared in our columns last week will be cordially responded to by all lovers of ancient sites and the historical value they possess.

The scheme for excavating the great Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, St Paul, and St Oswald commenced on Friday, February 19th, 1909, since when the excavations have been proceeding most satisfactorily under the superintendence of the vicar, acting under the advice of Mr W. H. St John Hope, Mr G. D. Hardinge Tyler, and some members of the Lincoln and Nottingham Architectural Society. A very pleasing feature has been the voluntary help given to Mr Laing, who is now within sight of his efforts being crowned with complete success. The present position is as follows: The total price of the three enclosed acres, legal expenses, and interest is £982 1s; of this £232 1s has been paid from the purchase fund, and £350 by a guarantor, who has made no charge for interest. The conveyance is made out to the vicar, but the deeds are in the hands of the guarantor's solicitors, therefore the site is in debt, and in the hands of private owners. Mr Laing is now asking for £400 to remove the debt and pay contingent expenses, and

has inaugurated a "Sixpence" Fund, and towards the 16,000 required, about 400 have been promised.

The foundation dates back to 697, fixed by Bishop Tanner, because Osfrida, murdered in that year, had previously brought King Oswald's bones to Bardney Abbey. Her husband Ethelred, hitherto spoken of as the forner, was a great benefactor, and perhaps rebuilt or enlarged the Abbey as it became



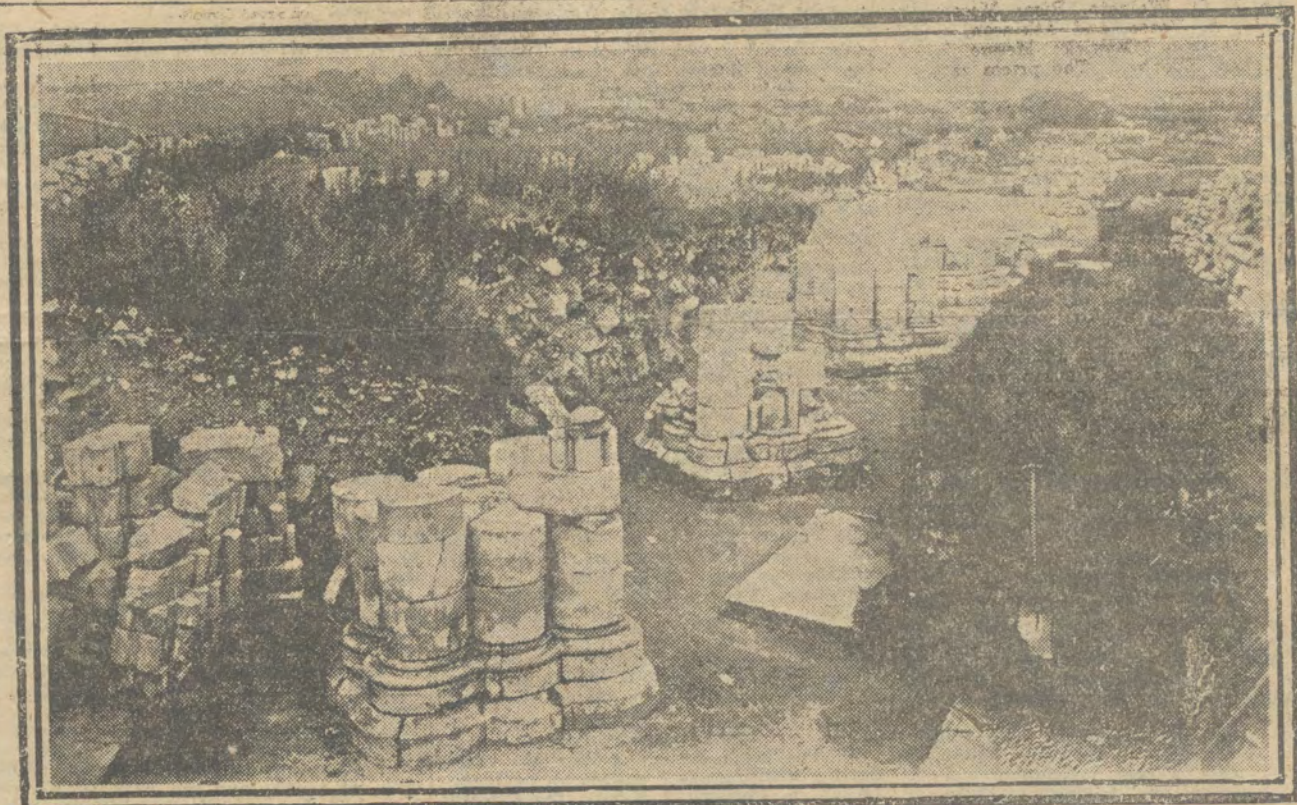
(Photo by H. Walker, Lincoln.)

REV. C. E. LAING.

farious. Willis dates the foundation later, and ascribed it to Ethelred, who resigned in 704 and became a monk, and in 712 Abbot of Bardney. His signature appears as Abbot to the foundation of Croxland Abbey, 716. But a definite date is obtained in 672, and in this way: King Oswald was surprised by

his enemy Penda, King of the Mercians, at Maserfield (which still commemorates Oswald in its name Oswestry); there he died, ending his life with prayer for the souls of his men, in 642. Penda exposed the head and arms of the slain monarch on wooden stakes; but they were rescued the next year, and carried to Northumbria. The hands were kept in a silver box at St Peter's Church at Renborough; the head was interred by St Aidan at Lindisfarne, and removed in 875 within the coffin of St Cuthbert to Durham. Thirty years after Maserfield, that is, 672, Osfrida, or Osthryd, niece of Oswald, and wife of Ethelred, third son of Penda, brought the bones of her uncle to the great Lincolnshire monastery of Bardney, which at that time is supposed to have contained 300 monks. Thus there was reason to speak of it as "great," and also reason to suppose that it had been flourishing for a long time. The Mercian monks afterwards told how in their "longstanding animosity" against the Northumbrian who had "gained the dominion over them" they refused to harbour his remains, "although they knew him to be a saint," and so left the wain which had arrived with them in the evening to stand outside their doors, with a covering spread over it; how, all that night they saw a pillar of light blazing heavenward above the wain, conspicuous to nearly all the province of Lindisse; how in the morning they eagerly threw open the gate, carried in the bones with all reverence, washed them, placed them in a chest, and hung up over it the gold and purple banner which had waved in battle before the holy king. Many miracles took place at Bardney in consequence. Osfrida was murdered by Northumbrian nobles, and was also interred at Bardney; and her husband, after reigning 29 years, became a monk at Bardney monastery, which he and his murdered wife had "greatly loved, revered, and adorned," and Ethelred became Abbot.

The subsequent history is extremely interesting, and our readers who may wish to follow it will be able to learn much more about it from the valuable notes written by Mr Laing, and published for the benefit of the Excavation Fund.



14 PILLARS IN NAVE, NORTH AISLE, BARDNEY ABBEY.

The Bank Account on 31st Dec. 1912 showed a balance in hand £ 66.14.1 of which £ 20.9.11 belonged to the Purchase Fund.

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1913.

Two men at work, from Jan 1st. Counsel was kept on all the winter. Clipham being out of work was put on in Jan.

Excavating North Chamber under the Dormitory during Jan & began the next Chamber Southward 20 Feb. The 3rd base of a pillar was cleared, showing very nice Norman carving. Capital upside down

2000 Copies of the Report on page 69-71 were printed & 1200 sent out to subscribers & people in Lincolnshire.

March. stopped digging to paint & distemper Museum & hut.

Cleared all trenches, uncovered some of the Pillars.

Tombstones in Nave & Transepts.

Very much rain, site all in a swamp, Rere Dorte half full of water

April Searching for Abbotts house between Rere Dorte & the Infirmary, found these 2 latter were connected, but walls broken & no signs of Abbotts house.

Found 3 pieces of stone, smoothed & grooved for a Pedestal Piscina

May Cleared entirely the N.E. corner of the Church, no walls found remaining North or East

Began to clear out the Chamber East of North Transept.

Began from West Boundary to dig out stone & level all the places west of Church & Cloister. No more of

the marble slab in the Entry, but  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a stone slab with floreated Cross, no inscription

At N.E. corner of E. of N. Transept, found 2 Tombstones

Brass letter R tiny spoon twisted stem & pointed end.

a piece of chain, some glass, many pieces of lead.

Had to clear all the mound of earth at W. corner of the Church to make room for stone

Another fireplace in South Wall of Chamber west of the Cellarium



THE  
FOURTH REPORT  
on the condition of the  
BARDNEY ABBEY  
EXCAVATIONS,  
WITH  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1912.



LINCOLN:  
LINCOLNSHIRE PUBLISHING, COMPANY, LIMITED,  
1913.

BARDNEY VICARAGE,  
LINCOLN, FEBRUARY, 1913.

DEAR SIR,

In forwarding the Fourth Report on the work at the site of Bardney Abbey, I beg first of all to thank our many subscribers and well-wishers for their continued support and interest in this large scheme.

It will be convenient to divide the Report in three sections, as this year we have not only continued the excavations, but have also examined the King's Hill and made a further effort to free the site from debt.

### Excavations.

At the West end of the Church we have thoroughly examined the whole of the area to the boundary, hoping to find the other half of the seal. This, however, has not turned up yet, but some interesting fragments have come to light, a brass cross  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. in three pieces, the end of a rosary, and some more Nuremberg tokens. This space is now convenient for storing up the rubbish till we can dispose of it.

The remaining part of the Refectory has been cleared and nothing found except much carved stone.

The Kitchen has been dug out entirely; many knives were found, a mortar, and a large circular oven. Here there have been considerable post-suppression alterations, and it is not easy to say what were the exact dimensions of this large kitchen.

2

In a large chamber due west of the Cellarium, we have uncovered two bases of supporting beams. Also in the Cellarium we have found three, one has entirely gone, but we expect to find a fourth.

The space between the East-end of the Refectory and the West wall of the Dorter has been dug out. Here amongst a mass of carved stone and broken ribs of the vaulted roof was found a large horse-shoe shaped kiln or oven, evidently post-suppression, but no remains of the staircase leading down from the Dorter to the Cloister.

We have cleared up many corners and angles of walls, the result of which will be seen in the whole plan being prepared by Mr. H. Brakspear, F.S.A., and which will probably be produced early in the Summer.

These items may not appear to be much, but it has involved the removal of many tons of material, and funds have not allowed us more than two permanent workers, and it must be remembered that the work has to be done very carefully and therefore slowly.

A great quantity of beautiful carved stone has been unearthed; the best of it has been put into the Museum, with the result that the floor has given way. As it therefore became necessary to find another place for it, we have built up the walls and roofed in the Slype or Parlour, and have thus housed all the best stone on the site and have room for some more, relieving the Museum of the great weight and finding more room in it for smaller finds.

This has been expensive in money and labour, but all the nice stone can now be preserved, and the site is much less untidy than it was.

3

The weather hindered us, both in labour and in the number of visitors, many of whom were very interested and liberal, but it was curious how many visitors "did not expect to see much and had unfortunately left their purses at home."

Mr. H. Brakspear spent a week with us and made considerable additions to the plan; amongst other things he discovered a Taperers Circle in the Nave Floor.

The Rev. Canon Fowler visited us three times, and made most useful additions to the reading of the inscriptions and Nuremberg Tokens. Mr. E. Stevenson spent a long time with us, making various interesting discoveries, amongst which were the Dedication Cross in a Saxon Slab in the West Doorway, the pedestal of the figure of S. Laurence, a good many parts of a Chimney, a Gargoyle, besides writing some very interesting notes.

### The King's Hill.

Very considerable interest was shown in the examination of the King's Hill. The weather was dreadful, but on August 28th, the day on which the bulk of the visitors were present, about one-third of the whole mound had been removed. At first it appeared that there were distinct layers of soil, gravel and chalk, clay, and at the bottom sand, but these soon tapered out, and finally were entirely mixed up. A few bones, nails, mediæval pottery, all in any order, showed that the hill had evidently been entered before. The probability is that the barrow was not a long barrow as we supposed, but a round barrow of which the Eastern half had been almost entirely removed, leaving it in shape like a long barrow. It has been all accurately replaced, and by next Summer will show little traces of having been

4



## Balance Sheet for 1912.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENSES.	
£	s d	£	s d
Cash in hand ...	0 4 7	Tools ...	22 1 4
Balance at Bank ...	43 18 0	Wages ...	91 16 2
Excavations ...	114 11 0	Postages ...	28 15 0
Purchase Fund ...	62 16 3	Sundries ...	3 3 2
Post Cards, Picture ...	22 18 3	Printing ...	31 18 7
Over Payments to Bank ...	0 5 3	Cheque Book ...	0 5 0
		Balance at Bank ...	66 14 1
			<u>£244 13 4</u>

Tools include Cost of building up the Slype.

Postages include £25, posting Circulars.

Sundries include Taxes and Rates.

Printing includes £22 10s for printing the Guide. Copies have been sold amounting to £13 6s.

meddled with. Four small pieces of a human skull were all that remained to show that the site had been used as a burial mound, and those of course quite insufficient to support the tradition of "The King's Hill." On the other hand, the thorough way in which the barrow was turned over at some unrecorded time might lead one to suppose that a good deal was found at that time. The donations for this examination amounted to £20 4s 11d; expenses, chiefly labour, £15 11s 8d; leaving a balance put to the Excavation Fund of £4 13s 3d.

### The Purchase Fund.

As many of the readers of this already know, my health is not at all what it was, and I cannot expect to see our scheme completed, but in case any circumstances removed me from Bardney I was and am anxious to leave the site free of debt. The Guarantors, who so kindly paid down £350, are not pressing for their money, but as they charge no interest, it is only reasonable that the sum should be repaid as soon as possible.

As explained in a recent circular, the site is in debt and in private hands, and therefore no Trustees will accept the care of it. These seem good and sufficient grounds for making a strong effort, so we have sent out nearly 14,000 letters explaining the situation and begging for sixpences (16,000). This has cost £32, and at present has brought in £56 2s 6d, with what was in hand making £65 4s 6d. There is a promise of £1 when we are half-way, and a most liberal promise of £50 from Mrs. Weigall, if the rest is raised "in a reasonable time."

Of course the result of this appeal is a disappointment, but a scheme of this kind appeals to Antiquarians, and not in the least to many others. An examination of the subscription list in this and the preceding reports will show how liberal many people have been, specially some in the County. Again times are hard, and again no less than £1,094 8s 4d has been altogether subscribed, so there is no reason to despair of the future.

If any readers of this report have not yet been to Bardney we shall be very pleased to see them in the Summer, and we have a very great deal to show them.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. LAING.

As this is going to the Printer, I have just received from the Secretary of the Lincs. and Notts. Archaeological Society a letter stating that the Society has made another grant of £2, as marking their approval of the scheme and the way in which the work is going on.

## Subscriptions during 1912.

Name.	Excavation Fund.		Purchase Fund.		King's Hill Fund.	
	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d
Rev. D. C. O. Adams...	0	10 0				
Rev. H. F. Allison ...					0	2 6
Anon. ...			0	2 6		
Anon. ...			0	5 0		
Miss Bell ..	0	5 0	0	3 0		
Miss S. Barton ...	0	5 0	0	5 0		
Mr. T. W. Brogden ...					1	0 0
Rev. S. S. Bengough ..					0	2 6
Rev. W. E. Boulter ...					0	5 0
Rev. G. C. Barton ...					0	5 0
British Archaeological Society	1	1 0				
Mr. Claud S. Buckingham ...	1	1 0				
Mr. Bannister...			0	5 0		
Mr. W. C. Brown ...			0	9 0		
Mrs E. J. Barron ...			0	2 6		
Mr. H. J. Barton ...			0	5 0		
Miss F. Bennett ...			5	0 0		
Rev. F. Brodhurst ...			1	0 0		
Mr. James Berry ...			1	1 0		
Mr. H. Langton Brackenbury			2	2 0		
Mr. J. A. Brooke ..			5	0 0		
Mrs. Barton ...			0	2 6		
Mrs. Bashforth ...			0	2 6		
Mr. C. C. Bowlby ...	2	10 0	2	10 0		
Rev. R. D. Clarke ...	0	5 0				
Rev. C. J. Cornish ...	1	0 0				
Rev. Canon Cole ...					1	0 0
Mr. F. C. Clayton ...	1	0 0				
Rev. Canon Crowfoot ...	1	0 0				
Rev. A. Carver ...	0	5 0				
Rev. S. Cox ...			0	2 6		
Miss M. Coates ..			0	2 6		
Rev. J. F. Chamberlain ...			1	1 0		
Miss N. P. Clegg ..			0	10 0		
Rev. A. Dent ...	0	5 0				
J.C.D. ...	1	1 0				



Name.	Excavation Fund.		Purchase Fund.		King's Hill Fund.	
	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d
Mr. T. A. Dyson					0	5 0
Rev. R. Dolby					0	5 0
Mr. J. H. Dixon			0	2 6		
Miss Day	0	5 0	0	5 0		
Mr. H. Constable Ellis	1	0 0				
Mr. O. Edmonds			0	2 6		
General Fagan	0	10 6				
Mr. R. Fox	1	0 0				
Mr. W. V. R. Fane					1	1 0
Very Rev. Dean Fry					0	10 0
Rev. Canon Foster					0	5 0
Rev. Canon Fowler			1	0 0	2	0 0
Rev. C. C. Fowler	0	16 6				
Rev. J. Fernie			0	10 0		
Mrs. Franklyn			2	2 0		
Mr. W. G. Footitt			0	2 6		
F.C.F.			0	2 6		
Rev. E. Giles	1	0 0				
Mr. Wm. Gadsby					0	5 0
Rev. H. Giblin			0	3 0	0	16 0
Rev. J. Gurnhill					0	2 6
Mr. Godson	0	10 0				
Mr. Gresswell			0	10 0		
Mr. A. G. Grant			0	9 6		
H.	2	0 0				
H.H.P.M.L.S.H.			1	1 0		
Mr. S. H. Hignett					1	1 0
Mr. H. H. Hill					0	6 6
Mr. & Mrs. S. Hall	0	10 0	0	10 0		
Mrs. Harrison			0	5 0		
Mr. J. Henning			0	5 0		
Miss Ingold	1	0 0			1	1 0
Rev. W. T. Jennings					1	0 0
Rev. C. E. Jeans			0	5 0		
Mr. R. Jones			0	5 0		
Ven. Archdeacon Jeudwine	2	0 0				

Name.	Excavation Fund.		Purchase Fund.		King's Hill Fund.	
	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d
Mr. C. E. Keyser	2	2 0			1	1 0
Mr. J. Kitwood			0	5 0		
Miss Ledbrook	0	5 0				
The Bishop of Lincoln					1	0 0
Mr. C. Lyman			0	2 6		
Rev. Canon Leeke			0	2 6		
Lincoln N.U.T.	0	7 6	0	2 6		
J.C.T. Leeds			0	5 0		
Rt. Rev. Bishop Mitchinson	1	1 0	1	1 0		
Mr. A. H. Leslie Melville	5	0 0	5	0 0		
Mr. W. R. Mitchell	1	1 0				
Mr. A. Maltby	0	3 0				
Mr. James Marshall			1	1 0		
Mrs. Mackinder			0	10 0		
Miss Nelson	1	0 0				
Nottingham Anon.					0	2 6
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholls	0	2 6	0	2 6		
Miss E. A. Owry			0	3 0		
Mr. G. Oldfield			0	5 0		
Mr. C. A. Parker	0	10 0				
Mr. J. B. Paynter			1	1 0		
Mr. G. W. Palmer	0	10 0				
Mr. F. W. Paulson			2	2 0		
Mr. Howard Pease			0	5 0		
Mr. C. R. Patey			1	0 0		
Messrs. C. & J. Prentis			0	2 6		
Rev. S. E. Percival			0	5 0		
Mr. A. Pacey			0	5 0		
Royal Archaeological Inst.	10	0 0				
Capt. J. S. Reeve					0	10 0
Mrs. Ruston					1	0 0
Miss Ruston					1	0 0
Rev. Canon Rawnsley	1	1 0				
Rev. T. Rivington			0	5 0		
Rev. G. E. P. Reade			0	9 0		
Commander Rowand			0	5 0		
Mrs. Rashdall			1	1 0		

Name.	Excavation Fund.		Purchase Fund.		King's Hill Fund.	
	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d
Mr. Shirley	1	0 0				
Mr. J. S. Sneath			1	1 0		
Mr. C. G. Sharpe	1	1 0	1	1 0		
Mr. Shepherd						
Mr. G. P. Skipworth	0	10 6			0	5 0
Miss Swan	0	6 0				
Rev. S. Stamp					0	2 6
Mr. Coningsby C. Sibthorp	5	0 0			1	0 0
Mr. A. J. Smith	0	2 6				
Mr. Sowby					0	2 6
Mrs. M. Sowby					0	2 6
Rev. J. A. Stoodley					0	5 0
Mr. E. C. Stretton	0	5 0				
Dr. R. Slocock	0	10 6				
R.W.S.	5	0 0				
Rev. H. Spurrier			0	10 0		
Mrs. A. L. Soper			0	5 0		
Rev. C. W. Stanford			0	10 0		
Hon. R. Stanhope			2	0 0		
Mrs. Tempest	1	0 0				
Mr. F. M. Tindall			1	1 0		
Mr. G. L. Topping			0	10 6		
Rev. G. W. Trendell			0	5 0		
Mr. R. Woolley	0	10 0	0	5 0	0	5 0
Mr. Cecil Wray	1	0 0				
Mr. T. Cecil Woolley	2	2 0				
Rev. S. Wild			0	3 6		
Rev. George Ward			1	0 0		
Miss S. E. Wilson			0	2 6		
Mr. W. H. Watkinson			0	4 0		
Rev. E. Young	0	5 0				
YERFDOG			0	2 6		
Sale of Hay and Waste stone	9	2 8	3	5 0		
Visitor's boxes	21	7 11	3	14 9	1	14 11
Sums 2/- and under			2	3 6	0	1 0

A

# Descriptive Guide

TO

## Bardney Abbey,

WITH

### 37 ILLUSTRATIONS.

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ONE SHILLING POST FREE.

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From CHARLES E. LAING,  
BARDNEY VICARAGE,  
LINCOLN



1913

June

4

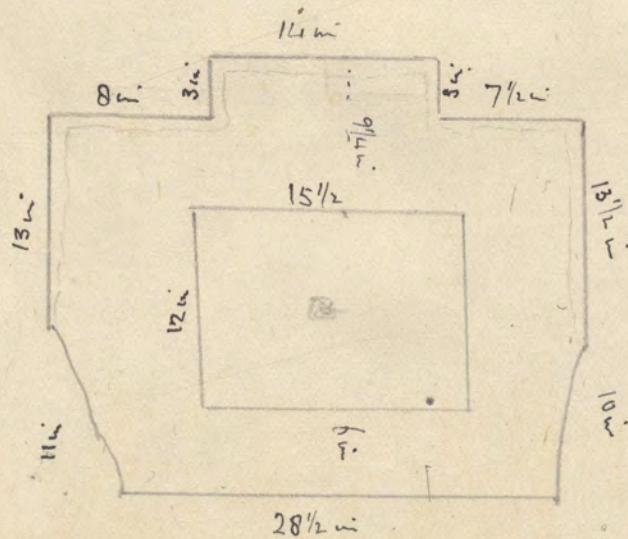
Rev. Charles E. Loring was invited to a meeting of the Royal Archaeological Inst. held at Burlington house. Mr. H. Brakspear produced the plan, with walls of various dates indicated by different colours & lectured on the architectural features of the building. Sir Henry Howorth in the Chair spoke with great approval, & asked C.S.L. to speak: which he did dwelling chiefly on the site as being the original Saxon one & on the placca unimoda at Southrey. Mr. W. H. St. John Hope also spoke & supported the evidence for the Saxon site. Mr. Hamilton Thompson also spoke referring to Bp. Almeric's visitation. Many of our friends & subscribers were present. Mr. C.S. Keyser, Mr. & Mrs. Gilson, Mr. J. Tyndall &

June 5

C.S.L. called & had a satisfactory interview with Mr. W.R. Pears at the Office of the Board of Works, chiefly about the Tombs etc.

- In digging out the Cellarium & the addition to the South. an Elizabethan shilling, a Bulla of Ppe Boniface IX 1387 & 6 large bases, for beams supporting the roof. The largest of these was upside down, the rectangular space, which in case of the others held the beams, had some lead inserted as if something had been socketed had some rude edging & a projecting side. It suggests a Saxon Stamb? or base of a Cross?

Scale  
1 in. to 1 ft.



This was covered by 2 pieces of semicircular stone



1913  
June

Much of this month spent in weeding the Church & cutting & the hay & getting away the large heap of stone, about 120 loads.

26 About 50 members of the Lincoln Archaeological Society on their annual outing visited the Abbey. C.S. 2. delivered a short-lecture & conducted the party round, giving explanations of which appeared to be much appreciated.

July. A small pedestal & a bench end with carved head found in the Cellarium. In the S. E. corner of Cellarium a gateway was disclosed, very much broken, & therefore remains removed.

August. Work west of the Cellarium revealed many small partition walls, much broken pavement & a large Tomb slab 7ft. x 3ft. much decayed (only "Anno Domini 2" decipherable)  
Rev. Canon Fowler & Mr. Wm. Stevenson both visited the site the latter staying 3 weeks, making useful notes &c.

Work East of North transept produced many large rough stones, a good deal of Roman or Early British Pottery, much lead & a great many bones suggesting a burial pit, as there appeared no regularity in the manner bones were seen.

The Lincolnshire Cyclists attended an open air service in the Church on Sunday 17th August. The Baidney Bands led the singing of about 100 voices. The congregation was estimated between 2000 & 3000

Tried from the N.W. corner to find some trace of the Inner Arcade of the Cloister, but found nothing. This is the 4th failure.

Cyclists Service.  
Vicar. Mr. F. Blyth conducting  
Mr. Cottam Mr. Wank & Mr. Eldridge put beneath the platform



Sunday 17th Aug 1913.



CYCLISTS' SERVICE AT BARDNEY.

Interesting Scene at the Old Abbey.



Photo by] [A. C. and B. M. Roberts, Lincoln.  
On the platform, the Rev. C. E. Laing and Mr. Frank Blyth, conductor of band and choir. Standing in front, Mr. F. Elvidge, Mr. Wark, and Mr. Cottam.

Bardney was all excitement on Sunday, the occasion being a cycle service at the old Abbey, organised by the Lincoln and District Cyclists' Association. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. Elvidge, vice-chairman of the Association, and Mr. Brumfield, the secretary. It is estimated that nearly 3,000 people were present. The procession was arranged in the following order:—First came Mr. J. Boyes, carrying the processional cross; then the band, composed of 22 performers from Bardney, who had given their services; followed by the choir, and next the Rev. C. E. Laing, sidesmen and churchwardens, and Mr. J. C. Greenbank; Messrs. D. S. Work (chairman N.C.U.), W. Brumfield (secretary), and F. Elvidge (vice-chairman), and Mr. Cottam. Then came the various clubs: St. Andrew's, Washingborough, Globe, West Lincolns, Wheelers, Church of England, Wragby, Barkwith, Hainton, Benniworth, Woodhall Spa, Horncastle, Southrey, and Bardney. Contingents came from quite a long way, the day being beautifully fine, over 600 cycles taking part. Arrived at the ruins of the famous Abbey, the service was heartily entered into. The band and choir of 100 voices was under the conductorship of Mr. Frank Blyth. The lesson was read by Mr. J. C. Greenbank, and the preacher was the Rev. C. E. Laing, Vicar of Bardney, who took for his text, St. John II., verses 14-17. The Vicar said it was one of the most remarkable congregations he had ever addressed. He described many interesting incidents in connection with the Abbey. The offertory realised £5 1s. 0d. Immediately after the service the band played back to the Parish-room, where refreshments were provided free, the visitors being waited upon by thirty ladies.

ag da Th Mi tio ow sys bee as the wo: yea par Ho the sal: the on oth E Cle Cor giv liev dut to por Cle Go tra th: the col wo 1 the 2 rig the the wo for wo if in the sal

To-day we have revealed to us the remains of a church 260 feet long, by 61 feet wide, and 150 feet across the transepts; traces of twelve side chapels, and the bases of thirty pillars. Nearly one hundred tombs of abbots, priors and sub-priors, knights and soldiers have been uncovered, sixty of them bearing still legible inscriptions, and dating back to 1352. Sixty-six tomb slabs lie in their original positions in the nave. The most remarkable stone is the ponderous memorial to Abbot Horncastle, dated 1508. It measures eight feet by four feet, is seven inches thick, and weighs three tons. This has been removed to Bardney Parish Church.

Interesting Discoveries.

In the south transept is an altar stone engraved with the five crosses, and near it a rare relic in a floor, or sunk piscina. In the choir are remains of a four-seated sedilia. The foundations of the high altar are exposed, and a few of the choir steps are there *in situ*, hollowed by the footprints of long-forgotten pilgrims.

Standing on the threshold of the church, the great west entrance, the Vicar disclosed the first of a series of important discoveries which have lately been made amid the ruins. He pointed to a Saxon tombstone in the doorway, evidently put there before the Norman church was built, because it is under the foundation of it. The stone bears the dedication cross and is nine inches thick. Between this and the south-west doorways have been unearthed portions of a staircase leading to the clerestory or to a muniment room. South of the church lie the domestic buildings, the cellarium, chambers, guest houses, courtyard, and well.

Here the excavators have exposed the entrance to a brick oven and place for a large copper. In the refectory a row of tables on either side is revealed, with stone seats to correspond, and the high table at the east end. The chapter house, dorter, reredorter, infirmary, mill (with original millstone), well (which is 17 feet deep and fed by a copious spring), kitchen, and stables have been located and explored, and welded, link-like, into the completed plan. We see now the entrance porch to the Abbot's house on the west side of the cellarium. The kitchen has been cleared out, and is delightful. Here we gaze upon the monster fireplace of the Abbey, with the nooks in the corners round the brickwork where the boys could stand to turn the spits. The back of the fireplace has the herringbone pattern. Opposite is the place where they stoked up the fire of a copper and boiler, and a large circular oven is disclosed. Many knives and a mortar have been turned up. We can well imagine what a busy scene the kitchen constantly presented in the old bountiful days when the Abbey flourished and waxed fat.

Antiquarian Treasures.

There are now two museums on the ground. One, a wooden structure standing in the cloisters, houses any "odds and ends" thrown up in the excavations. The other has been made by building up the walls and roofing in the Abbey parlour. The first collection contains a new and much-prized acquisition in a bulla of Pope Boniface IX., date 1389. This is the metal seal or impression at the bottom of a bull, and one sees the places where it was attached with thread to the document. There are Nuremberg tokens and an Elizabethan shilling; a piece of the brass canopy of a tomb, valuable because it is palimpsest; knives, tools, spurs, buckles, a brass cross and the end of a rosary, a shovel and pair of tongs, pewter plates and a coffin paten, a mason's trowel, panes of glass encased in lead, a Norman ewer and bowl from the church and an adjoining chamber, a large jar found in the well, a decorated jug from the kitchen, and a two-handled jug recovered from the cellarium.

The miscellany also includes the long iron hook of the well chain, the bottom of the bucket, pieces of the leather, and a quantity of animal bones from the well bottom. There are two pieces of early British pottery, but most of it is mediæval and Nottingham ware.

The Vicar is especially proud of the original seal of the Abbey, which his workmen picked up just outside the south-west doorway. It is the reverse of the matrix, from which a beautiful impression has been taken in wax, and it is hoped that the obverse may also be found. In the Abbey ruins may be read the tomb slab of Roger de Barowe, who, as Abbot in 1348, sealed with this seal a document which is now in the British Museum.

It will be seen that the collection of relics is one of engrossing interest, only to be equalled by the valuable work done under such romantic circumstances by Mr. Laing and his handful of workers. Funds are urgently needed to enable the work to be continued. Over £1,000 has been subscribed towards the expense of excavating and purchasing the site. The bulk of the buildings occupy a space of three acres, which has been bought at a cost of £583, of which £350 has been lent without interest by a guarantor. This money has to be repaid when possible, and when that is done the site will be conveyed to the National Trust or to the Lincoln Diocesan Trustees. The Vicar asks for help to discharge this debt, and his appeal should not be made in vain.

SHEFFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1913.

A TREASURE HOUSE.

BYGONE RELICS FOUND AT BARDNEY ABBEY.

VALUABLE WORK.

The picturesque village of Bardney, resting beside the Witham, almost under the shadow of Lincoln's stately fane, has during the last four years been excavated from its obscurity and transformed into a veritable archaeological Mecca which has attracted, and will continue to attract, antiquarians and kindred experts from all corners of the kingdom.

Where before the eye discerned naught save acres of grazing land dotted with irregular and mysterious mounds, now stand revealed the remains of a once great and noble abbey. Bases of massive columns which ages ago lent grandeur to a pillared nave, of fragments of elaborately-ornamented capitals, richly engraved epitaphs on sepulchral slabs, ruins of imposing doorways, skilfully wrought figures of saints, altar tables, and numerous other finely-preserved relics of a once flourishing monastery, have been displayed to our wondering eyes. Here are stones charged with priceless memories of the past, recalling days when devout and austere monks moved silently between the hallowed walls of Bardney Abbey and bowed their tanned heads in simple faith before its high altar.

Historians tell us that the original Abbey of Bardney was in existence before the year 697, when Osfrida conveyed King Oswald's bones there to be buried within its peaceful precincts. King Ethelred, world-tired after his reign of 29 years, retreated to its solitude in 704, and is said

to have been buried at a spot less than half-a-mile east of the monastery. In 870 it was fired by the Danes and burnt to the ground. For more than 200 years it remained a wreck, and then, in 1086, was rebuilt by Gilbert de Gaunt, who died eight years later, and was buried within the walls he had freshly raised. The charter at that time was signed by Remigius, the builder of Lincoln Cathedral, and Archbishop Lanfranc. It was renewed by Walter de Gaunt in 1115, and the document is still in existence. Other charters conferring gifts upon Bardney Abbey were confirmed by Eugenius III., Bishop of Rome 1145-53, and in 1156 by Nicholas Brakespeare, known as Adrian IV., the only Englishman who ever became Pope.

A Fascinating Story.

Attended by a large and gallant retinue, King Henry IV. rode from Horncastle and stayed at the Abbey in 1406, and gave audience to the Bishop of Lincoln and Lord Willoughby of Parham. Leland wrote a full and interesting account of the visit. Its last royal charter was conferred by Henry VII. in 1505, and soon afterwards the entire fabric was destroyed—an incident in the desolate scenes enacted during the great suppression, at the close of the Lincolnshire rising, when six monks of Bardney, together with the Abbot of Kirkstead and three of his monks, four canons of Barlings and seven secular priests, were cruelly ordered to be executed. In the course of time every vestige of the once great pile, whose splendid towers reared proudly above the Witham, disappeared, and wayfarers saw placid cattle browsing on grass-covered hillocks that little suggested the secrets there entombed.

The modern chapter in the fascinating story of Bardney Abbey was begun in 1909, when the Vicar of the parish, the Rev. Charles E. Laing, imbued with zeal to obtain, if possible, something more tangible than tradition of a building so pregnant with historic charm, commenced excavating on the site. Helped by a small band of willing workers, his labour soon earned generous reward. Progress has been slowly made in laying bare court and cloister, nave and aisles, transepts and chapels, and various offices and their interiors, and reproducing the plan of the Abbey rebuilt by Gilbert de Gaunt in 1086.



1913.

Sept.

In digging out a small chamber formed out of the North West corner of the kitchen, there appeared to be a stone floor, further examination revealed, an open space with stone bottom & sides leading into a drain about 20 inches square, this continued, getting rather smaller up to one boundary wall, & full of whitish sand, the flags on the top nicely bevelled. 3 of these were taken up & the drain cleared as far as possible.

A small sacking bell<sup>??</sup> & 2 large Nuremberg counters were found in chamber, east of North Transept.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig Holstein & a party from Petwood visited the Abbey on 22nd Sept.

Dug out the mound East of the Skye to place a soft water tank, as damp from the roof penetrated the museum: & found a very large lime kiln, similar in shape to the one described on page 62, except that it was round instead of oval & at least 4 times as large, stone all crumbled with heat, except a few stones at the entrance, which we removed for wall building, & then levelled the space

Oct

Cleared the weeds from the Cloister with 8 gallons of weed killer. result very satisfactory.

Began to dig out the space South of the Sedilia & East of the South Transept Chapel.

Nov:

Covered up all Tomb-slabs, Pillars etc. for the winter  
Counsell & Chipsham obtained a writers job & Crowder ceased work. Funds very low.

Vicar lectured at Lincoln & Skipton





The Tombstone of Radulphus Lewyn, sometime  
Chaplain of the Chantry of S. Andrew Bardney



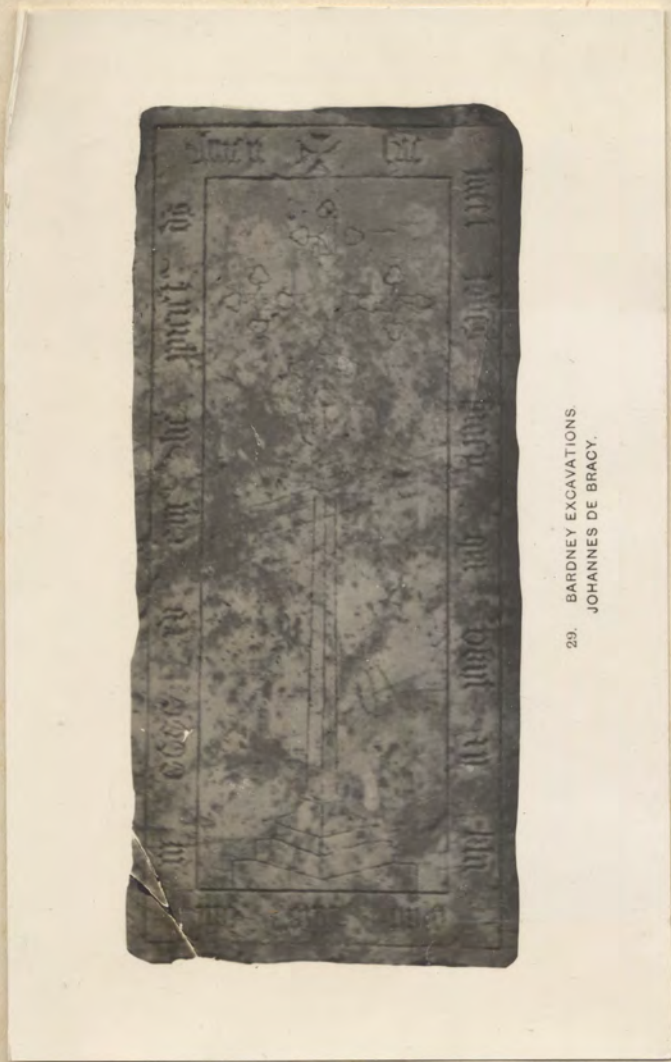
AGNES DE Baultham?

8 Photographs 5.  
A. Roberts. Lincoln.

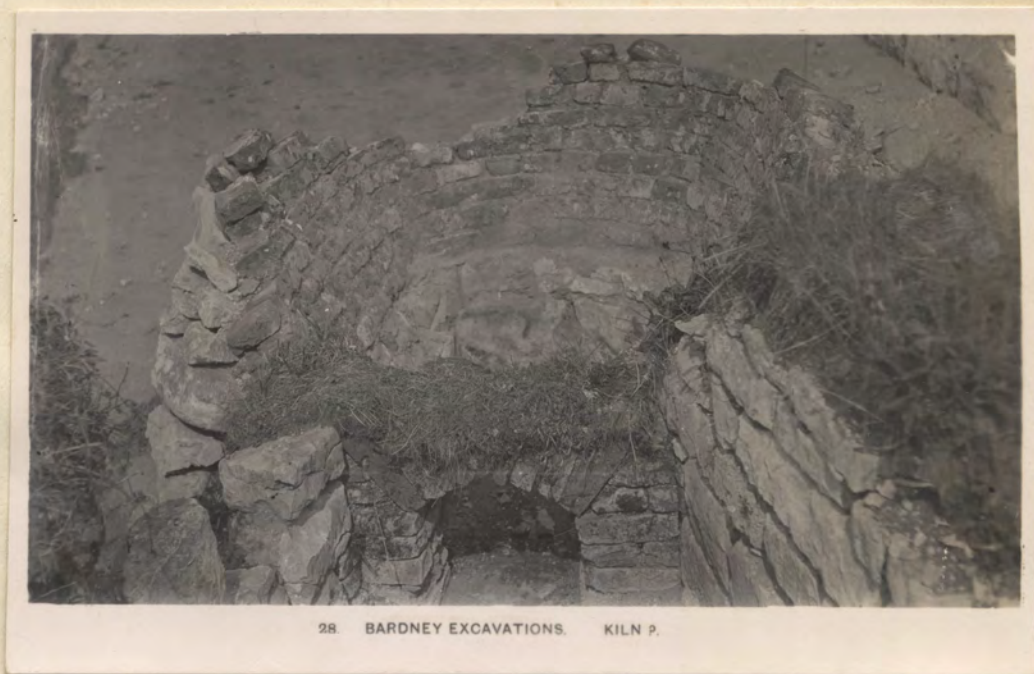


Interior of the Slzhe or Parlour. These walls  
remained 6 to 7 ft high, so were roofed in to contain  
the heavy stones.





29. BARDNEY EXCAVATIONS  
JOHANNES DE BRACY.



28 BARDNEY EXCAVATIONS. KILN P.



31 BARDNEY EXCAVATIONS.  
BACK OF LARGE FIREPLACE IN INFIRMARY.



THE  
FIFTH REPORT

THE CONDITION OF THE

BARDNEY ABBEY  
EXCAVATIONS,

WITH

Accounts for the Year 1913.



Lincoln:

W. K. MORTON & SONS, PRINTERS, SALTERGATE.

Bardney Vicarage,  
Lincoln, February, 1914.

Dear Sir,

As a small acknowledgment of your kindly help and interest in the "Bardney Excavation" Scheme, I beg to send you the following particulars and accounts which form our fifth report.

During the year we have made three more unsuccessful attempts to find any remains of the Inner Arcade of the Cloisters: but we have

1. Cleared some more of the north end of the Dormitory.

2. Explored the connexion between the Rere Dorter and the Infirmary, and satisfied ourselves that the Abbot's House did not stand there.

3. Dug out the chamber outside the south-west corner of the Church, but only found a few pieces of carved stone and no more of the broken Purbeck slab uncovered before.

4. Entirely cleared the west front of the Infirmary, passing through a layer of oyster shells, and found inside the large west door a fireplace 12ft. long, with tiled back, and some of the curbing left.

5. Cleared the north-end corner of the Church to show up the Norman work there, and to find any connecting walls, but there were none, so proceeded with the chamber east of the North Transept: this was divided from the Church wall by a passage, and contained many

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fragments of lead and pottery, some Roman and some probably early British pottery, and deep down a great many bones. Judging by the thickness of the east wall of the North Transept and the remains of fixed stones, this chamber might have been a vestry. Near here two more tomb slabs were found without any inscription or marks.

6. Space being required for stone rubbish, we began from the west end of the Church to level all the work done, leaving the walls above the ground, and so beginning to get the whole site in tidy and level condition; working southward revealed many partition walls and foundation of a porch, and these together seem to point to the Abbots' dwelling and Guest Hall.

7. Dug out and levelled the Cellarium, the broken up floor had been of plaster or cement, rather soft, about two inches thick, of which several pieces were found. The roof must have been supported by six wooden beams, and these were fixed or socketed on or in six large rectangular blocks of stone, all of which were cut in the top side to hold the beam. One of these, the largest, was flat on the top, and the beam not let into the stone, but fixed on it, but on turning this stone over, it was found that a very large part was cut out, much larger than any beam would require, and with remains of lead in the centre and a rude edging round the top side, this is considered by some of our visitors to be of Saxon cutting, and it would appear that it was either something so sacred to the monks that it was put upside down to hide it, or so important to the despoilers that they desecrated it: either way, it is a very remarkable and interesting stone.

8. Dug out the Courtyard, which yielded nothing of interest, except that it led us on to the small piece cut out of the Kitchen by a post suppression wall, here was found the wide top of a drain or shoot filled up with the

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usual stone debris. On clearing this, the beginning of a drain appeared, remarkably well made, side and top stones bevelled to fit and puddled outside with clay; this drain runs due west from the Kitchen for about 22 feet, then turns north-west for about 36 feet to our boundary, and at present the owner of the field beyond will not allow us to proceed.

9. A very large Kiln was found at the east-end of the Slype, with signs of great heat, the stone sides all crumbled away on exposure.

On June 26th, we had an interesting visit of the Lincoln Archaeological and Architectural Society. About 50 members and friends listened to an address from the Vicar, and thoroughly examined all the parts and details of the excavations.

On June 4th, Mr. H. Brakspear produced his plan of the Abbey to the members of the Royal Archaeological Institute, assembled in the Society of Antiquaries' Rooms, Burlington House; Sir Henry Howarth who presided, Mr. Brakspear, Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, and Mr. A. H. Thompson all made interesting speeches. The Rev Charles E. Laing took up the lantern slides, the seal and a few other exhibits, and spoke about the evidences of the Saxon site, and the meeting was a very satisfactory one.

We thankfully acknowledge further grants from both these Societies.

It will be noticed from the accounts that another £50 has been paid off the debt on the purchase; but an interview with Mr. A. R. Pears, at the Board of Works, has made it quite clear that no set of trustees will accept the site while it is in debt, and that the Board of Works will do nothing while the site is in private hands.

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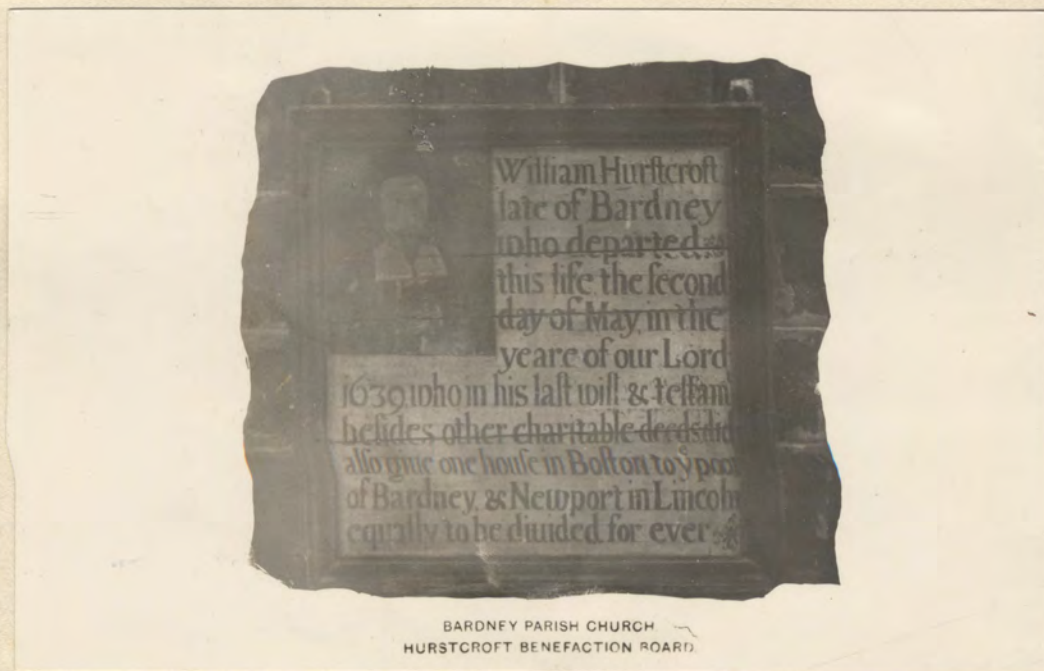








BARDNEY PARISH CHURCH. KNOWLES BENEFACION BOARD



BARDNEY PARISH CHURCH  
HURSTCROFT BENEFACION BOARD

Two Benefaction Boards fixed to the  
Wall in the Tower of Bardney Parish Church  
Photo. S. Roberts reproduced by Ruddock.



1914

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March 16th Commenced to uncover & tidy up.  
Began work at East & South East corners outside  
the Church.

April 10 Much damage done by two lads from Linnich.  
stones from pillar in South transept pulled down & cracked  
figure on Bendi End in Chapter House quite spoilt.