No. 9

SOCIETY NEWS

DECEMBER, 1961

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MEETING PLACE: THE DEMONSTRATION THEATRE OF THE EASTERN GAS BOARD WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL SOCIETIES AFTER DECEMBER AND FUTURE MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD ELSEWHERE. DETAILS OF THE NEW MEETING PLACE WILL BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS WHEN KNOWN. THE DATES OF SOME MEETINGS MAY ALSO HAVE TO BE CHANGED, SO DO NOT RELY ON THE PRINTED PROGRAMME CARD ISSUED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY, 1962: LECTURE. "THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH CASTLE" IS THE THEME OF A LECTURE BY MR. R. P. MOORE IN JANUARY, 1962.

THE EARLIEST CASTLES BEGAN AS A TOWER, OFTEN OF WOOD, UPON A MOUND SOMETIMES NATURAL BUT USUALLY ARTIFICIAL, CALLED A MOTTE. THE PRECINCTS OF SUCH A CASTLE, THE BAILEY, COULD BE PROTECTED BY A PALISADE. LATER, ADDITIONAL EARTHWORKS WOULD BE THROWN UP AND CURTAIN WALLS ADDED TO THE CASTLE AREA. A SECOND BAILEY WAS SOMETIMES ADDED, AND A TALL KEEP ERECTED WITHIN THE FIRST OR INNER BAILEY, REPLACING THE EARLIER WOODEN TOWER. A MOAT, DRAWBRIDGE, MACHICOLATION, AND OTHER DEFENSIVE MEASURES, MADE THE LATER CASTLES WELL-NIGH IMPREGNABLE FROM DIRECT ASSAULT UNTIL EFFECTIVE ARTILLERY RENDERED THE WHOLE SYSTEM OBSOLETE.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE SUGGESTED FOR FURTHER READING: "ENGLISH MEDIEVAL CASTLES", R. A. BROWN. "AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CASTLES OF ENGLAND AND WALES", B. H. ST. O'NEIL. "EXPLORING CASTLES", W. D. SIMPSON. "MILITARY ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND DURING THE MIDDLE AGES", T. A. HAMILTON.

FEBRUARY, 1962: SOCIAL EVENING.

THE SOCIAL EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE SIXTH BIRTHDAY OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY ON A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVENING WILL BE MUCH THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, AND WHICH PROVED SO POPULAR WITH MEMBERS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE BOUND TO A RIGID PROGRAMME, AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS FROM MEMBERS FOR THIS MEETING. IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION WHICH YOU THINK WOULD HELP THE MEETING GO WITH A SWING PLEASE DROP A LINE TO THE SOCIAL SECRETARY.

MARCH, 1962: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

AFTER THE BUSINESS PART OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DR. J. P. C. KENT, F.S.A. WILL DESCRIBE WITH THE AID OF SLIDES THE SECOND SEASON'S "Excavations at the Motte and Bailey Castle, South Mimms".

MAY 4TH, 1962: LECTURE.

ILLNESS PREVENTED DR. D. B. HARDEN, O.B.E., PH.D., F.S.A., DIRECTOR OF THE LONDON MUSEUM, FROM GIVING HIS LECTURE ON "SAXON LONDON" IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. DR. HARDEN IS NOW WELL AGAIN AND WILL GIVE HIS LECTURE IN MAY 1962. THIS WILL BE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE NORTH LONDON BRANCH, THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, AND WILL BE HELD AT 7.30 P.M. AT ST. KATHERINES COLLEGE, TOTTENHAM, N.17.

LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE BEGINNINGS OF SAXON LONDON. IN THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE APPEARS A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE BRITONS BEING DEFEATED AT CRAYFORD IN KENT, AND RETIRING ON LONDON IN 457 A.D. HISTORY IS SILENT UNTIL 604 A.D. WHEN ANOTHER REFERENCE IN THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE MENTIONS THAT AETHELBERT GAVE MELLITUS AN EPISCOPAL SEE IN LONDON. LONDON WAS ATTACKED SEVERAL TIMES, AND THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE AND VIKING SAGAS DESCRIBE THE SACKING AND BURNING OF LONDON DURING THIS PERIOD. "SOUTH LODGE ESTATE, ENFIELD", BY MR. IAN JONES: THE ESTATE IS SITUATED 12 MILES WEST OF ENFIELD TOWN. IT LIES TO THE SOUTH OF BRAMLEY ROAD, WHICH ACTS AS ITS NORTHERN BOUNDARY. THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE OLD ESTATE IN ITS LATER FORM CORRESPONDS EXACTLY WITH THAT OF THE PRESENT HOUSING ESTATE. THE REMAINING BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN OBLITERATED BY MODERN BUILDING OPERATIONS, AND ONLY A FEW TREES REMAIN TO MARK THE ORIGINAL LINES.

THE NAME "SOUTH LODGE" IS PRESERVED IN TWO OF THE MODERN ROADS: "SOUTH LODGE CRESCENT", WHICH RUNS PARALLEL TO BRAMLEY ROAD FOR A SHORT DISTANCE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE TOP LAKE, AND "SOUTH LODGE DRIVE", WHICH RUNS IN A NORTH - SOUTH DIRECTION PARALLEL AND A LITTLE TO THE WEST OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE ESTATE. "SOUTH LODGE FARM", SITUATED OPPOSITE THE TOP OF LOWTHER DRIVE, IS THE ONLY BUILDING TO PRESERVE THE NAME OF THE OLD ESTATE AND THE ONLY SURVIVING BUILDING WHICH EXTSTED BEFORE THE ESTATE WAS BUILT OVER.

THE ONLY SURVIVING FEATURES OF THE ESTATE ARE THE ARTIFICIAL LAKES AND LANDSCAPING REPRESENTED BY ODD PINE TREES, GORSE BUSHES AND BAMBOO PLANTS BORDERING THE TOP LAKE; ON THE LAKE ITSELF ARE WATER LILIES AND YELLOW WATER IRISES.

THE LAKES ARE THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURES, BUT THEY COVER ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE ORIGINAL AREA. ROAD BUILDING HAS REDUCED THE TOP LAKE BY ABOUT ONE THIRD AND THE ISLAND HAS DISAPPEARED. A WOODEN PLATFORM WITH SIDE RAILS, ROOF AND A SLOPING RAMP FOR THE DUCKS HAS BEEN DESTROYED WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND ONLY THE STUMPS OF THE SUPPORTS REMAIN.

SECTIONS OF THE BRICK RETAINING WALL CAN BE TRACED FOR ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE PRESENT DIAMETER OF THE LAKE.

OF THE FOUR LAKES WHICH ONCE EXISTED IN THE VALLEY ONLY BOXERS LAKE SURVIVES. THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN DRAINED AND THE MOST WESTERLY ONE IS NOW COVERED BY LONSDALE DRIVE, WHICH FORKS TO AVOID THE MARSHY AREA WHICH IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE OTHER TWO LAKES. BOXERS LAKE HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY REDUCED IN SIZE, BUT THE ISLAND STILL EXISTS. THE DAM AT THE EAST END IS COMPLETE, ALTHOUGH PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY THE DUMPING OF EARTH ON THE SOUTH SIDE DURING POST-WAR BUILDING OPERATIONS. THE STREAM OUTLET AT THE NORTH END OF THE DAM HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY A VARIETY OF STRUCTURES; THE OLDEST WAS OF BRICK, OF WHICH ONLY A SMALL PART REMAINS. SINCE THE WAR A NUMBER OF CONCRETE DAMS HAVE BEEN BUILT, BUT WATER EROSION, PLUS THE ATTENTIONS OF THE LOCAL YOUTHS, LIMIT THEIR LIFE TO A FEW YEARS ONLY. THE MAIN DAM STILL REACHES TO A HEIGHT OF 12 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL. SWANS NEST EACH YEAR ON THE SURVIVING LAKES, AND TO THE WRITER'S KNOWLEDGE HAVE DONE SO SINCE 1939. THEY HAVE PROBABLY NESTED THERE SINCE THE DAYS OF THE PRIVATE ESTATE.

HISTORY OF THE LODGE ESTATE: THE SOUTH LODGE WAS ONE OF THE THREE LODGES BUILT ON ENFIELD CHASE TO ACT AS RESIDENCES FOR THE OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH THE UPKEEP AND POLICING OF THE CHASE. THEY WERE LATER USED AS HUNTING LODGES, AND FROM THE MID-SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ONWARDS WERE USED AS PRIVATE RESIDENCES. EACH LODGE HAD ITS OWN ESTATE AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

THE CHASE IS FIRST DESCRIBED AS SUCH DURING THE REIGN OF EDWARD 11 (1307-1327), AND THE LODGES WERE PROBABLY BUILT ABOUT THIS TIME. THE LODGES ARE FIRST MENTIONED IN THE 1572 SURVEY OF THE CHASE WHEN THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO REMOVE TIMBER FOR THEIR OWN USE.

THE FIRST REFERENCE TO SOUTH LODGE ON ITS OWN OCCURS IN A HAND-WRITTEN FOLIO BY THE REV. WILLIAM ROBERTS, D.D., VICAR OF ENFIELD FROM 1616 TO 1642. UNDER THE HEADING OF "SMALL TYTHES AND OBLIGATIONS" THE SOUTH LODGE IS NOTED AS HAVING PAID 5/- PER ANNUM.

IN THE CROMWELLIAN SURVEY OF 1650 THE LODGE IS CALLED NORRIS-LODGE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE A KEEPER CALLED NORRIS LIVED THERE AT THE TIME. IN 1658 A SURVEY ENTITLED "A DESCRIPTION OF ENFIELD CHASE SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AS THE SAME IS NOW DIVIDED BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE COMMONS, BY EDMUND ROLFE AND NICHOLAS GUNTER, IN THE YEAR 1658", WAS MADE. IN IT THE LODGE WAS SAID TO BE OWNED BY ONE CAPTAIN KEMP, A VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR, WHO HAD PURCHASED IT IN THE EARLY 1650'S. IT WAS THIS SAME CAPTAIN KEMP WHO, TOGETHER WITH OTHER LOCAL LANDOWNERS, CALLED OUT THE SOLDIERS IN 1659 TO PUT DOWN THE CHASE ENCLOSURE DISTURBANCES. THE MAP ACCOMPANYING THE SURVEY SHOWS THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LODGE ESTATE MUCH THE SAME AS THEY WERE WHEN IT WAS TAKEN OVER FOR BUILDING, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LAKES. ALL THE HOUSES SHOWN ON THE MAP DIFFER IN THEIR MAIN DETAILS, AND ONE IS THEREFORE JUSTIFIED IN ASSUMING THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTH LODGE TO BE FAIRLY ACCURATE. IT SHOWS A RECTANGULAR HOUSE OF TWO STORIES WITH A STEEPLY PITCHED ROOF, FLAT GABLES AND A SINGLE CHIMNEY.

AFTER CAPTAIN KEMP'S TENANCY THE HOUSE WAS SOLD TO ARTHUR EVELYN, FROM WHOM IT PASSED TO HENRY COVENTRY. IN 1678 HE LEASED IT TO JOSHUA GALLIARD, ESQ., WHO APPEARS TO HAVE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY MADE IT OVER TO SIR HENRY BELLASYS. SIR HENRY OBTAINED A LONG LEASE FROM THE CROWN WHICH HE MADE OVER TO SIR CHARLES FIREBRACE IN 1702: SIR CHARLES WAS MASTER OF THE GAME, RANGER AND BAILIFF OF THE CHASE.

A proposal to divide the Chase was made in 1698, and a survey showing the proposed divisions was made by Westlake in the same year. South Lodge is shown on the map; the house appears similar to that on the 1658 map, except that it seems to have only one storey.

DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE 18TH CENTURY THE HOUSE BECAME THE PROPERTY OF SARAH, IST DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH, WHO ON HER DEATH IN 1744 LEFT THE HOUSE TO WILLIAM PITT, LATER EARL OF CHATHAM, TOGETHER WITH A BEQUEST OF £10,000.

FROM 1744 UNTIL EITHER HIS MARRIAGE IN 1754 (DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY), OR 1760 (ROBINSON, HISTORY OF ENFIELD), PITT LIVED AT SOUTH LODGE. HE REBUILT THE HOUSE AND CONSTRUCTED THE CHAIN OF ARTIFICIAL LAKES: THESE DETAILS FIRST APPEAR ON CAREY'S MAP OF MIDDLESEX, PROBABLY MADE ABOUT 1750. THE LAKES ARE SHOWN, AND TWO STREAMS DRAIN AWAY FROM BOXERS LAKE AT EITHER END OF THE DAM. THE HOUSE APPEARS TO BE OF NORMAL 18TH CENTURY CONSTRUCTION WITH HIP GABLES, TWO TALL CHIMNEYS AND A PROJECTING CORNICE.

AN AMUSING STORY IS TOLD CONCERNING PITT'S LANDSCAPE WORK AT SOUTH LODGE. HE DESIRED THE OWNER OF THE POST MILL ON WINDMILL HILL TO PAINT THE SIDE FACING THE LODGE AT HIS (PITT'S) EXPENSE. ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON HE LOOKED OUT AND SAW THE MILL UNPAINTED. HE SENT FOR THE MILLER TO REMONSTRATE WITH HIM: THE MILLER INFORMED HIM, HOWEVER, THAT THE WIND HAD CHANGED, BUT THAT HE WAS QUITE READY TO PAINT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MILL ON THE SA ME TERMS.

FANE WILLIAM SHARPE TENANTED THE HOUSE AFTER PITT, AND ON HIS DEATH IT PASSED TO HIS WIFE. DURING THIS PERIOD THE CONDITION OF THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS RAPIDLY DETERIORATED. PARLIAMENT, IN 1777, PASSED AN ACT "FOR DIVIDING THE CHASE OF ENFIELD", AND IN PREPARATION FOR THIS F. RUSSELL MADE A DETAILED SURVEY IN 1776. THE SOUTH LODGE IS SHOWN IN DETAIL; THE CHAIN OF LAKES IN THE VALLEY IS COMPLETE, AND THE ISLAND ON BOXERS LAKE IS SHOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME. FOR THE FIRST TIME ALSO THE TOP LAKE IS SHOWN, TOGETHER WITH A SMALLER LAKE WEST OF IT WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR ON LATER MAPS. THE HOUSE IS SHOWN BY ITS PLAN, WHICH IS A STANDARD 18TH CENTURY FORM, I.E. A RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE WITH TWO SMALL PROJECTING WINGS. THIS WAS THE HOUSE AS PITT LEFT IT. A SMALL LODGE, NOW DESTROYED, WAS SLIGHTLY WEST OF THE JUNCTION OF BRAMLEY ROAD AND LOWTHER DRIVE.

THE AMOUNTS OF LAND GRANTED TO THE SEPARATE LODGES IN 1777 IS NOT RECORDED, BUT THE TOTAL LAND ALLOTTED TO ALL THREE WAS 313 ACRES 3 PERCHES.

TOWARDS THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY FANE WILLIAM SHARPE'S WIFE DIED, AND ALDERMAN THOMAS SKINNER PURCHASED THE ESTATE; THE ALDERMAN BECAME LORD MAYOR IN 1794. HE RESTORED THE GROUNDS TO THEIR PREVIOUS APPEARANCE AND MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BLOCK-ING THE SOUTHERN OUTLET OF BOXERS LAKE, WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE 1866 MAP OF THE LODGE. ALTERNATIVELY, IT MAY HAVE SILTED UP DURING THE 19TH CENTURY OR HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY ONE OF THE LATER TENANTS. IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALDERMAN SKINNER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPLETE REBUILDING OF THE HOUSE WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE LATE 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURIES. ON THE 1866 MAP THE HOUSE IS SHOWN TO BE MUCH LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN PREVIOUSLY. ALDERMAN SKINNER MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OUTBUILDINGS AND STABLES, ALTHOUGH PITT COULD EQUALLY WELL HAVE BUILT THEM HIMSELF.

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AFTER THE ALDERMAN LEFT THE HOUSE IT WAS LEASED FROM THE CROWN BY NATHANIEL GUNDRY, ESQ. WHEN THE LEASE EXPIRED THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND IN 1816 WAS REPORTED TO BE IN A DILAPIDATED CONDITION. A NEW CROWN LEASE WAS OBTAINED BY A MR. SAVILLE. IN 1823 A MR. BOX OF DOCTOR'S COMMONS LIVED THERE. DURING THE 19TH CENTURY THE HOUSE HAD A VARIETY OF TENANTS AND REMAINED THE SAME AS IN ALDERMAN SKINNER'S TIME. ON THE 1866 0.S. MAP THE TOP LAKE IS SHOWN AS ONE LARGE LAKE WITH AN ISLAND, AND THE GROUNDS HAVE AN APPEARANCE SIMILAR TO WHEN THE HOUSE WAS FINALLY DEMOLISHED.

OPPOSITE THE TOP OF WHAT IS NOW LOWTHER DRIVE, SOUTH LODGE FARM MAKES ITS FIRST APPEARANCE. ITS NAME WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY CONNECTION IT HAD WITH THE HOUSE.

DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY THE HOUSE WAS TAKEN OVER BY MR. W. KNYVETT ROBERTSON AND MR. H. L. DANIEL, WHO ESTABLISHED A PREPARATORY AND BOARDING SCHOOL WHICH WAS FLOURISHING IN 1911 AND CONTINUED FOR SOME YEARS AFTERWARDS. THESE PEOPLE WERE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALTERATIONS WHICH ARE SHOWN ON A 1911 SKETCH OF THE SOUTH AND EAST SIDES OF THE LODGE, AND WHICH ALSO SHOW UP ON THE PLAN OF THE HOUSE ON THE 1916 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP. THE ALTERATIONS IN THE SKETCH CONSIST OF A POLYGONAL FOUR STORIED TOWER AND A QUARTER CIRCLE PLAN CONSERVATORY BUILDING WITH TALL NARROW GOTHIC WINDOWS. THE TOWER IS TOPPED BY A FLATTENED DOME WITH A SPIKE IN THE CENTRE. THE CONSERVATORY IS TOPPED BY A SIMILAR SHAPE; A QUARTER DOME, THE APEX OF WHICH FITS INTO THE ANGLE FORMED BY THE ORIGINAL HOUSE AND THE SIDE OF THE PROJECTING TOWER.

THE HOUSE WAS LEFT EMPTY AFTER IT CEASED TO BE USED AS A SCHOOL, AND THE ESTATE BECAME DILAPIDATED. ON 31ST MAY, 1935 THE "ENFIELD GAZETTE" ANNOUNCED THAT THE LAND WAS TO BE TAKEN OVER BY J. LAING & SONS AND THE OLD MANSION DEMOLISHED. BY 1939 THE HOUSE HAD DISAPPEARED AND THE BUILDING OF NEW HOUSES WAS NEARLY COMPLETE. AT THE PRESENT TIME (SEPTEMBER 1961) THE LAST HOUSES ON THE ESTATE ARE BEING ERECTED, AND SOON, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AREAS OF LAND AROUND THE LAKES AND SOME PATCHES SOUTH OF THE OLD ORNAMENTAL CHAIN, THE ENTIRE ESTATE WILL BE BUILT OVER.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE ON THE SOUTH LODGE ESTATE IS A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION, AND WHICH, LIKE THE ARTICLE ON CATHALE, DEMONSTRATES WHAT CAN BE DONE BY AN INTERESTED AMATEUR.

MR. JONES' INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT WAS AROUSED BECAUSE HE LIVED IN ONE OF THE HOUSES NOW COVERING THE ESTATE. AS WELL AS THE WRITTEN ACCOUNT HE HAS PREPARED A SERIES OF PLANS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTATE, AND IT IS HOPED TO EXHIBIT THESE AT A FUTURE MEMBERS NIGHT MEETING.

THE SITE THAT NEVER WAS: POTTERY FRAGMENTS WERE RECENTLY OBSERVED BY MEMBER MR. J. PARRY IN A FIELD NEAR HADLEY WOOD, AND, AFTER NOTING THE EXTENT OF THE AREA OVER WHICH THESE FRAGMENTS OCCURRED, HE COLLECTED SEVERAL SPECIMENS FOR EXAMINATION.

THE "SITE" LIES IN THE NORTH-WEST ANGLE FORMED BY THE JUNCTION OF WAGGON ROAD AND THE RAILWAY LINE AT HADLEY WOOD (51/261987).

ALL THE POTTERY PROVED TO BE OF 19TH CENTURY DATE, BUT THERE WAS NO RECORD OF ANY BUILDINGS TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS QUANTITY.

MR. PARRY, HOWEVER, FOLLOWED UP HIS DISCOVERY BY TALKING TO SOME OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE, WHO TOLD HIM THAT WHEN THE NEARBY RAILWAY TUNNEL WAS DUG THE CLAY REMOVED WAS SPREAD OVER THE SURROUNDING FIELDS: THIS CLAY WAS THEN COVERED BY SOIL BROUGHT FROM ELSEWHERE, SO THAT THE FIELDS COULD CONTINUE TO BE CULTIVATED. THE POTTERY, THEREFORE, MUST HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN WITH THIS TOP SOIL.

THE CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY OF THIS STORY IS SLIGHT, BUT IT HAS BEEN THOUGHT WORTH RECORDING AS IT ILLUSTRATES A NEAT EXERCISE IN FIELD-WORK BY THE MEMBER CONCERNED.

12 ST. GEORGE'S ROAD, N.13.