

**POPULAR COUNTY
HISTORIES. A HISTORY
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649755219

Popular County Histories. A History of Cambridgeshire by Rev. Edward Conybeare

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

REV. EDWARD CONYBEARE

**POPULAR COUNTY
HISTORIES. A HISTORY
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



POPULAR COUNTY HISTORIES.

A

HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

BY

REV. EDWARD CONYBEARE,

Vicar of Barrington, Cambs.

LONDON :

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1897.



P R E F A C E .

§ 1. **M**ORE and more, with the wonderful development in scientific accuracy which is the most marked intellectual characteristic of our age, does the popular treatment of any subject appear weak and superficial. And especially has this come to be the case with regard to history. The application to that study of increasingly scientific methods has brought with it a somewhat undue depreciation of the old picturesque style of representing the past. Minute research, elaborate verification, scrupulous balancing of evidence, critical acquaintance with every rival theory; these are the notes looked for in "up-to-date" historical treatises.

§ 2. Too much of this, however, obviously tends to make a history less "popular"—less of a pleasant book to while away the time withal. And the first object of a popular history is, I take it, to be readable. My aim, in the following pages, has therefore been more especially to make them so; to associate local details with the general outline of English history, and to refer such of my readers as wish to go more deeply into the subject to the various exhaustive works on its various sections, which the industry of other authors has so abundantly provided. At the same time, as will be seen, constant use

has been made of the original authorities for each period, and every statement verified by reference to them.

§ 3. Nowhere, however, will be found in this work the cheap suggestion of familiarity with these original authorities which is implied by that affected spelling of well-known names in antiquated form, so fashionable of late amongst historical writers. Such words as Ælfred, Eadward, Æthelthryth, Knut, and the like, are given in the old-fashioned shapes which the general consent of English writers has assigned to them, departure from which is a totally needless and wholly objectionable break in the continuity of English literature. "Britons," "Saxons," "Danes," and "Normans" are also, in this work, spoken of in the time-honoured manner, rather than with the new-fangled precision in nomenclature by which various authors are prone to show their acquaintance with the latest theories of our complex nationality.

§ 4. No historian of Cambridgeshire can avoid devoting a considerable portion of his space to the development and vicissitudes of that great institution which has made the County name so famous—the University of Cambridge. At the same time a County history is not a history of the University, of whose development my object has been rather to introduce a series of sketches than to tell the complete tale, already so well told by others. Only where these sketches have involved the use of hitherto unpublished material have I endeavoured to make them anything more than an outline.

§ 5. Cambridgeshire is commonly held to be a district singularly devoid of interest, both physically and historically. This estimate is unjust. The County does not, indeed, present the marked natural features of Devonshire or Yorkshire, nor has it had any special share in the great military and political cataclysms of English history. But—to say nothing of the glories of Ely, and of Cambridge itself—there are few parts of England

where can be found fairer pictures of English rural life. Ancient churches of rare architectural beauty, thatched cottages gleaming around village greens, breezy meadows beside bright streams, golden harvest-fields, whence the gleaners may yet be seen, as of old, returning at eventide with their sheaves, combine to make up a landscape delightful and restful to eye and soul. And the following pages will, I trust, show that the tale of "the slow-ground ages," whose "grist" such scenes are, is likewise, in no small degree, full of pleasant and unflagging, if quiet, interest.



