

GEORGE FRANCIS FARNHAM, F.S.A.
From a painting by J. F. Pottinger

FRONTISPIECE

The photogravure frontispiece to this part of *Transactions* is from a portrait in oils painted some three years ago by Mr. J. F. Pettinger, who presented it to Mr. Farnham as a token of personal regard. About four years earlier, Mr. Pettinger had painted two portraits of Mr. Farnham, to form part of a presentation made to their leader by members of our Society. One of these was hung on the staircase at Quorn House, and the other in the Society's room at the Old Town Hall, Leicester, where it remains on permanent view. The third and latest, which has been carefully reproduced under the artist's direct supervision, is specially valuable and interesting, because it is a faithful and discerning representation of Mr. Farnham as he appeared in the most mature period of his life. Mr. Farnham warmly appreciated the good feeling that prompted Mr. Pettinger to paint the portrait and give it to him, and the editorial sub-committee wish to express their gratitude for the willing trouble he took to get it satisfactorily reproduced for them.

S. H. S.

THE FARNHAM BEQUEST
TO THE LEICESTER
MUSEUM MUNIMENT ROOM
BY G. KEITH THOMSON, M.A., M.LITT.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
S. H. SKILLINGTON

The Farnham Bequest

Introduction

By S. H. Skillington

IN the following paper, which I have the pleasure to introduce, Mr. Keith Thomson gives an admirably clear account of the late Mr. George Francis Farnham's important bequests to the Muniment Room at the Leicester Museum, and describes that distinguished historian's very notable publications, all of which are concerned with manorial descents and the evolution of feudal land tenure in the county of Leicester. Mr. Thomson also explains the value of these books, manuscripts, typescripts and original parchments to students of medieval Leicestershire, and shows how they may be turned to good account by contributors to future volumes of our Society's *Transactions*, and by such people as may wish to compile histories of local villages in which they are particularly interested. Mr. Thomson is well qualified to write on these matters; for, as a near neighbour, he was in almost daily touch with Mr. Farnham, who habitually discussed with him the various aspects and possibilities of the numerous Leicestershire documentary evidences to which he had devoted so many years of learned research and discerning interpretation. It should also be said that Mr. Thomson has recently, as a labour of love, accomplished (with credit) the difficult work of seeing the final volume of *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes* through the press, and has given much time and consideration to sorting out the records and other historical remains bequeathed to the Leicester Muniment Room. These tasks called for great patience and special knowledge of a peculiar kind, and it was largely through my colleague's able and ungrudging efforts that Mr. Farnham's wishes have been so faithfully carried into effect. I will now turn to our departed leader himself.

My personal acquaintance with Mr. Farnham began in 1915, and it was my singular good fortune to be in constant and increasingly intimate association with him during the last thirteen or fourteen years of his life. In the course of that time, he told

me a very great deal about his aims and methods as a county historian, and I came to understand the principles upon which he conducted the business of the Archæological Society, and earnestly hoped that whoever might be destined to succeed him would continue to conduct it. He was, by temperament, extremely modest about his own achievements; but he never really doubted that his work had been done on right lines, and he wished the Society to eschew all methods that he felt were less sound, though they might be more popular, than those he had adopted himself, and had proved to be adequate. Throughout the long period in which I was privileged to work with him, he was extremely kind and considerate to me in every way, and he was always most grateful to anybody who rendered him a personal service or contributed to the efficiency and usefulness of the Society. From the time he became Convener of the sub-committee now called the Library, Lectures and Publications Committee, he devoted himself whole-heartedly to the furtherance of the Society's well-being; and, though he was never a man to wear his heart upon his sleeve, it was evident, from remarks he occasionally made in familiar company, that he was deeply moved by the good feeling shown to him by its members.

Mr. Farnham's own writings were all based upon original research, mainly in the Public Record Office, but also in private collections of charters and other documents to which he was given access by their owners. Exactly how he became proficient in the abstruse and complicated technicalities of his subject, I do not know; but he has frequently told me that he received valuable and kindly help from experts at the Record Office, where the regular duties of the official staff, in the days of which he spoke, were much less exacting than they have since become. I believe he was first moved to undertake the kind of work that was eventually to bring him lasting fame by a desire to check, or to verify, the tradition of his own family's ancient and honourable descent. If that was so, it was like him; for he thought it right to prove all things, and hold fast only those which were demonstrably true. His first book, *Quorndon Records*, published in 1912, is a monumental parish history, showing that the Farnhams were resident landlords at Quorndon, now known as Quorn, from sometime between 1243 and 1273, when Robert de Farnham had a grant of land there from the heirs of Arundel, to the

author's own day. Mr. Farnham himself appears in the pedigree as the direct descendant, through sixteen generations, of the thirteenth-century Robert to whom the original grant was made. This important book, to which a supplement of nearly a hundred pages was added ten years later, definitely established the fact that Mr. Farnham, then in his fifty-third year, was already a shrewd, learned and thoroughly scientific genealogist and county historian. It is not often that a first book proves so much.

While engaged in the prolonged investigations that went to the making of *Quorndon Records*, Mr. Farnham noted many references, in legal and official documents, to other Leicestershire villages and manorial families. This led him to perceive that no true history of the county, or of individual villages within its bounds, could be produced until the facts and circumstances of medieval land tenures and local jurisdictions had been patiently worked out from the original muniments in which they are preserved. Of course, some of these facts and circumstances can never be ascertained, because the records concerning them have perished or gone astray. However, Mr. Farnham's publications show that enough has already been deduced from those that have survived to give us a sound and comprehensive idea of territorial conditions in medieval Leicestershire. Further research, on the same lines, would no doubt materially add to our knowledge. When he had completed his first self-imposed task, he set to work seriously upon those wider researches that resulted in his laying firmly a sound basis for all future study of Leicestershire's medieval past. At this point, I may say that Mr. Farnham was essentially a *local* historian and archæologist. He had a good knowledge of English history, and of the evolution of national institutions and legal procedure, and had familiarised himself with the manorial descents and allied matters in districts far from his own; but his heart was set in Leicestershire, and he chiefly valued his more general knowledge because, in many cases, it enabled him to elucidate problems arising in the course of his study of the county from which he sprang. Though he used to say that he could not sustain a lively interest in books or records that had no bearing upon his native field of enquiry, his memory for such external facts as did throw light on Leicestershire persons and places was astonishingly ready and accurate; and so keen was his faculty for thoroughgoing research that few

outside sources of illumination appear to have escaped his vigilance.

The six large volumes of *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes* consist almost exclusively of his own skilful abstracts of documentary evidences that he had personally examined in the Public Record Office and other repositories of English muniments. Mr. Farnham's other books are mainly composed of exactly similar materials, which also form the groundwork of every one of the manorial papers contributed by him, sometimes with the help of others, to our Society's *Transactions*. Each of these feudal histories deals with a single village or small town in the county, and is in two parts:—(1) a selection of Mr. Farnham's abstracts, arranged by himself, with occasional annotations, in chronological order; and (2) an introductory narrative of the manorial and other local facts deducible from the sequence of abstracts and notes that follows it. When these narratives are competently written, as all those supplied either by Professor Hamilton Thompson or Mr. Farnham himself certainly are, every statement made by the narrator can be verified by reference to a corresponding item in the accompanying series of documentary abstracts. These abstracts and notes, with the narratives based upon them, collectively form a very considerable body of accurately presented Leicestershire history. Their value and interest, however, are greatly enhanced by the photographically illustrated studies of churches and notable manor houses specially written for them by Professor Hamilton Thompson, and by the numerous annotated plans and drawings contributed by Mr. Albert Herbert. Mr. Farnham was delighted with these capable additions to his own work, which he gratefully regarded as completing the utility and attractiveness of each paper as a whole. To those of us who sometimes wrote independent papers of our own, he was invariably most sympathetic and encouraging, and it gave us confidence to know that he was behind us, ever ready to help and advise us to the full extent of his power. Only those who were continually associated with him in his administrative and editorial capacities know how much thought and travail he devoted to making each part of *Transactions* a credit to the Society and a lasting justification of its existence.

Mr. Farnham considered it of the first importance that the Society's pecuniary resources should be most carefully husbanded,

and used only to carry out the essential purposes of the Society. The chief of these purposes, in his mature judgment, was to study, by strictly scientific methods, the history and archæology of Leicestershire, and to print the results in a seemly and durable form. Through all the years he was leader of the editorial sub-committee, this prime object was successfully achieved. It must be remembered, however, that the greater part of the substance of every volume of the new *Transactions* was gratuitously provided by Mr. Farnham himself. Generous as he was, and great as was his store of documentary materials, this happy state of things could not go on for ever; and he plainly foresaw that, if the scholarly character of *Transactions* was to be maintained, much of the skilled research, upon which alone sound papers might be written in the future, would have to be paid for by the Society. The facts being as they were (and still are), the importance of building up a capital fund, to provide an income for indispensable research, was so evident to his mind that he strongly deprecated all avoidable expenditure, especially upon secondary or outside enterprises, until such a fund had been acquired and prudently invested. The wisdom of this view, which I have heard him express emphatically on countless occasions, appears to me to be obvious; and I trust that all who share the responsibility of managing the Society's affairs will keep it constantly in mind.

There are many things, not directly connected with his Leicestershire researches, that I should like to say about Mr. Farnham; and I hope to say some of them a few months hence, when time may be expected to have made the memory of his sudden death less poignant than it is now. My sole remaining present duty is, without further delay, to invite attention to Mr. Keith Thomson's fully-informed paper, which convincingly demonstrates our old leader's pre-eminence as a county historian.

The Farnham Bequest to the Leicester Museum Muniment Room

By G. Keith Thomson, M.A., M.Litt.

It was my privilege to address the Annual General Meeting of our Society in March last, when I was asked to speak on the manuscripts which our late Chairman, Mr. George Farnham, had bequeathed to the Leicester Museum Muniment Room.

I was able to do this through the privileges afforded me by Mr. Farnham's executors, who, in order that no papers of historical value should be overlooked or destroyed, invited me to go through his literary remains, a task which I was honoured to undertake, both because I had personal knowledge of the work upon which Mr. Farnham was busy right up to the day of his death, and because it afforded me the deep satisfaction of showing how much I appreciated the friendship and intellectual fellowship of our late leader. Furthermore, my residence in Quorn had made it possible for me to get into the closest touch with the working methods as well as with the ideals behind the researches of our late Chairman, so that I knew to a great extent what to search for and where to find the manuscripts, documents, etc., which he would have wished to be preserved.

It has been thought advisable that a short account of this valuable bequest should be recorded in the Society's *Transactions*, as such an article may be of interest and service to the members, especially as there is undoubtedly a growing interest abroad in village history, which was the peculiar province to which Mr. Farnham devoted himself for so many years. Also, members of our Society may be glad to have definite information of a new storehouse of material, essential to the medieval history of every village in our county.

One cannot emphasise too clearly, nor repeat too often, that in Mr. Farnham the Leicestershire Archæological Society possessed a historian without equal in the annals of our county. This undoubted fact is, as yet, but vaguely understood and appreciated, as so few realise the enormous amount of detailed and essential

research which Mr. Farnham accomplished. He was so unassuming—indeed positively self-depreciatory—that only those in closest touch with his work could possibly realise the extent and scrupulous accuracy of his historical knowledge, acquired over many years of intense application to, and search for, documentary evidences relating to his beloved county, backed up by an astounding memory for names, places and dates.

The initial stimulus which turned his classical talents to historical research was a desire to learn the truth about his own family. He had no sympathy whatever with vague "historical" statements, like "came over with the Conqueror", and always sought for definite documentary evidences to prove or disprove village legends. Once launched on a search into the history of his own family, he found that, through marriages, his ancestors were related to practically every landed family, not only in Leicestershire, but also in all the surrounding counties. Further, in searching for references to Farnhams and to the village of Quorndon, he necessarily came upon documents relating to other county families and villages. To pass over such references because they did not bear upon the immediate work he had on hand seemed to him almost criminal neglect, as it was unlikely that, in his generation, there would be another research worker with his opportunities who would note these documents; so it became his practice to record in his notebooks every reference he found in the thousands of medieval documents he read which had any bearing upon the families or villages of Leicestershire, and it was upon these notebooks, in the main, that all his later work was founded.

Naturally, also, his work and his family connections laid open to him many private collections of deeds; for he was known to all his friends as one who was always willing to help them with their family muniments. This same willingness to share all his intimate knowledge of medieval documents was most generously extended to all historical students who asked his help, often to the length of translating and typing out the actual deeds and references which would help to the elucidation of some intricate historical problem.

During the last few years of his life it was Mr. Farnham's custom to address the Annual General Meeting of our Society. His informal, unassuming and conversational talk gave all those

so fortunate as to hear him an insight into not only the work being done for the Society, but also his methods of historical research; and these glimpses were always illuminating, as they revealed the ideals for which our leader worked and which permeated all his articles. To all members, the *Transactions* of the past fourteen years are a permanent record of Mr. Farnham's contribution to Leicestershire village history, as well as an indication of the real motive behind all his work—the search for truth; indeed no man ever was more faithful to his family motto—*Spes mea veritas*. The articles he contributed are perfect models of how villages histories should be tackled and written; they are founded on actual documentary evidence verifying every statement in the running commentary.

No county, I believe, has so many medieval village histories recorded, and all these narratives are based on documents for which exact references are given, and, in most cases, abstracts of the deeds are also printed.

Yet, even these articles have led few of us to appreciate both the thoroughness and the extent of Mr. Farnham's research work, nor do many of us appreciate or realise the debt our county owes to his thirty years of intensive and extensive scholarship. This is largely due to the fact that few of us have any intimate knowledge of the labour involved in undertaking original research into the historical documents housed in the Public Record Office or elsewhere, and of the slow and intricate re-arrangement of the notes taken, before a chronological series of documents from various sources, which will act as the foundation stones of village or family history, can be accumulated. To arrive at an appreciation of our debt to our late Chairman, we must also take into account his privately printed volumes. The earliest was *Quorndon Records*—undoubtedly the finest village history yet printed. Then followed *Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees*, known to every genealogist in the country, and indispensable to all who intend writing on the history of Leicestershire villages or families. This volume contains pedigrees of important county families, who often played all-important parts in the medieval history of our county; for we must never forget that it is almost always true that "the medieval history of a village is the history of its resident lords". The pedigrees to be found in this book are to be found nowhere else, as they are the result of original research.

His *magnum opus*, however, is *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes*—a work without parallel in any county in our land. All who know the five published volumes of this work have doubtless wondered how one man in one lifetime could possibly have accomplished so comprehensive a search and collected so enormous a mass of documentary references to the villages and hamlets of Leicestershire. The five volumes contain references to thousands of medieval documents absolutely essential to the writing of the history of over one hundred and eighty of our villages and hamlets.

But, not only are all these documents accurately referred to and chronologically arranged under each village; but, in addition, an abbreviated translation of each deed (which of course is in contracted script Latin in the original) is given, so that the importance of each reference is made clear to the student, while the more important of them are translated *in extenso*. Here, then, we have translated abstracts of thousands of intricate Latin documents—a unique collection of historical material—and all relating to Leicestershire—the essential foundation stones of all future work on the history of our county or of any of its villages, from the Conquest to the middle of the seventeenth century. At this point Mr. Farnham invariably ceases his research, because the documents after that date are in English, and so present little or no difficulty to the student.

It will interest all who value Mr. Farnham's work to know that a sixth and final volume of this *magnum opus* is now ready for issue, and contains similar material to the five volumes already issued, together with additional documentary evidences bearing on Charnwood Forest and its surrounding villages and hamlets—a useful complement to the deeds printed in his *Charnwood Forest and its Historians*, published by the Society in 1930.

With the publication of this final volume we shall have a collection of references to the medieval history of practically every village and hamlet in Leicestershire, and, should we be consulted by anyone as to where information on the past history of any particular village can be found, we can with confidence refer our friends to this unique set of volumes, copies of which will always be available at the Museum Muniment Room.

As our present Chairman, Lt.-Col. R. E. Martin, reminds us in his fine and touching memoir of Mr. Farnham, *Quorndon*

Records, Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees, and these six volumes of *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes*, were all printed at the author's expense, although obviously they could only have a very limited sale amongst scholars, libraries and genealogists; indeed, I know that the copies presented by the author to his friends outnumbered those sold to private individuals. The publication of these three works represents a gift of hundreds of pounds, quite apart from their great historical value, and each of the volumes is certain to appreciate in monetary value, as the copies of each issue were limited.

But these works do not form the only debt we owe to our late Chairman. As most of you already know, Mr. Farnham was deeply interested in the establishment of a Muniment Room for the city and county, and the Museum and Libraries Committee wisely co-opted him when they met to appoint the first keeper of the muniments. This action ensured the selection of an archivist, Miss Deeley, thoroughly conversant with the care and cataloguing of ancient books and documents, and also competent to help all wishing to carry on research at the new Muniment Room, especially where deeds in contracted script Latin are involved. Furthermore, legal deeds contain many technical terms, and expert help and advice are often essential, if many pitfalls and errors are to be avoided. Such aid all who use the Muniment Room can be assured of obtaining.

But more still is necessary before any work of real importance can be attempted; for a Muniment Room without a large collection of deeds would be a white elephant, and, obviously, the accumulation of documents by purchase is a slow process, as one of the essential purchases would obviously be the invaluable series of Government publications relating to the historical documents preserved in the Record Office, the British Museum, and elsewhere.

Our late Chairman realised all this and, from its inception, used his unrivalled and persuasive county influence with his many friends who were known to possess muniments of value to the history of our county and its villages to arrange for the family deeds to be, sooner or later, deposited at the Muniment Room, where they would be accessible to students, available to research under ideal conditions, and housed in a manner approved by the Master of the Rolls. To encourage others, Mr. Farnham,

before his death, deposited a comprehensive collection of documents relating to the county, consisting of three hundred and eighty-eight deeds relating to over one hundred Leicestershire villages, documents which he had acquired by purchase in the course of his thirty years' work. He also presented two bound volumes containing seventy-five county charters, most of which he purchased when the muniments of the Dixie family of Market Bosworth came on the market. Of these seventy-five charters, forty-eight refer to Market Bosworth and its neighbouring hamlets, while the others relate to Hinckley, Long Whatton, King's Norton, Tugby, Hallaton, Lubenham, Leicester, Swithland, Queniborough, Medbourne, Cattothorpe, Billesdon and Somerby.

Then, by his will, he left the Muniment Room all his manuscripts and typescripts, and numerous documents, including his collection of Plea Rolls ranging from Edward I to Henry VIII; the Feet of Fines from 1216—1603; two volumes of Inquisitions post mortem; typescripts of numerous county wills of historical interest; Curia Regis Rolls; Ancient Indictments and Chancery proceedings; Pipe rolls; a manuscript history of medieval Loughborough, containing translations of a truly wonderful series of Loughborough charters in which are many valuable references to the neighbouring villages; the Leicester visitation of 1619, with notes; old cash books; the claims of the proprietors of Charnwood on its enclosure; several ancient terriers; a copy of the Quorndon award; miscellaneous old documents and the manuscripts of all Mr. Farnham's published works, together with a large collection of the actual notebooks which he used during his many years of research at the Record Office—a gift the Muniment Room authorities will undoubtedly be proud to possess, as it was from these notebooks that the truly remarkable published works were all evolved.

The most precious bequest, however, was the set of fifteen bound folios of notes from which the six volumes of *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes* were printed. In these fifteen folios the county possesses what I believe to be a unique set of manuscripts and typescripts of its greatest historian, showing his wonderful accumulation of historical data, his conscientious accuracy, his method of arranging his material for each village in chronological sequence, and his additions from time to time as fresh data came to light in the never-ending search for further evidences relating

to the history of Leicestershire. The manuscripts are remarkable specimens of penmanship and indicative of the man we all knew and honoured, and it is fitting that the Muniment Room he so longed to see a centre of light and learning should house this priceless treasure of village history—volumes containing references to essential deeds relating to every village in the county of Leicester.

In conclusion, let me say how proud we ought to be that, as a Society, we honoured our late Chairman and ourselves by showing our appreciation of his leadership, when we presented him with his portrait painted by a county painter. I know how deeply this presentation impressed him, as he had often wondered if the Society he so truly loved, and for which he laboured so wholeheartedly, really valued his research; or whether it would not rather have its *Transactions* filled with more popular “scissors and paste” history, much of it inaccurate, much of it (inevitably) assumptions and guesswork, because not founded on documentary evidences, yet popular, because of its romantic stories and fanciful tales. While always relying, as he so often said, on the loyalty and unswerving support of the Publications Committee, he was from time to time doubtful about the reception of his contributions to our annual volume, although its national welcome forced upon him the realisation that the Leicestershire Society’s *Transactions* were, by those qualified to judge, recognised as being amongst the most valuable in the country, and models of what county societies should produce. Indeed, under Mr. Farnham’s leadership, the Leicestershire Archæological Society gained a premier place which it must strive to retain.

It was therefore a great joy to all who loved Mr. Farnham and valued his work when the Society showed its approval of his labours in so unexpected and so spontaneous a manner, thus honouring Leicestershire’s greatest medievalist—a scholar whose researches and whose bequests proclaim the man he was.

Bibliographical Note

ON joining the Leicestershire Archæological Society, Mr. Farnham was attracted to the work done by the Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher, who was for nineteen years its Editorial Secretary, in encouraging the Society to increase its contribution to what he called "record work", i.e. the publication of original documents relating to the county. Such work strongly appealed to Mr. Farnham, because he had for many years worked daily at the Public Record Office, accumulating material from the various series of original rolls for use in his *Quorndon Records*. In this task, he had the invaluable assistance of Mr. W. K. Boyd, a thoroughly capable record agent, who made abstracts in English of a large number of documents concerning Leicestershire families and land tenures. It is, therefore, not surprising that Mr. Farnham's earliest contributions to our Society's *Transactions*, and to the *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers*, took the form of classified abstracts in English from original documents, in so far as these had a bearing upon the manorial history of Leicestershire. It was only from such sources, as he constantly maintained, that a sound basis for the study of county history could be drawn.

In the early days of his active connection with our Society, he very fortunately became associated with Mr. (now Professor) Hamilton Thompson, who wrote learned and adroitly expressed introductions to many of these sets of translated abstracts; and it was undoubtedly owing to this very happy collaboration that our *Transactions* soon became recognised as being among the best and most uniformly dependable publications of their kind. Mr. Dimock Fletcher had already published the Feet of Fines for Leicestershire, from 1 to 9 John, in *Reports and Papers*, vols. xxiii, xxiv; this series was completed for the whole of John's reign. Other work of the same order presented by Mr. Farnham, with illuminating notes and comments by himself and Mr. Hamilton Thompson, included the Pipe Roll for Leicestershire, for the first year of John; selected pleas from the *de Banco* rolls, 12 to 37 Edward III; and Leicestershire abstracts from the *Curia Regis* rolls for the reigns of John and Henry III (1199 to 1272).

The publication of these documentary abstracts revealed Mr. Farnham as an accomplished and systematically industrious research worker of the first class, and for the remainder of his life the valuable papers he regularly contributed to its *Transactions* were the pride and glory of the Society.

When Mr. Hamilton Thompson left the midlands for the north, to take up his professorial duties, Mr. Farnham, as Chairman and Convener of the Papers Committee, undertook the responsibility of directing the Society's publications. Under his superintendence, a new series of *Transactions* was started, and in a short time he became Chairman of the General Committee and the acknowledged leader of the Society. He reached this position, not because he sought it, but by reason of his knowledge and ability, his lively and helpful interest in everything that concerned the Society, and the personal qualities and charm of manner that made him respected and liked by everybody with whom he was brought into contact. In his editorial capacity, he promptly enlisted a small band of willing helpers, who, co-operating with him in the most friendly spirit, produced a remarkable series of Leicestershire village histories and expositions of manorial descents, the foundation of which was his own vast collection of documentary muniments. This loyal band of fellow-workers included Professor Hamilton Thompson, the late Mr. Thomas Fosbrooke, Mr. Albert Herbert and Mr. S. H. Skillington.

During his later years, Mr. Farnham published privately three important books upon the history of Leicestershire:—(1) *Quorndon Records*, to which a supplement was added several years after its first appearance; (2) *Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees*; and *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes*, in six volumes, the last of which was issued posthumously. His earlier papers, in which Professor Hamilton Thompson collaborated with him, appeared as follows:—

Feet of Fines for Leicestershire, 10 to 15 John, in Reports and Papers for 1917.

Curia Regis Roll for Leicestershire, for John and Henry III (1199 to 1272), in Reports and Papers for 1917-20.

History of Withcote, in Reports and Papers for 1921.

Pipe Roll for Leicestershire (1199 to 1200), in the Leicestershire Archæological Society's *Transactions* for 1917-18.

De Banco Rolls for Leicestershire (1338 to 1363), in Leicestershire Archæological Society's *Transactions* for 1917-18.

Histories of the following villages, written by Mr. Farnham in association with others, have appeared in our Society's *Transactions* (vols. xii to xvii):—Allexton, Appleby, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Ashby Folville, Barrow-on-Soar, Belgrave, Castle Donington, Claybrooke, Fenny Drayton, Frolesworth, Gaddesby, Groby, Hallaton, Keythorpe, Market Bosworth, Medbourne, Neville Holt, Noseley, Peckleton, Potters Marston, Prestwold, Quenby, Ragdale, Rothley, Shepshed, Skeffington, Stoke Golding, and Whitwick.

This list of papers is not exhaustive; but it may be temporarily useful to students. In the next part of *Transactions*, we hope to publish a complete bibliography of Mr. Farnham's books and papers, with dates and particulars of the portions by Mr. Farnham himself, as well as of those contributed by his colleagues. His book entitled *Charnwood Forest and its Historians*, with an introduction by Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Martin and other additional features, was reprinted from the Society's *Transactions*.

Case Report No. 19. d. *de*. *Wille*, the daughter of Roger, demands against Peter de Goston's heirs, her
92. *Prud.* says, the custody of the land and heirs of Gilbert, says Roger, viz. *Arphilly*, which
10 Henry III. appertains to her because the said Gilbert held in tenure and the said *Wille* is the next
1235. heir of the said Gilbert, as she says. Peter and Alice come and say that they ought
not to answer this, because that land has come to Roger, the grandfather of the
said heir, and father of the said Gilbert, and if the heir of the said Gilbert were dead,
the said *Wille* would be the heir of the same Gilbert, and that land would descend to her as
to Gilbert's heir. Therefore they ask for judgment whether they ought to answer
this *advocatus* this, but she says that Gilbert's heir these boys, and they cannot
then satisfy this.

And because she acknowledged that this Gilbert's sister, and that land descends
to her heir or Gilbert's heir [in fact Gilbert], it is adjudged that she cannot demand
the custody, and therefore let the custody of the boys and of the land remain to
Peter and Alice until someone on the mother's side demands the custody, and
let Peter make a charter that he will provide things necessary for the boys
according to the quantity of the land till their age or until someone of the
relations on the mother's side demands the custody. And this is said to the
sheriff.

N.B. A very proper decision, as it might have suited *Wille* to neglect the
boys before they would die.

May, Dublin, 153-1. From Peter sang Riddle. 53. From Hugh Clark 45-292d.

154 second III. Robert Proctor 85-54. William Rulle 15-94.

155. " Lawrence de Kowale 45-14. Roger Carpenter 31-24.

" Peter Samuel 25-11 1/2d. " Roger Eldon 25-1 1/2d.

" John de Belcher 53-10 1/2d. " John Carpenter 8-14.

" Peter sang Hugh 25-0 1/2d. " William Rulle 15-94.

" William sang Ivo 25-2 1/2d. " Geoffrey Rulle 15-54.

From 425-534.

May, Dublin, 153-2. From John between 75. From John & Rose 25.

6 Second III. John Rulle 92-44. " Robert Hastings 65.

1532. " Hugh Clark 45-34. " Roger Carpenter 53-24.

" Peter sang Hugh 53-64. " Meric Hurrell 25.

" William sang Ivo 45. " Tiddel & don 15-44.

" Roger Rulle 45. " George Coker 15-64.

" Roger Aldon 45. " Robert Coker 25.

" Peter de Moford 85. " Tiddel & Moford 15-44.

From 785-102.



By kind permission of Mrs. Farnham

QUORN HOUSE FROM THE PARK

GEORGE FRANCIS FARNHAM
A SHORT PERSONAL MEMOIR BY
ROBERT EDMUND MARTIN

GEORGE FRANCIS FARNHAM, M.A., F.S.A., Chairman of the General Committee of the Society, of whose death on January 7th, 1933, brief mention was made in the last part of *Transactions*, was the second son of the late Edward Basil Farnham of Quorn House. He represented a family whose connections with the county and with the parish of Quorn began about seven hundred years ago and has continued in unbroken succession to the present day.

As owners of land, as soldiers, as members of Parliament and as officials of the Court, the Farnhams have taken their part in the national life through the greater part of their long history, while it is of interest to remember that, in the sphere of Local Government, Francis Farnham was Recorder of Leicester from 1553 to 1557.

George Farnham was born on September 9th, 1859, and was educated at Eton, in Mr. F. E. Durnford's house, and at Brasenose College, Oxford. Among his contemporaries at Eton were Dean Inge and the late Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India. After going down from the University, he lived for some time the leisured life which in the later years of the nineteenth century was so agreeably open to the young man of good family and some fortune. Hunting with the Quorn, foreign travel and the social life of those days, so different from our own, were all known to him. To his hunting he owed in no small degree his wide knowledge of the topography of the county, a knowledge that was to prove of great value in the historical researches of his later life. In the thirty years after he left Oxford he saw much of London and of those to be met with there, and had a wide acquaintance with persons of note in many walks of life. He entered eventually upon a business career, and for a number of years was an active member of the Stock Exchange, attaining there a measure of success not incommensurate with his power of sustained work.

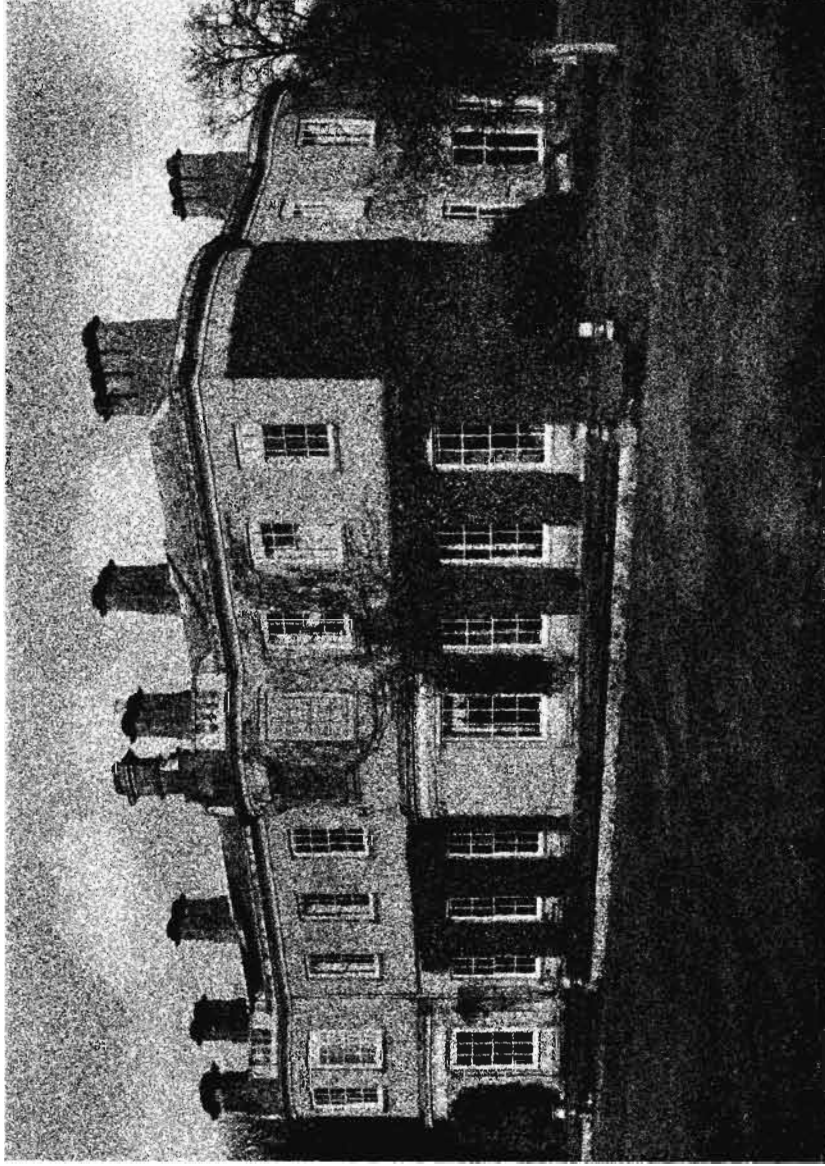
About the beginning of the present century, after the death of his elder brother William Edward Basil Farnham, he became

the owner of Quorn House. For some time he continued to live in London, and spent the ends of the weeks in Leicestershire; but for a number of years before his death he had taken his place in the long line of Farnhams whose home was Quorn.

And under his skilled and fostering care, it became a home of singular attraction and charm. On coming into possession of the house he had reduced it to a size more suited to his own needs, and in the house thus modified he arranged the collection of objects—pictures, prints, furniture, china, glass and silver—which he had formed over many years of his life. The result was an atmosphere of what may not inaccurately be described as artistic restfulness such as is not commonly to be found. It was not necessary to be in any sense a connoisseur in order to appreciate the quality of the surroundings in which he entertained those who were fortunate enough to be his guests. Whether it were in the dining room, its table furnished with old silver and cut glass, the walls hung with the portraits of ancestors of the last three or four centuries, or in the library, with its comfortable furniture and its ranges of bookcases, filled with the instruments of his craft, the feeling came more strongly with each successive visit that one was privileged indeed in being allowed a share in surroundings of a distinction so rarely met with.

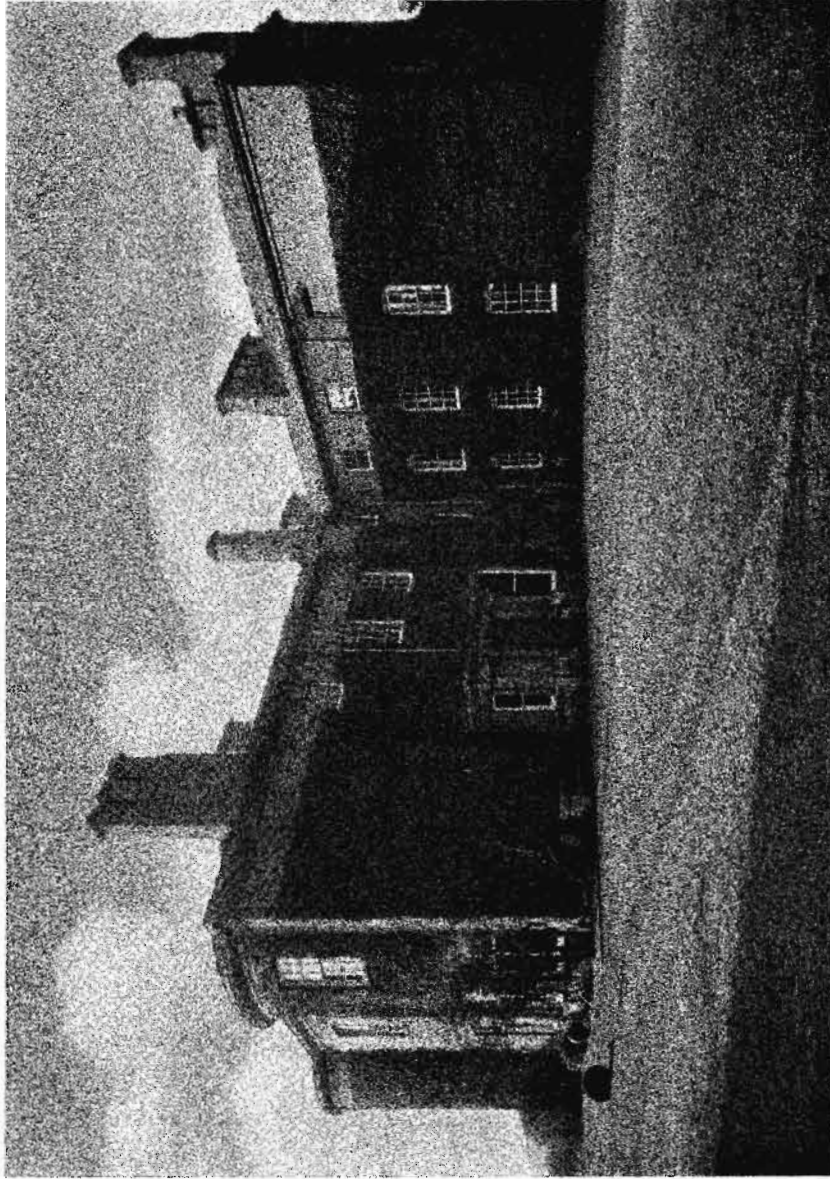
Nor were the attractions of Quorn to be found only within the house. The artistic instinct of its owner united with a real knowledge and love of flowers and trees to make the garden a place in which it was a delight to walk, while the eye was led on across the park to where the wooded hills of Charnwood Forest bounded the western horizon.

This brief sketch will have served its purpose if it succeeds in giving some impression of the setting in which the later years of George Farnham's life were spent. Of his own personality and of the range and character of his conversation, it is more difficult to write in any sense adequately. His astonishing knowledge of the facts of history and genealogy and his extraordinarily retentive memory, aided by his strong sense of humour, made him a most stimulating and delightful companion, talk with whom was—to use a hackneyed phrase—in itself a liberal education. He had met great numbers of people and had read widely; his knowledge of the world, the wide range of his



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QUOKN HOUSE—SOUTH FRONT



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QUORN HOUSE—NORTH ENTRANCE

interests and the play of his active and original mind made his companionship a constant pleasure.

His pursuits were, however, by no means confined to the researches in local history on which his wider reputation was so justly based. He was a loyal member of the community in which he lived, and had a keen sense of the obligation which attaches to the connection originating in a past so remote as that of the first Farnham of Quorn. Mention may be made of his work during the great war for the families of those who were serving in the forces, of his unflinching interest in the welfare of the Rawlins School and of the local Scouts, and in the foundation and conduct of the Men's Institute, at which he was frequently to be met with, taking part in their fortnightly whist-drives and in the work of the Committee of Management.

A striking instance of his practical patriotism was his purchase of the village cricket ground, when it was in danger of being built upon, and his vesting of it in trust for the future use of the cricket club and of the scholars of the Rawlins School.

He was a loyal churchman and attended the service, Sunday by Sunday, in his place in the beautiful chapel, on the south side of the parish church, where his ancestor of five hundred years earlier had founded a chantry.

He was happy in the time and manner of his death, which came in an instant, and when he had but just completed the final volume of his notes on the medieval history of the Leicestershire villages, a work of the first importance, painstaking, accurate and conscientious, and a fitting memorial to his peculiar genius.