

**THE CHURCH BELLS OF SUFFOLK;
A CHRONICLE IN NINE CHAPTERS,
WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF THE
INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS,
AND HISTORICAL NOTES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649549344

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Inscriptions on the Bells, and Historical Notes by John James Raven

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOHN JAMES RAVEN

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No. _____ Super Royal Octavo.

THE
Church Bells of Suffolk,

A CHRONICLE IN NINE CHAPTERS,

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BY

JOHN JAMES RAVEN, D.D.

Of Emmanuel College, Cambridge;

*Vicar of Fressingfield with-Withersdale; and Honorary Canon of
Norwich Cathedral;*

President of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers;

AUTHOR OF "CHURCH BELLS OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE," ETC., ETC.

LONDON :

JARROLD AND SONS, 3, PATERNOSTER BUILDINGS.

1890.

JARROLD AND SONS,
PRINTERS,
NORWICH AND LONDON.

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DEDICATED,
BY PERMISSION,
TO THE
HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND
THE
Lord Bishop of Norwich.

P R E F A C E .

As this, the latest contribution to English Campanology, is in one sense the earliest, a few words seem necessary to explain the history of a book which has been forty-two years in hand, and to account for its imperfections.

In the days of my boyhood at Mildenhall, where my father was curate, I took great delight in the sound of the bells, and raised a five-pound note for the repair of the gear of the fine old tenor. The bell-banger, one Flanders Green, an enthusiastic ringer, asked me to read for him two of the inscriptions, of which I made a transcript in a copy-book on August 28th, 1848, and proceeded to the investigation of other bells in the neighbourhood. In the course of two years I had made a considerable collection from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and South Lincolnshire. Wherever I went I carried on the work; but undergraduate life and residence in Dorset and Kent prevented the county of Suffolk receiving very much attention till my college presented me to the Mastership of Bungay Grammar School in 1859, when I attacked at once the north-east of the county. During these eleven years I had become acquainted with Messrs. Ellacombe, Tyssen, Sperling, Lukis, and L'Estrange; and our comparison of discoveries was throwing much light on the history and interpretation of bell-marks. I was enabled to finish and publish the *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, after my removal to Yarmouth in 1866, and by the kindness of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society to put forth a second