

**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE,  
COLLEGE HISTORIES.  
CLARE COLLEGE**

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VIEW BY LOGGON (cfr. 1688)

University of Cambridge

COLLEGE HISTORIES

# CLARE COLLEGE

BY

J. R. WARDALE, M.A.

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF THE COLLEGE

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## PREFACE

This little volume does not profess to give more than a sketch of our College history; an exhaustive treatment of the subject would entail further researches among old documents in the British Museum and elsewhere, which would necessarily postpone publication indefinitely, while the results, when obtained, could not be brought within the compass of the present series. At the same time it is hoped that nothing of material value has been here omitted.

Apart from the information to be derived from general works upon the history of the University, biographies of distinguished Cambridge men, &c., the manuscript volumes of Cole and Baker (in the British Museum and the University Library at Cambridge) contain many valuable details, which have been here incorporated, about our College and its members; more important, however, are the records preserved in the College itself, and, defective as they unfortunately are, they naturally form the groundwork of this history.

For the earlier period these records are exceedingly scanty; the disastrous fire in 1521 which destroyed the Master's Lodge and Muniment Room has left us only one



volume—the *old register*—written for the most part during the fifteenth century, and containing copies of licences, lists of bequests to the Society, notices of elections of Masters, Fellows, and Scholars, and the like. For the sixteenth century we have little beyond an old *lease-book*, which (as its name suggests) is not calculated to yield much entertainment, however valuable it may be for other purposes; it does, however, fortunately contain besides leases a few other items which may be of general interest. When we reach the middle of the seventeenth century our sources of information become much more numerous and fuller. Not only have we an unusually elaborate statement of accounts in connection with the new College buildings, as well as a number of loose papers on which are recorded the elections of Masters and Fellows, but, further, in the collection of letters preserved in the College Library we obtain a most interesting insight into the life of the Society and the character of its various members at that time. Numerous extracts from these letters have been made, and the publication of many more of them is highly desirable. Besides these, the record of admissions, with the notes appended to many of the names by Dr. Goddard, Master of the College from 1762 to 1781, enables us to give with certainty a list of the more conspicuous members of the College from 1681 onwards.

Lastly, from the successive College order-books we can supplement our narrative of the last two centuries in many important respects.

It is much to be regretted that so little trouble was

taken by our predecessors in early times to preserve an account of what took place in the College, and a record of its members. We have an imperfect list of elections of Masters, Fellows, and Scholars from 1448 to 1562, but after that date we have no further records of such elections till 1620, and then only in the case of elections to the Mastership; no subsequent notes of elections to Fellowships have been preserved till 1691, and the list is exceedingly imperfect till after the Restoration. No record of admissions was kept before October 1691, and College orders only began to be systematically entered in a book in May 1712.

This neglect has rendered the task of writing the earlier portion of this history exceptionally difficult. Not only has the character of the collegiate life of those days to be gathered from stray hints here and there, but we are also frequently unable to say definitely whether particular persons, traditionally supposed to have been at Clare, were ever members of the College, or not. In view of the possibility of error in both of these respects, I have judged it safest to state as far as possible in each case the data upon which I have based my conclusions, and, except in a few instances, I have omitted altogether the names of those persons of whose connection with the College, however probable it may appear, we have at present no positive proof.

In conclusion, I must express my most sincere thanks to those who have helped me with notes in this undertaking, particularly the Rev. C. L. Felton, the Rev. W. O. Sutcliffe,

and Mr. J. R. Harris, as well as to the Rev. Canon Wordsworth and Mr. J. W. Clark for the use which they have courteously permitted me to make of their various publications; above all, my sincerest gratitude is due to the Master of Clare, not only for his generosity in placing at my disposal his compilation of the contents of our earliest documents, but also for the unwearied kindness with which he has helped me in many difficulties, and the care and patience with which he has revised my proof sheets for the press.

It is no exaggeration to say that without his assistance this history could never have been written.

CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

*October 1899.*