

# **BYGONE HAMPSHIRE**

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Bygone Hampshire by William Andrews

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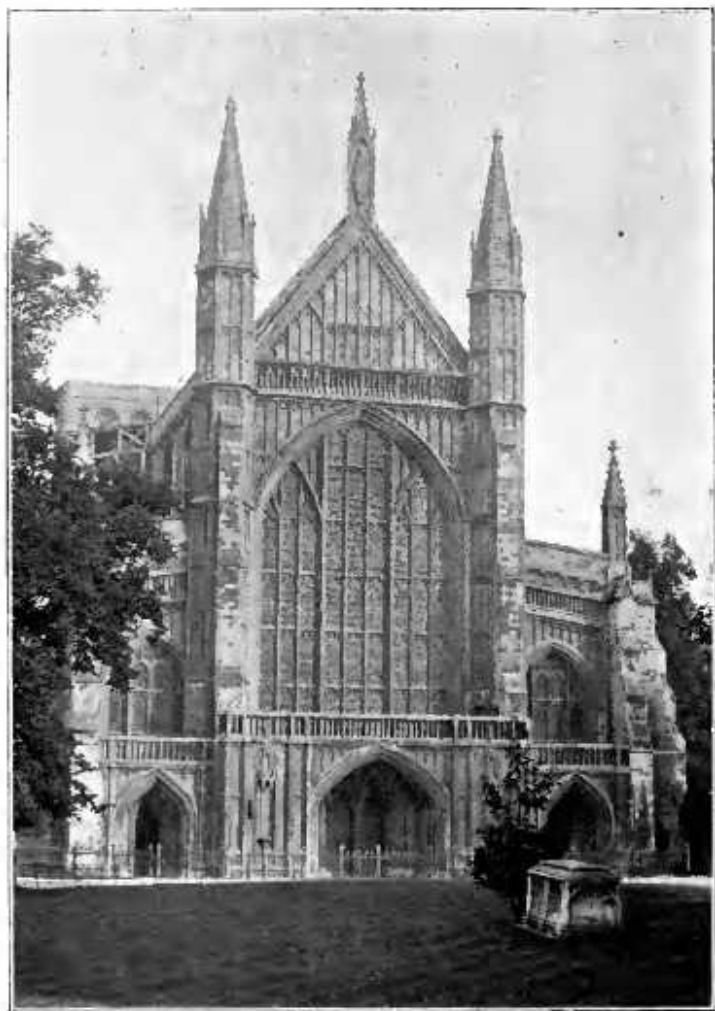
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**WILLIAM ANDREWS**

**BYGONE  
HAMPSHIRE**



BYGONE HAMPSHIRE.



*From a Photo by*

*[F. A. Grant.]*

WEST FRONT, WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

Bygone - -  
Hampshire

Edited by  
William Andrews.



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## Preface.

THE history of Hampshire in the olden time is of unusual interest, and I hope the following pages dealing with it in a popular and exact manner will not fail to entertain and instruct the reader. Considerable attention is paid to Silchester, which is a place of national, as well as local, importance.

WILLIAM ANDREWS.

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*May Day, 1899.*

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# Bygone Hampshire.

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## Historic Hampshire.

BY THOMAS FROST.

THE county of Hants, at the earliest period of which any reliable records exist, was occupied by a Celtic tribe called by Roman writers the Belgæ, who also possessed the counties of Wiltshire and Somersetshire. The greater part of the county was covered with trackless forests, in which herds of deer and wild hogs roamed, and was very thinly inhabited by the people who hunted them. It consequently offered very little inducement to the Roman invaders to penetrate into it, and Dr. Speed's conjecture of the early occupation of the site of Southampton by them is based only on the finding of coins of Claudius there. Roman pavements have been discovered at Winchester, however, and their roads radiated thence to cities on whose sites Salisbury, Bath, and Cirencester

now stand. The Roman station at Clausentum, known only through the Itinerary of Antoninus, occupied the little peninsula formed by the winding of the river Itchen, about three miles from its junction with the Southampton Water.

After the departure of the Roman officials and garrisons, this part of the country appears to have reverted to its primeval barbarism, some of the roads so well made by the conquerors having fallen into disuse, because they led only, as in the case of Silchester, to deserted towns, rapidly becoming ruins. In 495, as we learn from the Welsh Chronicle, Cerdic and Cymric, two Saxon chiefs, landed with their followers, at Hamble Creek, and after many battles with the natives, succeeded in founding the kingdom of Wessex, or the West Saxons, in 519. This kingdom ultimately became the most powerful in the Heptarchy, and early in the ninth century its king, Egbert, made himself monarch of all England.

From this time to the Norman Conquest the history of the county is largely made up of Danish incursions, and the alternate successes and reverses which attended the struggle for supremacy of the two Scandinavian races. In