

the county. Old churches build fresh premises; Association plans where more churches ought to arise.

A London Transport Board with vision decides to regard Harlow, Ongar, Brentwood, Tilbury as its concern; Green Line coaches supply, railway lines to be electrified, Tubes peep up from the depths. Baptists will have more growing pains; they thrive on such challenges.

W. T. WHITLEY.

William Oates, 1796.

Isle of Ely in the County of Cambridge to wit I certify that at the General Quarter Sessions of the peace holden at Ely in and for the said Isle of Ely on Tuesday the fifth day of April in the year of our Lord 1796 William Oates of Sutton in the said Isle of Ely being a dissenting minister took and subscribed the declaration required to be made and subscribed by protestant dissenting Ministers and Schoolmasters by an Act passed in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty Hugh Robt. Evans, for

Jas. Bellamy, Deputy Clerk of the peace for the Isle of Ely.

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The above certificate on parchment, owned by Alfred A. Mumford, of Beaconsfield, would protect Oates from being impressed into the militia, and from the penalties of the Conventicle Acts. He was conceivably connected with Samuel Oates, of Rutland, 150 years earlier, a Baptist evangelist, who conformed after the Restoration, and whose son Titus was expelled by Baptists. William was baptised at Cottenham in 1786. The church at Sutton dates from 1749, though whether as Baptist is uncertain; by 1790 it was. Had it been Baptist in 1786, why was not Oates baptised there? By 1784, George Norman was pastor.

W.T.W.