

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

7th Series Number 6

April 2018

President: John Bridges
Vice President: Thelma Durrant
Chairman: John Lilley
Vice-Chairman: Charles Seely
Hon. Secretary: Charles Seely
Membership Secretary: David Ransom
Minutes Secretary: David Ransom
Hon. Treasurer: Nick Morgan
Journal Editor: Bob Roberts

All enquiries regarding Society membership should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary:

David Ransom, The Gables, Fore Street Framlingham IP13 9DF
Tel 01728 720145 email: cransom@btinternet.co.uk

For back issues of the journal, correspondence for publication, and proposals for articles, contact the Editor:

43 College Road, Framlingham, IP13 9ER
telephone 01728 724324 mobile 07722127978
bobrob2100@hotmail.co.uk

*Heir of Antiquity! - fair castle Town,
Rare spot of beauty, grandeur, and renown,
Seat of East-Anglian kings! - proud child of fame,
Hallowed by time, illustrious Framlinghame!*

From: *Framlingham: a Narrative of the Castle*,
by James Bird (1831)

Contents

Introduction	John Bridges	3
Education in Framlingham	Terry Gilder	4
The 1939 Register	John Bridges	13
The Red House Framlingham Castle (part 2)	Emily Cole & Kathryn Morrison	15

L. R. Squirrell's pastel drawing of the *Castle Gateway* in 1924 is held in a private collection. Permission to reproduce free of Artists Rights has been generously granted by the artist's daughter, Mrs Annette Kenny

Unless stated to the contrary at the end of the article concerned, copyright in the contents of this journal rests with the authors of the several articles, jointly with the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society. Copies thereof may be reproduced for private study purposes, but not for commercial sale. Where quotations from articles in this journal are made in other publications, the source should be quoted, specifying the article itself and the issue of this journal in which it originally appeared.

FRAM
7th Series Number 6
April 2018
Registered Charity No. 274201

The Museum in Framlingham had been an integral part of the History Society since its formation in 1957. When it moved to Bridge Street in 1979, it was renamed the Lanman Museum at The Courtroom and run as a separate charity. The sixtieth anniversary of the Museum was celebrated last October with an exhibition in the Unitarian Meeting House, which was jointly organised by the History Society and the Museum. The well attended event had many displays portraying various aspects of our local history, including items from the Museum, such as the Flodden helm replica which had been made by Harold Lanman.



The Society is very proud of its website <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk>. It is ten years ago that the concept for a historic photo archive was born, and in the intervening years many photographs have been provided to portray various aspects of the town, with the earliest one being an 1864 view of the College. A further fifty photographs have recently been added, which takes the current total to around 700. I am sure there are still more out there waiting to be discovered!

Larks Ascending is another important aspect of the website which records the names and information for Framlingham men who died in the First World War. The initial work was started by John Haygarth, who died in 2007. The research was then carried on and completed by Evelyn Empson. She was pleased when the Society offered to host the work so that it could be seen by a wide audience. Evelyn was a tireless researcher into the lives of Suffolk men who died in the war. Her passing in January this year is a great loss to her family and also to the many people she helped with information on their long lost relatives.

John F. Bridges
President

EDUCATION IN FRAMLINGHAM

With particular reference to the Sir Robert Hitcham School

By Terry Gilder

The story of the Sir Robert Hitcham School during its three hundred and sixty-five years has been an involved and varied one. It illustrates very well the development of education in England over that period, most obviously in the context of educational provision in all its aspects elsewhere in the town of Framlingham.

The history that I am setting out to unravel is well documented by pieces that make interesting reading, particularly to local inhabitants and persons like myself who have a direct connection with some of the topics dealt with. Framlingham is well endowed with its local historians. Principal among their works are two books. The first is *The History of Framlingham* written by Robert Loder and published by him in Woodbridge in 1798. The second is the history written by Richard Green entitled *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxted*, published London 1834. Local historians have had cause to be grateful to these two writers for several aspects of the history of Framlingham. Both writers give prominent attention to the story of education in the town. There are also other excellent sources of material to which I shall refer in this study. The Governors' minute book and the logbooks of the school for the latter part of the nineteenth century are particularly fertile with information that illustrates that crucial period in English education when elementary education became universal.

Framlingham as a community has another rich historical documentary resource. Each Saturday from 1859 until the outbreak of the Second World War a weekly newspaper was produced. *Framlingham Weekly News* was a newspaper in broadsheet form that carried local advertisements on the front page and general local news on the back page. There are up to four pages of densely written national news on the inside. The comments on the back page frequently considered the issue of education in and around Framlingham and the study of these comments, alongside information gleaned from the sources named above, make very interesting reading. In some cases a clearer understanding of what really was happening emerges because of the availability of this documentary source. I have also made use of local directories, and some other helpful special publications particularly relevant to Framlingham. These are listed in my list of sources.

The Sir Robert Hitcham School has passed through various metamorphoses in its history. When it was founded as a consequence of Sir Robert Hitcham's will, it was a free school. Today its status is that of a voluntary-aided primary school. In the intervening period, particularly that of the late nineteenth century, it illustrated the continuing debates about locally funded (as against nationally funded) educational provision. For Framlingham this has been a story not without controversy. As will be explained in the course of the study, Framlingham has long had two strong sources of charitable educational provision. These clashed in the late nineteenth century and led to particular developments for the provision of education in Framlingham as it is today.

Sir Robert Hitcham

The excitement which had seen Mary Tudor proclaimed Queen of England at Framlingham Castle in 1553 was a distant memory when Sir Robert Hitcham bought the castle in 1635. Perhaps already the citizens of the town had got used to another way of life not dominated by the castle when this happened. Sir Robert Hitcham is one of the important characters connected with the history of Framlingham. His tomb is still to be found in Framlingham Church among the illustrious monuments to the Howard family. Sir Robert was a local Suffolk boy who had made good in a big way. He was born at Levington in 1571 and after education at Northgate School Ipswich and Pembroke College Cambridge he entered the Inns of Court in London. A contemporary and friend of Francis Bacon, he rose to be the Attorney-General to the Queen [consort of King James the first] and then Serjeant-at-Law to King Charles the first. He retired to Suffolk to Seckford Hall, perhaps glad to have escaped the intensity of political activity at Whitehall. He may also have been unwell, for having bought Framlingham Castle for the sum of £14,000 in 1635, he lived only one more year.

When his will was published it included provisions which changed the life of Framlingham in various ways. He ordained that the rich inheritance he left behind should be devoted to the following causes: a school was

to be created at Framlingham for forty boys from Framlingham, Debenham and Coggeshall. Almshouses were to be founded at Framlingham and Levington. He authorised that the internal buildings in the Castle should be dismantled and sold. The income from this was to be added to the substantial amounts that were forthcoming from rentals on the extensive land that he left behind. Pembroke, his beloved college, was to be the trustee body of his will.

The Sir Robert Hitcham School in the seventeenth century

Loder explains the provisions of the will. Forty boys were to receive a free education:

None can be admitted but those whose parents belong to the parish and are members of the Church of England. Their education is confined to reading writing and arithmetic. The scholars were not supplied with any books at the expense of the trust. A master was to be appointed who should make a report to the trustees at the quarterly meetings of the state of the school and the conduct of the boys.

Loder, who also quotes Sir Robert's will in full, additionally advises us that the master was to have a salary of £40 a year and that the pupils were to be the poorest children of the town. The master was also authorised to give £10 to each of them to bind them apprentice.

It proved to be a difficult will to enforce. Indeed the people of Framlingham contested it. The will was unworkable in the sense that Sir Robert seemed to wish that children from Debenham (ten miles distant) and Coggeshall (forty-five miles distant) should come within the provision of the one school. The issue was sent to Whitehall for a decision. An interesting document exists in which Henry Scoble, clerk to the council to Cromwell writes the judgement. Cromwell and his officials seem to have solved the problem by deciding that each place should have its own school. To this day there is a Sir Robert Hitcham School at Debenham and a building with the Sir Robert Hitcham crest can be seen in the High Street of Coggeshall, though that place no longer has a Sir Robert Hitcham School. Something else which seems to have been added by this judgement was that the Master should confine his duties to teaching grammar and that an Under Master or Usher should be appointed, at a salary of £20 a year, to teach the reading, the writing and the casting of accounts. The income of Sir Robert's estate should also make provision to *maintain such of the grammar scholars at the University of Cambridge as they should think fit and the Master and Fellows of the college should admit and allow of* (Green's italics). In a footnote, Green (p. 112) notes: *grammar has never been taught, nor have many scholars ever been admitted to the college; the will, it has to be observed, does not go to this extent.*

The first master appointed was one Zaccheus Leverland. Leverland, who had formerly been a Clerk in the Herald's office, served in this role between 1653 and 1673. Leverland was an amateur historian upon whose work Loder and Green subsequently drew for their own histories. What kind of schoolmaster he was we can only guess. No details exist of how the school actually operated at this time. We must assume that it was similar to descriptions and pictures of other charity schools of the time.

We do know something of the siting of the school. It was in the centre of the town on the Market Hill. Green (p. 183) states:

The school was originally kept in an upper room belonging to the Market Cross, a large building formerly standing upon the Market Hill, but the college (Pembroke) having, in 1788, ordered it to be taken down, a new and more commodious School House was erected contiguous to Sir Robert Hitcham's almshouses, standing at the western extremity of the mere.

We shall consider the significance of the last part of this last sentence shortly, but the quotation from Green tells us several interesting things. Framlingham was clearly like other medieval towns of its size and character in having a market square with a market cross. The trustees moved the pupils into the upper room of the Market Cross, and here they stayed until 1788. In fact a footnote on page 187 of Green gives us even more interesting evidence taking us further back into the history of Framlingham and its education. In the part of his book where he writes about the Guildhall of Framlingham he makes the following footnote:

It is evident from this that previous to the founding of Sir Robert Hitcham's trust there had been a parochial or some other Foundation School, and which was in existence as later as 1632, as Shene, the Churchwarden, then enters a payment relative to it thus: "It. to Baldry for removing the old seates [not saying from whence] into the school house, etc., 4s. and 6d."

The Guild Hall remains to this day looking over the Market Hill, being situated on its northern side. Green has attempted to unravel the history of the Guild (of St Mary) with a limited degree of success.

Green (pp. 83-4) lists the names of the masters who followed Leverland. In many cases these were ordained clergymen. Sir Robert had also made provision in the will for a Readership. This was an appointment for a person to read Morning and Evening Prayer with the inhabitants of the Sir Robert Hitcham almshouses. For the next two hundred years the Reader was often also the Master of the school.

The school during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

The school ceased to be sited on the Market Hill in 1788. An interesting story accompanies this change. In that year the citizens of the town petitioned Pembroke College to move the school. In their letter to the college, they write as follows:

The schoolroom is an improper one being low and much exposed to heat and cold. The situation is inconvenient being in the heart of the town and the children have no place to retire when necessity occasions [when they needed to go to the toilet] and so, much annoyance and disturbance is caused to the inhabitants of the town.

Pembroke acceded to this request and a new school building was built at the end of the almshouses in New Road. This building, which was built at right angles to the almshouses, which had been built in 1654, still stands today. Pupils going into school pass it each morning for it is alongside the rear school drive. Today it serves the function of being the meeting place of the Freemasons of Framlingham.

One imagines that education in this building continued much as it had done when the school was on the Market Hill. It was still sited in this building when Loder and Green wrote their histories. The early directories of Framlingham also refer to its existence.

A new possibility clearly presented itself to the officers of St Michael's Church at this time. The late eighteenth century was the time of the Sunday school movement by Robert Raikes. Another petition was sent to Pembroke College requesting that the new school building should be used to house a Sunday school. In an age when Sunday school attendance has all but completely ceased, it is interesting to read what going to Sunday school was like two hundred years ago:

The master or mistress [in fact there were both, one for boys, one for girls] shall teach and instruct such children to read in the Holy Scriptures and to learn and repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, the collects and catechism from the Book of Common Prayer and the Church of England.

During the winter school began at nine o'clock and ended at four o'clock, in the summer it was from eight o'clock until six o'clock, and in between they had to go to Church twice, to the morning and afternoon services. Green in 1834 and the directories indicate a varied pattern of educational provision for Framlingham during the early part of the nineteenth century. The summary I here quote is that in the Victoria County History for Suffolk, which in the year 1833 listed the schools in Framlingham as follows:

One endowed School (by Thomas Mills) 55 attend (15 of these free), 5 infants' day schools (78 attend), two daily schools (47 attend), three boarding schools (64 girls attend), one Sunday school (established Church) endowed by Robert Hitcham (94 attend), one Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school (107 attend), one Unitarian Sunday school (57 attend) and one independent Sunday school (120 attend). A girls free school established (date unknown) in existence (1844), 84 attend.

This information is confusing and does not match all the directories that I have examined. It is nevertheless valuable insofar as it indicates how varied the provision in Framlingham was at this time. What is clearly

indicated by the information is that there was a separate school for girls linked to the Sir Robert Hitcham School and that the very strong presence of non-conformity in the town was exercising a powerful pressure for educational provision.

Whilst forty boys were being educated in the school attached to the almshouses, a school for girls, presumably those whose families had affiliation to the Church of England, was in existence in the Poor House of the castle. The mistress of the school was Dinah Tucker. To what extent this was helped by Sir Robert Hitcham money is difficult to establish. The nonconformist school set up under the provisions of the will of Thomas Mills deserves special mention and plays an important part in the story of education in Framlingham in the nineteenth century.

Thomas Mills rates as the second great benefactor to Framlingham. Indeed today, his heritage provides more income for the causes of the town than that of Sir Robert Hitcham. The story of Thomas Mills is documented in the book by John and Faith Packard (undated) published by the East Anglian Magazines Ltd (in the nineteen-seventies, I think). Thomas Mills was a successful businessman and a Baptist local preacher. There are almshouses in the town bearing his name and the present comprehensive school of Framlingham is named after him. We shall explain how this happened later in the study but at this stage it is necessary to consider the impact that non-conformity had for education in Framlingham at this time. It will be best illustrated when we move on to the section which describes how the trustees of Sir Robert Hitcham responded to the 1870 Education Act.

The Albert Memorial College (known as Framlingham College)

There was another development for education in Framlingham when the Albert Memorial College was established in Framlingham in 1864. This was Framlingham's response to the death of Prince Albert. Perhaps it ought more properly to be seen as the response of the gentry of East Suffolk or maybe the whole county. The *East Anglian Daily Times* of 29th March 1862 carried an article on the Framlingham page as follows:

On Wednesday evening last, a meeting was held proposing to send to the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke College praying for their assistance in the aid of the middle class college. It contained 250 signatures of the clergy, gentry and trades people of Framlingham. We sincerely hope they will grant our request.

By the 12th April 1862 the newspaper was able to publish a list of subscribers to the cause headed by the Earl of Stradbroke giving £500 and these lists continued in subsequent issues. On 31st May 1862 a reply from Pembroke College had been received and the following was printed:

We are happy to learn that the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke College have made the most liberal offer to the executive committee of the Suffolk Albert Memorial, namely a site for the building and £200 annually. There appears to be nothing wanting but the power to appropriate this money and land belonging to Sir Robert Hitcham Charity Estate, to this purpose. Sir F Kelly has, we believe, undertaken to carry the case through the Chancery Court. We anxiously await the issue.

To what extent this decision was in line with the original intentions of Sir Robert Hitcham's will remains a question for debate. The subsequent history of the Albert Memorial College, now more commonly known as Framlingham College, a boarding and day public school for boys and, since the early 1980s, for girls, is a separate issue for study. Its activity as an institution has at various times and in various ways impinged upon the life of the Sir Robert Hitcham School. A few pupils in some years have moved on from the Sir Robert Hitcham School to become pupils of Framlingham College. In the period 1944 to 1974 boys passing the eleven plus examination went to Framlingham College on a scholarship basis. The public school lends help to the Sir Robert Hitcham School in various ways and invites the head teacher to its annual speech days.

Debates in Framlingham about the way forward

The quickening pace of development and interest in education provision generally at the national level was reflected in Framlingham at a meeting of the Framlingham Mutual Society reported in *Framlingham Weekly News* for 5th February 1870. The subject chosen for this 25th annual meeting of the society was "Education". F S Corrance, Esq. MP was in the chair. J Hammond LIB of Mary St. Elms, Ipswich, was present as the main

speaker and said he was pleased to come to Framlingham because of its interest in education. He explained that there were two schemes before the country, the League and the Union. In his view the League system had been tried in Prussia and had failed; it was expensive and produced a lower class of teachers. As regards religion, he would not see that it should be discontinued. At the present time there were between three and four hundred parishes in England without schools and not within a mile of one having them. He said: *Let us get more into school*; he favoured the Union approach.

The Reverend S Browning (who, according to the *White's Directory 1874* was in charge of the day school on Woodbridge Road) disagreed with both. He said: *Have Bible teaching, stamp out sectarianism but 'put up' with the Roman Catholic element*. Mr William Hill (the Master of the Thomas Mills non-conformist school) announced himself as a teacher of forty years standing. He used an odd but memorable phrase: *too much in the custard*, but said: *Yes, keep the Bible*. The Reverend T Cooper looked back many years to the time when in the old town of Framlingham, both the Rector, the Curate and the local gentry of the town were opposed to educating the poor or lower classes... He was pleased it had changed. He suggested: *Keep the parson out, let parents teach religion*. He supported the League or perhaps a compromise between League and Union.

The issue of *Framlingham Weekly News* for 19th May 1871 announced that petitions in favour of an unsectarian education have been signed by citizens of Framlingham hoping that Mr Forster will take notice. How the debate in Framlingham continued during the 1870s I have been unable to ascertain clearly, though I have dipped into issues of *Framlingham Weekly News* during this period. The crucial year seems to have been 1877 for *White's Directory* for 1892 records that:

The scheme of 1877 also provides for payment by Mills' Trustees of £300 a year to the governing body of Sir Robert Hitcham's almshouses and schools, which body was increased to fifteen members, the eight additional being appointed, four by Pembroke College and four by the trustees of Mills Charity.

The Packards in their book (pp .52-3) give the background to this story from the nonconformist point of view. In 1875 the Mills Charity Trustees had written to the Charity Commissioners saying that they had about £100 available annually for Education. They planned that on the forthcoming retirement of Mr William Hill they would spend this money, plus £850 invested in Consols, to give education for the girls of all classes in the parish as they did not intend to educate any more boys. The scheme was turned down by the Commissioners in 1877 in favour of their own scheme which included the closure of the school at Framlingham Castle (that is, the Sir Robert Hitcham school for girls held there, as previously mentioned).

The Packards go on to say the uniting of the two schools was not welcomed by the dissenters in the town.



The Sir Robert Hitcham's almshouses of 1654, and the school built following closure of the one on the Market Hill in 1788

They felt it unjust that £300 should be taken annually from a fund left by a Baptist for the education of Framlingham children of any denomination to be appropriated to Church of England purposes. Mr John

Brown, a non-conformist minister at Wrentham, is quoted as saying: *Old Thomas Mills would turn over in his grave to find his money applied to such purpose.* Shortly we shall examine how they got their own way, causing difficulty for the operation of the Sir Robert Hitcham School.

A new Sir Robert Hitcham School (1879)

This study now reaches the stage where documentary evidence becomes much more available and able to present a very clear picture of what was happening. In the school archives (which are now held by the Lanman Museum) is the Governor's minute book which begins with the record of the meeting held at the Crown Hotel, Framlingham, on Thursday 7th November 1878. There is much mention of how the governing body will apply the appropriate clauses of the scheme. Even clearer is a surviving copy, much dilapidated, of the original by-law signed by the chairman and the clerk of the Plomesgate Union that established the school. At their meeting on 21st November 1878 the Governors resolved to place an advertisement in *The Times*, the *Daily News*, *The Schoolmaster*, and *The School Board Chronicle*. By the meeting of 18th December they had spotted the candidate who was eventually to become the first headmaster of the new school. By the meeting on 1st January Mr Edward G Warren of Deeping St James in Norfolk had been interviewed and judged to be a very satisfactory candidate.

There was already a new building to accommodate the school. This was located on a piece of land behind the almshouses and the site of the previous school. It was at the time called the White Horse Meadow (to this day it is opposite the White Horse public house, now sadly no longer a public house) and was Sir Robert Hitcham Trust land. Various accounting details are recorded in the Governors' minute book, and the cost of the new building was £2,702. We know it was made of local red brick (by the local builders, Mallows) because photographs exist of it as it was in the early twentieth century. As will be recorded later, it is known that in 1937 the building was substantially remodelled, removing the upper story of the 1879 building. To this day some of that building stands with distinctive flower patterned bricks used as decoration, as in some of the housing of the late nineteenth century elsewhere in Framlingham. The Governors' minute book entry for 18th December 1878 does record as follows:

It was resolved that the members of the Governing Body, then present, be the School Committee, and that they be empowered to carry out at once the minor requirements and that the fencing, draining, gravelling and other requisites, necessary to complete the school buildings and grounds, be commenced as soon as a favourable answer is received from Pembroke College offering a certain sum in aid of the above.

On 10th March 1879 the schools opened. Mr Warren (who was to stay until 1910) himself acted as Headmaster of the three separate schools: the boys' school, the girls' school and the infants' school. Mr Warren was additionally in charge of the boys' school and declared himself with a flourish on the first page of his log book. His wife became the Mistress of the girls' school. Miss Smeed was the Mistress of the infant school and her first entry in her log book was on 14th March 1879 as follows:

Commenced work in the Framlingham Infants School 10th March 1879. 36 children attended Monday morning. Highest number 45; ten of whom know their letters. Children exceedingly backward, none of them are able to write letters or figures.

Attendance at school at this time was dependent upon the payment of fees. At their meeting on 22nd January 1879 the Governors fixed fees as follows:

Labourers:	one child: 2d	family: 3d	
Assistant mechanics:	first child : 3d	second child: 2d	remainder: 1d each
Trades men and farmers:	first child: 6d	second child: 4d	Remainder: 2d each

The staffing of the schools can be assessed by careful analysis of the log books, but another good guide is the payment schedules from the Governors' minute book:

Warren E G - £25, McBain A V - £12 10s, Cooper W - £12 10s [assistant masters, one imagines]
 O'Neil W - £1 1s, Fairweather W - £1 1s (pupil teachers) [these were staff members of the boys school]
 Warren O - £17 10s, Woolnough E - £7 10s, Clow E - £2 2s, Vice E - £1 1s [staff of the girls school]
 Falshaw A L - £15, Smith J - £2 10s [staff of the infants school]
 Laurie J L - £12 6s [the mistress of the Saxtead School]



Hitcham's school in College Road, 1924. The two storey building was for boys on the ground floor and girls on the first floor

These details are taken from the minute book for 8th October 1884. The payments represent one quarter of a year's salary for each individual. It will be noted that provision is made for the school at Saxtead. This was an added consideration for the Governors. Saxtead has long been linked with Framlingham and was part of the estate of the castle purchased and passed on by Sir Robert Hitcham. The Governors were therefore bound to make provision for the education of its children. A separate Saxtead elementary school existed until it was closed in 1954 when its pupils began to attend the Framlingham school.

The above account also mentions the "school pence", being the fees paid in accordance to the schedule mentioned above.

The operation of the schools continued to progress in much the same way as regards the Governors until 1903 when a new minute book commenced with the following entry:

The first meeting of the new Managers under the Education Act of 1902 was held at the schools on Monday, July 6th 1903. Six managers were appointed, four foundation managers, one by the Parish Council and one by East Suffolk County Council.

This was a pattern of management that was to continue until the legislation of the Conservative government of the nineteen-eighties.

Secondary Education in Framlingham

Whilst this is primarily a history of the Sir Robert Hitcham School, the development of secondary education in the town had an obvious bearing on the story of the school. In fact, of course, the elementary school was serving the function of teaching children during the first part of the century, who, since 1944, have been deemed to be "secondary school pupils". The first development was the establishment of the Mills Grammar School for Girls, which functioned in Framlingham from 1902 to 1979.

It will be remembered that the Mills Trustees on behalf of the non-conformist population of Framlingham were unhappy about paying money to an institution which they (with justification) regarded as a Church of England establishment. The Mills Trustees had continued to petition the Charity Commissioners to reverse their original ruling that their money should go to the Sir Robert Hitcham School and succeeded in retaining

it to save towards the establishment of a girls' school. Framlingham Weekly News of 20th July 1901 announced that: *The scheme is now maturing and a school will be built at a cost of £1,550.*

This development placed pressure upon the trustees of the Sir Robert Hitcham School, which now began to run at a loss. There is a gap in minute books for this crucial period, but *Framlingham Weekly News* again furnishes us with the necessary information. In an article entitled *The Collapse of the Voluntary System* in the issue of 1st June 1901, the paper explains how the defection of the Mills had affected the scheme for the elementary school. There was an annual deficit of £414 19s 10d against an expenditure of £1007 3s 3d. Appeals to the ratepayers had not helped. Could the school continue in its voluntary role? The question of handing over the Schools Board would have to be considered. My exploration of *Framlingham Weekly News* has not yet furnished me with an answer of how this matter was resolved. The managers who first met in 1903 do not mention the problem and their minute book has only small-scale details of expenditure, not including teachers' salaries. This does suggest that they had lost responsibility for these payments and thereby it was virtually a board school.



Sir Robert Hitcham School. The headmaster Mr E G Warren, with the 1907 boys group. There is some uniformity in the clothing, and most are wearing boots

The story moves forward to 1937 when the East Suffolk Education Committee resolved to establish a secondary modern school in Framlingham. This was an early move towards the development that was to be national policy in the wake of the 1944 Education Act. The consequence for the Sir Robert Hitcham School was the remodelling referred to earlier. The logbook of the boys' school announces how the school would be closed for seven weeks to enable rebuilding to take place. On 20th August 1937 the following entry occurs: *I, John Platts, opened the new Framlingham Junior School at 9am.* Now one logbook tells the story for the entire school; it had become a co-educational school for five-to-eleven year-old pupils.

One final significant detail in the history of the school is recorded in the Managers' minute book for 5th December 1950. In that year, the Rev M Bulstrode was appointed to the living of Framlingham and immediately seems to have decided that the opportunity to acquire Voluntary Aided status for the school should be taken. This was a possibility under the provisions of the 1944 Education Act. If a church which had a school linked to it historically could furnish twenty-five percent of the capital cost of the establishment, it could apply for Voluntary Aided status with the attendant privileges of appointment of staff and control of the syllabus for Religious Education.

There was a joint meeting of the Hitchams Trustees and the managers at the Rectory where the decision to apply was taken. The immediate problem was to raise £13,000. It was decided that this was possible. One contribution was made by Rev Bulstrode who offered the fee payable to the Reader (£50 a year) for which provision had been made under the will of Sir Robert Hitcham. The school would enter the "Barchester Scheme" of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich whereby loans were accessible specifically for the maintenance of Voluntary Aided schools.

It could now be said that the school had returned to something of the status that was implicit in the original foundation. There was however one strange outcome of this particular process in the story of the school. When the application was made the school lost the name of Sir Robert Hitcham. When I was appointed in 1979 it was to "Framlingham Primary School". The managers expressed to me the wish that the historic name be restored. It appealed to my sense of history and I was pleased that when I made application to the Education Committee this in fact happened so that, for the remainder of my incumbency to 1996, I was the headteacher of "Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School, Framlingham".

The story of the school in the last thirty years has been one of growth in size, both in terms of buildings and in pupil numbers, not to speak of reputation. A significant development in the 1980s modernised the school providing modern classrooms, a spacious school hall and a kitchen so that for the first time meals could be cooked on site. Further extensions have developed the White Horse meadow site to its ultimate. Now the school roll is in excess of three hundred pupils, boys and girls, a far development from the provisions of Sir Robert Hitcham's will for a school of forty boys.

Sources and references

Primary sources

Sir Robert Hitcham's Trustees, 1878-1888, *Governors' minute book*

Sir Robert Hitcham's School, 1903-1979, *Managers' minute book*

Log book of the boys' school, 1879-1894

Log book of the infants' school, 1879-1898

Log book of the boys' school, 1937

Reference was made to other log books but quotations were taken from the above.

Unknown, 1654, *An ordinance settling and confirming the Manors of Saxtead and Framlingham*, London
(Various articles in multiple issues), 1859-1939, *Framlingham Weekly News*

Secondary sources

Midwinter, E, 1970, *Nineteenth Century Education*, London: Progress Publishers

Northeast, P, 1981, *The Suffolk Review*, Suffolk Local History Council

Specific references

Green, R, 1834, *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxted*, London

Kirby, J, 1734, *The Suffolk Traveller*, Ipswich: J Shave

Loder, R, 1798, *The History of Framlingham*, Woodbridge: Loder R

Packard, F & Packard J, 1970, *Thomas Mills – Suffolk Baptist and Benefactor*, Ipswich: East Anglian Magazine Ltd

Reeve, S, 1995, *Stanley Reeve Recalls*, Stanley C Reeve

(Various articles and editions), early 20th Century, *Lambert's Almanack*

(Various entries and years), *Kelly's Directory*

Page, W (Editor), 1911, *Victoria County History of Suffolk, Vol I*

White, W, multiple editions especially 1862 and 1894, *White's Directory of Suffolk*, Sheffield: Leader, R

THE 1939 REGISTER

By John F. Bridges

A major source of information for historians and genealogists is the National Census which is carried out every ten years. The personal details are only fully accessible to the public one hundred years after their compilation with the 1911 being the most recent. The 1921 will be available in 2022. However, looking forward to further census information requires a very long wait which I don't think we can afford.

The 1931 census was destroyed in an air raid on London, and there was no census taken during the war; therefore the next one would be 1951, to be released in 2052. A lesser-known survey is now available, and that is the 1939 Register which was compiled with data recorded on 29 September 1939. This information was very important to the Government for many reasons, including the issue of Identity Cards which would be needed for Rationing purposes.

This Register is only available at www.findmypast.co.uk. by individual payment or subscription. This will also allow you to search *Framlingham Weekly News*. When accessing the 1939 Register, you can view the transcribed data, but you can also see the original hand-written pages. If you look at the far right of the page there is an additional column, where information is given to show whether the person had become part of the civil defence services for wartime.

By trawling through the street names of Framlingham it has been possible to extract this information. The table below shows the range of services that were recorded. The names can only be seen in the Register if it is known that the person has died. For that reason there are still many blanks in the Register.

Many of the categories come under the heading ARP (Air Raid Precautions). In 1941, the umbrella name of Civil Defence covered these services.



Framlingham's senior ARP men in April 1939. *Back row, from left:* Morgan Watts, Harry Carr, Ben Norman, Tyrell Dowsing, Fred Finbow, Sidney Sparke, Fred Durrant. *Front row, from left:* John Self, Don Potter, Captain Harry Walne MC, Dick Bullingham, Lieutenant Commander Britten, Percy Banthorpe.

The Register was compiled just twenty-six days after war with Germany was declared on 3 September, and clearly shows that much organisation had taken place with regard to local civil defence matters. The headline in *FWN* on 1 April 1939 declared 'Framlingham ARP 100% Efficient'. The Government had set up the new Auxiliary Fire Service in 1938, and there were already at least eight members enrolled, who would attend at the Fire Station in Crown and Anchor Lane. The St John Ambulance Brigade started a Framlingham branch in 1937 as part of the foreseen need for such services if war were declared. There was no proper ambulance available until after the war and converted vehicles would be used as necessary.

The Police Station in Bridge Street (site of library car park) was the centre for co-ordinating all services, until the Court House (present library) became the ARP Control Centre.

Category	Names
ARP Warden	Mary Symonds, Stanley Bonney, Alma Bonney, Frederick Larter, Frederick Durrant, Isaac and Eleanor Woods, Kenneth Freeman, Arthur Finbow, Edward Papmaw?, Frederick Read, Bertie Fuller, John Keeble, Ron Allen, Marie Allen, Alfred Stephens, Alice Stephens, Eileen Bedwell, Horace Etheridge, Walter Cady, Sidney Moore, John Bolton, James Scoggins, Donald Potter (dep. Head Warden), Henry Walne (Chief Warden), Henry Peck(Head Warden), Ronald Tysoe, Stanley Fuller, Edward Allen, Brenda Self, Judith Cook, Thomas Card, Leonard Walne
ARP reserve	Edith and Hilda Wolton
ARP, LNER	Edgar Parkes, Thomas Simpson
ARP, Ambulance and First Aid	Asher Symonds, Ivy Larter, Robert Nichols, Edward Smith, Ernest Howard, Evelyn Woodgate
ARP Ambulance Driver	George Murfitt, Cecil Thompson (emergency), Connor Poole(Supt), Dorothy Potter, Fruer Bridges
ARP, Demolition	Percy Aldred
ARP, Controller	Felix Cooper, Antonia Morris (reserve staff), Phyllis Potter (telephone controller),
ARP Report Centre	Sylvia Flatt, Joan Cossons, John Dring, Tyrell Dowsing, John Watson, Grace Potter,
ARP, decontamination	Albert Muddock
ARP Mapping Officer	Rev. Wright Broadbent
ARP, Clerk to Centre	John Todd,
ARP Messenger	Clarence Smith
Auxiliary Fire Service	Stanley Hall, Charles Kemp, Ernest Rose, Arthur Moore, Walter Harvey, William Nichols, Stanley Maulden, Stanley Eagle
ARP Demolition Squad	Alfred Lay, Alfred Diggins
Evacuee Carer	Evelyn Broadbent, Victor Broadbent
Fire Brigade (Regular)	Morgan Watts 1st driver, Percy Moore, Harry Flemming, Stanley Herbert Ransom, Arthur Scotchmer, James Smith, Harry Carr (Supt)
St John Ambulance	Marjorie Cossons, Ernest Bennett, Horace H Lanman, Percy Banthorpe, Ethel Vintner, Edna Sly, Reuben Giddings, Phyllis Palmer(Supt), Honore Poole, Nesta Phillips, Bob Gorrod, Fred Finbow(Supt), Alfred Sparke, Albert Flegg, Elsie Peck, James Leeding, Ernest Bonney
St John Driver	Phyllis Freeman, George Chapman, Samuel Bloomfield,
Women's Land Army	Hazel Clowes (County rep.), Evelyn Woodgate
WVS	Norah Garrard, member of staff for defence of Framlingham

THE RED HOUSE PART 2

*This is the second of a series of extracts from a report produced on the Red House in Framlingham Castle by Historic England Framlingham Castle, Suffolk
The Red House, formerly Framlingham Workhouse by Emily Cole and Kathryn Morrison (2016)*

Sir Robert Hitcham and his Charities

The wealthy lawyer Sir Robert Hitcham (1573-1636) was born in Levington, near Nacton, to the south-east of Ipswich.³ He was educated in Ipswich (at the Free School), Cambridge (at Pembroke Hall, renamed Pembroke College in 1856) and Gray's Inn, London. According to an inscription on Hitcham's tomb (figs 7 and 8), in the south chapel of Framlingham church, he was: 'Attorney to Queen Anne in ye first yeare of King James, then knighted. And afterward made ye Kings senior Serjeant at Lawe and often Judge of Assize'. In 1635, Sir Robert bought Framlingham Castle together with the manors of Framlingham and Saxtead from Theophilus Howard (1584-1640), 2nd Earl of Suffolk. Hitcham may always have intended to donate this estate, which cost £14,000, to his old college.

A year after the purchase of Framlingham Castle, and a week before his death in August 1636, Hitcham drew up his will. He was unmarried and had no offspring: his nephew, Robert Butts, inherited Levington manor, which Hitcham had acquired in 1609, while his sister was given a farm named Watkins.⁴ Having provided for the Butts family, Hitcham left his Framlingham estate to Pembroke Hall, to be governed by a trust, on condition that the college set up and maintain a number of charitable institutions for the poor. These were almshouses in Framlingham and Levington, and a school and a workhouse in Framlingham. The school and workhouse in Framlingham were intended for the benefit of the 'poore and most needy & impotent' of three parishes – Framlingham and Debenham in Suffolk and Coggeshall in Essex – and provision was made of 'a substantial stocke to sett them on worke and to allow to such needy persons of them soe much as they shall farther think fit'.⁵ In addition, Hitcham left money for the appointment of a schoolmaster and granted Framlingham church an endowment of £20 per annum for the reading of prayers twice daily.

In order to build the new structures in Framlingham, Hitcham ordered that 'all the Castle Saveing the stone building' – that is, the north range, containing the Great Chamber (see below) – was to be demolished, and the materials sold or reused.⁶

The implementation of Hitcham's wishes was delayed by legal disputes between his executors, the churchwardens of Framlingham, and the Pembroke Trustees concerning the receipt of rentals, an issue settled in 1644. By then England was in turmoil. At Pembroke Hall, the Master, Benjamin Lany (in post 1630-44; reinstated 1660-62), and the remaining Fellows were expelled. In the same year, money was ordered to be paid to the new Master, Richard Vines (in post 1644-50), who then 'employed Workemen, provided Brick & other materialls to erect a Scholehouse, Workehouse, & Almshouse at Framlingham'.⁷ However, work did not progress as planned: Vines sold the materials, refused to undertake the work, and was removed from the mastership. The money he owed was subsequently paid to his successor at Pembroke, Sidrach Simpson, but legal battles were still underway at the time of Simpson's death in 1655.

One of these legal challenges was posed in 1651 by the parishes of Debenham and Coggeshall, and the complaint was circulated in the form of an ordinance issued by the Lord Protector in 1654. The parishes objected to the terms of Hitcham's will, arguing that 'great inconveniences' would be caused by the poor having to travel to the school and workhouse at Framlingham – a distance of eight miles from Debenham and 45 miles from Coggeshall.⁸ Certainly, it was not usually the case that the poor of one parish would have to travel to another to work or be educated, and the churchwardens and overseers of Debenham and Coggeshall would have incurred a great deal of extra cost and trouble if they sent their paupers to Framlingham; Hitcham's will did not explicitly cover travel costs. The cost of maintenance and accommodation was another concern, and the dispute makes it absolutely clear that Framlingham workhouse was conceived

as a non-residential institution, 'the Will not providing for the Poors habitation nor making any other provisions for their livelihoods there'.⁹

It was further argued that Framlingham would be inconvenienced by so many poor congregating and residing in the town, and that the poor of the different parishes would find it difficult to work together under one roof:

And in respect of Continual differences, which in all likelihood will arise betwixt the Towns touching their poor, in such sort confused and mingled together, besides the jars and contentions amongst the poor themselves (incident to such sort of peoples) working together under the same roof, whereby the Town of *Framlingham* will be much disquieted, the work hindered, and more materials in danger to be spoiled and imbezilled than work done.¹⁰

As a result of the ordinance of March 1653/4, it was agreed that Debenham and Coggeshall would receive a portion of the revenue of Hitcham's estate to provide for the work and education of their own poor inhabitants, and that the workhouse and school in Framlingham would serve that parish only.¹¹ This was apparently confirmed by a deed issued by Pembroke Hall in August 1666.¹²



Fig. 9 The Hitcham almshouses, New Road, Framlingham. They were designed by Peter Mills and built in 1654. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

The agreement of 1653/4 allowed the stipulations of the will to be fulfilled. Within a year, Pembroke Hall had built a row of 12 almshouses (fig 9) in New Road, Framlingham; these are dated 1654, and are now listed Grade II*.¹³ The contract for the building was drawn up between Pembroke Hall and the Framlingham bricklayers Robert Goodwin, Robert Atkin, John Goodwin and William Spink, 'according to a plot already drawn and agreed on by Peter Mills of London surveyor'.¹⁴ Peter Mills (1598-1670) was an important architect, responsible for Thorpe Hall outside Peterborough (1653-56). He also designed the Hitcham Building (1659-60, figs 10 and 11) on the south side of Ivy Court at Pembroke Hall in Cambridge, and may have had a hand in the design of the Red House in c.1664. Mills is known to have remained active almost until his death: he was one of the four surveyors appointed to supervise rebuilding after the Great Fire of London in 1666 (alongside Christopher Wren, Hugh May and Roger Pratt), and he designed buildings at Christ's Hospital in London in 1667-68.¹⁵



Fig. 10 The south front of the Hitcham Building, Pembroke College, Cambridge. The building was designed by Peter Mills and built in 1659-61. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 11 The Hitcham Building (1659-61; Peter Mills), Pembroke College, Cambridge. Detail of north front. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Also in fulfilment of Hitcham's will, in 1653 Zaccheus Leverland was appointed schoolmaster in Framlingham, a post he retained until 1673, four years before his death.¹⁶ Originally, he seems to have taught children (almost certainly boys only) in the guildhall on Market Hill.¹⁷ By 1663, Leverland is known to have lived in the north (or Great Chamber) range of the castle, which also contained the schoolroom.¹⁸ Additionally, two pairs of almshouses – forming identical parallel ranges – were built in Bridge Road, Levington (listed Grade II). They display a stone plaque bearing Hitcham's arms (gules, on a chief or, three torteaux [sic]). Although these buildings are usually dated to 1654, there is evidence to show that they were erected in 1677. On 28 April of that year, the Steward of Framlingham Richard Porter wrote to Pembroke Hall to inform them of the 'good forwardnesse' of the construction work, and also to let them know he had made some alteration to the form of the building.¹⁹ In a letter of July 1677, Porter reported that 'the Almshouses att levyngton are finished' and that he had paid £200 'towards the building of them'.²⁰

By 1787 the fair and markets were not as extensive as they had been in the 17th century, and the Cross was in need of repair. The school room was 'an Improper One being Low, and much exposed to Heat and Cold',

and without a yard or any other place for the children 'to retire to upon necessary Occasions'.²³ It was demolished and a new schoolroom (fig 12) built at the north end of the Hitcham almshouses in New Road, slightly away from the town centre.²⁴ These new premises were certainly for boys only: a girls' free school was established by the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate in 1841, in the north range of the castle.²⁵



Fig. 12 The Free School, built to the north of Hitcham's almshouses in Framlingham in 1787-88. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

As has been shown, an agreement was reached in the 1650s which meant that revenue was paid out of the Hitcham Estate rents to Debenham, Suffolk, and Coggeshall, Essex, to enable them to 'set their own poor on work, according to their several abilities and capacities'.²⁶ In the case of Coggeshall, this totalled £150 per annum, paid in March and September.²⁷ It was intended that this sum:

be employed for providing a work-house and a substantial stock to set the poor and most neediest on work ... and to provide a School House and to allow £20 yearly, to teach 20 or 30 of the poorest children of Coxall [Coggeshall] to read, write, and cast accounts, and then to allow them such sums of money to bind them apprentices as the said trustees should think fit, not exceeding £10²⁸

Initially, it seems that Coggeshall did not formally establish a free school. However, in 1722, Pembroke Hall and Hitcham's Estate agreed that the annual payment was no longer practicable for either Coggeshall or Debenham, and agreed instead to a partition of the charity's lands: the portion allotted to Coggeshall was land in Saxtead.²⁹ This enabled the founding of a Sir Robert Hitcham School in Coggeshall, set up in 1722 by the Pembroke Trustees, after a reconsideration of the terms of Hitcham's will.³⁰ It is probable that this reconsideration also related to the school at Framlingham, which – as has been noted – left the castle grounds for the room in the Market Cross in 1722.

At first, the Coggeshall school – for boys only – was located in a first-floor room in the Corn Market House on Market Hill, in a comparable arrangement to that at Framlingham.³¹ However, from 1787 – on the demolition of the Market House – it occupied a chamber at Crane's or Clock House, 1 Stoneham Street (listed grade II). A clock tower was added to the building in 1787 by the new schoolmaster, Henry Emery (d. 1844), who remained in post for the next 49 years. The school remained in Stoneham Street until moving in 1859 to new premises opposite Paycocke's Cottage in West Street, built by the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate. As a plaque on the building records, the school finally closed in 1912. Hitcham's charity still exists today, and continues to carry out work inspired by the terms of Sir Robert's will; for instance, the charity's Trustees assist children of Coggeshall to enter higher education.

It may be that the workhouse at Coggeshall was founded around the same time as the town's Hitcham School. It was certainly in existence by 1727, and remained in use until at least 1812.³² The workhouse building was located on the west side of Stoneham Street in the centre of the town, to the north of Market Hill, close to the school premises. It was demolished in 1838-39 and replaced by St Peter's National School, built to designs by Joseph Clark.³³

The provisions for the poor of Debenham seem to have been far less formal. There is no record of a Hitcham school ever having been established in the town. There was a workhouse, located near the church, but this apparently had little architectural coherence. It was described as follows by the local shopkeeper Samuel Dove in the mid-19th century:

An old building, formerly standing in the Row facing the Churchyard, consisting principally of one long room, where its inmates were employed in spinning wool and with chambers above. There were also two small rooms at the east end for Lunatics ... One of them was latterly fitted up with a cage for the confinement of the refractory. It was altogether a very mean building in appearance, the front of it was fitted up for a dwelling for the Keeper and other officers, in one of which the Parish Officers used to assemble Monday Morning to hear the wants of the poor. Since the Poor Law Act [1834] came into operation it has been sold, partly pulled down and otherwise much altered. The portion of the old building now standing is converted into two tenements belonging to Mr John Gooding.³⁴

References (numbering refers to those in the original document)

3. Sir Robert Hitcham: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/13368> (accessed 4 July 2016).
4. TNA PROB 11/173.
5. Ibid. Framlingham may already have had one or more poorhouses for the accommodation of houseless poor at the time Hitcham was drafting his will: a cottage in New Street was given by Hugh Driver by his will dated 1633 (Loder 1798, 398). Nonetheless, the parish is highly unlikely to have 'set the poor on work' in a workhouse.
6. Ibid.
7. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5. and Suffolk Record Office, HD88/6/2.
8. Ordinance of 20 March 1653/4, quoted in Loder 1798, 421.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid; Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham G.11.3.
12. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5; Beaumont 1890, 157.
13. A second set of almshouses was built later in Framlingham, under the will of Thomas Mills (1623-1703), another local benefactor. These were completed in 1705 in Station Road; they are listed Grade II*.
14. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 b1.
15. Colvin 1995, 655-8.
16. Leverland was succeeded by William Palmer (to 1680) and Samuel Pulman (to 1682) (Loder 1798, 207).
17. <http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/History-of-School/> (acc. 7 June 2016).
18. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a1.
19. Ibid, Framlingham K.3.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid; Suffolk Record Office, GB10/2/1; White's Directory 1844, 190.
22. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.10.
23. Ibid.
24. The boys' school remained in this building until 1879, when a new school building – for both boys and girls – was opened in College Road, where it remains today. The school building at the north of the almshouses was subsequently converted into a masonic hall; it is

© HISTORIC ENGLAND 68 023 - 2016

listed Grade II.

25. White's Directory 1844, 190.

26. Loder 1798, 421.

27. Beaumont 1890, 157.

28. Ibid.

29. Ibid.

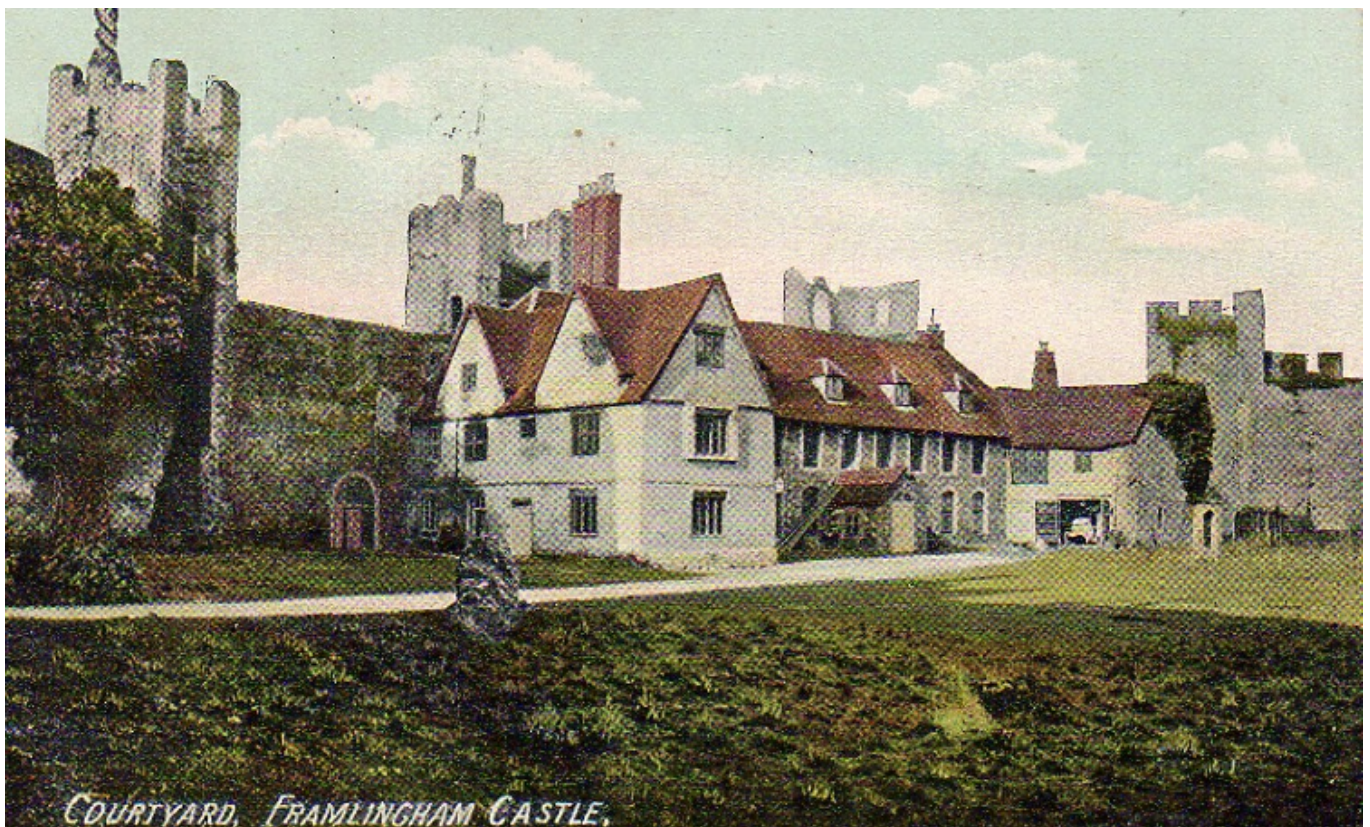
30. <http://www.coggeshallmuseum.org.uk/localhero.htm> (acc. 7 June 2016).

31. Beaumont noted that 'Provision is also made by the scheme [the scheme of the Charity Commissioners, which regulated the Hitcham charity from 1878] for the education of girls, but no school has yet been established' (Beaumont 1890, 158).

32. See documents in the Essex Record Office including: Q/SBb 98-99 (examinations concerning theft of food and flock from Great Coggeshall workhouse, 1727); D/P 36/18/1-3 (workhouse papers, 1751 to 1812); and D/P 36/12/4 (workhouse disbursements, 1744-45).

33. See Beaumont 1890, 181 and http://braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/754/historic_towns_in_essex-coggeshall_report_1999_20k (acc. 7 June 2016).

34. Knowland 1986, 109. The workhouse has been identified as the plot numbered 324 on the tithe map of Debenham: a row lying at right-angles to the street opposite the west end of the church ('Suffolk Workhouses' catalogue, Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich).



Castle interior with Red House in the foreground and large stone over the well