

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

7th Series Number 7

October 2018

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*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)

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Note: The next section on The Red House will appear in a later issue

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

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FRAM
7th Series Number 7
October 2018
Registered Charity No. 274201

“Now, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else”

This passage forms the opening of Charles Dickens’ novel *Hard Times* (1854). It could certainly be seen as a major task of the local historian to extract facts about the past from primary sources, to copy them from secondary sources, and to disseminate them to a wide public.

This is self-evident, but is surely not the whole story. It is a truism to say that history is in part about people, their actions and the effects there from upon society, but it is also about their thoughts, beliefs, and delusions. I have written a couple of articles in *Fram* (Series 3 No. 3 April 1998, No. 5 December 1998) under the generic title “Popular Legend”. The first of these described a local delusion that because a public house a quarter of a mile from Framlingham railway station was named The Railway; the line had been intended to go on all the way to Laxfield.

I also recall a prominent local historian (now deceased) quoting the local legend that bodies were buried in the back garden of a public house built upon the site of what had once been a non conformist chapel, with alleged haunting as a result.

The above might be seen as passing delusions of no particular significance to a local historian. But on a different plane perhaps, was the local belief that Mary Tudor, while she had taken refuge in Framlingham Castle, had given birth to a serpent (*Fram* Series 5 No. 1 August 2005). This malicious fiction tells us a great deal about a strand of religious belief in Framlingham at the time.

To explore the beliefs, traditions, delusions, of people in the past can be as demanding as tracing the history of a local business, the creation of a building, or the career of a local worthy. These local legends would have been key elements in the social fabric of the town over the centuries. Hearing, reporting, and recording them could be a major role for the readership of this journal.

By the time you are reading this, the new book by our President, John Bridges, will be on sale. *A Suffolk town in Wartime, Framlingham 1939 to 1945* tells the story of how the town adapted to the influx of evacuees, military troops, the threat of invasion, the Home Guard, bombing incidents, rationing and so much more. The book is now available in local shops, or by contacting the author on 01728 723557 or john@bridgessuffolk.plus.com. John will be giving the Society a talk on the subject next year.

Bob Roberts

THE OLD FORGE

By Jane Bloom

The Forge was on the corner of Fore Street and Fairfield Road in Framlingham. As a child in the late 1940s I watched Ernie Levett the blacksmith heating a metal horseshoe in the fire until it glowed bright red. He stood with the horse's leg lifted back, holding it between his own thighs, which were covered with a large leather apron. I watched as he pulled out the long nails, removing the old shoe before placing the new one onto the horse's hoof. I was told that there was a soft piece in the horse's foot called a frog. I remember the steam as the shoe was placed in water to cool, before being nailed onto the hoof. There was sweat pouring down the blacksmith's face which left white marks against the black soot on his cheeks from the smoke of the fire. I could see the tools hanging on the uneven brick wall and smell the burning metal and the hot flesh of the horses. They would stand patiently, sometimes with a nosebag of hay. The hammering in of the nails made me flinch, and I always worried that the shoeing would hurt the horse.

The building is called The Old Forge now. After it stopped being a blacksmith's it was used for many things including a carpet shop, an art gallery, a kitchen shop and a craft gallery. Now it is a private house.

Next to the Forge, in Fairfield Road, is a white house with black wooden window frames. The man who once lived there was Fruer Bridges who was the local ironmonger and agricultural agent.

FRAMLINGHAM

Dr. to A. E. BRIDGES,

General Ironmonger and Agricultural Implement Agent.

M^r. A. Breese
Wickfield.

Phone—55 *May 23 1944*

Sole Agent for McCormick's, Ransomes' and Bamford's Farm Machinery.

1 Smyth's 14 row 8 ft.	90	11	.
Strong horizontal drill			
Tore carriage skidage.	12	16	.
Reversible Seed Band.	5	2	.
Tractor hitch.	5	8	.
Stoe markers.	2	14	.
	116	11	.
	5	16	.
Cash.	£	110	15

paid 27.5.44 AEB

1944 invoice for a Smyth's drill, sold by Fruer Bridges. Credit: James Breese Collection

Thinking about it now, as the forge is attached to that house I realise that they were all one business. I walk past the house and glance inside. I can see the sitting room where I went as a child and where I first watched television, Granny Bridges lived there. I used to go there after school and watch Crackerjack which was hosted by Eamon Andrews. The picture on the small TV was a grainy black and white. Sometimes wavy white lines would float across it. She never tried to tune in the television, being frightened that she would get electrocuted. Granny Bridges was a good friend of my Grandmother, which is why I went to her house. I remember it was always on a Wednesday. I returned to the house once when it was up for sale and it was so much smaller than I remember.

Adjoining the forge in Fore Street was the other part of the business, which was a shop where all manner of ironmongery items could be purchased. A tall man, Mr Potter worked there. Now it is a small house where Gerry Grady lives and runs his Fram Taxi's: Grade A.

I leave the forge and the ironmongers and decide to walk around the town and look at other buildings. On the Market Hill there is an optician's practice called Country Vision. This used to be a grocery store, owned by Mrs. Steggall who always had a Yorkshire terrier, replacing each one with another when it died. The last one was called Susie, and when she died, she was buried in the small back yard with a head stone. The yard is now landscaped and the headstone long gone.

Next door is Akerman's Estate Agents. In my childhood that was a cake shop and tearooms called the Condul Café owned by Miss Mullinger.



*Condul café on the Market Hill, 1952.
Credit: Lanman Museum.*

In those days there were a lot of unmarried women or spinsters as they were more commonly known. I suppose there was a shortage of eligible men, with so many being killed in the war. In the café window there would be a slanted board with wooden strips which separated the rows of cakes. There was always a black cat lying amongst the cakes.

There is another estate agent on the Market Hill, William Brown and Sons. This is where Mr Beauchamp the dentist had his practice. The bottom half of the window was thick glass and the top half was too high to look through. His wife was the receptionist and if you were frightened of going to the dentist, Mrs. Beauchamp was far scarier. You could always hear the whine of the dentist's drill when you walked by. My mother had a tooth out there when she was twenty. She said she was in the chair for two and a half hours. The dark blue bruise from that extraction never faded. I always wished she hadn't told me that, let alone shown me.

Moving along to the corner where the Market Hill joins Bridge Street there is a shop called Kitchen Joiner's and Carousel, a pop-up shop. This was all one premises at one time. I remember it as a sweet shop, jewellers and watch and clock repairer shop. Mrs King ran the sweet shop whilst her husband, Eddie, ran the jewellery and clock-repair shop. She had very red hair and wore bright red lipstick. I asked her if her hair was dyed which is the sort of things that curious children ask. She was very cross and told me not to be so rude.

Next in Bridge Street, is Framlingham Dental Practice. For many years it was a wool and haberdashery shop; at one time a fresh fish shop and before that it belonged to my Grandmother's aunt, Emma Crane. She came from Northampton to start a milliner's business in the town. I have always puzzled why she came to Framlingham bringing her niece with her.

Next-door was Leslie Dorling's grocery store. The shop had a long wooden counter with two chairs beside it for customers to rest on. Mr Dorling was an obliging man. You would ask for a packet of washing powder and off

he would go to fetch it. Then you would ask for a bag of sugar and off he would go again. Some time and a dozen items later, he would write down the price, add them up, take your money, hand over the change and then pack your basket for you. There was no hurry shopping in those days. Leslie was a short man who always wore a grocer's apron over his clothes when he was in the shop. He lived with his sister Ruby, who would sometimes appear from the back room, smile and then disappear again. He had a small black dog called Rip which he used to take for long walks, until one day Leslie had a heart attack which stopped him in his tracks and he died. It then became a shoe-repair shop, and when that closed it became a craft shop and then a private house where a blacksmith and his family now live. In the front window there are various items made by John Ball the blacksmith, as the front of these buildings need to remain as shops.



The Oxborrow family had their greengrocery and tobacconists shop in Bridge Street. In 1937, the daughters Lilian and Mabel were still running it. This photo with Mary Oxborrow is from around 1905. The shop was later run by the Winch family and was a good place to buy gun caps and sweets. It is presently Sewing Allsorts Credit: Framlingham Photo Archive

Further down the Miss Oxborrows kept a sweet shop. They were two elderly sisters who wore ankle-length skirts. I could just see their brown Lyle stockings wrinkled around their ankles. The sweets were kept in large jars on shelves behind the counter; sherbet lemons were my favourite, and striped, pink and white clove drops. Sometimes I was lucky enough to have sixpence to spend (two and a half new pence). I would buy a bar of Cadburys milk chocolate and eat it one square at time. I would then twist the silver paper into the shape of a wine glass. More recently it has become Sewing Allsorts, a shop selling fabrics, wool and haberdashery.

Walking to the end of Bridge Street you pass the EACH charity shop. At one time Boddler Goodwin owned it. Boddler was his nickname, his real name was Percy. He sold hardware and pink paraffin which I would buy for my Nan to put in the oil lamp that stood in our kitchen. The shop was on two levels and smelt musty with large spiders living in the dark corners. Later on it became Thingammys, selling a range of goods as the name suggests, from toys to Pyrex dishes.

You then come to Well Close Square, although it is more of a triangle than a square. This was once known as Witch's Square as it is where they burnt the witches in bygone days, after they had been dunked in the Castle Pond to check if they were witches. There is another estate agent on the corner here, Clarke and Simpson's, which is where John Self, a local benefactor had a milliners and gents outfitters. His son, also called John, was

a tall man, bald and with a moustache. A few years ago there was an exhibition in Framlingham Castle of the letters that he had written to his future wife when he was courting her. The letters were so romantic. I learnt that he used to cycle eight miles to visit Mabel, his intended, each night, (unless it was raining). They had one daughter, Brenda, who ran the shoe shop in Albert Place until her death. Her father started the business in 1916 and the family lived behind the shop. It is still a shoe shop, now called Castle Shoes.

Opposite Clarke and Simpsons there is a clothes shop called Phoebe and Flo. When my Grandmother was young and not in my memory, it belonged to Fiddler Wright who was a piano-tuner and who I was told was sweet on my Grandmother, but this was not reciprocated. We had a piano; maybe he came to tune it, which was how she came into contact with him.

Just off the Square was Scoggins Hardware run by Mabel Scoggins. The shop had a brick floor and from floor to ceiling it was crammed with mops and brooms, pots and pans with hardly any room to move. I used to buy something from this shop called 'glitter wax'. The colours were red, blue, pink gold (my favourite), silver, and dark green. It had as the name suggested a sparkle in it and it would come wrapped in brown paper. I would soften the glitter wax in my hands and make flowers and leaves to put onto brown twigs that I picked from the hedgerows. Now it is a hairdresser's salon called Ellen Ross.

Going from Well Close Square into New Road, this is where the Regal cinema was located, which opened in 1939. It is now Coucy Close housing estate. For me the cinema was a magical place. Saturday afternoons were always spent there. It cost four old pence to get in. There would be the short ongoing serial, usually about the Lone Ranger and his horse Tonto being chased by hordes of Red Indians. It would end each week with Tonto going over a cliff or being shot, but the following week the film would have been taken back to just before he went off the cliff and all would be well. The main film would then follow this. Calamity Jane was my favourite with all that lovely singing about the Black Hills of Dakota. I think I identified with the heroine.



The Regal cinema opened in 1939. The proprietor was E Bostock, with Mr Plant the manager. There were nightly performances at 7pm in the week, and 3 performances on Saturday. Dwindling attendance in the late 50s finally lead to closure. In 1963 it became Potters commercial vehicle repair workshop. Credit Framlingham Photo Archive

Back in Well Close Square there is the Art and Frame Shop, which used to be Eyre's Ladies and Gents Outfitters. Mr. Ballard, who was a tall, imposing gentleman, ran the shop. If you went in and wanted anything feminine, he would raise his hand to his mouth, give a cough and say, 'I'll get the lady for you'. As well as clothes, toiletries were sold and in the window there were white bars of soap with pictures that were transfers I suppose. I used to get those for Christmas and I was always disappointed when the pictures came off when the soap was put in water.

Further along is a kebab house called Zorbas, which is very popular with the youngsters in the town. This eating house has good seating arrangements and when I walk by I often see them playing cards and just 'chilling' as the expression goes. Some time before it became a kebab place it was Bloomfield and Chapman's motor engineers and cycle shop. Where the youngsters now sit, in my childhood it was full of bikes. I had my first adult

bike from there when I was eleven. It was a Raleigh three-speed and cost twelve pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence.

In Albert Place, Kitchen Joinery used to be Bonney's Bakers. Mr. Bonney was a short man with white hair and a white complexion. He always looked as if someone had sifted flour all over him. He would deliver the bread carrying a large wicker basket and would smile and say, 'Bonney's bread is best' and it was. He also sold basic groceries and I would shop there for my Nan, buying sugar, butter, flour, cocoa and bread of course.

Leaving Bonney's behind and walking up Fore Street there is the Christian Science Reading room where Mr Kenneth Howard worked as a harness maker. He was married with four children and later emigrated with his family to Australia. Walking up the hill and past the back of the Crown Hotel, I come to Carley's Yard where there is a two-storey building, which is K9 Dog Grooming.



Kenneth Howard, saddler and harness maker outside his Fore Street premises, late 1950s. Credit: Framlingham Photo Archive.

In my childhood this was the back entrance to Carley and Webb, a high-class grocer. When you went in, the manager Mr Grey would hurry over and serve you. He always wore a black jacket and pin striped trousers. The imposing front of the shop overlooked the Market Hill. It is now two premises, Castle Hill Hair and Framlingham Travel.

There was a wine and spirit shop on the corner at the back of Carley's Yard for many years, but this was knocked down to widen the road. We ordered our Christmas drink there that included lime cordial and a soda siphon to squirt in to mix with the lime. This was a great annual treat for me. Now I don't even like lime drink.

Across the road is the Old Forge and I have now come full circle.

A REFLECTION OF CHANGING TIMES LIFE IN DOUBLE STREET, FRAMLINGHAM 1841–1939

By Gill Hackman

Today Double Street in Framlingham is an attractive residential street in a Conservation Area. There are houses of all shapes and sizes and colours, built from the fifteenth century onwards, and an antique shop. But there are clues that life in the street was not always like this. Some of the houses have large shop-style windows and some have two street doors. Behind many of the houses there are glimpses of large yards and buildings.

In her article of 2005 Jo Rothery looked in detail at the buildings in Double Street and population, ownerships and occupations in 1851, 1881 and 2001.¹ This note complements her article by taking advantage of the online availability of material since 2005, including Census schedules from 1841-1911², the 1939 Register (which lists people in England and Wales at the beginning of the Second World War)³, the *Framlingham Weekly News*⁴ and local directories^{5,6}. It is not easy to work out exactly where everyone lived in the Street as house numbers do not appear in the records until 1939. Where possible I have referred to buildings by their present day house numbers.

At the end of the period, almost 80 years ago, the household and age composition of the population of Double Street was not so very different from that of Framlingham today. In 1939 the 74 people lived in 31 households, an average of about 2.5 in each house. Almost 30% of the inhabitants were aged 60 or more. The comparable census figures available for Framlingham parish in 2011 give an average household size of 2.3 and 31.4% of the population aged 60 or over⁷. In 1939, people with a wide range of occupations lived in Double Street, including labourers, craftsmen, clerks, school teachers, an agricultural and motor engineer and a retired clergyman.

However, there was more commercial activity in the Street in 1939 than today's one shop. The 1939 Register records an Innkeeper at number 4 and a publican at number 44. Mr Dowsing, a tailor, lived at number 11 and Mr Cracknell, a baker's foreman, at number 20. There had been a tailor's shop at 11-13 and a baker's at 18-20 for many years and they were still advertising in 1937.

In 1841, at the start of the period, Double Street was a very different, very busy and much more youthful place. On Census night in 1841 217 people were recorded there, almost three times as many as in 1939. There were as many as 50 dwellings, as some of today's houses were subdivided. Some families lived in cottages that have since been demolished or in buildings in the yards behind the houses. Just over 1 in 10 people were aged 60 or over, rather than getting on for 1 in 3 in 1939.

When and why did Double Street change so fundamentally?

1841-1861

At the time of the 1841 census Framlingham as a whole was thriving and changing. The population of the town had increased by more than a third since the beginning of the century – to 2523. More than eight percent of them lived in Double Street. Recently two new houses had been built near the junction with Castle Street (present day numbers 31 and 33); present number 22 had had an extra storey added and the old Bull Inn, at present number 26, had been rebuilt as a chemist's shop.

Local shops were important in 1841 as communications between Framlingham and the outside world were not extensive. Pigott's 1839 Directory says there were coaches to Ipswich two afternoons a week and to Norwich, three mornings a week. However, Framlingham and district residents could get almost all they needed without leaving Double Street. Butchers, bakers and grocers; drapers, tailors, a dressmaker and a hosier; shoemakers and shoe menders; blacksmiths, whitesmiths, a wheelwright and an organ builder lived in the Street. There were schools for boys and for girls, a surgeon, a lawyer, and a bookseller. Robson's 1839 Directory of Suffolk records twenty-two businesses in the Street including three butchers and three tailor/drapers. There were most likely more as we know from later records that some small businesses in the street advertised rarely if ever.

Some Framlingham-born families who would live in the street for many years were present, including Leggetts the wheelwrights, and Bridges the blacksmiths. Nevertheless, about one in ten of the inhabitants came from outside Suffolk, including the innkeeper, chemists and a draper with his wife, mother, nephew, two apprentices and a servant. Both the chemists and draper came from Norfolk, perhaps reflecting the economic

difficulties of the Norwich area as the home-based hand weaving industry there failed to compete with workshop-based competition elsewhere. Thomas Gravlin who came to the bakers shop in Double Street between 1841 and 1851 seems to have followed this path. In 1841 he was a baker living with his wife and children in St George Colegate, Norwich - with a silk weaver, silk filler and woolcomber living nearby. By 1851 the family had moved to Double Street.

LONDON HOUSE,
Double Street, Framlingham.

DRAPERY, MILLINERY,
GROCERY, ETC.

Conducted by W. ROBINSON.

LADIES' HATS, STRAW, TUSCAN, CRINOLINE, AND FANCY BONNETS,
CLEANED AND ALTERED
 in a superior manner, to the most prevailing shapes, by an experienced hand.

MOURNING MILLINERY BONNETS IN GREAT VARIETY.

Credit: Framlingham Weekly News

But we need to be careful with such general arguments; family background and contacts continued to play a key role in what happened to the businesses of Double Street. For example, around 1845 William Robinson and his wife Susan opened their drapery and grocery store there. They were born in or near Diss in Norfolk where, in the Market Square in 1841, both families appear to have had shops, Susan's father had a baker's and a young John Robinson had a draper's shop. It may not be a coincidence that there was also Robinson's tailor's in Halesworth and a John R Robinson who was a grocer and draper in Stradbroke in 1839. Maybe William and Susan were simply looking for a small town in the area where they could set up as part of the family's chain of shops. That might explain why their advertisement in *Lambert's Almanack* of 1861 claimed that they had been established "upwards of 80 years".

In 1841, in addition to the shops, schools played an important part in the life of Double Street. There was no compulsory education for children but Framlingham had some private schools, as well as schools funded by two local charities, Mills' and Hitcham's.

- William Hill, assisted by Sarah Cross was running a school supported by the Mills' charity. The Mills' school, which provided free education for poor pupils, had moved to Double Street (possibly number 19)⁸ in 1799, when William's father James was the schoolmaster. Later it was often known as Hill's school.
- There may have been a school behind present number 29. The *Framlingham Weekly News* tells us that sometime after 1830 there was a British School in buildings that had entrances into Castle Street and Double Street. The schoolmasters, Mr Rackham followed by Mr Sharman, lived in a cottage in the same yard as the school. At the time of the 1841 Census Thomas Sharman, schoolteacher still lived in the Street. The school itself would not appear in the census unless someone was staying there on Census night.

In 1841 Double Street would have been rather more noisy and, probably, less sweet smelling than in 1939. Apart from the sound of the hammers of the blacksmith, whitesmith and wheelwright, there were horses and carts in the road and many of the larger houses had their own stables. There are likely to have been other domestic animals and birds as well. A "pig sty" is shown in the yard of 2-4 Double Street in 1857, and a cowshed was advertised to let in 1908. Double Street was not surfaced and, according to the *Framlingham Weekly News*, there was a "large pool of stagnant filth" in the Street around 1830.

The population of Framlingham fell by almost 3% between the 1841 census and that of 1851⁹, perhaps because of agricultural problems arising from poor harvests or because farms were starting to use more machinery. During that decade the population counted in Double Street (excluding the boarding school pupils who were present in 1851) fell much more rapidly, by 32 people or about fifteen percent. In the 1850s the population decline in Double Street was less dramatic. Between 1851 and 1861 the population of the Street fell by just 8 people (less than 5%), from 174 to 166, whilst the population of the whole town fell by as much as around 8%.

Schools continued to be an important feature in the life of the Street, although Thomas Sharman had left by 1851.

- The Hill's school, with continued support from Mills' Charity, seems to have flourished. By 1851 William had married his assistant, Sarah, and they had twelve pupils living at the school as well as day pupils. The boarders were the sons of farmers and tradesmen and it seems possible that the school was taking some fee paying pupils to help them cover costs. There are no boarders recorded in the 1861 Census, although the *Framlingham Weekly News* reported that in the 1860s there were as many as twenty-five to twenty-seven pupils in residence as well as a day school. William Hill had been a beneficiary of three wills in the early 1850s¹⁰ and he may have taken the opportunity to develop the school. By 1861 if not before, he was at East Gables, present number 42 and he built a school room and playground behind the house.
- The 1851 Census recorded Rachel Boulton's school for girls, with six boarders. She had been a governess in Framlingham and her employer helped her to set up on her own account. By 1861 Elizabeth Smith appears to have taken over.
- Mary Ann Fairweather, a school mistress from Beccles, was also living in the Street by 1851. It seems likely that she was running a school for infants similar to that advertised later.

Despite the falling number of people in the Street, the list of Double Street businesses appearing in Suffolk Directories was fairly static at around 20 (19 in William White's 1855 directory). The hosier and whitesmith no longer advertised in 1855. Newcomers recorded included a gunmaker, cabinet maker and builder. There are no major changes in the occupations of heads of household listed in the Census. The list of new arrivals in 1851 included a gloveress, wool comber and hurdle maker, reflecting the fact that the industrial revolution had yet to take root in Framlingham. By 1861 the gloveress and wool-comber had left and an Eastern Counties Railway porter had arrived – Framlingham was moving into the railway age.

At the same time the town was expanding across the Market Square from Double Street. A large shop with big windows was built for Henry Wells in Well House Square and there was a new steam flour mill and a bakery nearby. It was also becoming easier for the residents of Framlingham to do their shopping elsewhere. In the 1840s the road to Wickham Market and Ipswich was lowered to enable horses to carry heavy loads in wet weather. Coach services improved making it possible to get to London in a day. In 1859 the railway arrived making trips to Ipswich and London easy even for families without their own transport and providing a means of taking agricultural produce to faraway markets. Competition was developing for the businesses of Double Street, and there are the first signs that enterprises are beginning to move away from the Street. In 1859 *Lambert's Family Almanack* records that Thomas Manning was moving his chemist's shop from Double Street to the Market Place because it was "more central".

1861-1881

The 1860s and 1870s were times of great change in Framlingham and Double Street. In the early and mid 1860s Framlingham was growing along the road to the new railway station and around the station. In 1864 the new Prince Albert Memorial College was founded, bringing school teachers and pupils to the town and encouraging new development to the north of the town around the college. In the 1870s the new College Hill estate (Pembroke Road) was started. In 1877 *Lambert's Almanack* reported that the building trade was in a "brisk state" with the building of a new school and enlargement of Albert College. Double Street was no longer in the heart of the Framlingham, but near to its eastern edge.

As an agricultural centre the town was also affected by the changing fortunes of farming. From the early 1870s Suffolk farmers faced growing competition from cheap grain from America, wheat prices fell, wheat production fell and times were very hard for agricultural workers.¹¹ In 1874 the Labourers Union held weekly

processions in Framlingham and in 1875 union members were locked out for 18 weeks by the farmers of East and West Suffolk. The strikers had to live on a small sum from their Union, making life hard for them and the local shops. In June 1874, at Mr Stocking's Farrier's Arms (present number 4), about 100 men were addressed on the general state of the labour market, prices and provisions, and exhorted to remain firm to trade unionism.

Against this background it is not surprising that, in the 1860s and 1870s, the population of Double Street, excluding pupils at the boarding schools, was almost static at around 165, whilst the population of Framlingham as a whole, which rose by 14% between 1861 and 1871, to 2569, fell slightly by 1881, despite the recent arrival of the college. As communications improved the population of Double Street was gradually becoming part of the wider world. In 1861, as in 1841, about one in ten of the people of Double Street were born outside Suffolk. By 1881 thirty people, almost one in five (excluding boarding school pupils) were born elsewhere. More came from London than Norfolk with others from as far away as Canada and Ireland.

In 1875 William Hill died, and in 1877 the school was closed. The Mills' charity school, called by some the Hill's school supported by Mills' charity, was coming to the end of its life. Following the Education Acts of 1870 and 1876, which allowed voluntary schools to continue and recommended compulsory education for all, there was a great deal of local controversy about the future of schools in Framlingham, who should pay for what and the role of religion in the schools. In 1878 the schools run by Mills' and Hitcham's charities amalgamated and a new school was built to provide elementary education for all.

Nevertheless some private schools continued in Double Street. The Fairweather's day school for infants operated throughout the period. By 1869 there was a new school in the Street, Eliza Goodacre's Seminary for Young Ladies. She had eight boarders in 1871 and four in 1881. It is not obvious why Eliza came to Framlingham. She was born in the Isle of Wight and said to be the daughter of the late Rector of St John's in Belize.

Some of the Double Street residents were keen to encourage self-help and intellectual and cultural activities. The Framlingham Mutual Improvement Society was established in the mid 1840s, engaged in "quickenning and promoting thought and helping on the progress of intelligence and self culture." During the 1860s, and possibly earlier, William Hill was the society's President and Robert Lambert at 7-9 was the Honorary Secretary. They organised lectures on a wide range of topics, including literature, science and Parliamentary Reform, as well as entertainments in aid of the Society. There was a Reading Room at Mr Leech's in Double Street (possibly number 15) in 1867 and maybe earlier. The Reading Room was open two evenings a week providing newspapers and periodicals on loan to members of the Society.

An 1869 trade directory suggests that the number of businesses in the Street probably remained fairly constant until the end of the 1860s, with at least twenty. A closer look suggests that the type of enterprise was probably beginning to change as the number of retail shops included in the directories reduced from ten in 1855 to seven in 1869. Those who appear to have left the Street between 1855 and 1869 included a butcher, chemist and ironmonger. New arrivals included a solicitor, upholsterer and vet.

The Census records of the occupation of heads of household in 1871 and 1881 also suggest the nature of change in Double Street. They support the view that the Street retained a good range of shops for everyday purchases. There was at least one butcher, baker, draper, bookseller/printer/stationer and shoemaker, though no grocer was recorded as living in the Street in 1881. There was a choice of two inns, a blacksmith, carpenters, a cabinet maker and a school for girls. *Lambert's Almanack* shows that there was also an infants' school by 1871.

By 1881 the wheelwrights had gone. Newcomers included the Hunt family, plumbers and glaziers, and Robert Lambert, who printed *Lambert's Almanack* and the *Framlingham Weekly News*. By 1881 Robert had moved round the corner into Church Street but his printing works remained in Double Street. However, there are signs that not everyone in the Street was well off. The 1871 Census, for the first time, includes one unemployed head of household. In 1881 new entries included "supported by Mill's Charity", a washerwoman and a hay trussers wife.

Many of the businesses continued to be run by the same families. Thomas Gravlin, followed by his son Thomas, ran the baker's shop at number 18 from 1866 throughout the period. The Pratt family, at number 10, continued to run their pork butchers. Leech's cabinet making business continued perhaps at number 15, until 1874, when it was taken over by Goodwin and son who moved away from Double Street five years later.

Double Street, Framlingham,

Jan 4th 1905

M^r A. Breese Santed

D^o to A. & W. Hunt,

Plumbers, Glaziers, Painters, Paper Hangers, Grainers,
AND GENERAL HOUSE PAINTERS.

Pumps, Water Closets, Baths, etc., Fixed in the latest approved methods.

1904			
Oct 18 th	New Rubba to low valve of soft water pump in yard	2	0
	Repairing suction pipe to pump 1-14	4	9
	Solder joint & turn two at Low Farm		
Dec 12	New leather to bucket of pump in backhouse	3	6
		10	3
Paid J. F. Moller			
Paid A. N. Hunt			
Feb. 11. 1905			

Credit: James Breese Collection

In 1864, after nineteen years, the Robinsons gave up their grocery/drapers shop. It was taken over by William Ling who was the son of a farmer from Rishangles and moved to Framlingham after being a draper's assistant in Ipswich. Like William Robinson he advertised regularly and appears to have continued to sell both groceries and drapery and to make straw hats.

In 1880 William Ling retired and his business was taken over by Steven M Starling who ran it as a draper's shop. Steven was born in Norfolk and in 1851 was a linen draper living with his parents in Norwich. He didn't come straight to Framlingham. At the age of seventeen he married Matilda Banks who came from London and who was a servant of a draper in Norwich. In 1861 the couple were in Camberwell. Steven was a milliner there with 5 children a nurse and servant. But all did not go well in London. By 1871 Steven was a box maker,

FUNERALS COMPLETELY FURNISHED



W. & J. HART,
Grocers and Drapers,
DOUBLE ST., FRAMLINGHAM,

REG to inform their Friends and the Public that, they keep for the accommodation of Families losing Friends and Relatives, an excellent

MOURNING HEARSE,
which they will be happy to supply at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms.

MILLINERY MADE TO ORDER.

Credit Framlingham weekly News

living with his family in Hackney and in 1873 Matilda died. In 1880 he made a fresh start in Double Street with three of his younger children and his cousin Rose Bult as housekeeper. Maybe there was a family link through the Banks, Starling or Bult/Boult families who lived in the Framlingham area. A Rachel Boult also ran a school in the street in 1851.

Not all the shops in Double Street were long-term ventures and, no doubt, some escaped the records altogether. For example, advertisements in the *Framlingham Weekly News* tell us of four further grocers/drapers in Double Street in the 1860s and 1870s:

- WJ Hart, followed by WM and JNO Hart advertised as grocers and drapers in Double Street from November 1859 to April 1860, and John Hart, grocer and draper, lived with his family in the Street at the time of the 1861 Census. They may have carried on until early 1862, when the shop passed to another trader. Although the exact location of this shop is not clear, when it was later sold the description appears to fit number 29.

- In February and March 1862 Jephthah Row, grocer and draper, advertised that he had taken over the Harts' shop. Jephthah was the son of a Bruisyard farmer. He had trained as a grocer's assistant at a large grocer's shop on Market Hill and married a Framlingham girl before becoming a linen draper in Diss. In September 1868 the "valuable freehold premises" in Double Street occupied by Jephthah Row were advertised for sale with immediate possession. The premises were large including a spacious front shop, showroom, three sitting rooms, seven bedrooms a detached warehouse, workshops, two stables and a grocery warehouse. Maybe they were at number 29. By the time of the Census in 1871 Jephthah and his family had moved to Paddington, where he was a licensed victualler.

- In September 1869 Benjamin Grice, who ran a grocer/drapers at Norfolk House in Ipswich opened a second shop "Norfolk House 2" in Double Street. From the 1871 Census it seems likely that this was at number 29. Just over two years later, in December 1871, he advertised that he was leaving Framlingham and selling off his stock.

- W Pulham took over from Benjamin Grice. He advertised from 1872 until 1876.

It is starting to look as if it may have been difficult for all the shopkeepers of Double Street to make a living serving local demand.

1881-1901

In the 1880s and 1890s the population of Framlingham was fairly static. The growth of the town at the time of the arrival of the College and the railway had not continued. In March 1894 the *Framlingham Weekly News* said that Framlingham was settling into a stagnant state. "The impetus at the time the College was built was allowed to die an inexcusable and unnatural death". *Lambert's Almanack* confirmed this in 1897, when it reported that Framlingham had for many years been quite at a standstill with regard to building operations and commercial extension seemed very remote. The agricultural depression continued as cheap grain continued to arrive from America affecting the wealth of the Framlingham area. In January 1886 the Framlingham Farmers Club met to discuss "The Agricultural Depression and how to meet it". In the 1890s there were further problems for farmers as cheap meat and dairy produce began to be imported on refrigerated ships¹². The population of Double Street fell by 18, from 167 in 1881 to 149 in 1901.

Evangelical Christianity flourished in Framlingham at this time. In the 1880s the Salvation Army and the Gospel Temperance Society met in the old Reading Room in Double Street, perhaps at Mr Leech's old premises which may have been at number 15. From 1892 until 1905, when they left Framlingham, the Salvation Army had barracks at one of the premises of Mr Rodwell (whom we shall meet again). In the early 1900s there were Gospel Meetings and meetings of the Brethren in the Lecture Hall. In 1911 the Eastern Counties Protestant Club moved from Ipswich to the Lecture Hall in Double Street, with their library in an adjoining room. In 1915 the Salvation Army returned to Double Street. It seems possible that Thomas William Rodwell was the link between these activities and the Street. We will meet him again as he played an active and diverse role in the fortunes of Double Street from the 1880s.

Walter Edward Jones, who ran the Boot Depot in Double Street in the 1880s, was a keen Primitive Methodist who addressed congregations in chapels in the Framlingham area. Following the winding up of the Framlingham Mutual Improvement Society two rooms adjacent to Mr Jones premises were opened in 1884

as a reading room for young men, with newspapers and games. It seems likely that the reading room had returned to its old premises, which had been at Mr Leech's, probably at number 15-17.

Although the new amalgamated elementary school probably reduced demand for private education in Framlingham, the two schools in Double Street continued to offer classes. After Mary Ann Fairweather died in 1886 her daughter, also Mary Ann, took over the infants' school, advertising until 1900. Miss Goodacre advertised her school until 1891. She would have been sixty-five years old by then and may have thought it was time to retire.

Directories suggest that the number of businesses in Double Street may have fallen from at least twenty in 1869 to about thirteen or fourteen in 1891-92 rising to seventeen by 1900, but the nature of their activity continued to change. Those last appearing in the 1869 Directory included the wheelwright, veterinary surgeon, dressmaker, blacksmith and bookseller. New entries included the Registrar of Births and Deaths and a tailor who had moved from Market Hill. The number of retail shops stayed stable, at six to eight, between 1869 and 1901, although, as we will see, there are persistent signs that not all are finding it easy to keep afloat. The occupations of heads of household in the Censuses for 1881, 1891 and 1901 also suggest that there continued to be a butcher and baker throughout the period and a grocer/drapery until at least 1891. New occupations of the head of household included a "wholesale grocer", who we will meet later, a builder, the Clerk to the Magistrates, three charwomen and a postman.

Several retail businesses providing goods that residents needed every day operated for the whole, or almost the whole, of the period:

- The Gravlins kept the bakers shop going at number 18 until 1883 when they moved to Ipswich. It seems possible that Thomas March Gravin was unwell as in the 1891 census, in Ipswich, he was said to be suffering from general debility and his wife was a sick nurse. Arthur Dew, who announced that he was taking over the shop in 1883, was born in London where he may well have met his wife Anna. She was born in Sibton and was a servant to a Suffolk family living in London and, later, in Croydon
- Pratts, the pork butchers at today's number 10, advertised throughout the period, though the advertisements suggested that they needed to diversify. By the time of the 1891-92 Directory Mrs Pratt advertised as pork butcher, town crier, cow keeper and bill poster.
- Mr Vyce, master shoemaker, who lived at number 8, next to the Pratts, rarely advertised, but he appeared in the census in 1881, 1891 and 1901.
- Steven Starling kept his business at London House in Double Street (numbers 11-13) for five years or so, but by spring 1887 he had moved to Market Hill, taking the name London House with him. In 1915 the *Framlingham Weekly News* reported that Steven had purchased a large house on Market Hill, known as the Guildhall, and converted it to a "quite palatial business". He also acquired businesses in Needham Market and Halesworth.

Others living in the Street provided everyday services. Hunts, plumbers and glaziers, advertised from 1889 and John Wightman, builder, advertised from 1883 until his retirement in 1891.

However, some businesses were struggling and several concerns were liquidated. For example,

- WE Jones advertised his Boot Depot at "Royal Blue House" in Double Street from December 1884 until January 1886. Then, on 23 July the same year, his stock of boots and shoes, household furniture and effects were sold by auction. The sale did not meet his debts and in August the first meeting of his creditors was held at the offices of the Receiver in Bankruptcy in Ipswich. Mr Jones explained that his trade was not sufficient to meet his expenses and the Official Receiver was appointed Trustee of his estate.
- Mr A Mobbs, another shoemaker, advertised from the second half of 1889 until 1891, when he advertised as "The Peoples' Boot Stores". In 1892 Lambert's Almanack announced the liquidation of his business.
- 1892 also saw the liquidation of Mr MH Bradnum's grocery business and of HT Goodwin's cabinet-making business. HT Goodwin was one of the family which took over Mr Leech's cabinet-making business in Double Street and moved the business to Market Hill in 1879.

The activities of Thomas William Rodwell may explain why the number of businesses in the Street did not decline further during the 1890s. Often known as William, he was born in 1853, the son of an innkeeper in Heveningham and learned his trade as an apprentice to a grocer/drapery in Lowestoft. During the 1870s he set up in business as a grocer/drapery with his sister in Wickham Market. He was also involved in the wholesale grocery trade by the end of 1879, and seems to have become involved in loans and the sale of goods and

property when a customer got into debt. From 1882 to 1886 he advertised that he was the district's wholesale agent for Mr Rackham of Wenhasten's Pectoral Balsam in Double Street, and a retail agent for the Balsam in Wickham Market. It looks as if at this time he had wholesale premises in Double Street and his shop in Wickham Market.

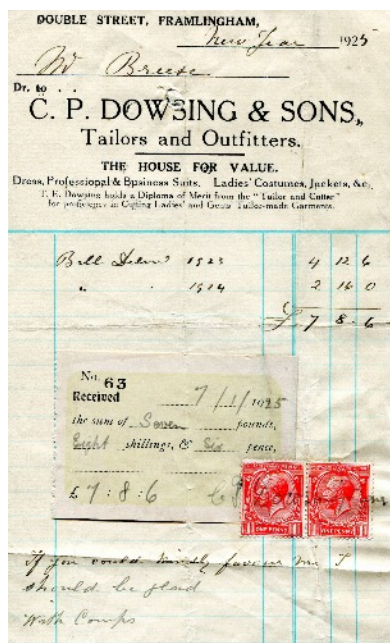
In 1884 William married Euphelia Tayler, the daughter of a London solicitor who had retired to Double Street. There are indications that they were an aspirational couple who purchased property and sometimes rented attractive homes. It is difficult to keep track of all William's business activities as, over the next thirty years, he owned or rented numerous premises in Double Street and elsewhere and opened, closed and re-opened shops and wholesale businesses. In 1885 William Rodwell appeared in the Electoral Registers for both Wickham Market and Framlingham, in both places as the occupant of a house and shop. From 1887 to 1894 he is on the Electoral Register for Wickham Market. His address is given as Bridge House Framlingham and the property qualifying him to vote consists of cottages in Wickham Market. The 1894 Electoral Register for Framlingham also recorded him as living at the Mansion in Framlingham, with a vote in Wickham Market and qualifying property in Hollesley! However, the 1891 Census recorded him in Double Street with Euphelia, probably at number 15, and described him as a wholesale grocer.

Mr Rodwell's first big event in Double Street was signalled by a letter to the *Framlingham Weekly News* in 1889 announcing that he was opening three shops in the Street, each with their own manager:

- A grocery business previously carried on by CA Brasted as the Cash Supply Stores (most likely 15 or 29);
- The drapery business carried on by SM Starling before he moved to Market Hill, (probably 11-13);
- A business selling earthenware, china, glass and new and secondhand furniture (most likely 15 or 29).

In 1890 he advertised "W Rodwell and Co, The Stores, Double Street, Grocery, Drapery, complete house furnishers. They have in all over 60 shops, showrooms and warehouses. Retail branches at Dallinghoo, Sweffling and Occold". He continued to advertise these businesses as the "General Supply Stores" or "The Stores" sporadically during the 1890s. He sold china, glass, earthenware, modern and antique furniture, bedsteads and bedding, wholesale and retail, sometimes adding property to let, curios, presents and other goods. In March 1893 a letter to the *Framlingham Weekly News* from a correspondent calling himself "Spectator" suggested that readers should look down Double Street if they wanted to see a project that had failed. William Rodwell replied that he thinks "Spectator" is mistaken. Double Street had answered his purpose and he hoped to have an interest in it for many years to come.

However, the signs are that all did not go according to plan. By 1897, maybe because so many shops were going out of business, he had added to his repertory "Valuers of grocery and drapery stocks and fixtures, business transfer agents, house estate and commission agents, London Office 18 Eldon Street EC." In April 1899, at the age of about 46, William Rodwell announced that he was retiring from the wholesale grocery business and selling his carts. In July the same year he advertised that he was selling off furniture and giving



Credit: James Breese Collection

up his grocery and drapery business as the tenancy on part of his premises had expired. However, by October he had moved his furniture to adjoining premises and was “supplying all kinds of furniture as before”. Advertisements in 1900 suggest that Rodwell’s Furniture Stores were selling antique goods, furniture on the hire system and letting furnished houses – not quite the three shops he had planned eight years earlier. As part of this reorganisation it seems that William Rodwell gave up the premises in Double Street previously occupied by Steven Starling (now 11-13).

In 1899 Channing Dowsing, tailor and outfitter, moved here from Market Hill to obtain larger premises. He certainly needed more space. In 1891 he had been a tailor and outfitter living in Albert Road with four children. By 1901 he was in Double Street with seven children, his father and five boarders aged between six and twenty one.



The International Stores in Bridge Street. Credit: Framlingham Photo Archive.

1901-1939

Between 1901 and 1939 the country suffered from the First World War and from the general depression of the 1930s. In addition, goods, and particularly clothes, were increasingly being produced in factories. National chains of shops were spreading, selling goods more cheaply than the small general store, and the International Stores came to the present Bulstrode’s shop in Framlingham in 1901.

The increasing use of motor transport and the telephone made it easier to reach bigger shops elsewhere, or to order from them. Farming received a boost during the War, when it was difficult to import food, but that was probably too late to help businesses in Double Street.

The population of Double Street fell by about half over the period whilst the population in private houses in Framlingham was almost static. Much of this reflected the decreasing size of households. The residents of Double Street were increasingly elderly. The proportion of heads of household giving their occupation as living on own means, retired or nil increased from about one in four in 1901 and 1911 to approaching half in 1939.

These were certainly sad times in Double Street. Many of the people who had lived or worked in the Street for twenty or thirty years reached the end of their lives. Some sons died or were injured in the First World War. In 1902 three children under six, from the same family, died of diphtheria. The keeping of too many fowls was blamed for the disease, and the Inspector of Nuisances served a Notice of Serious Nuisance on the adjoining property owned by Mr Rodwell. There were suicides in 1904 and 1923, and an elderly lady died after falling into her fire in 1932.

The last schools in Double Street had closed by the end of the nineteenth century and Kelly’s Directories suggest that the number of businesses in Double Street declined sharply at the beginning of the twentieth century. Listed businesses fell from seventeen in 1900 to nine in 1912 and 1927 and eight in 1937. The pork butcher and photographer were last recorded in the 1912 Directory, but there were two inns, a baker, tailors and a boot repair shop until 1937. Furniture was still sold, although by 1937 it was secondhand. The Census and 1939 Register tell a similar tale, although there are signs that times are changing. By 1939 the emphasis was no longer on self-employed people with large families and, often, a number of apprentices. The builder, carpenters, charwoman and laundress had gone. Newcomers included a railway carman, bus driver and bus conductor.

A few businesses continued to trade for all, or most, of the period. Channing P Dowsing and his son ran the tailors' business at 11-13 at least until 1937. The baker's shop too kept in business until, or possibly after, 1937. After Arthur Dew died, in 1920, the business was continued by his wife Anna and then by their daughter. The pork butchers at number 10 continued to trade after Mary Ann Pratt's death in 1908. There were several owners and managers before the business closed in May 1922.

As in the nineteenth century, the general picture does not reveal all the numerous changes in the Street. Several businesses advertised during one to five years although they may have been there longer. Many of these businesses seem to have been in premises owned or rented by Thomas William Rodwell, whom we met at the end of the nineteenth century. Although he had given up Steven Starling's old shop and moved his home to Hacheston, Mr Rodwell still owned, or possibly rented, other property in Double Street, including a shop and house at today's numbers 15-17, and warehouses and probably the shop at today's number 29. In these premises he ran businesses himself, or let them to others. A few examples will set the scene.



*Alfred Deeks' general store in Double Street, c. 1905. Note large boot in doorway
Credit: Framlingham Photo Archive.*

- One of the first of Mr Rodwell's twentieth-century tenants was Alfred Deeks at number 15. At the age of fifteen he was described in the 1891 Census as a schoolteacher in Kedington near Haverhill, but by 1901 he was an engineer's clerk in Colchester. He advertised the General Store from 1903 until 1907 when his family moved to Mendlesham to run the village school.
- In November 1907 William Rodwell announced that he was planning to reopen the shop and, in June 1908, Deek's shop became Fairey's Cash Stores and wholesale dealer in confectionery, fruit, tobacco and general sundries. The shop seems to have dealt largely in furniture, maybe provided by Mr Rodwell, with occasional seasonal specials, like summer drinks and preserving sugar. As soon as April 1909, Mr Rodwell was advertising to let the shop and house "lately occupied by HG Fairey". But the business seems to have struggled on for a time. In May 1909 a notice in the local paper said that Fairey's Stores would be reopening with new stock. But by June 1911 auctioneers, under execution of the Sherriff of Suffolk were selling the stock in trade of Fairey's, with no reserve.
- The shop and outbuildings did not let quickly and, for the next three years or so, the shop was probably open part of the time. The 1911 census records a John Green, grocer, probably at number 15. Mr Rodwell advertised that Fairey's Stores had been reopened in October 1911 (with over 2000 books in Ye Olde Book Shoppe), and again in September 1913. In November 1914 Mr Rodwell announced that the shop had been let. There are no advertisements to suggest that it opened, maybe it became apparent that the War was going to last some time.
- Then, in the 1920s, J Mann ran a shop selling surplus goods from the War, probably at number 15. The shop was advertised as The Army Supply Stores in 1920, The Army and Navy Stores in 1921 and the Army Stores in 1923. In 1924 Smith and Rivers advertised that they would open the premises

recently occupied by the Army Surplus Clothing Store as the General Stores, selling earthenware, wallpaper and tinware.

- Meanwhile Mr Rodwell had advertised in 1905 that he was selling all his remaining stock, although he seems to have continued in business, probably at number 29 with the warehouses and old Salvation Army barracks behind it and at number 15 when it was vacant. Maybe he was unable to sell his stock. There were a series of announcements. In December 1906 he was recommencing business; in January 1907 he was retiring; in November 1907 he was reopening his furniture and antique business, described as being in the same street as Mr Deeks' shop.

Over the next twenty years Mr Rodwell advertised property to let and for sale in and around Framlingham. He provided loans as an agent of the Provincial Union Bank of Ipswich and sold a wide variety of goods. For example in 1915 he advertised new and secondhand furniture at his warehouses; in 1916 he reopened a shop "last year occupied by the military"; in 1918 all articles in the window were to be sold for a shilling; and during the 1920s he advertised glass, earthenware and books. He continued to play a role in local life and was an active and enthusiastic evangelical Christian. His obituary in 1927 said that he was patron of several church livings, including Parham with Hacheston; a member of Plomesgate Rural and Hacheston Parish Councils, and of the Board of Guardians of the poor; a trustee of parish charities, school manager and Trustee of the Town Lands. After William Rodwell's death in 1927 his wife continued to let property in Double Street and to let and sell property in and around Framlingham and Wickham Market. Not all of it was salubrious, with some subject to closure orders.

As the shops departed houses were being improved as Double Street transformed itself into a pleasant residential haven. For example, *Lambert's Almanack* reported in 1909 that the late Miss Edward's houses in the Street had been improved by additions and alterations. This is a trend that has continued through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

One new house was built in Double Street. Present number 40 was built by the Carleys who had a grocer's shop on Market Hill. In the 1870s the shop was run by Samuel Green Carley with his brother, Robert James Carley, as an assistant. In 1886, with a wife and growing family, Robert James purchased East Gables, present number 42 Double Street, which had for many years been Mr Hill's boarding school. With the house he purchased four cottages and a "tiled building" on the site of what is now number 40 and on land behind it sometimes known as "Hill's Yard". When Samuel Green Carley was in his seventies, and no doubt ready to retire, a new house was built for him on the site of the cottages fronting Double Street. Described in *Lambert's Almanack* as "a handsome white brick villa completed in 1904" the house is now notable as a large bay-windowed white brick house of clearly relatively modern aspect.



Winston House, Double Street, built 1904. Credit:Framlingham Photo Archive.

In 1970 the Street became part of the Framlingham Conservation Area. Builders are frequently at work repairing and refurbishing the houses, even in the icy weather of early 2018.

Conclusion

Over the century from 1841 to 1939 we have seen Double Street change from a largely commercial, but self contained and local world into a pleasant, primarily residential, area. When we first arrived there were two public houses and one or two schools. Gloves, stockings and clothes were made and provisions and services were all available in the Street. Later shops advertised readymade hats and clothes from London and now there is only one shop dealing in antiques.

These developments were a reflection of national and local changes as well, of course, as of the lives of the inhabitants, their desires and beliefs, health, families and fortunes. There were perhaps three main external drivers, the availability of ready-made goods resulting from the industrial revolution; improvements in transport; and the development of the town of Framlingham, with its schools reflecting a wider national concern to raise educational standards. The gloveress, hosier, dressmakers and straw hatmaker of Double Street could not compete with the availability of readymade goods. As more people bought readymade clothes there was less demand for the cloth and haberdashery traditionally sold by the small drapers of the Street. Improvements in transport, particularly the coming of the railway in 1859 and the growth of motor transport in the twentieth century, made it easier and cheaper for the residents of Framlingham and the surrounding area to visit the big shops of Ipswich and London. The growth of Framlingham towards the new railway station and Albert College left Double Street on the edge of the town. Shops moved to Market Hill and down to new developments near to the river where larger and new buildings allowed for the introduction of bigger stores and new fashionable plate-glass windows. As larger shops appeared closer to Framlingham's new houses, and particularly after the International Stores came to town, the market for Double Street's shops was reduced. Family links and personal contacts seem to have played a very important role in the nineteenth century and I solved several Double Street puzzles when I found links through relations or through young ladies who went as servants or drapers assistants to London or Norwich!

Double Street is a fascinating place. I hope that others will be able to see the Street in a new light and be able to tell us more about the families and businesses that have made it their home.

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¹² *Ibid*