

FRAM



**THE JOURNAL OF THE
FRAMLINGHAM AND DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

3rd Series Number 8

MILLENNIUM ISSUE

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ENTRANCE LINES

FRAMLINGHAM is a Town of a large extent, and in the midst of it is the Borough ... The Market Place is very spacious, being almost an equilateral triangle... As to the Antiquity of this Town, we are told with some probability that it was a Town of the Britons, and was conquered by the Romans, when they defeated Boadicea the British Amazon.

From J. Kirby, *The Suffolk Traveller* ... Woodbridge, 1735

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* Member of Planning Sub-Committee

Member of Development Sub-Committee

SOCIETY NOTES

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place on Wednesday 20th October 1999 at the United Free Church Hall, Framlingham. Thirty-nine people attended the meeting, which discussed the activities of the Society to the full. Members agreed that the subscription of the Society be maintained at £5.00 per person for the coming year. Mr. C. Seely announced that 1,000 copies of *Lambert's Almanack 1901* had been printed and were now available at £5.00 per copy. The *Almanack 1901* details a diary of events in Framlingham and the surrounding major towns for the year 1900. The meeting agreed that this printing venture could prove to be both profitable and popular. Copies of the *Almanack* are available from the Castle Bookshop, Castle Street, Framlingham and other main bookshops in the area.

The business section of the AGM was followed by a talk and tape-recording given by Major A. O. Kirby, entitled the "Howard Dukes of Framlingham". This was very well received.

The January 2000 meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 19th January, when Mr. John Lineker and Mrs. J. Allen will speak on "The Suffolk Preservation Society - Back to the future". The February meeting with Mr. J. Hibberd as speaker will take place on Wednesday 16th February. The talk is entitled "Mills Grammar School (1902 - 1979), Framlingham." On 15th March Mrs. D. Kneebone's talk will be entitled "Your Servant Ma'am." Winter lectures take place at the Free Church Hall, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

The venues for the Summer Outings 2000 will be announced at the February meeting.

All enquiries concerning membership of the Society and its activities should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Andrew A. Lovejoy, 28 Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HA (telephone 01728 723214).

FRAM

The Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society

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Editor : M. V. Roberts, 43 College Road, Framlingham

The Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society is marking the advent of the new millennium with a double issue of our journal, *Fram*.

If there was an historical society in Framlingham one millennium ago, sadly no records of its existence now survive. As a modest substitute for these, included in this issue of the *Fram* are details of the economy of Framlingham and its surrounding area as recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Pre-eminently this issue includes an article by the Honorary Secretary of our Society, recounting the events, describing the situation, and evoking the ambience of Framlingham a mere one hundred years ago. The social, cultural and economic community that the article depicts invites, not surprisingly, comparison with Framlingham as we now know it a century later. Certainly one is conscious on reading the sections of the article dealing with the town's commercial and social life, that Framlingham was a rather more self-sufficient and self-contained place in 1900 than it is today. That conclusion has been expressed more than once before in this journal - perhaps it is now almost becoming a truism - but it does invite one or two leading questions from members of a society such as ours, a society that is concerned not only with the past history of Framlingham, but also with the town's future preservation, in the fullest sense of that word.

Political statements and standpoints, with large or small "p", would clearly be out of court in a journal such as *Fram*. Nevertheless, in successive "Planning Notes" and in other articles in recent issues of this journal, reference has been made to the accelerating growth of the town, and the impact that that could and should have on local services provision - the number and range of shops, as well as the level of professional facilities, to name only two aspects. In general, any growth in population could arguably be good news for us all, in that it might help to ensure continuance of a reasonably comprehensive range of local services whose provision could, to an outsider, appear to be rather remarkable in relation to a town of just 3,000 inhabitants. However, even allowing for Framlingham's broader catchment area, taking in a number of surrounding villages and smaller settlements, totalling about 7,500 people, it would not be alarmist to describe what we now have here (and perhaps even take for granted) as a fragile local economy. I personally believe that that economy can only be sustained if the increase now taking place in the town's actual population is matched by growth in the use by local residents - old and new - of most or all of the town's facilities. In other words, as we come into the new millennium, we need to assimilate as fully as possible all newcomers (including your Editor!) into the town's social and economic community. It all comes down to that buzz word, bonding: not just living in a place, but also belonging there.

It is here that our Society could have a major role. Our current membership (about 80) probably represents (allowing for family members) coverage of between five and ten per-cent of the town's population (though let's not forget that some of our members are from outlying villages,

and a few even further away). The Society's winter lectures regularly attract an average attendance of well over sixty people, and our summer outings are consistently over-subscribed. In terms of active support, turnouts such as these are comparable with those achieved by the Ipswich Society, even though that Society serves a vastly larger local community in population terms. Also, it can scarcely be claimed that this excellent support for our Society is because "there is nothing else to do": there are over thirty societies and voluntary groups in and around Framlingham, though few could claim the level of attendance at their various functions consistently enjoyed by the Historical Society.

This level of support is, I suggest, highly symptomatic, and also **challenging**. It is symptomatic, in that it demonstrates an eagerness and commitment on the part of a large proportion of the people now living in and around the town to increase and enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the many facets of Framlingham's evolution and development. This commitment can take many forms: one may be interested in the history of an individual house or street, or of a particular facility (for example, pubs), or of a special interest group (for example, bowls), or of individual local relics, such as those exhibited in the Lanman Museum at the Castle. All of these diverse aspects of the town's history have, in one way or another, been addressed in the latest seven issues of the Society's journal.

What I am saying (and I hope not over-stating) is that a properly organised and carefully directed local history society in an historic town such as Framlingham - a town that has grown organically over time and not been subjected to seismic changes and destruction - is emphatically *not* a special interest group, valuable though such groups are. It can and should be relevant and of significant personal interest to a large proportion of local people, building on and exploiting, in the best sense of that word, the affinity, the fascination, that most people feel for the evolution of the area where, for a whole variety of reasons, they have decided to live. And out of this fascination comes the challenge, the one that our Society can and should face in the year 2000 and beyond, to make our Society's growing membership want to be as much as is practically possible part of the historic, economic, social and cultural community that is Framlingham.

This represents a major undertaking for a group currently numbering less than a hundred members, however active they may be in their support for the Society. It implies an ambitious future agenda, in terms of the Society's growth and development. Close to the top of that agenda has surely to be the taking of soundings with current Society members, and also non-members who are interested enough to buy *Fram* in local shops, to establish what they - you - think about the Society and its present operations, *how* (if at all) the Society needs to change, *where* it should be going and, most critically from a practical point of view, *what* you as individuals may feel able to do to help the Society to progress along that way.

To gain some idea of your reactions to all those questions, we enclose with *Fram's* millennium issue a questionnaire which my fellow Committee members hope very much you will find time to complete and return to us. To achieve the ambitious aims proposed here for our Society, we will surely need to be both a bigger and an even better organisation, bigger in our number of active members, better in our reflection of members' views as to what the Society is all about.

It seems rather appropriate to mark a new millennium by sending out questionnaires: William the Conqueror may have been rather late in the eleventh century when he sent out his surveyors to compile the Domesday Book, but if the questionnaire you are about the complete proves to be as practically useful in this local context as the Domesday inquest, we will surely not have done too badly.

FRAMLINGHAM IN 1900

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

Queen Victoria's loyal subjects in Framlingham woke up on Monday 1st January 1900 to a typical winter's day. The temperature at 9 a.m. was just above freezing. The day proved to be dull and damp, though it did not actually rain or snow. There was a light south-easterly breeze, which soon picked up. It felt cold for its maximum temperature of about five degrees centigrade (41°F)¹. It was a raw day. January 1st 1900 was not a Bank Holiday (except in Scotland)². So it was business as usual.

The celebrations over the New Year were muted;³ Christmas was the time to celebrate. But, for all that, there were probably a few sore heads in the town that Monday morning. After all, there were eight public houses to visit, plus the Crown Hotel.⁴ No peal of bells was rung at St. Michael's Church on New Year's Eve. Nor had there been any arrests for being drunk and disorderly⁵ (a common enough misdemeanour in Framlingham in 1900). Interestingly enough, the advent of the new century was (quite properly) celebrated in the town on the *last* day of 1900; St. Michael's then honoured the town with some bell-ringing.⁶

New Year 1900 was marked particularly in Framlingham by an influenza epidemic, which was raging through the town, so much so that it was reported that an unaffected household was an exception. It was felt that a few days' frosty weather would purge the atmosphere and relieve the town of its burden.⁷

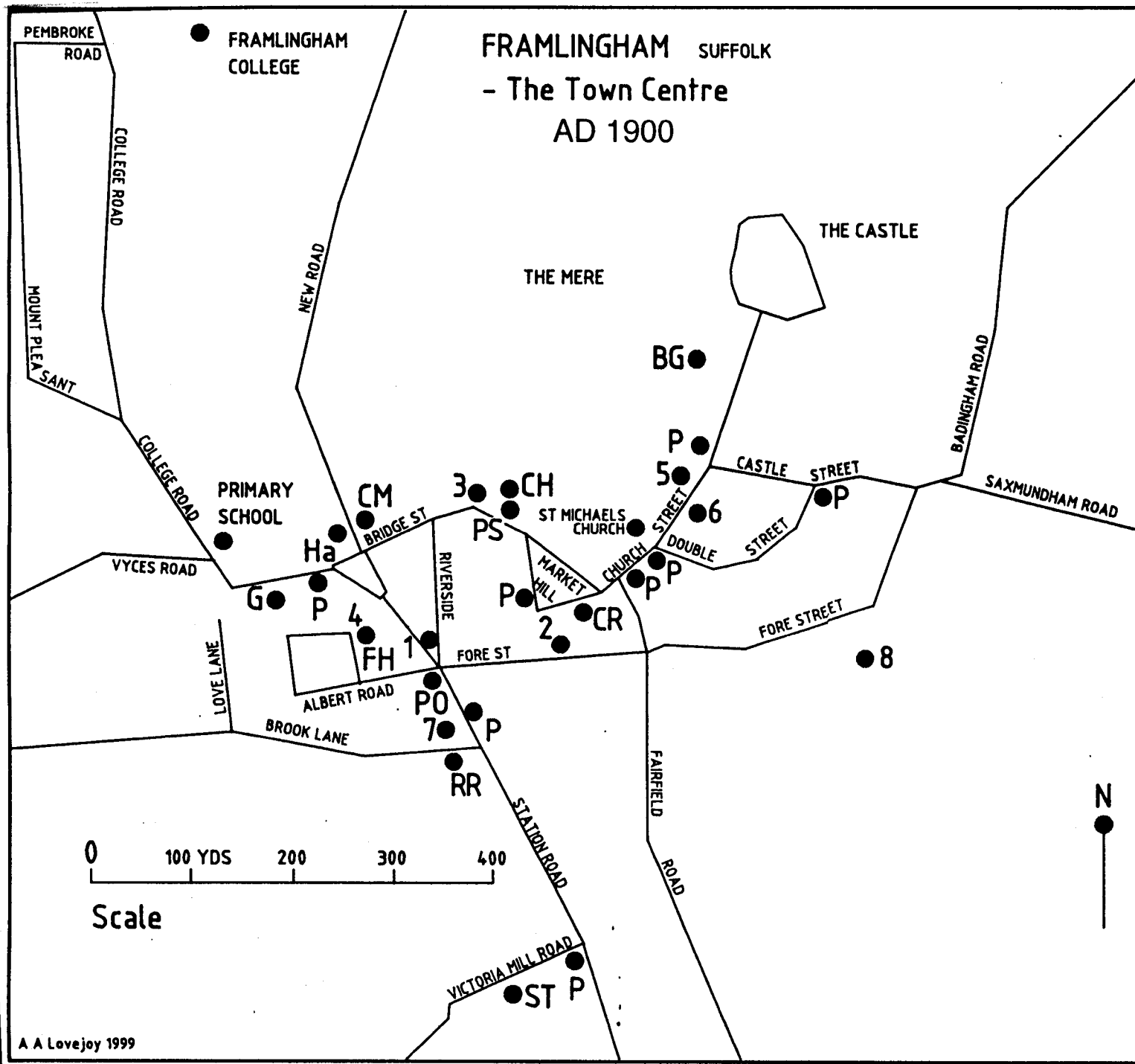
So began the new century in Framlingham.

In 1900, the population of Framlingham knew that the town had a proud history. The Castle had been the seat of ennobled seigneurs from about 1100 AD until *circa* 1550, the Bigods, Thomas Plantagenet, the Mowbray and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk. They had made Framlingham one of the centres of social and political life in East Anglia, a place to which all roads led. In 1635, the last contact with the Dukes of Norfolk was severed, and Framlingham seemed destined to become a backwater. But after a shaky start, Framlingham had rallied in the latter part of that century.⁸ From 1700 onwards, the town's role as a centre for the surrounding villages and countryside was confirmed, witness 16 public houses in Framlingham in 1750!⁹ The town went from strength to strength, and by 1800 its market town status was fully developed.

That status was even more certain in 1900. The people of Framlingham had much to be proud of, for the town had at that time certain functions and facilities that are no longer with us. In 1900, the town was the location of a county court and magistrates' court; it had a railway terminus, a cattle market, and an auctioneer's corn hall. The Liberal Party had offices in the town. To cap it all, the town was one of the chief centres of the administrative division Plomesgate Union, the others being Wickham Market and Aldeburgh. The Union had in 1901, 15,754 people and 3,636 inhabited houses.¹⁰ Framlingham in 1900 had a status in many ways more significant than it has in 2000 AD.

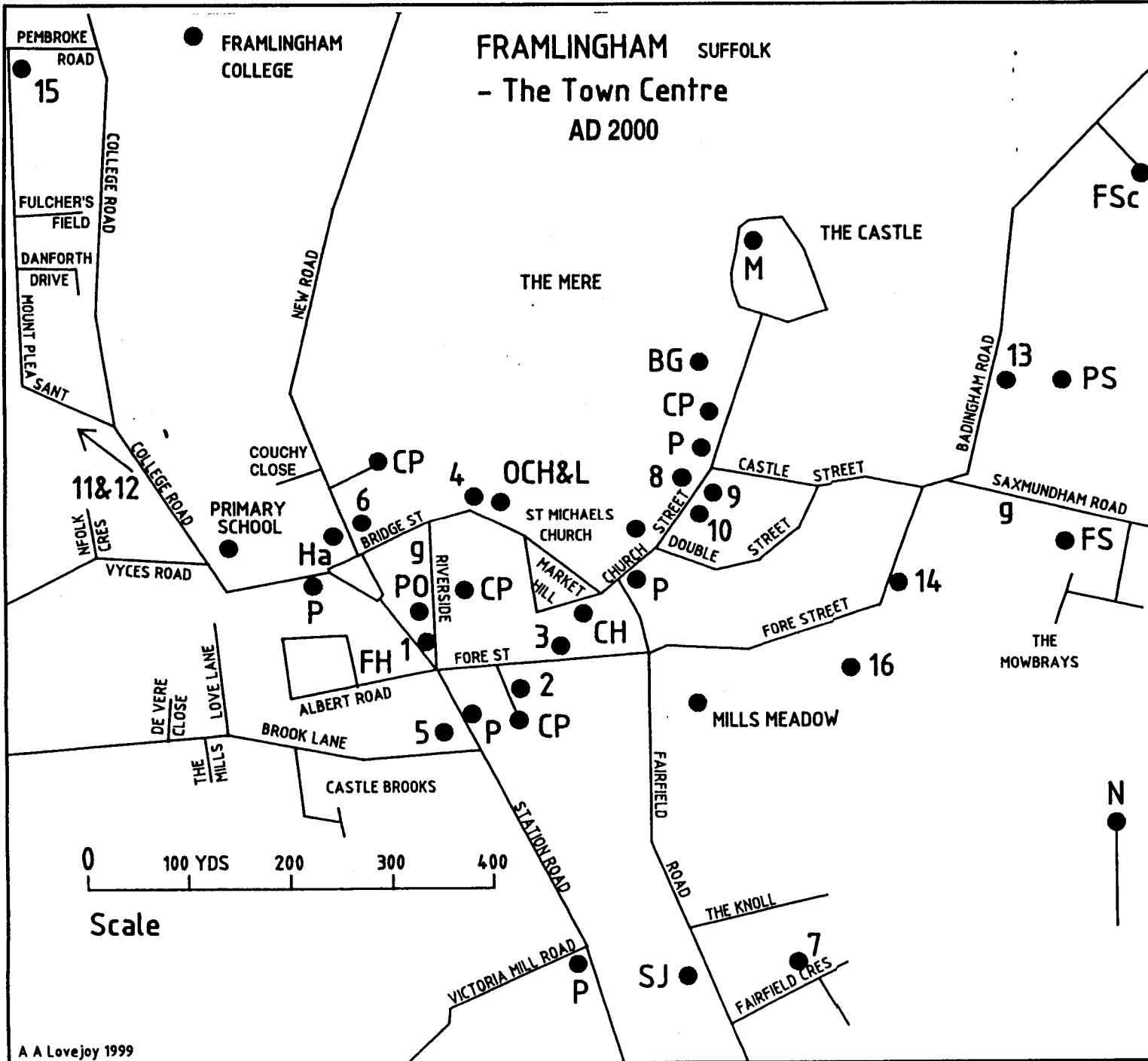
And what did Framlingham look like in 1900, to our eyes in the year 2000? Photographs taken by John Self (1852-1927) can help us.¹¹ The buildings of the town and the people passing by would have looked (to state the obvious) Victorian - in other words, rather drab. Market Hill would all have looked ripe for a face-lift. DIY was not then in vogue, and, strangely enough, not

FRAMLINGHAM SUFFOLK
 - The Town Centre
 AD 1900

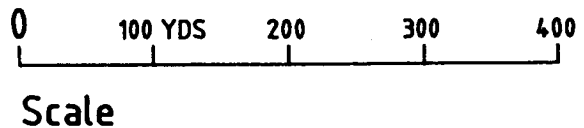


- PO Post Office
- CH Court House
- CR Crown Hotel
- P Inn, Public House
- FH Foresters Hall
- G Gas Works
- Ha Hitchams Almshouse
- BG Bowling Green
- PS Police Station
- RR Reading Room
- ST Railway Station
- 1 Free Methodist Church
- 2 United Reform Church
- 3 Unitarian Meeting House
- 4 Plymouth Brethren
- 5 St Michael's Rooms
- 6 Liberal Party Offices
- 7 Mills Almshouses
- 8 Cemetery

FRAMLINGHAM SUFFOLK
 - The Town Centre
 AD 2000



- CP Car Park
- PO Post Office
- g Garage
- OCH Old Court House
- L Library
- M Lanman Museum
- CH Crown Hotel
- P Inn, Public House
- FH Foresters Hall
- Ha Hitchams Almshouse
- FSc Framlingham Sports Club
- BG Bowling Green
- SJ St Johns Hut
- PS Police Station
- FS Fire Station
- 1 United Free Church
- 2 Roman Catholic Church
- 3 Christian Science Society
- 4 Unitarian Meeting House
- 5 Mills Almshouses
- 6 The Elms
- 7 Fairfield Court
- 8 St Michael's Rooms
- 9 Assembly Hall
- 10 Conservative Club
- 11 Shalom Centre
- 12 Thomas Mills High School
- 13 Scout & Guide HQ
- 14 Veterinary Surgery
- 15 Doctors Surgery
- 16 Cemetery



one Framlingham painter and decorator is listed in *Kelly's Directory of Suffolk 1900*. The list of traders in *Lambert's Almanack 1900* has one painter, but he was a plumber as well. Did builders double up as painters and decorators? The town was free of cars; there were, of course, many horse-drawn vehicles. Advertising signs decorated each shop-front on Market Hill. What was in place there in 1900 was obviously considered quite normal. To us, however, the townscape would have looked rather run-down and unkempt.

This article is of necessity a thumbnail sketch, but it is hoped that, on completing it, readers will feel that they could have lived in Framlingham in 1900 and felt much at home in the town. The prime source for much local detail in this article is the *Framlingham Weekly News*, hereafter usually referred to as *FWN*. A second major source is *Lambert's Almanack*, from which the section "Framlingham in retrospect" is largely derived.

(Note that where prices are mentioned, £1-0s-0d in 1900 would be the equivalent of £66.24 today.¹²)

The Geography of the Town

The accompanying map shows the groundplan of Framlingham in 1900. (A map showing Framlingham as it is in 2000 is included for comparison.) The town then as now was dominated by its historic core, which included Market Hill, Church Street, Double Street, Castle Street, Bridge Street, and parts of Fore Street, with Albert Place. The only developments outside that area in 1900 were in Station Road, Well Close Square, College Road, Pembroke Road and Victoria Mill Road. The population of the town in 1891 was 2,525; in 1901 it was 2,526.¹³

The business and shopping centre of the town was located in Double Street, Market Hill, Well Close Square and Albert Place. As for Market Hill itself, the only new development to take place there between 1840 and 1900 was the building of the frontage to the new Barclays Bank in 1897. The buildings in the historic core of the town are basically as they were in 1900, except that now they look much cleaner and smarter.

The licensed public houses in 1900 in Framlingham were the White Horse in Well Close Square, the Castle Inn and the Crown and Anchor in Church Street, the Crown Hotel and the Queen's Head on the Market Hill, the Railway Inn and the Station Hotel in Station Road, and the Farriers' Arms and the Hare and Hounds in Double Street.

The town had no mains water supply in 1900; that was to come in 1938.¹⁴ The people in Framlingham in 1900 depended on wells and ponds. There was also no central sewerage system, consequently the River Ore flowing through the town became polluted.

Gas street-lighting was in place in 1900; electric street-lighting came in 1945. The Royal Mail came by road from the Crown Post Office at Wickham Market, and not by rail.¹⁵

The principal means of travel in Framlingham itself was by horse-drawn transport. However, the railway was the town's main contact with the outside world. And it was kept busy. The branch was opened to Framlingham in 1859, at which time the connection of five miles, five furlongs, eight chains was made with the main line at Wickham Market (Campsea Ashe).¹⁶ The timetable for the summer of 1900 was as follows:-

	Weekdays						Sundays	
	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	am	pm
Framlingham dep	7.15	8.40	11.18	2.38	4.42	7.10	8.20	5.55
Parham	7.21	8.46	11.24	2.44	4.49	7.16	8.26	6.01
Marlesford	7.27	8.52	11.30	2.50	4.56	7.22	8.32	6.07
Wickham Market	7.33	8.58	11.36	2.56	5.03	7.28	8.38	6.13

Train fares in 1900 were as follows:-¹⁷

	1st class single	1st class return	3rd class single	3rd class return
Framlingham to				
Wickham Market	1s 3d	1s 10d	6½d	1s 1d
Ipswich	4s 3d	6s 6d	1s 10½d	3s 9d
Liverpool Street	17s 0d	£1 5s 6d	7s 8d	15s 4d

The Suffolk Setting

The history of Framlingham is inseparable from that part of Suffolk which surrounds it. In 1900, Suffolk was a deeply rural county, with a population of 384,293 (as compared with 633,100 in 1991); there were only five towns with over 5,000 people, amounting in total to 35% of the county's population.¹⁸ The majority lived in 500 or so villages and small towns like Framlingham.

Farming formed the life-blood of Suffolk in 1900: 27% of males employed in the county worked in agriculture, despite considerable industrialisation in towns such as Ipswich.¹⁹ Ryder Haggard, writing from his farm on the Norfolk/Suffolk border, painted a very gloomy picture:

Notwithstanding the care, knowledge and intelligence which are put into the working of the land, under present conditions it can scarcely be made to pay.²⁰

The depression in the farming industry took hold from 1875 onwards as American wheat etc. flooded the market. Corn which had a price of 56s 9d a quarter in 1877 had by 1894 slumped to 22s 10d. Some Suffolk farmers abandoned corn-growing and went over to livestock rearing. But even beef realised barely 6d a pound in the 1890's. Labour was reduced and mechanisation increased. Some farmers survived by using contract labour, but much land was put down to grass.²¹ Farming in 1900 presented a depressed picture in Suffolk.

But what of the farming in Framlingham's own catchment area? Mixed farming was the key to the local story. The presence of the railway meant that dairying could become an option. The cattle market in Framlingham, which (significantly) opened in 1889²², showed the way the wind was blowing locally: corn was out, cattle were in.

A depressed farming sector meant that the commercial side of Framlingham was not as buoyant as it might have been; but the town also dealt with the needs of a wider community. The 7,500 people in its catchment area provided a large enough market to enable the town's commercial side even to flourish; farmers were not the only pebbles on the beach.

Nevertheless, in the context of a depressed farming community in Suffolk as a whole, farms in the locality of Framlingham did better than average. Of course, the contrast with today when farmers have reverted to an arable monoculture cannot be more sharp, when the mixed farming of Framlingham's locality in 1900 is compared.

Employment in Framlingham

At the turn of the century, employment in Framlingham probably followed that normal to Suffolk as a whole, where 81.8% of males and 27.7% of females were economically active between the ages of 13 and 64 years.²³ As a market town, those employed in business and service industries (as opposed to the county's dominant employment, agriculture) would have been above average for the County. The statistics for the County as a whole given below show a pattern which obviously has to be modified for Framlingham's particular circumstances, but nevertheless give more than a clue as to what was happening in the town's catchment area. Employees expressed as whole numbers in relation to each ten thousand working in the County were as follows:-

	Male	Female
Professional occupations and subordinate services	216	229
Domestic offices or services	302	1436
Commercial	194	20
Conveyance of goods, men and messages	834	7
Agriculture	2723	42
Building works and construction	831	1
Without specific occupations or unemployed	1813	722 ²⁴

In the mid-twentieth century, the 1966 Sample Census tells us that the economically active and employed people in Framlingham amounted to 43.2% of the total population, as follows:-

Education	20%
Service trades	60%
Agriculture	8%
Manufacturing	12%

A wildly inspired guess for 1900 might translate the above figures as follows:

Education	10%
Service trades	65%
Agriculture	20%
Manufacturing	5%

Employment was headed by the professions - clergy, doctors, lawyers and teachers - and then came the middling sort - auctioneers, shopkeepers, tradesmen - followed by domestic servants and labourers. In addition, many females worked at home throughout most of their lives.

The labour market in Framlingham would have been particularly buoyant in times of national economic boom, as in 1900.²⁵ We noted above that its position as the commercial centre for a sub-region of its own, cushioned Framlingham from the economic vagaries in the county and the relatively depressed state of agriculture. Nevertheless, the town saw instances of unemployment and poverty: the Workhouse at Wickham Market was kept busy.

The proportion of older people would have been strikingly less than now: life expectancy was 44.9 years for males and 49.0 for females.²⁶ The number of retired people coming to live in the town would have been comparatively small.

Framlingham was much more self-sufficient in 1900 than it is now. The number and variety of trades carried out in the town emphasize its importance as a centre for the local area. The listing that follows is derived from *Kelly's Directory for Suffolk 1900* (one should note that county directory listings were never exhaustive).

Auctioneer and Estate Agent	A. Preston, C. H. Read and Son
Baker	A. Bonney, A. Dew, C. Gibbs, W. Simpson
Bank Manager - Barclay & Co.	C. S. Kidall
Basket Maker and Cycle Shop	A. G. Potter
Beer Retailer	A. J. Heffer
Blacksmith	F. Bridges, J. Rose
Boot and Shoe Maker & Repairs	H. Coleman, C. Cone, H. Cooper, W. Hammond, H. E. Hunt, G. King, R. Oxborrow, J. Vyce
Bricklayer	B. Millars, C. Moore
Builder	C. Goodwin, G. A. Rudd
Butcher	P. F. Allen, J. B. Brownsord, G. Canham, Mrs. E. Carr, B. Durrant, Miss S. Newson, Mrs. F. Pratt
Carpenter and Glazier	T. Dale, F. Millars, C. Moore, J. Wightman
Chemist	R. Betts, J. J. Hulland
Chimney Sweep	W. Catchpole, W. Ling
China and Glass Dealer	W. Freeman
Coal Merchant	Creasy & Co., J. Fairweather, J. Fuller, J. Symonds
Collector of Poor Rates	H. Damant
Confectioner	E. Middleton
Corn Merchant	Creasy & Co.
County Court-Registrar and High Bailiff	R. Clarkson Mayhew
Draper	G. Fisk
Fellmonger	F. Read
Firearms Maker	B. Norman
Fishmonger	W. Barber, Miss E. Hunt
Fruiterer	E. Harvey
Furniture Dealer	J. Scoggins
Gardener (Market, etc.)	H. S. Clark, H. Fairweather
Grocers	S. Carley & Co., C. R. Cooke, C. Jude, H. Noble
Hairdresser	R. Green, W. W. Thurston
Magistrate's Clerk	J. Martin
Maltster	E. G. Clarke
Miller	J. Buckmaster, F. Button, J. Maulden
Milliner	Mrs. M. Catchpole, Mrs. B. Read
Mineral Water Manufacturer	J. A. Everson, Semmence Brothers
Music Seller	T. J. Wright
Newsagent	H. Damant
Photographer	J. Self
Physician and Surgeon	G. Adcock, J. B. Drew, G. C. Jeaffreson, G. E. Jeaffreson
Plumber and Glazier	J. Howlett, A. & W. Hunt
Police Superintendent	J. B. Lingley
Printer and Stationer	Maulden & Sons
Public House Landlords	
Crown Hotel	T. A. Brooks
Hare & Hounds	J. Howlett
Queen's Head	Mrs. M. A. Clow
Station Hotel	J. Woodward
White Horse	J. Brunning
Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths	W. F. Balls
Rope and Twine Makers	C. E. Downing
Solicitor	F. G. Ling, Mayhew & Sons
Stone and Marble Mason	G. Dale

Tailor	C. P. Dowsing, G. Hall, J. Howard, J. Self, E. Wells
Tax Collector	T. W. Read
Thatcher	J. & J. Heffer
Timber Merchant	G. Burch
Watchmaker	C. Myall, A. J. White
Wheelwright	H. & C. Moore

The Domestic Setting

The 543 households in Framlingham in 1900 presented a very varied picture. At the top of the town's society were the professional people, the Rector, the doctors and the solicitor. Then there were the business community, followed by tradesmen and labourers. 1900 was a time when there was money around: real incomes had increased since 1860 by 77%.²⁷ Nevertheless, the disparities in income between highest and lowest were so great that it is not surprising that the professional classes lived very comfortably indeed with numerous servants on hand. The middling sort managed to get by, while those on the lowest incomes could have an uncomfortable time.

The Reverend Hulme Pilkington, Rector of St. Michael's Church, occupied what was deemed the richest living in the Norwich diocese at £2,000 a year. The Rector's income might suggest that he led the way by his lifestyle. For the middling sort, money was always tight: food took up a larger proportion of the weekly budget than now. A typical basket of groceries could have been as follows (price per pound unless otherwise stated).

	s	d		s	d
Butter	1	2	Biscuits	0	8
Sugar	0	3	Currants	0	5
Flour	1	5	Sultanas	0	7
Yeast (per ¼ lb.)		2	Salmon (tin)	0	9
Tea	1	6	Rice	0	3
Potatoes (20 lb.)	0	10	Lard	0	7
Peas	0	2½	Jam	0	5½
Cheese	0	6	Syrup (per 2 lb.)	0	6½
Bacon	0	9	Apples	0	3
Onions	0	1½	Milk (6 quarts)	0	3
Eggs (per dozen)	1	0	Meat	0	10

It was for labourers in particular that those times were "the bad old days". Farm labourers in Suffolk were not well paid. In 1900, 11s for a six day week of pure drudgery was the lot of some in the Framlingham area.²⁹ Indeed, farm labourers in Suffolk were amongst the lowest paid in the country.³⁰

Yet for all that, the shops in Framlingham suggest that business was brisk. They supplied all the basic needs in 1900 of the town's inhabitants. There was no need to visit Ipswich for one's shopping, even if it were for clothing, a dramatic change from the situation prevailing today.

There was a greengrocer, E. Harvey, who supplied vegetables and fruit on a seasonally available basis.³¹ (You would not in 1900 have been able to buy raspberries and strawberries in November!). Your groceries could be bought at Carley and Co. Many of the brand-names available today were in being in 1900, Tate and Lyle sugar, Huntley and Palmer biscuits, Bovril,

Marmite, Cadbury's cocoa etc.³² Most people's needs were for staple items such as flour and butter (made locally) and sugar, as home baking and cooking was then the order of the day. Meat was plentiful: there were seven butchers in the town. The railway brought many of the imported foodstuffs, for instance New Zealand lamb, and fruit from Kent. Prices fluctuated seasonally, and were more dependant on supply and demand than today.

Most people managed to survive, though it was a time for self-help. The whole attitude of consumers in Framlingham was a matter of making sure that slender resources stretched a long way. Framlingham in 1900 was not part of the modern throw-away society. The ladies of the house would have been busy darning and sewing to make something that was a little worn last for yet another day.

Health was a problem. Medicine was a more subjective business than now and, of course, not so well advanced. Mention is made frequently in the *FWN* of Hitcham's School being closed and the pupils sent home on account of an influenza epidemic raging through the town.³³ Disease carried off a lot of people before their time. In 1900 nationally the death rate was 31 in a thousand; it is now 11 in a thousand.³⁴ Those figures are not so significant as the infant mortality rate, which for the labouring classes was 125 deaths per thousand up to the age of five years. The clergy and solicitors experienced a mortality rate for their children of 46 per thousand.³⁵ Today, the national figure is less than ten per thousand.³⁶ Life expectancy was far lower than today, 44.9 for males and 49.00 for females, but due allowance should of course be made for the high infant mortality rate. A labourer who had reached the age of 30 could perhaps have expected to live to sixty years of age; and professional people could have expected to live almost as long as such people do in 2000.

But woe betide you if you were poor, old or unemployed. There was no social security finance or old age pensions to fall back on. The Workhouse at Wickham Market was then perhaps your only option. That place was hated. The Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 was designed to look after people in their homes if they still had a roof over them, and to house in the workhouse those who did not. The aim of the workhouse was to make life inside less desirable than life outside. The theory was that if things were made really unpleasant for the able-bodied, then they would work harder and not depend on the Poor Rate. The diet in the Wickham Market Workhouse is fully indicative of the harsh regime which existed there:

Breakfast	Bread and gruel
Dinner	½ lb. of meat, ½ lb. potatoes and ½ pint of porter
Supper	Bread and butter and tea or broth ³⁷

Of course, extended families were more common then than now, and most people in old age were cared for by their nearest and dearest. There were also the Hitchams and the Mills almshouses. Nevertheless, Wickham Workhouse loomed ominously large for some.

The domestic scene in Framlingham for the great majority seems to have been a colourful one. Families were large, and the general prosperity of the country meant that most households were proud establishments living up to their aspirations. The Victorian culture of self-help meant that people were patiently resourceful in making their money meet their needs. The actual standard of living for the average middle-class family can be gauged, for instance, by the popularity of Isabella Beeton's book *Household Management*, much in vogue in 1900.³⁸

The Framlingham community was from all the evidence closely knit. Many acts of kindness were carried out when family finances were a more precarious part of life than now. People saw to it that the Christian ethic of charity to one and all was maintained. There were a number of

friendly societies in the town, including two masonic lodges: the Oddfellows Star of the East Lodge was said to have £9,626 in its current account.³⁹

The town was in buoyant spirits, as can be gauged by the response of the population to the relief of Ladysmith⁴⁰ and of Mafeking⁴¹. That is perhaps not surprising, with Queen Victoria's reign and its achievements to look back on. The spirit of optimism prevailed in Framlingham in 1900. Can we say that in the following 100 years the town in essence has not changed?

Education

His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, died on 14th December 1861 aged 43 years. Men and women of all ranks and opinions joined Queen Victoria in lamenting the untimely close of a life which had been so unselfish and benificent. In Suffolk as elsewhere, the Queen's subjects resolved upon the construction of some suitable memorial.⁴²

Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison *Bart* had been for some time of the opinion that better use of the Framlingham estate bequeathed by Sir Robert Hitcham could be made. So it was that on 10th April 1865, a school designed by Frederick Peck was opened with the title of the Albert Middle Class College in Suffolk. The public charter for the institution of the school had been granted by the Queen on 30th July 1864.⁴³

The Rev. A. C. Daymond was the first headmaster, from 1864 to 1871. The town celebrated the opening of the school with a joyful peal of bells from St. Michael's Church. The School then had 240 boys, half of them from Suffolk and half from further afield. The school prospered under Daymond's guidance.⁴⁴

The next headmaster was the Rev. W. W. Bird (1872-1881). The number of boys in the school had increased to 325 by 1877. The purpose of the school under Rev. Bird was to provide at moderate cost a practical training to prepare pupils for the practical duties of agriculture, manufacturing and the commercial life, and to qualify them for the Civil Service and other representative examinations. The title of the school was changed to the Albert Memorial College. By 1876, the school's results in the Cambridge University Local Examinations (for which it had become a Centre) put it in first place. Bird promoted good relations with the town by joining the Farmers' Club. He left a permanent mark on the school. He died in 1908, and the Old Framlinghamians placed a window in the chapel in his memory.⁴⁵

Mr. R. H. Scott White (1881-1886) saw the school much reduced in numbers. By Michaelmas 1886, the school roll numbered just 72 pupils. In that year Scott White retired.

The next head was the Rev. O. D. Inskip (1887-1913), whose life and career are described in greater detail in the next section of this article. From his very first term, Dr. Inskip's influence made itself felt not only in the school but throughout Suffolk. It was said that he was the most powerful religious influence in the entire county. His personality as well as his methods inspired confidence. The response to him was immediate. The patient raising up of the school from a low base proceeded. Throughout his headship, improvements were made, for instance the boring of an artesian well to a depth of 300 feet, to ensure the school a reliable and wholesome supply of water. In 1889, he helped to introduce the *Old Framlinghamian* magazine, which has continued to this day and is one of the oldest publications of its kind in the country. In 1899, the pupils gained 105 passes in the Cambridge Local Examinations, with 42 distinctions. Doctor Inskip's contribution to the life of the school was immense. He retired in 1913 after 26 years as headmaster.⁴⁶

For the Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, I am indebted to Mr. T. J. Gilder (headmaster 1977-1996) for the following submission on the school in 1900.

The school in 1900 was on its present site, having moved there in 1879. Previously it had been a school for boys (founded under the provisions of Sir Robert Hitcham's will in 1654), sited in the building at the north end of the Hitcham's Almshouses, now the Framlingham Masonic Hall.

Following the national movements to reform educational provision, which resulted in the 1870 Education Act, the decision was taken to extend provision in Framlingham. The process did not happen without some considerable debate, particularly regarding religious sensitivities. Nationally and locally, there was discussion as to whether education should be religious or sectarian. As regards religion, what provision should be made for denominations other than Church of England? In the event, the "new" Sir Robert Hitcham School was opened on the "White Horse Meadow" on 10th March 1879, as a school for boys and girls aged 7 to 13 and a mixed infant class of 5 to 7 year olds. It continued to act under the auspices of the Church of England. The issue of religious difference was only partially resolved by the establishment of the Mills School for Girls in 1902.

The school was housed in a two-storey building which had a similar appearance to the present façade of the school as viewed from College Road. The local red brick including the flower-pattern decorative bricks to be found in other late nineteenth-century buildings in Framlingham figure prominently in the present building. (The upper storey was removed when the building was remodelled as a five to eleven year old school in 1937, when the Area Modern School - now Thomas Mills High was established).

The Governors had appointed Mr. E. G. Warren from Deeping St. James in Norfolk to be the new headmaster in 1879. He was still there in 1900 and was to stay until 1916. Photographs still exist in Framlingham of Mr. Warren with his classes of boys wearing Norfolk jackets and wide white collars. Class sizes appear to be in the upper twenties. From the Governors' minute book, we learn the staff in October 1888 (the nearest records can take us to 1900) were as follows:

Staff of the Boys' School	Warren, E. G. (master)	£25. 0s. 0d
	Hodginson, A. A. (assistant)	£12. 10s. 0d
	Wilding, Chas. (pupil teacher)	£10. 0s. 0d
	O'Neil (pupil teacher)	£ 4. 7s. 6d
	Short, A. (monitor)	£ 1. 0s. 0d
Staff of the Girls' School	Cracknell, M. (mistress)	£17. 10s. 0d
	Cooper, L. A. (assistant)	£10. 0s. 0d
	Clow, Eliz. (monitor)	£ 2. 0s. 0d
	Vyce, Emma (monitor)	£ 2. 2s. 0d
Staff of the Infants' School	Dickinson, E. J. (mistress)	£15. 0s. 0d
	Smith, Jane (12 weeks) (pupil teacher)	£ 4. 12s. 6d
	Barker, Eliz. (monitor)	£ 1. 1s. 0d

(the figures are the sums for which cheques were made out as quarterly salary).

There were frequent inspections by the HMIs and by the Diocesan Inspector, who on the 2nd July 1900 reported for the Infant department as follows:

No. present 106.

Old Testament	V.G.
New Testament	G.
Scripture	V.G.
Hymns etc.	V.G.
Catechism	V.G.

In spite of great drawbacks through exceptional sickness and consequent irregularity of attendance, the children of this school passed a very satisfactory examination.

I. G. R. Darling, Diocesan Inspector

Three Personalities of Framlingham

There were three particularly prominent persons in Framlingham in 1900, who in their various ways made a great contribution to the life of the town. The following are a few notes on the lives of three extraordinary gentlemen, largely extracted from contemporary obituaries and tributes.

The Reverend J. Hulme Pilkington (1856 - 1916)

A Fellow of Pembroke College Cambridge, J. Hulme Pilkington held the lucrative living of St. Michael's Church for 31 years until his death on 28th December 1916. His chief contribution to the church was to carry on the great work of restoration, which was completed by 1909, the church re-opening fully for services on St. Michael's day in that year. The restoration cost a gargantuan (for that period) five thousand pounds. He also managed the re-hanging of the church bells, and the building of St. Michael's Rooms. He was a keen bellringer, and was proficient enough to ring many peals.

Mr. Pilkington took part in many activities in the town. He was a Governor of both Framlingham College and the Sir Robert Hitcham Foundation. He served as Chairman of the Town Council, and represented Cambridge University on the Education Committee of Suffolk County Council. Heavily involved in masonic work, he became in 1904 Past Grand Chaplain of England. With his death passed yet another incumbent of St. Michael's who had served both the church and the town for a considerable time, a tradition of Framlingham parsons.⁴⁷

Doctor G. E. Jeaffreson (1834 - 1911)

Doctor Jeaffreson's principal contribution to Framlingham was to work for over forty years as the main medical practitioner in the town. He was in that capacity held in the highest veneration and regard, in recognition of which, he became in 1895 the President of the East Anglia Branch of the British Medical Association. His Framlingham surgery was situated at 12 Market Hill (later Lloyd's Bank Chambers).

Doctor Jeaffreson filled many public offices, becoming in 1896 a JP. He brought the same thoroughness to bear on that work that had been his characteristic through life. He was a man of very keen perception. A Governor of the Hitcham Primary School and a member of the governing body of the Thomas Mills Charity, he helped to set up the Mills Grammar School, which opened in 1902. He was Past Master of the Framlingham Lodge of Freemasons.

Doctor Jeaffreson retired to Moat House in Castle Street, and died on 19th August 1911. He was a man who had given his all to Framlingham and was to be greatly missed.⁴⁸

The Reverend Doctor O. D. Inskip (1852 - 1934)

Born in Hertford in 1852, Doctor Inskip was educated at Hertford Grammar School and Trinity College Dublin. In 1873, he became an assistant master at Framlingham College and then headmaster of Spalding Grammar School (1883 - 1886); during that time the number of boys at Spalding more than doubled and the school developed new vitality.

In 1886, on the urgent advice of Lord Rendlesham, Chairman of the Governors of Framlingham College, he came to the College as headmaster. The College then had only 72 boys and was very run down. By 1898, the College had over three hundred pupils and went on from strength to strength.

Doctor Inskip was a man of exceptionally handsome appearance, great personal charm and beautiful manners. In a speech made in 1912, he said that he had kept a resolution throughout his headmastership of the College, that his whole time, thought and interests should be centred on the school. Under his guidance the school achieved many successes in university and other examinations. To the end of his life, he was held in the highest honour and affection by the Old Framlinghamians.

Doctor Inskip was an accomplished musician and played cricket for Suffolk in his younger days. He also played in many of the country-house matches which flourished in Suffolk, until he was over sixty years of age. In 1913 he retired from the College and took over the incumbency of Redenhall Church, at which he celebrated Holy Communion on the day before his death.

Doctor Inskip is undoubtedly the most revered of the College's past headmasters. Under his headship, the school grew into what was in its way the most important institution in Framlingham.⁴⁹

Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901)

Queen Victoria was nearing the end of her life. England in her reign had seen huge changes. In 1837, stage-coaches were still trundling up the Great North Road; by the end of her reign, dreadnoughts were being laid down for the Royal Navy. The railway system, mechanisation in general, the telegraph, great improvements in medicine, photography (the list is endless) had all been introduced.⁵⁰

By the 1880s, republican clubs in England no longer existed, and interest in colonial affairs was much in evidence. The 1890s saw the introduction of working-class newspapers such as the *Daily Mail*, demand for which grew out of Foster's Education Act of 1870. By 1900, 97% of the adult population of Suffolk was literate.⁵¹

Her reign generated great interest in the monarchy. In 1861 the Prince Consort died, and until her Golden Jubilee of 1887, the Queen was virtually a recluse. In that year, popular opinion demanded that she cast off her widow's weeds, and from then on she was seen more regularly in public. She had become Empress of India in 1876.⁵² The *Framlingham Weekly News* has full accounts of the celebrations held in the town on the occasion of her Golden and Diamond Jubilees of 1887 and 1897 respectively.

Her public remembered her as a dumpy old lady sitting in the back of a carriage, and yet she was a person who generated unquestioned respect and admiration. Though she was anything but that, she was looked upon as the stereotype of Victorian England, and became synonymous with it. Full of contradictions, she was self-centred yet considerate and dutiful. She wrote a diary up to four days before her death. She was the matriarch of Europe. Perhaps Bismarck should have the last word. After having an audience with her in 1888, he left her and stated "That was a woman".⁵³

The population of Framlingham were caught up like everyone else in their admiration for her and all she had done for the cause of Great Britain. The *Framlingham Weekly News* reported fully on the town's involvement in the most significant celebrations of her reign. In the summer of 1900, the Queen realised that her strength was failing her. By October her spirits, too, had left her. She died on the 21st January 1901, mourned by the royal houses of Europe, the Empire, and the peoples of these islands, great and small. It was the passing of an age.

The Boer War and Framlingham

The South African Boer War began with an ultimatum from the Boers themselves, on 10th October 1899. Great Britain's relations with South Africa had been simmering ever since the previous Boer War of 1880/81, which had been a mere skirmish.⁵⁴ In 1886, gold was discovered near Johannesburg. There was a real issue involved now, and the Boers felt they could become a viable sovereign state. Great Britain felt otherwise; the Empire's reputation was at stake.

The British public supported the war effort enthusiastically. Framlingham sent five young men to the war, Sergeant Osborne, Lance Sergeant Merritt, Private W. Stannard, Private Newson and Private J. O'Neill.⁵⁵ The Right Honourable Douglas Tollemarche of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars volunteered his services offering a gratuity of £10 to each man of his troop who went out to South Africa.⁵⁶

The war initially did not go well for Britain, and the *FWN* affirmed that

the country needs one sharp lesson to bring home to the average Briton the fact that in peacetime our preparations now are not always as well constituted as they ought to be.⁵⁷

The commander-in-chief, General Sir Redvers Buller, was retired early in the War and General Lord Roberts took over.⁵⁸ The tide turned against the Boers. Meanwhile, people in Framlingham were following enthusiastically every news bulletin that appeared in the national papers and the *FWN*.

Mr. John Self tailor and outfitter of Well Close Square is doing a public service by posting in his windows the latest official despatches from the seat of war.⁵⁹

Groups of persons have this week been eagerly scouring the telegrams. Sunday 11th February was appointed as a day for special intercessions with Almighty God on behalf of Her Majesty's naval and military forces now in South Africa.⁶⁰

On March 3rd 1900, the *FWN* reported that Ladysmith had been relieved, and there had been great rejoicing in Framlingham. Then on 19th May, the day of the relief of Mafeking, the *FWN* reported that

many were the shouts of joy and relief which were shouted across the breakfast table that morning. Flags were immediately seen floating on the Church and College towers and an hour

later the whole town was doing honour to the saviours of the little South African veldt village by the display of the Union Jack and other similar designs. At nine o'clock the School [Framlingham College] consisting of over 300 pupils marched from the College to Market Hill carrying flags and banners and needless to say in a state of wildest excitement. Speeches from the Guildhall followed. Cheers were given.

In the evening the Volunteers (G. Company Suffolk Regiment Framlingham) under the command of Lt. Read marched from headquarters to the Market Hill and fired a *feu de joie* in honour of the happy event, followed by cheers and patriotic airs from the band.

The celebrations were kept up with renewed vigour on Monday evening. As darkness approached a procession formed for a vehicle on which stood in effigy Kruger and Steyn [Boer leaders] and numerous torch-bearers emerged from out of the principal thoroughfares and paraded all the streets of the town. A deafening cannonade was kept up till late in the evening.⁶¹

The Boers were eventually vanquished and the war formally ended on 31st May 1902 with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. 5,774 Britons were killed in the war (more than the other side), 22,829 wounded, and 16,000 died of disease.⁶²

Politics and Framlingham in 1900

The social historian G. M. Trevelyan once stated that the middle and lower classes knew quite as much about the Empire and other matters as their betters.⁶³ Everyone in Framlingham, through reading their newspapers (*The Times* then cost 3d,⁶⁴ and the *Daily Mail* 1d⁶⁵), would have been well aware of what was supposedly going on. Your political interest was reinforced if you had the vote: the franchise in 1900 was governed by the Reform Act of 1884, which (amongst others) gave voting rights to all male householders in the counties.⁶⁶ (The ladies had to wait until after World War I).

The picture that comes down to us of those times suggests that Pax Britannica reigned through much of the world and, with the decisions made on the partition of Africa in the last three decades of the nineteenth century, Great Britain and Russia were now the leading imperialist nations in the world.⁶⁷ That, together with our unofficial empire, all superintended by the Royal Navy, meant that Britain was at the centre of the greatest empire the world had ever seen.⁶⁸ It all suggests that our prominent place in the world was widely recognised and something to be intensely proud of. To cap it, we could boast overseas investments in 1900 of over £3,000 million, at a time when the national income for 1900 was £1,750 million.⁶⁹ 1900 seemed a boom year.

However, the reality was otherwise. Our prominent position in trade and industry was being challenged, in particular, by Germany and the USA. In 1900, Germany produced 6.26 million tons of steel, the USA 10.14 million tons, and Great Britain 4.9 million tons.⁷⁰ The United States had overtaken us in coal production. Our long-term industrial and export prospects might appear to have been shaky, to put it mildly. In international politics, Social Darwinism was being adopted by many nation states, leading to intense competition.⁷¹ Our relations with Germany were ambivalent, to say the least. From 1862 onwards, following Bismark's dictum, Germany looked on force as a legitimate weapon, rather than the policy of live and let live which this country espoused.⁷²

Britain's response was the naval building programme of the 1890s and 1900s. The Navy Estimates for 1900 were £27.5 million, which was worrying politicians.⁷³ Our place in the world was getting expensive to sustain. The battleships were built, and at the time of the Boer War, it was generally felt that they saved us from foreign incursion. After 1900, we were losing ground to stronger and healthier beasts.⁷⁴

Over all this presided a Conservative government led by Prime Minister cum Foreign Secretary Lord Salisbury, the last of the arch aristocrats to lead an administration from the Lords. He had been in Parliament since 1853, and had vast experience. His administration had seen considerable changes including the Education Act of 1891. He stood for Empire. Too much the aristocrat and free marketeer at a time when the tide was beginning to run the other way, Salisbury stated in 1877 that English foreign policy was to float lazily downstream, occasionally putting out a diplomatic boathook to avoid collisions.⁷⁵ Our position in the world was pre-eminent in 1877. It was not so in 1900.

Into this came the Boer War and the "Khaki Election". The Conservatives supported the War, the Liberals were split, so the Conservatives took the day.⁷⁶

In Framlingham, the Election was fought by the Conservatives and the Liberals. On 15th September 1900, the *FWN* reported that

The campaign in the Eye Division which is growing more vigorous as the polling day approaches is fast drawing to a close.

Meetings were held in Framlingham by both the candidates on Saturday 13th October. The election took place on Monday 15th October. Votes cast were as follows:⁷⁷

F. S. Stevenson (Liberal)	4,664
H. D. Harben (Conservative)	2,947

Liberal majority 1,717

Stevenson in his address at noon on Tuesday 16th October at the Town Hall, Eye, stated:⁷⁸

"I am very glad that this election has been fought fairly. I am also glad to think that those to whom I have looked for support have stood so loyally by the liberal principles which have been upheld in years gone by." (Applause)

Framlingham people were trenchant in their support of their respective political parties. Most people's strangely blinkered view of the state of affairs led to unalloyed partisanship at election times, amongst others. Everybody cheered and supported the rival candidates regardless of whether they had the vote or not. Liberalism was strong in Framlingham. The Liberals held their annual celebration in the Castle on 20th September. Voters were less acerbic in those days. Politics here in Framlingham was a much more fervent but a jollier affair than now.

*"Framlingham in Retrospect"*⁷⁹

1900 was the year of bloom. Fruit trees and shrubs of every description put on their richest and most gorgeous dresses. A superabundance of fruit everywhere. However, potato disease occasioned much loss. The yield of corn was below the average for the last three years. Five Framlingham volunteers went to South Africa.

The College is the leading and most outstanding institution in the town, The College was second in the Cambridge Local Examinations. 105 students passed under the able care of Dr. Inskip. A brilliant speech day was held in July. There are over 300 boys in the school.

The Reading Room and Library issued 2500 books to its members. Mr. A. S. Mallows discharged the duties of Hon. Secretary for which he was voted an honorarium of £4-4s-0d.

Ladysmith was relieved at the end of February 1900 which was the occasion of much celebration in the town.

Patriotic entertainments were given in November at the Castle in aid of the Widows and Orphans Fund of the Transvaal War Fund.

Superintendent W. Balls resigned his office after 43 years' service to the police force in the area. The Teachers Association held their AGM in March at the Girls School.

A meeting of the Fire Brigade was held at the Crown Hotel in March. It was reported that the engines and appliances were in good order. Mr. Charles Goodwin owing to advanced age retired as captain.

The last person to be buried in the Churchyard, Mrs. Stephen Blumfield, was interred on 30th April 1900.

The East Anglia Bacon Company closed its factory in Framlingham early in the year.

The occasion of the relief of Mafeking on 19th May was marked by great joy and celebrations in the town.

A parish meeting at the Boys School on 27th August recommended that a price of £400 be earmarked for land to be added to the existing cemetery in Fore Street. Fifty-five people had died in the last year.

The Annual Fete and Gala held on Whit Tuesday was not so largely attended owing to the fact of the Suffolk Agricultural Show opening on the same day.

The gate money for the Livestock Association show on the Castle grounds in July reached £41-12s-6d. Mr. J. Martin acted as Hon. Sec.

The game of bowls has a large number of adherents in the town. The Bowls Club had a very enjoyable and successful season.

The Football Club experienced a good season. They entered for the Senior Cup but were knocked out by Southwold.

Cricket has revived. The newly-formed club - the Wanderers - put on some very good elevens though their record against other clubs has not been very favourable.

The G Company of Volunteers has had a successful year of outings and drills under Lieut. C. L. Read.

Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Michael's Church.

The Band of the Scots Guards played at the College on 12th February in aid of the War.

The Farmers' Club held a fairly successful show at the end of October, Mr. C. L. Read, Hon. Sec. This is one of the oldest clubs in the County and it would be more than a pity to let it die. A band was engaged for the occasion and several new features were introduced.

The year ended with a peal of bells from St. Michael's.

Framlingham Weather in 1900

Meteorology and the forecasting of the weather were obviously not so advanced in 1900 as now, though all the daily newspapers, quality and popular, published forecasts with maps. The state of meteorology at that time can be gauged from the fact that Abercrombie in 1887 published the first formal attempt at a ground-plan of a south-westerly depression (which brings our rain). But it was not until the brilliant school of Norwegian meteorologists under V. and J. Bjerknes published their map of a depression in 1921, that meteorology took on its new identity, with warm fronts, cold fronts and occlusions. In 1900, weather reports depended on sparsely-spread weather observers using just the barometer, dry and wet bulb thermometers, rain gauge and wind gauge. This science in 1900 had a long way to go.⁸⁰

What of Framlingham's weather in 1900?

January was mild and stormy; there was no snow. Rain fell on 19 days.⁸¹ February was different: frost, snow and strong winds kept people indoors. There were spring-like days at the end of the month. There was also fog, which suggests a high-pressure system over Suffolk. March was dry and dusty, the temperature was low throughout the month, with a remarkable absence of sun. Approximately seven inches of rain fell in the first three months of the year, which was about average.⁸² The people of Framlingham had little to gripe about.

April seemed familiar! Gales and wet snow (sleet). The winds from the north and north-east gave the month a March feel. In short, the weather was unseasonable.⁸³

The old saying "Shift not a clod until May is out" was not adhered to by the farmers around Framlingham. There were six nice warm days in May, after which the farmers probably retired to winter quarters. The temperature on average hovered around 60 degrees F., but the month closed with November-like weather.⁸⁴

The oak leafed before the ash in 1900, which could be of interest to farmers.

If the ash is before the oak
You're sure to hear the farmers croak.
If the oak is before the ash
FARMERS' POCKETS GET WELL-FILLED WITH CASH.

A record kept for the past 84 years [back from 1900] has shown the accuracy of harvest forecasts drawn from the leafing of the oak and ash. The leafing of the oak before the ash as in 1900 points to a dry and hot summer and a bountiful harvest.⁸⁵

June was exceptional in having violent thunderstorms round Framlingham in the middle of the month. A storm caused £500 of damage in Saxtead. One farmer complained bitterly that £60 of damage had been done on his farm, and that the *Framlingham Weekly News* had seriously understated the level of loss. The town itself did not escape, with householders having to replace roof-tiles etc. The Gala, however, was held on Whit Tuesday on Castle Meadow in fine weather. Rain fell on 18 days in June.⁸⁶

July enjoyed the heat at last, with accompanying thunderstorms. The temperature touched 90 degrees. Rain fell on eleven days. The *Framlingham Weekly News* reported on the 11th August that

the reaping of the grain has been in full swing in all but the later districts wherever the weather permitted. Harvest operations are being hurried on immeasurably by the recent spell of tropical weather.

The people of Framlingham obviously basked in the sun, though the August Bank Holiday (6th August) was miserably wet. From 10th to 22nd August the weather was pleasantly fine, without the intense heat experienced in July. Rain fell on 16 days.⁸⁷

September was the finest and pleasantest month of the year. In October there was a gale and rain fell on 16 days. (It was average for the time of year!). November temperatures, except for the 10th and 11th, were above average, which suggests a south-westerly airstream covering the east of England. Rain fell on 17 days.⁸⁸

There were 48 hours of rain in December. It was unseasonably mild. Gales at the year's close caused much damage and loss of life and property at sea and on land.⁸⁹

So ended 1900, all in all a year of weather which in its diverse characteristics seems familiar enough today. The harvest was happily gathered in and, except for some cold weather in April which would have deterred potential holiday-makers and a freak temperature drop in August to below 40 degrees F., the year was about what everybody expected of it.

Do times change?

What people did in their free time

Two innovations of Queen Victoria's reign were of immense importance to ordinary people. Firstly, the introduction of a universally accessible means of speedy transport, the railway, meant that people could travel at a fraction of the former cost to places far and wide. Secondly, the provision of universal elementary education under the terms of the Foster Education Act 1870 created a new and vast population of literate people.

What did people do in their leisure time in Framlingham in 1900? There was, of course, neither radio nor television, though there were pubs. By 1900, it was clear that the town had a large reading public: as noted above, the Reading Room lent out 2,500 books in that year. And what did people read? The better educated perused the quality newspapers (*The Times, Daily Telegraph, Manchester Guardian, Morning Post, Observer*), the Latin and Greek classics, and such novelists as Sir Walter Scott, Anthony Trollope, and perhaps the American author Henry James. People in general would have been reading Bernard Shaw, Kipling, Robert Louis Stevenson, Hardy and Thackeray, as well as the lesser lights. George Gissing, of lesser standing than Hardy or James, may have been read, and even Zola might have reached Framlingham. Most would have read the popular papers (*Daily Mail, Daily Express* - newly launched in 1900, and *News Chronicle*, etc.). For the children the *Boy's Own Paper* began in 1895. Then, catering for every taste, there was Charles Dickens.⁹⁰ In 1901, 6,000 book titles were published in Great Britain, including books on every sort of hobby, which sold well.⁹¹ The bookshop in Framlingham in 1900 was run by Henry Damant as part of his post office in Albert Place, the site of the present newsagents.⁹²

The working class may have had an ambivalent attitude towards reading. Wives may have tended to read less than their husbands, having fewer defined periods of leisure. Perhaps it seemed to them that it was wrong to sit down with a book if there was anything more practical to do.

Letter-writing, killed in the twentieth century by the telephone and the typewriter, was reaching the end, in 1900, of the most glorious period in its history. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had been the time of its greatest popularity. Queen Victoria was the arch letter-writer: by 1861, the year of her husband's death, she had already filled between five and six hundred volumes with her letters (and very good they are too!)⁹³ In Framlingham, one assumes it would have been the leaders in the community who would have been the most regular letter-writers.

Church-going was an important part of most lives in Framlingham in 1900. The 1901 Census does not tell us how many people attended church or chapel - the 1851 Census was the only one to tell us that. However, the *FWN* regularly reported on church matters and events. In 1900, St. Michael's held the following services on Sundays:

8 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.45 a.m.	Matins
3.15 p.m.	Sunday School
7 p.m.	Evensong ⁹⁴

The 1662 Prayer Book and the King James Bible would have been used as the basis of the services. Today it may all seem rather staid and restricted. The festivals of the Church were fully celebrated, and the custom that communicant members of the Church of England should take Communion at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun was then much more closely followed.

Other denominations were very active in Framlingham; locally all were Protestant at that time. Social functions held by the Free Methodists were frequent and also more lively than those held by St. Michael's. A Harvest Tea was held on 12th September by the Free Methodists, followed by a meeting. All denominations were well supported, and the Unitarians at their meeting-house in Bridge Street reflected the popularity in the nineteenth century of their faith amongst intellectuals. (Darwin was a Unitarian).

Lectures were popular. On 6th January, a public lecture on the Boer War was announced in the *FWN*. In February, a lecture on bush life in Queensland was given by a Mr. J. Carter, and on 24th February the *FWN* announced the first of six lectures on horticulture, to be given on Mondays in St. Michael's Rooms by Mr. M. R. Sowmer, County Council Staff Lecturer in Horticulture.

- There were many other pastimes. Walking in summer and skating in winter on the Mere were popular.⁹⁵ The Cycling Club, according to a report in the *FWN* on 10th February, had decided to continue. The Bowls Club which had many adherents, ended its season on 6th October. (The bowls used by club members had to have a particular bias built into them to cope with the sloping surface of the green.⁹⁶) The Farmers' Club met on 6th October and had a ploughing match.⁹⁷ The Framlingham Amateur Dramatic Society did not put on a show in 1900.⁹⁸ The bellringers, according to a *FWN* report of 27th October, were keen to revive campanology in the town. And then, of course, there was the Horticultural Society, and the philosophical pleasure of gardening. The Gospel Temperance Society held an annual meeting in Framlingham, and the Band of Hope also held meetings.⁹⁹

Sport amongst the young was popular. The Wanderers cricket team had a mixed season, and the town's football team was knocked out of the Senior Cup by Southwold. The Framlingham College team defeated Ipswich Town Reserves by a commanding twelve goals to nil. The Framlingham Volunteers organised several shooting matches in the course of the year.

People would from time to time wish to have a rest from Framlingham. The Great Eastern Railway organised several excursions from Framlingham to such places as Aldeburgh, Ipswich and even London throughout 1900. Most people could afford a third-class fare. For that, one has to thank Gladstone for introducing a bill into the House of Commons many years before, stating that every line must have train services on which passengers would not be charged more than one penny per mile for their journey.¹⁰⁰ The principle of cheap rail travel was established, and visits to the seaside were no longer impossible for the working man.

People's free time at a period when the working week for many people lasted six days, was indeed precious. Most people's lives were committed to earning a hard living and surviving, with little enough money for pastimes. Nevertheless, for those of the middling sort and above there was leisure time available, and with increased prosperity everyone could participate in their particular interest; 1900 was a watershed in that respect. Real wages rose appreciably in the early years of the new century, and an eight-hour day was just beginning to come in. That applied for Framlingham, as for everywhere else.

In Framlingham, if you had the wit and the will, you could always find something to do in your leisure time in 1900.

Conclusion

Many changes had taken place in Framlingham in the fifty years prior to 1900. The coming of the railway and of a regular local paper, the *Framlingham Weekly News*, in 1859, the opening of Framlingham College in 1865 and of the elementary school in College Road in 1879, are just a few indicators of an age of improvement in Framlingham. On a personal basis, life was still full of worry, though the economic indices nationally might have seemed to indicate an improvement in the lot of most people. That improvement starting from such a low base meant that for some in Framlingham, the economic situation in 1900 was still an unenviable one.

1900 can be looked on as a watershed in the lives of Framlingham people. A second technological revolution was just taking hold. In the early 1900s, the car and the telephone were to arrive in more general use. And in 1909 the first old age pensions were to be distributed on a national scale. There were so many changes to come in the lives of people in the years immediately following 1900, that that year can be looked on as a landmark.

And has Framlingham itself changed since 1900? The town then as now comprises an historic core. That was so in 1800 as in 1900. Today, the town has had added to it several new housing developments.¹⁰¹ In 1900, most of those living in the town were born in Suffolk. (78.9% of the county's population as a whole had been born in Suffolk.¹⁰²) That is not so now.

Determinists might have it that the town, defined as it is by its geographical limits and acting as a market centre for the local area, would seem to have qualities which are as true today as they were in 1900. And yet the explosion in the population of the town in recent years suggests that we should be cautious in comparing Framlingham in 2000 AD with what it was a century before.

The late nineteenth century had seen a spirit of optimism flowing through Europe. The days of war were over, and the answer to all our problems was the battle-cry of Love, Order and Progress.¹⁰³ That sentiment endured longest in England, lasting into the Edwardian period. Those who were well-informed might, by 1900, have had grounds for anxiety, but for all that, those living in Framlingham would have looked to the new century with optimism.

Framlingham, then, entered the twentieth century in line with the nation as a whole, in a spirit of optimism and hope. The citizens were proud of their town, their country, and their Empire. Those who lived here were conscious of the town's importance and identity in this part of Suffolk. It was not for nothing that Framlingham in 1900 believed that it was the finest market town in east Suffolk.

Notes:

- 1 University of East Anglia Climatological Research Unit and Meteorological Office.
- 2 *Lambert's Almanack 1900*.
- 3 *Framlingham Weekly News (FWN)* 30.12.1899.
- 4 O. R. Sitwell, *Framlingham: a short history and guide* (1982) p. 23.
- 5 *FWN* 6.1.1900.
- 6 *FWN* 5.1.1901.
- 7 *FWN* 6.1.1900.
- 8 M. L. Kilvert, *A History of Framlingham* (1995) p. 20.
- 9 Sitwell *op. cit.* p. 23.
- 10 *Census of England and Wales 1901: County of Suffolk* (1902).
- 11 Lanman Museum, Framlingham. Photographic archive.
- 12 Office of National Statistics, London.
- 13 *Census 1901 op. cit.*
- 14 Sitwell *op. cit.* pp. 23-4
- 15 *Ibid.* p. 25.
- 16 Kilvert *op. cit.* p. 40; *Bradshaw's Railway Manual 1869* (1869) p. 108.
- 17 Information from Peter Haye, Great Eastern Railway Society.
- 18 D. Dymond and P. Northeast, *A History of Suffolk* (1985) p. 110.
- 19 *Census 1901 op. cit.*
- 20 D. Wilson, *A Short History of Suffolk* (1977) p. 141.

- 21 *Ibid.* p. 142.
- 22 Kilvert *op. cit.* p. 52.
- 23 *Census 1901 op. cit.*
- 24 *Ibid.*
- 25 A. Wood, *Nineteenth Century Britain* (1982) p. 275.
- 26 *Census 1901 op. cit.*
- 27 *Ibid.*
- 28 O. Newman and A. Foster, *The Value of the Pound* (1995) p. 9.
- 29 Church Farm, Saxtead: Accounts for 1900.
- 30 A. Armstrong, *Farmworkers: a social and economic history, 1770-1980* (1988) p. 137.
- 31 *Kelly's Directory of Suffolk 1900* (1900).
- 32 A. C. Garrard, *The Worst journey in the world* (1937) p. 276.
- 33 *FWN* 10.2.1900.
- 34 C. Cook and J. Stevenson, *The Longman handbook of modern British history 1714-1995* (1996) p. 153.
- 35 G. M. Trevelyan, *Illustrated English social history* (1964) *passim*.
- 36 Government Actuary (London).
- 37 E. P. Cockburn, *The Plomesgate Union Workhouse, Wickham Market* (1991) *passim*.
- 38 A. Briggs, *A Social history of England and Wales* (1983) p. 264.
- 39 *FWN* 27.1.1900.
- 40 *FWN* 3.3.1900.
- 41 *FWN* 19.5.1900.
- 42 J. Booth, *Framlingham College: the first fifty years* (1925) p. 9.
- 43 *Ibid.* p. 16.
- 44 *Ibid.* p. 23.
- 45 *Ibid.* p. 79.
- 46 *Ibid.* p. 107.
- 47 *FWN* 30.12.1916.
- 48 *FWN* 19.8.1911.
- 49 Booth, *op. cit. passim.*; *The Framlinghamian*, 1934.
- 50 G. St. Aubyn, *Queen Victoria* (1992) p. 607.
- 51 Dymond, *op. cit.* p. 104.
- 52 St. Aubyn, *op. cit.* p. 430.
- 53 *Oxford Companion to British history* (1997) p. 954.
- 54 *Ibid.* p. 111.
- 55 *Lambert's Almanack 1902.*
- 56 *FWN* 30.12.1899.
- 57 *Ibid.*
- 58 T. Pakenham, *The Boer War* (1992).
- 59 *FWN* 24.2.1900.
- 60 *FWN* 10.2.1900.
- 61 *FWN* 26.5.1900.
- 62 *Oxford Companion op. cit.* p. 111.
- 63 Trevelyan, *op. cit.* p. 223.
- 64 Information from News International plc.
- 65 Information from Associated Newspapers Ltd.
- 66 *Oxford Companion op. cit.* p. 899.
- 67 J. M. Roberts, *A History of Europe* (1997) p. 438.
- 68 L. James, *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire* (1994) p. 320.
- 69 Cook and Stevenson *op. cit. passim.*
- 70 R. Ensor, *England 1870-1914* (1968) p. 289.
- 71 R. B. Mowat, *The Victorian age* (1995) *passim.*
- 72 *Ibid.* p. 31.
- 73 Ensor *op. cit.* p. 289.
- 74 James *op. cit.* p. 320.
- 75 *Oxford Dictionary of political quotations* (1996).
- 76 Wood *op. cit.* p. 385.
- 77 *FWN* 20.10.1900.
- 78 *Ibid.*
- 79 *Lambert's Almanack 1901.*
- 80 O. G. Sutton, *Weather* (1960) *passim.*
- 81 *FWN* 3.2.1900.
- 82 *FWN* 7.4.1900.
- 83 *FWN* 5.5.1900.
- 84 *FWN* 9.6.1900.
- 85 *FWN* 26.5.1900.
- 86 *FWN* 7.7.1900.
- 87 *FWN* 8.9.1900.
- 88 *FWN* 8.12.1900.
- 89 *FWN* 5.1.1901.
- 90 *Oxford Illustrated history of English literature* (1990) *passim.*
- 91 Ensor *op. cit.* p. 328.
- 92 *Kelly's 1900 op. cit.*
- 93 Mowat *op. cit.* p. 164.
- 94 *Kelly's 1900 op. cit.*
- 95 *Fram* 3rd series no. 5 (Dec. 1998) pp 3-5.
- 96 *Ibid* no. 7 (Aug. 1999) pp 21-22.
- 97 *FWN* 6.10.1900.
- 98 S. Gray, *Drama in a Suffolk town* (1990) p. 49.
- 99 *FWN* 27.1.1900.
- 100 G. R. Emerson, *William Ewart Gladstone* (1893) p. 51.
- 101 *Fram* 3rd series no. 6 (April 1999) p. 13.
- 102 *Census 1901 op. cit.*
- 103 Mowat *op. cit.* p. 41.

THE FRAMLINGHAM DOMESDAY

Compiled by M. V. Roberts

Self-evidently, the Domesday Survey of 1086 provides a range of economic and social data relating to the areas examined by its enumerators, unequalled until the early modern period, at least on anything like a country-wide basis. Even very briefly to explore the modes of interpretation and opportunities for exploitation of that data would be far beyond the scale of operation of this journal, and there are many useful and accessible monographs available to provide guidance in this area of research.¹

At the outset, however, one is struck by the inconsistency of coverage by Domesday. London and Winchester, to take only two examples, are entirely omitted, perhaps because there was simply too much material to assimilate, causing the Domesday assessors to balk at attempting any form of summary.² Other counties, such as Hertfordshire, are provided with useful demographic and economic returns in Domesday itself, but have in that source much abridged agricultural and other data, as compared with what was actually amassed by the enumerators, and now survives only in part in other archives.³

For Suffolk, speaking in general terms, the researcher is fortunate, in that detailed returns survive for the whole of the county. The introduction to the Suffolk Domesday in the *Victoria County History* notes⁴

The Domesday Survey of Suffolk follows the Surveys of Essex and Norfolk in "Little Domesday", the volume which is supposed to have been compiled from the original returns of the jurors of the hundreds, at an earlier date and on a more elaborate scale than the less detailed and graphic, but also less bulky and cumbersome, "Great Domesday".

The interpretation of the returns and their application to modern historical research is, of course, far from straightforward, since, like any other archive, the Survey itself and the surviving records that it generated was instigated to provide working documents to satisfy contemporary needs, economic, administrative or political, and not to provide a data-set for exploitation by scholars nine centuries later. For example, no precise information is provided on overall population figures, although there is an invaluable body of information on the comparative numbers and socio-economic status of individual house-holds. Similarly, the enumerators' concerns largely centred on ownership and usage of property and related assets, and not on local topography. As a consequence, entries relating to a township of any size are often much dispersed among the returns for the county. Certainly (and not surprisingly) that is the case for Framlingham.

In the entries transcribed below from the *Victoria County History*, spelling, capitalization and punctuation have been modernized precisely as given in the *VCH*, except that (as in the *VCH*) the main name heading for each entry follows the spelling given in the original Domesday.

LANDS OF EARL HUGH

FRAMELINGHAM [Framlingham] Ailmar the thegn held, now Roger Bigot holds (it); 9 carucates of land as a manor. Then 24 villeins, now 32. Then 16 bordars, now 28. Then 5 ploughs on the demesne, now 3. Then 20 ploughs belonging to the men, now 16. Wood (land) for 100 swine. 16 acres of meadow. Then 2 rounceys, now 3. Then 4 beasts, now 7. Then 40

swine, now 10. Then 20 sheep, now 40. Then as now 60 goats. Now 3 hives of bees. Then it was worth 16 li, now 36 li.

In the same (vill) Monulf, held by commendation half to Ailmar and half to Malet's predecessor 1 carucate and 40 acres of land as a manor. Then as now 4 villeins, and 12 bordars. And 2 ploughs on the demesne. And 2½ ploughs belonging to the men. Wood (land) for 100 swine. 6 acres of meadow. And 8 beasts, 20 swine, 60 sheep, 40 goats, and 4 hives of bees. Then as now worth 40s. William Malet was seised.

And under him 6 whole freemen and 4 half (freemen) with 30 acres of land. Then as now 1 plough. An acre of meadow. And they are included in the 40s valuation. In the same (vill) a freeman under commendation (held) 40 acres and a villein dwelling in Ethereg [] and 3 bordars and 1 acre of meadow and 1 plough. Wood (land) for 4 swine. Worth 8s.

In the same (vill) 3 freemen under commendation (held) 56 acres. Then as now 3 ploughs. And 2 acres of meadows. Wood (land) for 4 swine. Worth 17s. And a church with 60 acres and 1 villein and 4 bordars and 2 ploughs. Worth 15s. It is 14 furlongs long and 12 broad. And (pays) 20d in geld. Saint Ethelreda has the soke; but Hugh's predecessor had it of her.⁵

. . LANDS OF ROBERT MALET

(At) FRAMALINGAHAM [Framlingham] Edric of Laxfield held T.R.E. 4 score and 14 acres as a berewick. Then as now 2 villeins, and 4 bordars. Then as now on the demesne 2 ploughs. And belonging to the men 1 (plough). Wood(land) for 4 swine. 2 acres of meadow. Then as now 1 rouncey, 4 beasts, 4 swine, and 5 hives of bees. And it is included in the valuation of Dinginetura [Dennington].

And a half freeman under Edric's commendation (held) 4 acres included in the valuation (of Dennington) above.

And in the same (vill) was a half freeman Brihtnoth under the same (Edric's) commendation with 2 acres; and (this) Robert Malet holds in demesne.

In the same (vill) Walter de Caen holds of Robert Malet (the land) which a sokewoman Leva under Edric's commendation (held) T.R.E., viz. 80 acres as a manor. Then as now 1 villein, and 4 bordars. And 1 plough on the demesne. And belonging to the men 1 plough. Wood(land) for 4 swine. 4 acres of meadow. Then it was worth 13s and 4d, now a like sum.

And a freeman Tunchetel under the said (Edric's) commendation (held) 4 acres, worth 2s. This the same Walter de Caen holds.⁶

And in FRAMLINGAHAM [Framlingham] a freeman Herewold under Edric's commendation (held) 2 acres, and they are (included) in the valuation of Dinginetura [Dennington].

In the same (vill) Fulchered holds of Robert Malet a freeman (formerly) under Edric's commendation with 10 acres, worth 2s.⁷

FEE OF THE BISHOP OF THETFORD

In FRAMALINGAHAM [Framlingham] a freeman under commendation of Bishop Almar (held) 20 acres of land and half a plough. Worth 4s.⁸

LANDS OF RALPH DE LIMESI

(At) FRAMELINGAHAM [Framlingham] Bricmar a freeman under Harold held T.R.E. 50 acres of land as a manor. Then as now 3 bordars, and 1 serf. And on the demesne 1 plough. And belonging to the men half a plough. Then and always it was worth 15s.⁹

GLOSSARY¹⁰

<i>Beasts</i>	Literally beasts/animals, but when used specifically, oxen or cattle.
<i>Berewick</i>	Outlying estate.
<i>Bordar</i>	Un-free person holding less land than a villein.
<i>Carucate</i>	Measure of land, most frequently taken to be 120 acres.
<i>Demesne</i>	Manorial land-holding not held by tenants, but kept in hand by the lord of the manor.
<i>Rouncey</i>	Horse.
<i>Serf</i>	Un-free labourer.
<i>Sokeman/ Sokewoman</i>	Free peasant.
<i>Thegn</i>	Nobleman.
<i>Vill</i>	Township.
<i>Villein</i>	Un-free but land-holding person.

NOTES

- ¹ A useful introduction for the general reader is provided by E. M. Hallam, *Domesday Book through nine centuries*. London, Thames and Hudson, 1986. For further reading see H. C. Darby, *The Domesday geography of eastern England*. 3rd edit. Cambridge, CUP, 1971. pp. 153-208. A. Ballard's *The Domesday Inquest*. London, Methuen, 1906 still has both relevance and readability, and includes numerous references to the Suffolk Survey.
- ² G. H. Martin, "Records and record-keeping in medieval London" in *Archives and the Metropolis*, ed. M. V. Roberts. London, Guildhall Library Publications, 1998. pp. 74-5.
- ³ *Victoria History of the County of Hertford*. London, 1902. Vol. 1, pp. 263-4.
- ⁴ *Victoria History of the County of Suffolk*. London, Constable, 1911. Vol. 1, p. 357.
- ⁵ *Ibid.* p. 443.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* p. 464.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* p. 466.
- ⁸ *Ibid.* p. 516.
- ⁹ *Ibid.* p. 564.
- ¹⁰ These definitions are largely derived from J. Bristow, *The Local Historian's glossary and vade mecum*. 2nd edit. Nottingham, Nottingham University Department of Adult Education, 1994, supplemented from the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

THE HEADMASTER'S BOOK, 1879-1894

Compiled by A. J. Martin

PART 2: FIGHTING PARENTS AND SMOKING CHIMNEYS, 1880-1883

If Edward George Warren, Headmaster of Sir Robert Hitcham's School in Framlingham, experienced a feeling of relief when he recorded in his Log Book that his first year had ended on March 31st 1880, he showed no sign. He opened the Registers the very next day and on the day after that, April 2nd, A. J. Swinburn Esq., H.M.I., examined the boys. Reading his book, one is struck by the sheer doggedness with which Mr. Warren pursued his teaching vocation. The persistence he showed against so many odds - truancy, illiteracy, parent apathy, smoke from the chimneys, outside attractions such as the Band of Hope, the College Sports and the Farmers' Club Shows, put him on a par with the dedication shown by teachers today in some of the more notorious inner-city schools.

The previous article in this short series sought to show the daily work of a teacher in a typical country school more than a century ago. Today, Sir Robert Hitcham's School is in the top bracket for excellence. It receives support from the parents and the resulting product - the children - are a credit to Framlingham. In Mr. Warren's day, the School was probably typical of so many like it, neither better nor worse; the children born of a tough environment, the harsh work of a life on the land the mainstay of the family income and that, or an allied trade, the only prospect for many school-leavers.

In this article, we show, over a few years, the difficulties that Mr. Warren had to contend with, other than pure teaching, in order to give his children the best help in their early years.

May 6th 1880

The attendance is very much affected by children staying away on Thursday and Friday afternoons to go after milk for their parents. Sent a Monitor round to such parents, and mostly replied that they were unable to do without them.

May 14th

The attendance this week has been very irregular. In spite of cautions and notes to parents, several boys are employed illegally on the land. On Thursday afternoon, only 87 were present, the absentees principally going to the College Athletic Sports.

[There were several wet days in June and these always resulted in reduced attendances. A half-holiday was also given on the 16th so that the boys could visit the Children's Flower Show, but many were absent in the morning delivering their specimens. On the 22nd, Mr. Swinburn (H.M.I.) visited and thought that desks would improve the classroom and that the ventilation was "Not quite successful".]

July 16th

Classroom very warm: not enough ventilation causing the children to become sleepy and listless.

November 24th

Received an anonymous postcard stating that the Badingham Road boys are in the habit of knocking on people's doors as they go home.

November 26th

Unable to have fires all this week. Reported the matter to the Clerk. The chimneys are constantly smoking and sometimes the smoke is so dense that one cannot see across the room. This upsets the usual order of the school and causes the children to be fidgety and miserably cold.

January 18th 1881

... Considerable snow has fallen during the week. Fearfully terrific was the wind today and numbers very much reduced, but nothing compared with next day as the wind during the night had drifted the snow [so] as to make many of the roads impassable. Gave a holiday in the afternoon.

January 28th

Better attendance during the week. [He had to give another half holiday on the 21st - inclement weather.] 3rd Standard very dull in comprehending Long Division. One boy (after working out the sum on the board with him) in dividing by 13, in one instance had 9654031 left.

February 8th

The chimneys were smoking fearfully this morning - fires had to be extinguished and as it was wet and cold, gave the boys a half-holiday.

February 10th

The room was filled with smoke at 9 a.m. and so dense was it that no object could be seen. Complained of this to Mr. Hatsell Garrard [a Governor] who visited during the morning with Mr. Read [the Clerk] when the room was clear. In the afternoon it was quite unbearable. The Rev. W. W. Bird [Headmaster, Framlingham College] called and saw the smoke issuing from the chimneys in the Girls School and promised that a Governors Meeting should be convened and steps taken to try and prevent the smoking ...

February 28th

Re-admitted Alfred King who is a very dull boy - in fact, he cannot distinguish one thing from another.

March 3rd

Miserably wet and cold today. Abraham Vyce, who refused to extend his hand (acting on the advice of parent) when requested to do so, was suspended from the school until such time as his parent can advise him to do as he is told in school. Wrote to the father respecting this matter.

March 7th

The mother of the boy Vyce referred to attended this morning and before the whole school and in the presence of the mother, the boy "put out his hand" when asked to do so.

March 11th

Unable to have fires 3 days this week.

April 20th

Only 92 in attendance this afternoon - absentees (chiefly) attending the Annual Tea of the Juvenile Foresters Club.

May 6th

Usual progress during the week. On Thursday afternoon the holiday of the College Sports reduced this school very much. Only 84 [out of an average 130] in attendance. On Tuesday morning, R. Moore and Charles Ward had forgotten to bring their slates and they were sent home for them. The latter returned but the former did not and as he did not turn up in the afternoon, I deemed it prudent to punish him next morning when he put in an appearance.

May 13th

Whilst I was talking to the boys, Moore went out of school and I at once wrote a note to the father's master [Mr. F. Garrard, a Governor] giving him the facts of the case who sent the man down to apologise for his having told the boy to go home if he was punished.

The parents seem to thwart the teachers' efforts in every instance, instilling into their children's minds *not to do* as the teachers tell them. The boy Vyce again refused for some minutes to stand up on a stool until I finally persuaded him to do so without caning him.

July 23rd

Mrs. Runnacles attended and complained of her boy being punished for truant playing.

July 30th

Jno. Chilvers and Arthur Smith, two exceedingly troublesome boys, cautioned as to their future conduct. The latter refused to extend his hand today when required to do so, and screamed and yelled when I attempted (successfully) to open his hand.

November 11th

Abraham Vyce and Arthur Smith, two troublesome boys, played truant today.

November 14th

Vyce and Smith were sent home to fetch their mothers. Mrs. Vyce attended and owned that she sent her boy to school but that as the rat-catcher had met him and taken him away and given him a few pence, she did not consider that he had truanted. I informed her that I could not overlook it, as in my opinion it was truancy, but that owing to her explanation, I would only give the boy a slight punishment, viz: a pat on each hand to which she gave her consent. But when the boy came he said his father and mother both said he was not to be caned, whereupon I sent him home and again his mother attended. This was repeated three times when, on the third day, I caned the boy against the wishes of his parent, informing the whole school at the same time the circumstances and that in no case would I overlook truant playing. Meanwhile Smith's mother had not been to see me.

November 18th

Mrs. Smith attended and informed me that her boy too was sent to school but had been taken away by the rat-catcher, and that it was quite against her wishes and that she hoped the boy would be punished. I told her of Vyce's punishment in answer to my enquiry whether he would be present today and she said Mr. Capon was employing him. [Mr. Capon farmed at Dennington Hall].

Mr. Capon being a Governor of the school, I made it my duty to see him and inform him of the matter whereupon he immediately sent the boy to school and he [the boy] received similar punishment to Vyce. Two or three times this school has been full of smoke impeding the general work of the school and at other times fires were out of the question. The smoke is so dense that one cannot see from one end of the school to the other.

November 26th

Usual progress during the week interrupted frequently by smoke.

November 28th

James Churchyard sent home to fetch his mother, respecting his absence on the previous Thursday afternoon. Boys did not begin work until 9.45 owing to the room being full of smoke. The Governors to remedy the smoking chimneys, are now trying Musgraves Slow Combustion Stoves.

November 30th

Class-room occupied by girls this afternoon under charge of Mistress. They had been obliged to leave their own department which was full of sulphur and smoke.

December 19th

The school was so full of smoke this morning that the boys did not receive the "two hours secular instruction" as they had at least an hour in the playground, in consequence of which the attendance was cancelled. Mr. H. Garrard, a Governor (after being requested) visited, when on condition that something should be done during the Xmas holidays, I promised him to keep the school the rest of the week if fine, without fires as it is quite impossible to go on comfortably.

December 20th

Being so cold and thoroughly wet - children drenched - it was quite out of the question to sit in a cold school without fires, so gave the whole school a holiday. Reported this to the Clerk.

January 9th 1882

More desk room is required. The Governors, during the holidays, had turned the stoves about, so that the piping is carried out into the East. They (the stoves) have gone on well today, with the exception that the smoke from the Boys piping has drifted into the Girls room as the piping is not carried above the eaves.

[On December 9th 1881, Mr. Swinburn had examined the school. His Report was received on January 21st and Mr. Warren copied it out in his book.]

BOYS SCHOOL. "The boys passed a creditable examination and behave well - the absence of anything like harshness being a very pleasant feature in the discipline. The papers are remarkably neat. Arithmetic is a little weak and the character of the work is not this year quite so uniformly good as the Master's zeal and capacity would lead one to expect. Doubtless this Department suffers from the untrained beginners it admits. The attendance too might well be more regular. Something should be done to prevent the stove smoking in all three Departments. The intelligence of the scholars may still be more developed. The Pupil Teacher promises well."

February 27th-28th

Master [Mr. Warren] absent through sickness - Assistant in charge. The boys assembled at 2 p.m. instead of 1.30 p.m.

March 2nd

Master resumed work when Mr. Fairweather was in attendance stating that his son Walter had been beaten by the Pupil Teacher the preceding day. The boy bore evident traces of the ill treatment received at the hands of the P.T. when shewn to me.

The P. Teacher at lessons received from me a severe caution as this is not the first complaint that has reached me - also wrote a note to his father complaining of his conduct.

July 14th

The attendance is simply disheartening. The boys are not employed at work but simply stay away on some idle excuse or at the whim of their parents.

July 21st

Arthur James has at last returned to school - he has been absent nearly three weeks tho' always sent by his parents.

July 24th

The Wards returned after an absence of 6 months but as they had truanted the last time they were at school and spent another little boy's school pence, I sent for their mother before I re-admitted them.

November 20th

As so many of the dinner children have lost part or the whole of the food given them by their parents, I informed them that for the future they must bring their bags in the school and place them in a row by the side of my desk.

January 3rd 1883

A Governors Meeting was held in the classroom this morning. Obtained leave of absence to enable me to take my little nephews (lately scholars in this school) down to Dartmouth where they embarked on the "Garth Castle" for Blomfontein, Orange Free State.

[On the preceding December 12th, 13th and 14th, Mr. Warren had been absent to attend the funeral of his brother. He does not say whether the nephews were the children of his late brother or another sibling.]

April 22nd

Several boys absent all week stone picking. Many of the younger boys have been coughing continually which has in a measure interfered with the routine of the school. Whooping cough is prevalent.

August 9th

The children attending these schools were enabled, through the liberality of the Governors and other ladies and gentlemen of the Town, to have a "School Treat". This consisted of an ordinary tea, interspersed with games, racing etc. on the Castle Meadow. Prizes were given for the best reciter in each class, who had been selected by Mrs. F. R. Garrard and the Misses Adamson on the previous day. Prizes (21) were also given to the boys who had made 300 out of 303 attendances.

October 8th

Harry Hunt who had broken a window in the porch sometime last Spring was sent home to ask his father (a glazier) to come and mend it. He was told to inform his father that if he (the father) did not feel satisfied that his boy broke the window, to put it in at the Master's expense.

The boy brought word back that his father refused to repair the window. Suspended the boy until such time as the window was mended and reported this to the governors.

October 10th

A Governors Meeting was held in the classroom this morning. The case of H. Hunt was brought on. Mr. Hunt had written to the Governors complaining of my conduct respecting this boy. The Governors decided to take the responsibility off me and to deal with Mr. Hunt at a future meeting - the boy in the meantime to attend school.

October 26th

Charles Pulham, a boy 13 years of age was dismissed from school today. He was requested by Mr. Francis who was in charge of the class at the time, to pick up a ruler that he (the boy) had knocked down. He refused to do it and, the case being reported to me, I asked the boy to pick the ruler up. He bawled out very loudly: "I shan't pick it up."

When reasoning with him he was very impudent. He eventually picked up the ruler, exclaiming as he did so and causing a disturbance in the school: "I shan't come any more." After his temper had cooled down a bit, I very carefully reasoned with him and the boy seemed sorry for what he had done.

I told him that for his impudence to me I would forgive him, but to show his sorrow, and express his sorrow before the whole school, he must beg Mr. Francis' pardon. I waited fully 15 minutes after school hours, with the whole school, for him to do this, but he obstinately refused. As his conduct had upset the routine of the school, I had no alternative but to dismiss him, posting a letter to his father telling him, (the father) my reasons for so doing.

December 7th

The fires were removed from the stove to the fireplace this morning. The previous day they were removed from the fireplaces into the stoves.

This does not remedy the evil, for the smoke beats down the further chimney from the classroom so that though there is no fire in the large room, yet we are constantly full of smoke.

December 14th

All this week we have been troubled to a great extent with smoke impeding the routine of the school. Informed Mr. Lambert [A Governor] and Mr. Read [Clerk] of this matter. The attendance is very poor.

December 19th

A Governors Meeting was held in the classroom this morning. Again wrote and asked them to try some means so as to prevent the smoke beating down the chimneys.

Boys dismissed for the usual Xmas vacation.

.....

Mr. Warren must have experienced a wonderful sense of relief at the thought of spending Christmas 1883 in the smoke-free peace of his own home, away from his harassed teaching life for a short respite. For he was back at his desk on January 7th 1884 - and on January 11th he reported to Mr. Read that the school was much troubled with smoke during the week!

THOMAS LADD c 1591-1666: SEXTON OF FRAMLINGHAM

By R. E. Ladd

The Framlingham parish registers contain no Ladd baptisms, marriages or burials in the period 1580 - 1620. Then a baptismal entry for 20th August 1620 reads:

Baptized August 1620 Margaret, datr of Tho & Margaret Lad - 20th.

Margaret Lad, the daughter, was the first of about seventy Lad/Ladde/Ladd entries recorded in the Framlingham registers over the following 150 years.

We have not located Thomas's place or date of birth, despite an extensive search of registers of surrounding parishes. Assuming that he married a year or so before Margaret's baptism, and allowing 28 years as the average age at which men married in the early seventeenth century, we may estimate his year of birth at about 1591. Our failure also to trace Thomas's marriage in neighbouring parishes may add weight to the notion that he married in Framlingham during the period 1615-1620, when a gap occurs in the surviving registers. Margaret was probably the first of his seven children as the following table shows:

Name	Date	Event	Description
Margaret	20 Aug 1620	baptism	"dau of Thomas and Margaret Lad"
Marie	7 Sep 1621	baptism	"dau of Thomas and & Marie Lad"
Ellsabethe	19 Jan 1623	baptism	"dau of Thomas & Mary Ladd"
	9 Jun 1706	burial	"Elizabeth Ladd, single woman"
Alice	24 May 1625	baptism	"dau of Thomas & Mary Ladd"
Dorriate	9 Nov 1628	baptism	"dau of Thomas & Mary Lade"
Joseph	18 Apr 1630	baptism	"son of Thomas & Mary Lad"
	c. 1659	marriage	1. "to Pricilla" bur. 1/8/66
	c. 1667	marriage	2. "to Elizabeth" bur. 7/2/74
	10 Apr 1676	marriage	3. "Joseph Ladde, widower, to Mary Scarlet, single woman" bur. 11 Dec. 1678
	3 Jul 1683	marriage	4. "Joseph Lad & Sarah Thorndike", bur. 6 Dec 1710
	7 Mar 1694	burial	"Joseph Ladd buried"
John,	26 Aug 1632	baptism	"son of Thomas & Mary Ladde"
(the	9 Dec 1658	marriage	"John Ladd & Marie Bucher"
ancestor)	29 Apr 1720	burial	"John Lad buried"

All events took place at St. Michael's, Framlingham, from the registers of which the above descriptions are quoted.

We are accustomed to seeing a large number of births in one family. However, it must have been a particular joy for Thomas and his wife when their first son was born after the successive births of five daughters.

The burial register has been checked for female Ladd entries from 1620, locating only one, Elizabeth Ladd in 1706. It looks as though this may refer to Thomas's third daughter. That all five daughters apparently survived infancy and childhood was remarkable by the standards of the time. In contrast, only two of Thomas's grandchildren by his son Joseph survived childhood, despite Joseph's four marriages!

The parish registers reveal no clue as to Thomas's occupation; another source was to prove much more productive, as we shall see later. Two activities taking place in and around Framlingham at the time were the cloth industry and, of course, farming. In the period from 1450 to 1530, the cloth industry reached a major peak of prosperity.¹ It gave employment to large numbers of men, women and children in the different processes of spinning, weaving, dyeing, fulling and shearing. We know that Thomas's elder son, Joseph, was a linen weaver, and it must be at least a possibility that he was following in his father's footsteps. By 1525, the cloth trade was slackening and forced clothiers to give less work to spinners, weavers and finishers.

From 1530 to 1630, agriculture was booming.² The enormous national increase in population, nearly doubling in the two centuries to 1650, ensured a growing demand for food, and caused its price to rise sevenfold. However, in the 1630s, life in Suffolk seemed increasingly precarious and turbulent, with a depressed woollen industry, civil unrest and recurrent outbreaks of plague in town and country. The turmoil was sufficient for 650 people to emigrate from Suffolk to New England, mainly during the years 1629 to 1638, motivated by dissatisfaction and hope.

In 1625, we come across what may be the first mention of Thomas outside the parish registers. In *Wills of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk 1625-26* appears a reference to Thomas Ladde of Framlingham.³ He is named as a beneficiary in the Will of Robert Caver, yeoman of Brandeston, south-west of Framlingham. The will was written on 27th March 1625 and probate granted at Wickham Market on 2nd May 1625. Thomas inherited 30s. Yeoman was a class intermediate between the gentry and the labourers. He was usually a landowner, but could be a retainer, guard, attendant or subordinate official. Raphael Holinshed, in his *Chronicles* (1577), described them as having free land worth £6 (originally 40s) annually, and as not being entitled to bear arms.

Just when one might have assumed that the parish records had revealed all their documentary evidence about Thomas and his family, a series of entries relating to him and other Ladds were found in the Framlingham overseers' and churchwardens' accounts. From these entries, it appears that Thomas had been sexton at Framlingham from at least 1640 (when he would have been about 49 years old) to 1662. His name occurs in both series of accounts. (The differentiation between the two is not always very clear at this date).

The earliest reference to Thomas is in the churchwardens' accounts for 1640-1⁵.

Item paid to goodmane Lad for halfe a yeres wages - £1 6s 8d.

That Thomas's wages as sexton were payable half-yearly is borne out by subsequent entries up to 1659.⁶ The dates for payment were Lady Day (25 March) and Michaelmas (29 September) - two of the Quarter days. It is clear, however, that his wages were not always paid when they were due. In 1644, he received in arrears the total of four years' wages⁷. Was this an indication of the turmoil in England during the Civil War? Throughout his 19 years as sexton, Thomas's wages never increased from the original figure of £2 13s 4d per annum. Indeed, the last figure paid to his son, Joseph, who appears to have succeeded Thomas in his office, remained 26s 8d for half a year in 1672!⁸ It does look as though there may have been some flexibility over payment of wages that occasionally worked in his favour. On 24 August 1648-9, he received

13s 4d "towards his wages", implying that the payment was an advance on wages due a month later.⁹

A sexton is a church custodian charged with keeping the church and parish buildings prepared for meetings, caring for church equipment, and performing related minor duties such as ringing the bells and digging graves.¹⁰ The term is sometimes used interchangeably with "sacristan", denoting a church officer who is specifically in charge of the sacristy (in modern Protestant churches it is generally called the vestry) and its sacred utensils and vestments, but who may also perform the duties of sexton. Fortunately, the overseers and churchwardens at Framlingham described in their accounts the tasks undertaken by Thomas, thereby illustrating for us the nature of some of his duties.

It appears that Thomas received other payments from the overseers and churchwardens in addition to his half-yearly wages. In 1644, he received 8d when "he laid out p(er) bread for Com(munion)".¹¹ Jasper Goodinge, churchwarden in 1647, writes that 6d was "expended upon the plomer and Tho. Lad & my p(ar)tner"¹². Later the same year, Thomas received 2d "for wier for the clock", 8d "for a key for the chancell dore" and another sum for helping Tho. Kell in "woorke about the church".¹³

One task associated with a sexton is ringing the bells. In Thomas's time, St. Michael's church at Framlingham had four bells; the earliest two dating from the 15th century had been cast by Richard Braysher, the third dated 1583 by Ralph Brend, and the most recent, dated 1622, by William Brend.¹⁴ Thomas would have been familiar with these four bells (though not the three more added in 1718/20 or the eighth in 1902). In 1655, the overseers, Robert Lee and Frances Boldrey, "paide to Thomos Lad for Ringeine of the Belle for Edmond Stevenes and Macking of the grave and Beringe of him 1s 4d".¹⁵ In this example, the twin tasks of a sexton are neatly illustrated. However, Thomas, as sexton, was required to do more with the bells than simply to ring them. In 1644, he received 4d for "Wyer and oyle to trym the Chymes" and 2s "for a Baldrick per the 4th bell" and "fastening the gudgeing of the great bell".¹⁶ The baldrick was the leather thong or gear by which the clapper of a church bell was formerly suspended. The gudgeon was the large pivot of the axis of the bell wheel. And finally in 1659 he received 1s 6d to pay for "drinke" to those involved in "hanging of the great bell".¹⁷

Nor were Thomas's duties limited to grave-digging and bell-ringing, for twice, once in 1644¹⁸ and again in 1649/50,¹⁹ he helped in "the removaell of the orgains and setting them up againe".

The last entry in the accounts relating to Thomas's sexton duties occurs in 1659: "To Lad for buring Baytons child - 1s".²⁰

In 1622, Thomas appears for the last time in the overseers' and churchwardens' accounts, when he received 3s 6d "for bread and beare and cowls".²¹ Whether Thomas was still sexton at this time is uncertain. He would have been about 70 at the time, and one suspects getting a little old for the more physically demanding of his duties as sexton.

In his final years, he would have attended the weddings of his younger son, John, at St. Michael's on 9th December 1658, and of his elder son, Joseph, around the same time.

Thomas died at the start of the deadly outbreak of the plague in Framlingham. He was buried on 31st July 1666, just two days after the burial of Martha, his grand-daughter by his son, John. Over the next three days, five more members of the Ladd families died including Priscilla, Joseph's wife, two of her daughters, Marie and Margaret, and a son, Joseph, as well as Thomas's own wife, Mary.

One person more affected than most by these tragic events must have been Joseph, Thomas's elder son. It looks as though he may have succeeded his father in the office of sexton; his name is mentioned in the accounts from 1665 to 1671.²² There are a lot of gaps in the records, so Joseph may well have continued in the position for some years after then. What a melancholy task Joseph must have endured in 1666, with the sudden death of so many of his own family, relatives and friends. However, he managed to survive as did two of his children by Priscilla, his first wife. Joseph was to marry three times more! He left a Will dated 24th February 1693 in which he described himself as a linen-weaver. Perhaps the income from weaving supplemented his sexton's wages, unchanged for at least 32 years, from when his father, Thomas, first received his "halfe a yeres wages of £1 6s 8d".²³

Notes:

- ¹ Dymond, D. and Northeast, P. *A History of Suffolk* (1985) p. 48.
- ² *Ibid.* pp. 62-5
- ³ Suffolk Record Society 37 (1995) p. 8.
- ⁴ *New Encyclopaedia Britannica* 15th edit. vol. 12, p. 838.
- ⁵ Suffolk Record Office, Framlingham Churchwardens' Accounts. FC101/E2/25.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* 27; 28; 30; 32; 33; 38.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* 26.
- ⁸ *Ibid.* 39.
- ⁹ *Ibid.* 29
- ¹⁰ *NEB. op. cit.* vol. 10, p. 675.
- ¹¹ FC101/E2/26.
- ¹² *Ibid.* 27.
- ¹³ *Ibid.* 28.
- ¹⁴ Information courtesy of Major A. O. Kirby, Framlingham.
- ¹⁵ Suffolk Record Office, Framlingham Overseers' Accounts. FC101/G5/7.
- ¹⁶ FC101/E2/26.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.* 38.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.* 26.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.* 30.
- ²⁰ FC101/G5/8.
- ²¹ *Ibid.* 11.
- ²² *Ibid.* 12; FC101/E2/39.
- ²³ Note 5 above.

Acknowledgements:

Dr. Joanna Martin who discovered and extracted the references to Thomas Ladd in the Framlingham Overseers' and Churchwardens' Accounts.

Major A. O. Kirby who first suggested that Thomas's tale should be told.

CORRESPONDENCE

Castle House
Castle Street
Framlingham

26/10/99

Dear Editor,

FELIX MENDELSSOHN 1809-1847

Felix died young, but visited this country ten times and was fascinated by London "that smokey nest which is fated for ever to be my favourite residence. How much I like everything and how grateful I am to the kindness of old friends". Among his closest friends was Thomas Attwood (1765-1838), organist at St. Paul's Cathedral and celebrated musician, and his family.

Thomas was the only English pupil of Mozart, and can be considered one of the founders of modern English church music, and it was his friend Felix who introduced Bach's music to the world. Thomas married Mary Ann Denton in 1793 and one son, George, became Rector of Framlingham, from 1837 to 1884 (although it is clear that he took over in 1834). Another son, William Hamilton, became Rector of Gosbeck, near Ipswich. Thomas is buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, but his wife, Mary Ann, who lived at Framlingham after her husband's death, and George and his family are buried in Framlingham Cemetery.

We believe that the influence of Felix Mendelssohn on the Attwood family and on music at Framlingham must have been considerable. There has been much discussion about whether Felix actually visited Framlingham, and extensive research was carried out for an exhibition which accompanied the recent very successful concert given by Malcolm Russell's East Anglian Academy, which featured the music of both Felix and Thomas. There is no doubt that Thomas's daughter Caroline, who is buried at Gosbeck, became the organist for St. Michael's Church; and Felix will have been fascinated by its famous Thamar organ. Within recent memory, it has been known that she was taught by Felix, and it is believed that he was active in the area, even arranging a modification to the Sibton organ. It would be nice to find a letter or some evidence even more conclusive, but I am personally satisfied. What is beyond dispute is that the lives of Felix Mendelssohn and the Attwoods were inextricably linked.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur Kirby

EXIT LINES

It seems not at all improbable that the fiercest fighting ever witnessed at the castle was between some famous East Anglian pugilists in the first half of the eighteenth century. For it was here that John Slack, the Norfolk champion, and John Smith, the Suffolk champion, fought in 1744. The encounter lasted only five minutes, and resulted in the Norfolk man's favour. Smith, however, was not content with one thrashing, as may be seen from an advertisement issued shortly after the fight in which it is stated that, "At the Great Castle at Framlingham, Suffolk, on Monday, 12th November, there will be a severe trial between the following champions, namely - I, John Smith, the Suffolk champion, do once more invite Mr. John Slack, the Norfolk champion, to meet and fight me at the time and place aforesaid, for the sum of forty guineas, and though I had the misfortune to be defeated by him before, I am much his superior in the art of boxing, and doubt not but I shall give him and the company entire satisfaction". This challenge the Norfolk champion accepted ... adding that he had no fear of being unable to "support the character he had hitherto maintained". His confidence was justified; Smith again "had the misfortune" to be defeated. I do not know how it came about that the castle was chosen as a fitting place for these encounters, for it was then, as now, in the possession of the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke Hall. Can it be that the Masters and Fellows were supporters of the "Science of Manhood"?

From W. A. Dutt, *Highways and byways in East Anglia*. London, Macmillan, 1932

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