FRAM

The Journal of
The Framlingham & District
Local History & Preservation Society

4th Series

Number 9

April 2004

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

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

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

> Cheshunt Council found the 20th-century answer to the centuries accumulation of drab and derelict buildings in a new idea – the comprehensive development scheme. In the last decade they have made a start on what will one day be a model town. Great blocks of old and crumbling buildings have disappeared in the wake of the bulldozer. Shining new architectural masterpieces are rising from the ashes, giving the town a completely new look ...
> A modern roundabout with a gay fountain have replaced the old "triangle" with all its traffic problems and decrepit appearance. On the north-west and south-west corners of the junction, the motley collection of Georgian and Victorian buildings was replaced by sparkling parades of shops.

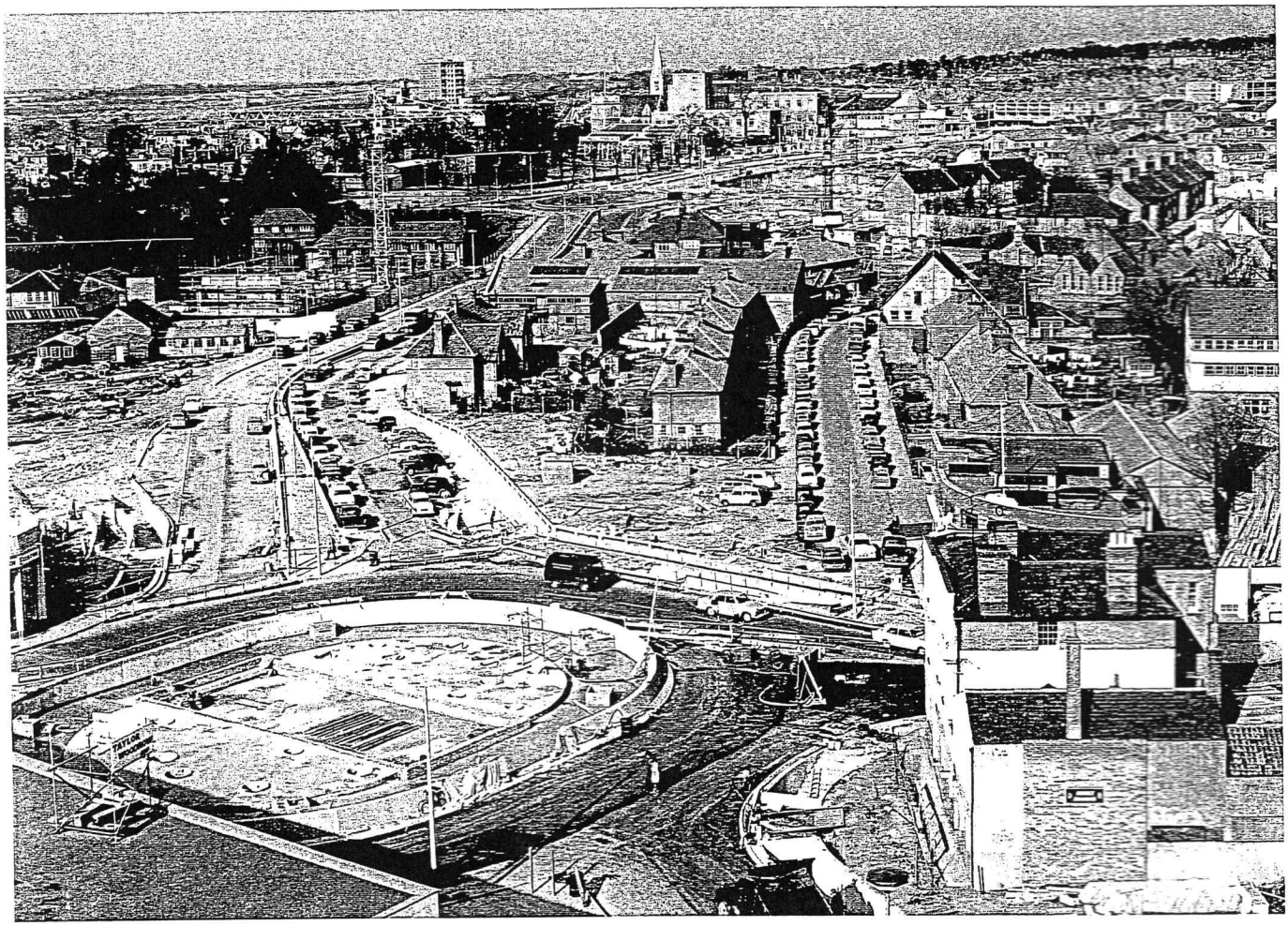
This quotation from the local paper of my home town of Waltham Abbey, *The Weekly Telegraph*, in its Centenary issue for May 31st 1963, will surely strike a chord for all members of our Society. We are privileged to live in a town that has been for many centuries (to take only a very brief reluctant look back at history) at the heart of an underdeveloped hinterland. To ensure that Framlingham as a town continues to enjoy that commanding position, some difficult, and possibly even controversial decisions, will need to be made about its future, by our City fathers, and some of these issues are addressed in the Editorial that follows.

Over time, sadly, Framlingham has only just been able to maintain its population levels, at somewhere in the region of 3,000 people; and at what cost! Many acres of prime agricultural land have in recent years been covered in bricks and mortar, and this at a time when we are being told that every hectare needs to be utilized for food production. In the face of this dilemma, the informed eye looks, perhaps, to the north of the town's urban envelope, where a derelict and life-expired structure occupies a large open space ripe for re-development. And to what purpose that space's present use? To bring in a few thousand passers-by, to clog up yet further the inadequate transport infrastructure of the town (a point to which I shall return later). Can better uses not be found for this wasteland?

To go only a hundred yards or so to the west, we have a reedy swamp, which every responsible parent in this town must regard with grave misgiving – for fishing, paddling, even skating, a potential deathtrap for the young and vulnerable. Perhaps better exploited, then, as the leisure centre that we need so much in Framlingham, with the high-tech amenities that many neighbouring towns take for granted, to occupy the idle hours of both young and old.

And to go to the Town's central core, what a distressing experience, a decaying heartland, an epicentre of unrealized potential, ripe for the developer's guiding hand!

I referred above to the town's transport infrastructure, and here again urgent measures are surely needed. We have forty-ton trucks using a road network predicated upon the delivery modes of the horse and cart! Perhaps here the measures adopted by our big sister town, a dozen miles to the south could be instructive. Forty years ago, Civic Drive in Ipswich carved a stately progress through "what was previously a very congested part of the town" (I quote from a contemporary guidebook). No doubt there will be protests here – as there may even have been in Ipswich – when the bulldozers at last move in, but Luddites are there in every community.



ROAD UP: Civic Drive, Ipswich being constructed in February 1966.

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Eastern Counties Newspaper Group Ltd.

And finally, to introduce a small note of controversy, our town's largest employer is surely ill-served by what we have on Framlingham's northern edge. As the author David Wallace said in his book *East Anglia* ... (1939) "On a hill just opposite the Castle is an unfortunate edifice in red brick, the College." The motley assemblage of nineteenth century structures on either side of Dennington Road, is only partly mitigated by the attractive 1980s development in the north-west corner of the site. One draws the most unfavourable comparisons with exciting "pods" by the Thames, at the Docklands campus of the University of East London, only eighty miles south of here.

The agenda proposed by this editorial is a broad, and perhaps even a mildly radical one, but one that needs urgently to be addressed. It may be a cause of sadness that Framlingham as a town "missed the bus" in the 1960s, when so many towns and cities in the UK re-discovered themselves in the destruction and re-creation of their centres and suburbs, but it is surely not too late to climb back on board that bus, so that we may, as a community, and as a town, approach with confidence the coming advent of the twenty-second century.

MVR – 1.4.2004

Glazier, Plumber, Painter and Volunteer: The Painted Room of Castle Cottage, *Framlingham*

By John McEwan

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mrs Lockie who died suddenly on 3 April 2003, in her 91st year. Our condolences to Judith Lockie and her brother Colin.

Castle Street contains houses dating from the sixteenth-century, many of which are Listed. The entry for *Castle Cottage* (No. 7), made on 25 October 1951 reads:

> Grade II House. Early C18, with earlier core. 2 storeys. Timber-framed and plastered; ashlar-lined; pantiled roof with overhanging eaves. 2 internal chimney-stacks with plain red brick shafts. 3 windows: small-paned sashes in flush frames. Early C19 6-panelled door with raised fielded panels, panelled pilasters, and entablature with roundels. The interior has a basic C16 2-cell plan, with a 3rd unit added on the west side; on the upper floor, evidence of a substantial C18 roof-raising. A timber-framed and red brick lean-to along the rear. A small parlour on the ground floor is decorated with a random collection of early C19 wall-paintings: subjects include a watermill in a rocky landscape, a seated man, possibly the owner of the house, with a maidservant; Daniel in the lions' den; a sea battle; 2 large buildings, probably barracks, and a woman playing with a baby. The source of these is unknown, but they are thought to show French influences.[1]

A year later in October 1952, on the death of Sarah Elizabeth Page, widow, of Yew Tree House, Castle Street, two cottages (Nos. 7 & 9) were sold to Ernest Chambers. When Mrs Lockie bought the cottage in 1977, the paintings were covered by wallpaper or white emulsion paint. Mrs Lockie and her daughter Judith re-discovered the paintings and carefully removed the wallpaper. Some were cleaned and attempts made to remove the white emulsion paint. Others had been lost, possibly before they were Listed, when a new door was inserted in the north-east corner of the room.

Mrs Lockie expressed her concern about the future of the paintings to her next-door neighbour who drew the Society's attention to them. The Society organised a visit from Andrea Kirkham, an accredited wall painting conservator, to see them. The photographs of the paintings are hers and are reproduced with her kind permission.

A newspaper feature appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times*[2] which prompted a visit by a camera crew from BBC *Look East* and a snippet of about a minute appeared in their evening broadcast on 19 March 2003.

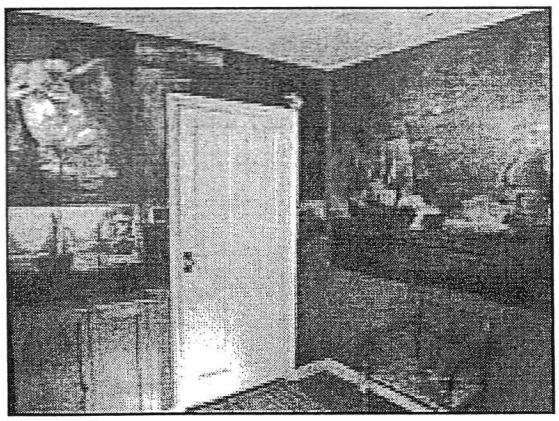


Figure 1 Room from BBC's Look East, showing two of the four painted walls

Visit the website for story:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/england/2866027.stm

There were at least twelve paintings of various subjects including landscapes, a seascape, family groups, biblical scenes and a Roman Centurion. Large photographs of them are on display in the Lanman Museum in the Castle. The subjects of the two largest paintings are discussed below.

The Engagement of Serapis and Bon Homme Richard

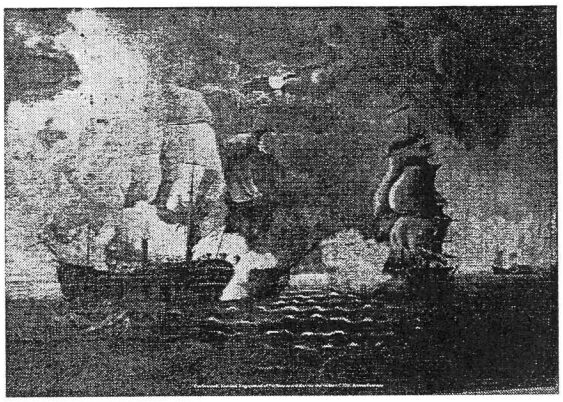


Figure 2 Wall Painting of the Serapis

Charlie Howlett worked for Flick and Son, auctioneers at Saxmundham and when they left their old premises in the Stockyard, he gave home to some of the abandoned items in his field adjacent to Infirmary Lane in Framlingham. Amongst these was an old trunk, which he gave to Judith Lockie. It contained, much to her surprise, two engravings, one being of the sea-battle painted on the East wall. This had been published on December 12, 1780 by Richard Paton and was entitled *The memorable Engagement of Capt. Pearson of the Serapis with Paul Jones of the Bon Homme Richard and his squadron September 23 1779.*[3]

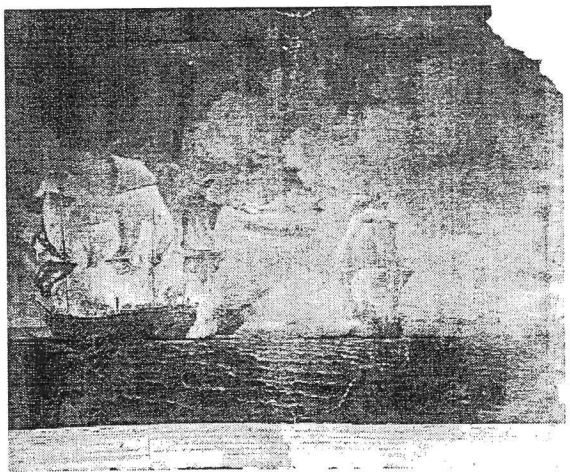


Figure 3 Etching of the Serapis with the Bon Homme Richard September 23 1779

The captain of the ship *Bon Homme Richard* was John Paul Jones, an American naval officer, born 1747 in Kirkbean, Kirkcudbright, Scotland. During the American War of Independence, he:

> surprised the two forts commanding the harbour of Whitehaven, spiked the guns, and made an unsuccessful attempt to fire the shipping. Four days thereafter he encountered the British sloop-of-war *Drake*, [...] near Belfast, and, after an hour's engagement, forced her to strike her colours and accompanying to France as a prize. [...] On the way back to France [in 1779] a large Fleet of merchantmen were encountered, convoyed by the heavily armed *Serapis* and the armed sloop *Countess of Scarborough*. [...] The desperate battle, one of the famous sea engagements in history took place by moonlight and lasted three and a half hours. In the end, the English commander asked for quarter. The *Bon Homme Richard* was so badly shattered that she sank the next day. But Jones' men brought the *Serapis* back to France.[4]

Maidservant and Framlingham Volunteer

Its position is on the south wall to the west of the window. The listing describes it as 'a seated man, possibly the owner of the house, with a maidservant.' The man is dressed in a red and yellow uniform.

Figure 4 Maidservant and Framlingham Volunteer

Richard Green mentions that the earlier Volunteers were formed in 1798 but 'the uniform they wore was a blue coat, with

black velvet facings trimmed with silver lace, white kerseymere small clothes, and short black gaiters; hats with fur across and cross belts.' In '1801, when their services being no longer required they were disbanded.' However, this is not our soldier. Green goes on to report on the next band of Volunteers:-

> 1803,—upon the breaking out of the war again in this year, the same spirit was called into action, upon which a new and more extensive corps was formed and equipped for service. This was first commanded by John Shafto, esq., upon whose resignation Mr. Stanford succeeded as major. The entire body consisted of about two hundred and forty members, forming three companies, who, with their military band together with drummers and fifes, made a very soldier-like and respectable appearance in the field. The corps wore the true military dress, viz., a red jacket turned-up with yellow, white small clothes, long black gaiters, and felt caps. Thus constituted, they led a quiet life of *home service*, mustering occasionally, at twenty shillings a year each man until 1814, when the din of war no longer requiring men to be soldiers, they were rightly sent to the *right about*, and their arms and accoutrements returned to the government stores. On field days, the corps displayed a handsome flag having the appropriate motto—"Our King and Country," within a wreath of oak and laurel combined, which was presented to the Blues by the Ladies of Framlingham.[5]

The description of the uniform corresponds with that worn by the gentlemen in the painting. Some Framlingham residents believe he is Major Stanford. Charles Spencer of Public Records Office, Kew writes it might be a painting of an officer. However, as can be seen from the Table 1 below there are ten officers in the Framlingham Militia taken from the *War Office List of Officers of the Militia, the gentlemen of the Yeomanry cavalry and Volunteer Infantry of the United Kingdom* published 31 March 1807 together with dates from the Framlingham Parish Registers. It reflects the 1806 return, for in 1807 George Mayhew was replaced by James Legatt.[6]

Table 1 List of Officers of the Framlingham Militia - 31st March 1807

Rank	*Name*	*Joining Date*	*Company*	*Parish Register Entries*
Major	John Stanford	17 Dec 1803	-	d. 31 Aug 1838 aged 88
Captain	Jasper Peirson	8 Aug 1803	1st	d. 28 Dec 1838 aged 72
	John Edwards	8 Aug 1803	2nd	d. 23 Jan 1832 aged 50 or 20 Sep 1845 aged 66
	Thomas Poole	8 Aug 1803	3rd	
Lieutenant	John Aldrich	8 Aug 1803	1st	b. 30 Jan. 1755
	George Edwards	8 Aug 1803	2nd	d. 31 Oct 1836 aged 83
	Charles Clubbe	22 May 1804	3rd	d. 24 Aug 1876 aged 89
Ensign	Thomas Bennington	8 Aug 1803	1st	
	George Mayhew	8 Aug 1803	3rd	
	John Goodwyn	22 May 1804	2nd	
Chaplain	William Browne (Rector)	22 May 1804	-	

Three of the names above are mentioned by the anonymous writer of the column 'Framlingham 65 Years Ago' in the *Framlingham Weekly News*:

> JOHN EDWARDS carried on the business of a tanner on the premises now occupied by Mrs. Revett. The family originally dwelt at Dennington Hall. He resided in the house now occupied by Mrs. Webber.
>
> JASPER PEIRSON was the father to the late John Peirson Esq,, of Broadwater and late Goodwyn Goodwyn, Esq., and was captain over the old Volunteers of that early date. The family is now disconnected with the town, the last link being severed when Mrs Goodwyn Goodwyn passed to her rest. The Peirson family were deservedly much honoured in the town, as to John Peirson Esq., the town certainly owes gratitude for the fact of being connected with the Great Eastern Railway. [...] Jasper married a sister of Mr. John Edwards, the tanner.
>
> JOHN STANFORD was, we are informed, father to the late Wingfield Alexander Stanford of Badingham and grandfather to the present W. A. Stanford, Esq. He was a major in the old Volunteers, and resided at the house now occupied by Dr. Drew.[7]

Major John Stanford

John Stanford was born around 1750. His name first appears in the Framlingham Parish Registers on 12 September 1775 when Susan Stanford, spinster of the parish of Badingham and John Burmam, bachelor of Framlingham were married by the rector Richard Fowller and their witnesses were John Stanford and Robert Berry. If this was his sister then perhaps he was from Badingham as well.

On 10 October 1783 Sarah Stanford, spinster of Framlingham, married John Welton, bachelor of Badingham by banns in Framlingham church. Their witnesses were George Hayward and Robert Berry.

Perhaps John was absent from Framlingham on military service. However, he had also married before he returned to Framlingham as two years later John Stanford, widower and Amy Fowller, widow, both of Framlingham were married by licence on 13 September 1785 in Framlingham Church. The witnesses to the marriage ceremony, conducted by the Rector William Wyatt were Jenny Alexander, Lucy Hall and Maurice Alexander.

Amy Fowller was an Alexander before she married the rector Richard Fowller on 16 November 1774. Richard died aged 67 and was buried on 9 April 1784.

The Alexanders were a prominent family in the town. According to Richard Green around 1635 'Sir Robert [Hitcham] appointed Thomas Alexander, of Framlingham, gent., his chief steward of the two manors of Framlingham at the Castle and Saxted.'[8] Their memorials are in Framlingham church as well as one to Richard and Amy Fowller.

In 1787 on 28 October they baptised privately their son Wingfield Alexander who had been born the day before (27th). Amy was buried on 26 March 1795. John lived on for another 43 years and his death was announced in the *Ipswich Journal* dated 8 September 1838:

> JOHN STANFORD 1750-1838
> 31st Ult., at Framlingham, sincerely respected John Stanford, Esq. in the 89th year of his age.

Serjeant-Major Mark Cobb

He was a full-time soldier and officer as the Pay List and Return show him receiving the princely sum of £33 17s 6d for a year's work in 1805.[9] While at Framlingham, Mark Cobb married on 24 November 1806, Elizabeth Marshall of Framlingham. Their witnesses were Sophia Newson and Sarah Robinson. The following year sadly brought Elizabeth's death while giving birth to their first child,

Sophy, who was baptised on 29 August 1807. Elizabeth was buried two days later on 31 August in the east side of the churchyard. Her memorial reads:

> Elizabeth Cobb,
> wife of Mark Cobb,
> 28th August, 1807, 23 years.
>
> O Readers all O think I pray
> How I though young was snatched away :
> I in the prime of life did fall,
> God sent, and I obey'd his call.
> How sudden was my awful flight,
> Well in the morning dead at night ;
> Therefore ye young take home this line,
> Your fate may be the same as mine.[10]

Four years later on 25 April 1811, Mark marries Mary Clodd Philips. Their witnesses were Susan Cobb and George Clodd. The next year Mary Ann was born and baptised privately on 3 February 1812.

The setting up of the Volunteers

An interesting contemporary view of the creation of the Volunteer militias is given in the diary of William Goodwin, Doctor and Farmer of Street Farm, Earl Soham. The diaries cover the period 1785-1810[11] and are being transcribed by Mrs. J. Rothery of Earl Soham. The transcriptions below are taken from the web-site: http://www.earl-soham.suffolk.gov.uk/.

William Goodwin records in his diary the progression of the events leading up to the war in France. He notes on 7 March 1803 that:

> The king sends an unexpected message to Parliament, requiring to prepare for War, on a pretence that Buonaparte was preparing for it, which he did not appear to be; but Mr. Pitt's determination to hold the barren rock of Malta contrary to the late Peace, was thought the real cause.' [...] In consequence of the above a severe pressing for ye navy took place everywhere and the Militia were ordered out.

On 11 March he comments that 'the bustle and confusion very general and France and Bonaparte grossly and meanly abused in Parliament,' and on 21 April that 'war or Peace still undetermined - [Press-ganging] for Seamen very general and murdering those that resist not very uncommon.' In May he reports that on 12th, 'Lord Whitford our Ambassador at France left Paris,' on 14th, 'the French Ambassador left London,' on 16th, 'War Declared by the King ordering out Letters of Mark etc against ye French, for reasons that appear inadequate to many,' and on 19th

> the first ship taken from France in this new War. [...] Hanover taken by a French Army; its palace was newly repaired at the expence of 60.000£s and in possession of our king's Son the duke of Cambridge, who had a narrow escape. The Elbe is shut against England. Hanover contains about a million of Souls. [The] French merchant-men supposing it Peace, daily taken in great numbers and their Crews imprisoned. The French have supplied their Army and new clothed and mounted it from the horses and stores found in Hanover.

He notes that the June Budget is to raise a War Tax for the duration of the war on the following articles:

Table 2 Pitt's taxation for the war

Item	Revenue (£s)	Tax
Sugar	1,300,000	4[d.] a pound.
Exports	460,000	One percent.
Cotton wool	250,000	1d a lb.
Tonage on Ships	150,000	
Teas	1,300.000	15 percent.
Wine 10£ a pipe	1.000.000	
Spirits	1,500.000	50 percent.
Malt	2,700,000	2/- per Bushel
Income on property	4,700,000	On about 90 millions of Income
Total	12,500,000	

On June 17th he writes that 'War declared against Holland, [...] France threatens to invade England with 200,000 men' and:

> New Army of Reserve to be drawn in all parishes as the militia are, but to be sent to Ireland, Guernsey, etc, etc and to be inveigled into ye Regulars. The

aversion to this service was such that 40-50 and 100G[uinea]s were offered for substitutes; and women beg[g]ing in the roads for money to save their husbands from this cruel compulsion in a Land of Liberty.

He also records that 'large glass windows double taxed if containing 30 superficial feet,' but does not mention the wallpaper taxes (see below).

An announcement for a formation of the Volunteers appears in the *Ipswich Journal.*[12]

Volunteers

Call by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Requests that such gentlemen as are disposed to raise Volunteer Corps, whether of Cavalry or Infantry would be please to send their proposals, a Return, specifying the proposed establishment of the Corps they mean to raise, as officers, non-commissioned officers and Privates with the Names of the Officers.

[...]

Camp at Thorington Euston
July 17th 1803 Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk

It is most likely that William Goodwin also saw these advertisements in the *Ipswich Journal* and in July 1803 his entries describe the preparations:

> After drawing 50.000 for the Army of Reserve - all males from 17 to 35 - from Ditto to 45 and from 45 to 55 are to be called on as the Army en Mass, to be exercised on Sundays and place their Arms in ye churches to be called out when the French Land.
>
> Rebellion in Dublin. Lord Kilwarden and 40 others killed in the city. The rioters were stop[pe]d by the military and many shot and others afterwards hanged which put a stop to further insurrections.
>
> The regulars - Militia - Volunteers Navy and Army *en masse* amounts to 2 millions
>
> Barracks for soldiers are building every where at a most shameface and enormous waste of public money, 1800 men are employed at Ipswich and as many at Woodbridge, they are paid from 3/6 to 5/6 each per day earn about 1/3 - are paid double wages on Sundays, when carting - sawing building, drinking swearing and debauchery go on in a greater degree for being the Lord's day. Thousands of the mob meet a few sober folks going to church - What an excellent example this, set by a pious Government? - Workmen cost at Ip[swich] and Wood'ge - about 1000£s per day. [*Margin Note:*] Hundreds answer when called - then absent; till called again. [...]
>
> Our steeples are fitted up with high poles for red flags to be hoisted when the French come, and with Tar barrels to be fired as signals of ye Enemy. Hail folly and absurdity!

Regulars	130.000
Volunteers	340.000
Volunteers in Ireland	70.000
Regulars in Ireland	50.000
Militia about	70.000
Pike men	70.000
Sea fencibles	25.000

> 1803 Navy of England in commission - repairing and building of the Line - 194 / 50 Frigates etc. etc. in Toto – 656.

In October 1803, William enters 'invasion daily expected to take place in Essex Kent or Sussex likewise in Scotland and Ireland. Calais and Boulougne Bombarded 3 days, when the England Expended 400 barrils of Gun powder and ruined 2 french boats a ground.'

By the end of the year the Pay List and Return for 1803 shows that the First Company of the Framlingham Volunteers managed to raise 179 men, 6 Drummers, 15 non-commissioned officers, a Serjeant-major and 10 officers by end of 1803 and each man managed to complete twenty days of Exercise for which they received a shilling a day.[13]

It looks as if they were based in the Castle for Richard Green (1834) writes:

There is at the base of the second tower, to the left on entering at the Castle gate, a newly-erected and embattled parish cage. In the heart of the wall between that and the third tower, is an ancient recess, which during the last war was inclosed with a strong door, and appropriated to the use of the Framlingham Volunteers, as a depot for ammunition and other warlike stores.[14]

Other ranks

The volunteers consisted of three companies with about sixty men each. Each had three sergeants, two corporals and two drummers. The Militia Muster Rolls identifies the volunteers for each year between 1803 and 1813 when they were disbanded.

Table 3 Other Ranks

Rank	*No.*	*1st Company*	*2nd Company*	*3rd Company*
Serjeants	1	Leggatt, James	Tydemann, Zebediah	Fruer, John
	2	Burman, William	Kersey, John	Walker, Roberts
	3	Denny, William	Kersey, Robert	Grout, Soloman
Corporals	1	Bridges, Edward	Bennington, Nath[l]	Clerk, Isaac
	2	Cooper, John	Titshall, William	Goodwyn Sam[l]
Drummers	1	Clodd, Edward	Underwood, Will[m]	Clayton, Robert
	2	Pipe, Edward	Paxman, Henry	Pallant, Robert

Who is the sitter?

Richard Hayes observed that he is not wearing the volunteer insignia on his belt. The insignia is on display in the Lanman Museum at the Castle.

Figure 5 Framlingham Volunteer's Insignia (from a photograph by Norman Sherry)

Mrs Gillian Brewer from the Department of Uniforms, Badges & Medals at the National Army Museum feels that 'the sitter was an other rank.' She goes on to say 'however, the lack of clear detailing in the photograph [...] precludes a definite response.' She had looked for 'several "pointers" [...] that could have indicated rank [for example he] is not wearing a sash; the buttons appear to be placed singly rather than in groups, although the buttons could be gilt (an indication of rank); the waist belt should pass under the shoulder straps, these do not appear to be epaulettes or wings, although once again the lack of clear detailing makes a definite response impossible.'[15]

Closer inspection of the painting shows no additional features. No stripes are shown and he is unlikely to be a drummer. Therefore we must assume the sitter had no rank and is probably a private.

It could only be an officer if one believes it was painted after the Volunteers were disbanded and the painter's and other viewer's memories for detail did not serve them well. But would it be likely that Major Stanford or any other officer be painted within such a plebeian setting?

Wallpaper and Wall Paintings

Although wallpaper had been around since the middle of the seventeenth-century, Charles Oman writes that 'it is impossible to regard the wallpapers at the beginning of the eighteenth century as anything more than the attempt by those of more modest means to ape the hangings of the rich.' Wallpapers were manufactured as sheets and each sheet was subject to excise duty. Although a ban on the importation of foreign wallpapers was lifted in 1773 a custom duty was imposed. The excise duty was one and a half-penny a sheet and this was increased to one penny and three-farthings in 1777. By 1800 wallpaper duty was raising £24,811 per annum,[16] and £63,795 in 1834.[17]

Oman claims that 'the decline in the industry's standards of artistry and workmanship, [...] was [...] so marked in the first half of the nineteenth century.'[18] How 'general was the desire to evade the tax was shown by a revival of the art of painting directly on to the plaster of walls. [A] petition was addressed to Lord North by the principal paper stainers of London in the summer of 1778, begging him to extend the wallpaper tax to wall paintings, in order to crush this temporary revival of a venerable art.'[19]

The excise and customs duty on wallpaper was a serious form of revenue to the government. When in 1801, an invention to produce continuous lengths of paper was to be used, the revenue vetoed it for thirty years. The Napoleonic wars caused further rises in both custom and excise duty which remained until 1847. In 1835, it was found that the duty (1*s.* 3*d.*) formed half the cost of a 'piece' of wallpaper.

Castle Cottage

The house in Castle Street was still shown in the Framlingham Rate Books assessed on April 9th 1840[20] as being owned by Richard Rowlands, but let to Henry Smith, Fishmonger. Two years later the Apportionment of Rent Charge (dated 17th March 1842)[21] show the house was plot 960 and belonging to Richard Rowlands, in spite of it being assigned to creditors in 1835 and being wound-up in the spring of 1837. It also records the *Occupier*, as 'Henry Smith and another', the *Names & Description* as 'House &c.' and the *Area* as '12 Perches'.

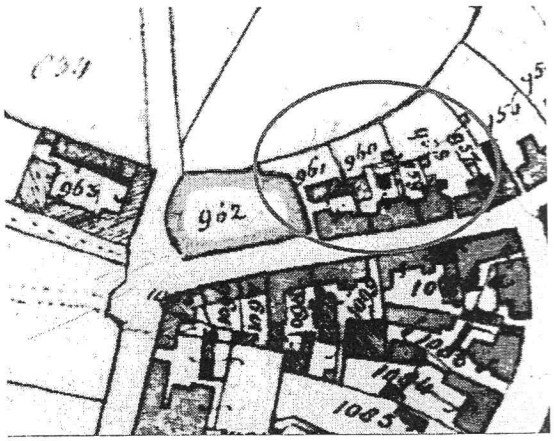


Figure 6 Tithe Map 1842

Table 4 Owners and Occupiers taken from the abstract of the title of Castle Cottage before 1895

to West	of West part	of East part	to East
Robert Fulcher	Damant Castell/Damant Castell	/Elizabeth Newson (Smith's Shop)	Robert Fulcher
Robert Drake	Robert Warne/Emily Warne	/Widow Smith	Elizabeth Sherwood
John Thomas Page		George Leggett	

Conclusions

The anonymous contributor to the column 'Sixty-Five Years Ago' writes:

> ROWLANDS, RICHARD, painter and plumber, lived in a house now occupied by Mrs. Warne, in Castle Street, who was the person that decorated the walls of the front living room with landscapes. He had one son, who left the town. [22]

The author would have been an octogenarian or near to one to have recalled so many of the inhabitants and their occupations. But as the columns were open to scrutiny by fellow citizens in the Town, some of which did send in comments, we can believe Richard Rowlands was the artist. Certainly the deeds of the house show that Emily Warne did occupy Castle Cottage,[23] and the tithe map shows Rowlands had owned it.

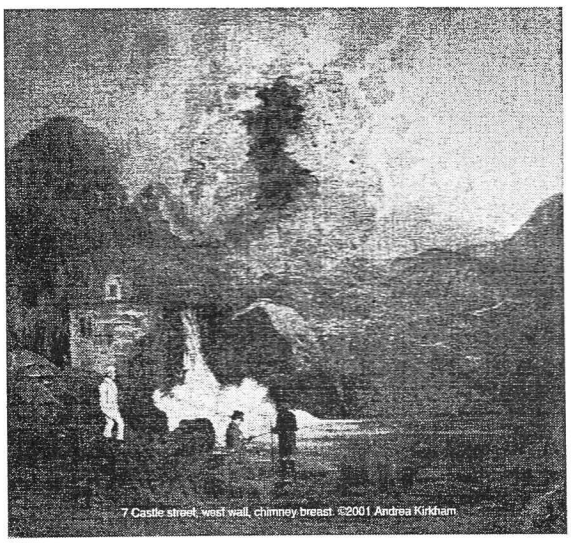


Figure 7 Rural scene by waterfall

Richard Rowlands was born in Wales[24] and the mountainous landscapes and shorelines could be reminiscent of his birthplace. It appears the images were painted by different hands (e.g. Roman Centurion), and therefore his son John Rowlands, who gave his occupation as painter in 1834, could also be one of the artists. It is unlikely the Underwoods had any hand in it as the front of the house was remodelled in the early nineteenth-century.

Figure 8 The Roman Centurion

We can conclude that the paintings were done after the cottage was remodelled and the wallpaper tax provided an incentive for Richard Rowlands to be in the wall painting business, but probably not the cause of his removal as it was not reduced until 1847 and finally abolished in 1861.

Richard Rowlands and his son would have painted them after he acquired the premises in January 1808 and before 20 January 1833 when Richard was innkeeper in Friston.[25] Details of the Rowlands family and why the family left Framlingham will be discussed in a later paper.

John McEwan, Framlingham, © April 2003

john@framlingham.org

References

SRO is the Suffolk Records Office, Ipswich and PRO the Public Records Office.

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[2] *East Anglian Daily Times*, 15 March 2003, pp. 18-19.
[3] A visit to Judith Lockie, Framlingham 2 October 2002.
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[5] Richard Green, *The History, Topography, and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted in the County of Suffolk* (London: Whittaker, Treacher, and Co,. 1834), p. 214.
[6] War Office, *List of Officers of the Militia, the gentlemen of the Yeomanry cavalry and Volunteer Infantry of the United Kingdom* (1807), p. 789.
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[9] *PRO*, WO 13/4550, Framlingham Volunteers 1806.
[10] Green, p. 156.
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[13] *PRO*, WO 13/4550, Framlingham Volunteers 1803.
[14] Green, p. 21.
[15] National Army Museum, *Letter to J. McEwan from Mrs G. Brewer, Department of Uniform, Badges & Medals*, London: 4 March 2003, Ref. 8645 (LXXXIV).
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[17] Oman & Hamilton, p. 37, n. 83.
[18] Oman & Hamilton, p. 35.
[19] Oman & Hamilton, p. 28.
[20] *SRO*, FC101/G7/2/9.
[21] *SRO*, FDA 104/B1/1a.
[22] *Framlingham Weekly News*, 3 March 1894, p. 4 (4).
[23] My thanks to Judith Lockie for providing me with a copy of the abstract of the title to Castle Cottage.
[24] *PRO*, HO107/1802, 1851 Census, folio 82 p. 12 Entry #24.
[25] Information kindly supplied by Richard Hayes of Friston.

THE RIVER ORE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT: EVIDENCE AND SPECULATION

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

The River Ore at Framlingham forms an important component in the landscape of the town, not least with its over-large population of mallards, who provide endless enjoyment to pedestrians walking along Riverside, and irritation to drivers obliged to share the road with ever-hungry ducks.

The river itself rises just north of World's End Farm above Saxtead Little Green.[1]. It then flows through Saxtead Bottoms, Framlingham Mere, the town itself, and Parham and Hacheston, then below Marlesford joins the River Alde, which in turn flows to the sea at Orford Ness, having passed through Aldeburgh and Orford. Interestingly the name "River Ore" re-asserts itself as the commonly-used term for the conjoined rivers on the approach to the sea.

There is no documentary evidence known to this author, which suggests that the Ore was commercially navigable in the past. A survey of Framlingham Mere of 1789 refers to the River Ore, but not in any navigable context.[2] For cartographic purposes, the Ore was noted in print on the first (one-inch) Ordnance Survey map of the Framlingham area, published in the 1830s. Clearly therefore, any case for the navigability of the Ore must be built around more indirect evidence.

There are one or two pieces of circumstantial evidence that might support the hypothesis that the river was used for transportation in the medieval period. At that time the Mere certainly was a place where boats were kept.[3] And in the eighteenth century an anchor was discovered in the Mere.[4] Furthermore, it may be significant that ships are carved on the pillars of Parham church, past which, of course, the River Ore flows.[5]

A case can also be made out of logistic necessity, for the presumption that the Ore was used for transporting stone and other building materials, as they were used in the construction of Framlingham Castle and St. Michael's Church. Five different building materials were used in the construction of the Castle and the church, three of which were certainly not local. They comprise Caen rock from Normandy, Ketton stone from Rutlandshire, Barrock rag from Northamptonshire, and also septaria and flints.[6] Such a mass of heavy material must surely, in part at least, have been conveyed to its destination by water. The transport of heavy goods by land was, until the end of the eighteenth century, prohibitively expensive. Stone is said to have doubled in price for every few miles it was carried by wagons across country. Freight rates for river-borne traffic were much less than half the rates for land carriage.[7] In short, the few English quarries able to send their stone far afield at that time depended in almost every case on the accessibility of water transport.[8]

It is quite clear from a map showing the relationship of medieval castles in Suffolk to the river systems of the county that nearly all of their sites are on rivers. Framlingham Castle is no exception.[9] Suitable transport of materials was essential for successful building projects in the middle ages. The River Ore might just have been the right answer for Framlingham.

Examples can be found elsewhere of the adoption of water transport for major building developments. A canal which was constructed from the site of Butley Priory to Butley River was certainly used for the transport of material for the building of the Priory.[10]

On a national scale, the castles built in Edward 1st's reign (1272-1307) along the Welsh border almost all had a means of access to the sea.[11] The case for assuming that, all things being equal, the River Ore must have been used for conveying stone and other materials to Framlingham begins to carry conviction.

The River Ore today in its upper reaches is really little more than a ditch, which shows its full potential only in flood conditions. How could it have had commercial transport status? At the time the Castle was constructed at the end of the twelfth century, the sea level stood higher than today.[12] The Ore, despite its relative proximity to its mother stream, the River Alde at Marlesford, was not tidal. Nevertheless, the Alde at high tide could have acted as a dam which, when coupled with the head of water created by the Mere (22 acres in 1200),[13] might have kept the level of the River Ore at a functional level for transportation. One wonders, were the rivers of East Suffolk in medieval times more substantial than is now the case? It is impossible, categorically, to answer this, but it is pertinent to note that the Mere, a pre-historic feature perhaps over 10,000 years old,[14] was much larger in the past. The Mere today measures barely 20% of its size around 1200 AD.[15] Clearly, with damming at its southern exit, the Mere could have provided a substantial head of water. That head was used to provide energy for a tannery which lay on the site of the present Elms development off Bridge Street, with also a mill sited below where the river left the Mere.[16] The River Ore in past centuries seems to have been a more considerable stream than it is now.

One other form of navigation should be mentioned. Even in medieval times, the Ore could have been of only marginal utility if its normal depth was insufficient for water transport. The use of the flash flood system of navigation may have provided the answer, as was the case with other rivers.[17] The Ore might have been temporarily dammed downstream of a boat and a head of water built up to enable it to travel upstream to the Mere. The boat could then continue on its journey until it again became grounded. The process of damming could then be repeated.

It seems that the River Ore may have been at one time in a condition to be used for transporting heavy materials. The circumstantial evidence, plus a scenario common to several sites in Suffolk, may suggest one is on credible ground in claiming a navigable use for the River Ore. However, the study of the River Ore as a transport conduit could only be taken further with the discovery of firm documentary evidence.

Notes:

1. Trig. Ref. 255664 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 986 (1988).
2. Pembroke College b, quoted in M. Brown and P. Pattison, *Framlingham Mere, Suffolk (NMR Number TM26SE1)* (Cambridge, Historical Monuments Commission, 1997) p. 14 [Brown and Pattison refer to the Mere as a man-made feature, but this has subsequently been disproved by geological investigation: *see* footnote 14 below – Editor].
3. ["On the West Side of this [Framlingham] Castle spreadeth a great lake, which is reported to have been once navigable". H. Sampson, "The History of Framlingham Castle" *in* J. Leland, *De Rebus Britannicis Collectanea* (London, White, 1774) vol. 2, p. 682 – Editor].
4. R. Green, *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxted* (London, Whittaker, 1834) p. 10 [Green refers to the anchor's discovery as "A tradition", and assigns no precise date – Editor].
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7. H. J. Dyos and D. H. Aldcroft, *British Transport: an Economic Survey from the seventeenth to the twentieth century* (Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1974). p. 45.
8. A. Clifton-Taylor, *The Pattern of English Building* 4th edit. (London, Faber, 1987). p. 36.
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14. J. Martin, "Framlingham Mere" (Unpublished, 1999). p.2 [and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, *The Mere*, (Ashbocking, The Trust, 1998?). p.[3] and M. Brown *et al, Framlingham Castle, Framlingham, Suffolk (NMR No. 390442)* (Cambridge, English Heritage, 2002). p.31.– Editor].
15. Brown and Pattison, *Framlingham Mere, op. cit.*, p. 15.
16. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 13.
17. [See also L. T. C. Rolt, *Navigable Waterways*. Revised edit. (Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1985). pp. 31-32. Rolt, however, is referring to more permanent structures: we are not aware of archaeological evidence having been found for such structures in the valley of the Ore – Editor].

JOHN CAIUS, THE STURGEON, THE SEA PEA AND THE RIVER ORE

By John Black

John Caius was born in Norwich on October 6th 1510. He entered Gonville Hall, Cambridge, on September 12th 1529. In accordance with custom he Latinised his name from Keys to Caius, retaining the original pronunciation. Though initially interested in theology he turned to medicine, and studied anatomy under Vesalius in Padua. On returning to England he developed a flourishing practice in London and gave lectures and demonstrations in anatomy. In 1547 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and President in 1555-1561, 1562-1564 and 1571-1573. In 1571 he refounded Gonville Hall as Gonville and Caius College, where he was Master from 1559-1573. He died on July 29th 1573, aged 63; his tomb is in the chapel of Gonville and Caius College[1]. In his book, *De Rariorum Animalium atque Stirpium Historia: Liber Unus* (1570) [A history of rare animals and plants], he wrote:

About Ceruchus (A spiny fish)

The Ceruchus is a large fish, about the size of a Cercus or a seal, with a mouth proportionate to the size of its body and armed with three rows of teeth [Figure 1]. Even further inside the jaws themselves there is a profusion of sharp teeth; there are also protuberances on each side, hard and armed with teeth, which are quite separate from each other but situated closely and in line with each other; a milky ring surrounds the pupils of the eye. Its body as a whole resembles the colour of the flesh of our own donkey, which we call fawn. Both jaw bones consist of two cartilages, both pairs of which join together at the point of contact so that they link together in a natural way, both at the chin itself and in the centre of the upper jaw. The lower jaw is resplendent with a kind of miniature beard around its outer edge, hanging down as twin tufts. The upper jaw appears to be irregular due to its protuberances and spines. The two cartilages which comprise it, curved as they are on the upper lip at the point of contact, support two blunt tusks, not excessively prominent, and about the thickness of a finger. From these jaws, quite insignificant rather than prominent, there protrude two spines on each side, about the thickness of a finger and a half from the cheeks. Between these a horn arises from the centre of the head, a palm and a half in length and as thick as a man's thumb. Close behind it project two larger horns, hard, black, erect and pointed – actually about a foot and a half in length and as thick as the arm of a seven year old lad. It is from this that we have given to the creature, otherwise unknown, the name of spiny (Ceruchus). Behind them further, lesser horns or spines are arranged over the whole length of its back at regular intervals as far as the tail, becoming smaller as they recede from the head and larger as they approach it. It has a tail not dissimilar to the wing of a bat, but thicker, also it has two rear fins which grow out of its back with short arms and at its extremities open out to reveal a thick membrane overlaid, as in the wings of bats, by 23 long ribs which arise at the central arm and become pointed at the edges of the fin.

Immediately behind five thin ribs form gills on either side, and these are extended almost into the shape of wings. Sprouting from the belly you will observe obvious legs and from them two skin-covered feet, thick in texture and divided into five toes, but lacking nails and with a thick membrane between the toes, thin at the edges and tough and hairy beneath. The tail and wings, when opened out, almost resemble a half-moon with pointed ends.

The spiny fish, intrigued by a little boat consisting of canvas and made watertight with grease and pitch, followed it to the shores of Britain between Lowestoft and Pakefield in Suffolk, and, after being left stranded by the ebbing tide, was killed by the men of Lowestoft in the year of Our Lord 1570 in the month of February. Its head was brought to us in London in the month of May in the same year, soaked in water to prevent it becoming wrinkled as it dried, accompanied by a life-like drawing of the fish. We saw it and handled it and had a drawing made of it, adding the rest of the body in a realistic manner. The person responsible for its display declared it to be of a savage nature and without intestines, relying on a single stomach and without an aperture for excreta – a rare occurrence certainly, if true.

So much for fish, and now I shall pass to plants. Because they are few in number, they will not cause much trouble. For we have decided not to write about them all, but only those which you have suggested to me (my dear Gesner)[2].

About peas growing spontaneously
This pea came into being of its own accord on the east coast of Britain at a certain place in Suffolk between the towns of Aldeburgh and Orford: and (what is amazing to relate) clinging to pebbles with no soil around it, in the autumn of 1555, and in such great profusion that it provided sufficient food for thousands of people.

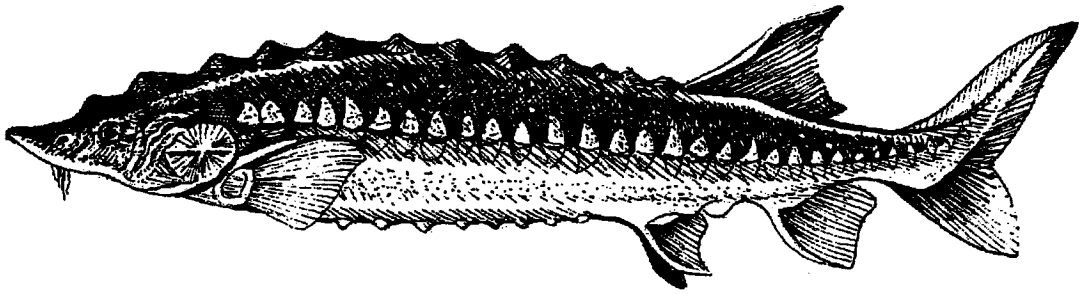

Fig. 1
The Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser sturio) must have been the fish which Caius described, as all the other species of Sturgeon inhabit the Mediterranean or the Caspian and Black Seas. It is now almost extinct

Comment

"Ceruchus" almost certainly refers to the sturgeon, which would be extremely uncommon in the North Sea. Caius, who was a good anatomist, was only given the head to examine, and it is not surprising that he was politely sceptical about the absence of "an aperture for excreta". I have been unable to identify "Cercus".

The "pea" refers to the sea pea (*Lathyrus japonicus* ssp. *maritimus*) which still flourishes, though less profusely than in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, on the shingle beaches between Aldeburgh and Orford, and on the spit of land known as Orford Ness (see maps); it is rare elsewhere in Britain. The pea is a perennial which grows on the Atlantic, Baltic and Pacific coasts below the Polar region and above the thirteenth parallel[3]. It has a branching root, up to six feet long, which enables it to reach the water table which is, in this area, about six feet below the surface. The plant presumably obtains its nourishment from rotted seaweed and other organic matter of the seashore. Each plant produces about 1400 seeds which are dispersed by the sea; thus the tradition that the plant arrived after a shipwreck may well be true, though this presupposes that the seeds were being transported as cargo from another site where the plant was abundant. Camden when travelling through Suffolk, in or around 1586, to prepare his *Britannia*, comments that the sea pea was still growing after the famine of 1555 and wrote:

> Yet the wiser sort of man do say that pulse being cast upon the shore by shipwreck is wont otherwhiles to come up again there, so that the thing is not to be thought miraculous[4].

John Caius would have had a special interest in the fauna and flora of East Anglia. He first described the sea pea episode as "miraculous" in a contribution to his friend Conrad Gesner's *Historia animalium*[5]. (He had met Gesner in Switzerland on his way back from Padua where he had studied under Vesalius).

In 1570 Caius published a similar account in his *De rarorium animalium atque stirpium historia*[6] (quoted above). He was one of the first English authors to provide personal observations of plants and animals, though, from his description, it seems unlikely that he was familiar with the sea pea at first hand. In his later description he omits the adjective "miraculous", but makes it clear (which the first account does not) that the pea was actually consumed by the local inhabitants.

In am indebted to Robert Halliday's article "A Suffolk miracle? The Sea Pea Harvest of 1555", for a definitive history of the sea pea and the famine of 1555[7]. I have quoted his original references, which are not easily accessible.

Caius' thought that the plant "clung by pebbles with no soil around it" is in a sense true. However, William Bullein (*c.* 1510-1576) in 1562 gave a more detailed description[8]. He described the root as being "more than two fathoms [12 feet] long". Bullein was born in the Isle of Ely and was appointed Rector of Blaxhall, about six miles inland from Orford; he left Blaxhall for County Durham in 1554, but it is possible that he revisited Suffolk in 1555, the year of the famine. He described the relief of the famine and the pea as "but sowen by man's hand they were not".

It is not known when the sea pea arrived in Suffolk, but its ability to flourish on the coastal area would have been dependent on its capacity to grown on the unusual habitat provided by a thick layer of shingle overlying a sandy soil. Bullein described Orford as an important harbour, but already in 1584 the inhabitants were complaining that the harbour was silting up[9]. A map of *c.* 1530 shows the southern tip of Orford Ness to be level with Orford harbour, but in a later map of *c.* 1570-1580, it was two and a quarter miles south of the harbour (it is now four and a half miles south of the harbour, extending to the mouth of the River Ore).[10] The southward extension of the Ness appears to have occurred rapidly in the first half of the sixteenth century, and to have consisted of shingle, as is the case today; it is probable that the shingle beaches between Aldeburgh and Orford were formed at the time of this extension. All commentators appear to agree that the growth of the sea pea was a fairly recent occurrence, though Thomas Johnson (*c.* 1595-1644) in revising Gerard's *Herbal* in 1633 wrote:

> These pease; which by their great increase did such good to the poor that year [1555], without doubt grew there for many years before, but were not observed till hunger made them take notice of them.[11]

It is clear that the plant was much more abundant in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries than it is today. John Stow (1555-1605), referring to the 1555 famine, estimated that "the poor gathered (as men judged) above a hundred quarters" [28,000 litres][12] and John Ray (1627-1705) who was tutor to the family of Thomas Bacon at Friston Hall (about four miles inland and north of Orford) visited Orford a century later, in 1662, and found that the pea covered "the whole shingle for half a mile together", and estimated the harvest as 100 coombs [26,000 litres].[13] It is therefore clear that the plant was still flourishing in the seventeenth century.

It seems that the pea was either eaten in the green state, with the pod, as with *mange tout* or that the seeds were dried to make soup, or were incorporated into flour, for bread.[14]

Halliday states that there were poor harvests in the years 1549 and 1554, followed by a year of heavy rainfall, causing the price of bread to rise by 60%. In 1555 there were reports that people were eating acorns and even animal dung, so the sea pea would have been a welcome alternative. Halliday estimated that there were approximately eight hundred people living in the region of Aldeburgh and Orford at the time of the famine, and that the pea would have provided one bushel (65 litres) for each person.[15]

In conclusion, John Caius' description of the head of the sturgeon seems remarkably accurate, as was his account of the relief of the famine by the sea pea in 1555. It is probable that the sea pea became established on the beaches between Aldeburgh and Orford and on Orford Ness in the first half of the sixteenth century, shortly after the shingle beaches were being formed.

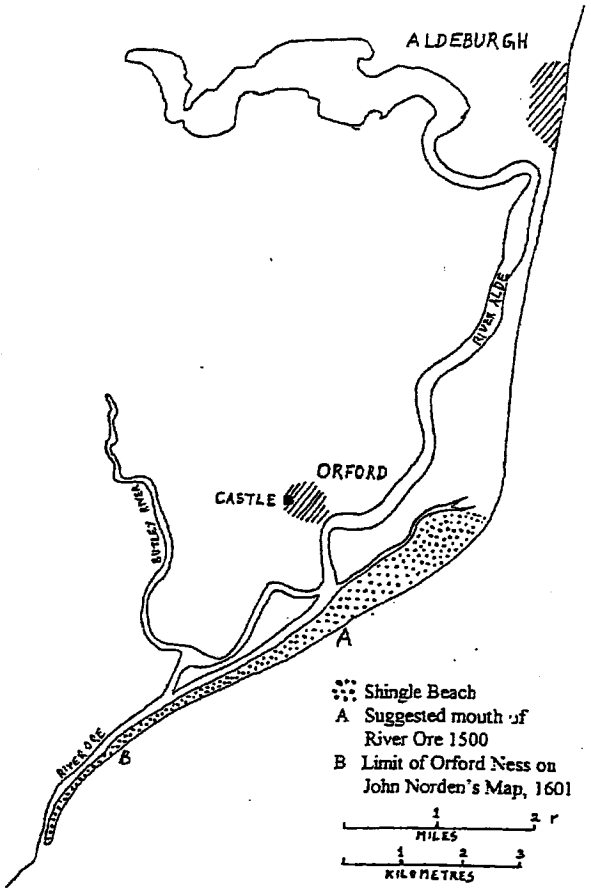

Fig. 2

Map showing the gradual extension of Orford Ness from 1500 to present day[16]

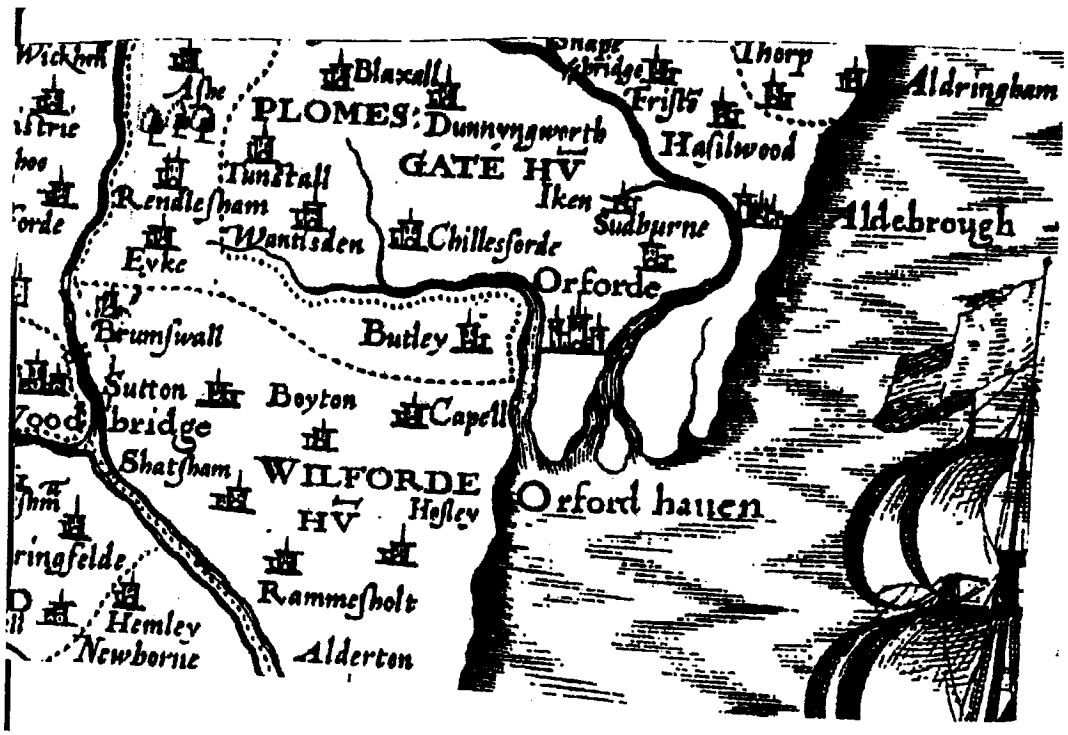

Fig. 3

"Orford Haven" as depicted by John Spede in 1610, showing the mouth of the River Ore some three miles south of Orford itself. "Fristo" (Friston) and "Blaxall" (Blaxhall) are clearly shown in their relation to Orford and Aldeburgh. The promontory extending southwards from Aldeburgh to "Orford Haven" is shown with considerable width, perhaps reflecting the wide shingle beach along its entire length.

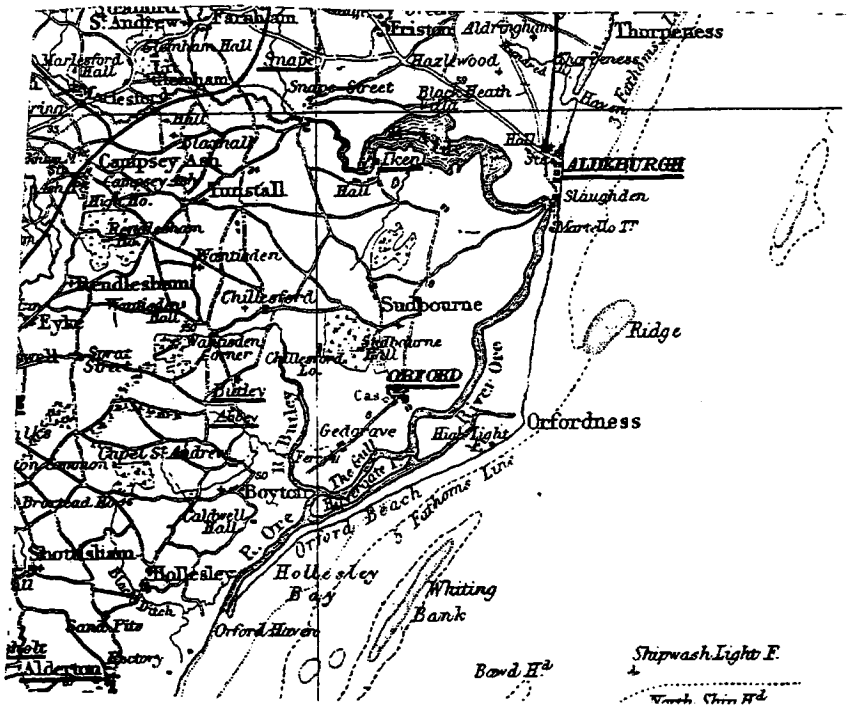

Fig. 4

The coastline from Aldeburgh to Alderton taken from an early twentieth century map (M. R. James, Suffolk and Norfolk: a perambulation ... (London, Dent, 1930) pp. 88/89). "Orford Beach", as it is described on the map, now extends south of Hollesley, but the term "Orford Haven" still appears, as is the case with recent Ordnance Survey maps.[17]

Notes

1. W. Munk, *The Roll of the Royal College of Physicians* .... 2nd edition (1878) vol. 1 pp. 37-49 (a detailed and useful account of Caius' very varied career)
2. Conrad Gesner, Swiss naturalist and physician, author of *Historia Animalium* (1551-58), a great friend of Caius, who evidently intended that this description should go into Gesner's book
3. R. Halliday, "A Suffolk miracle? The sea pea harvest of 1555" *in Suffolk Review*, new series, no. 33 (1999) pp. 37-46
4. W. Camden, *Britannia* ... (1586) cited by Halliday
5. Gesner, *op. cit.*, vol. IV, p. 256
6. J. Caius, *De Rariorum Animalium atque stirpium historia. Liber Unus 1570;* edited by E. S. Roberts (1912)
7. Halliday, *art. cit.*
8. W. Bullein, "Book of Simples", ff. 8-8v in *Bulwarke against all sickness, sores and wounds* (1562) cited by Halliday.
9. Halliday, *art. cit.* See also figures 2, 3, 4.
10. *Orford Ness: a selection of maps, mainly by John Norden, presented to J. A. Steers ...* (1966). See also figures 2, 3, 4.
11. J. Gerard, *The Herbal*; revised by Thomas Johnson (1633) book 2, 257, cited by Halliday.
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13. J. Ray, *Historia Plantarum* (1686-1703) vol. 1, pp. 892-93, cited by Halliday.
14. Halliday, *art. cit.*
15. *Ibid.*
16. *Ibid.*
17. Ordnance Survey *Pathfinder* 1031 (1:25000) 1992.

The author is grateful to Doctor Colin Davies, of Firbeck, South Yorkshire, for the translation of the extract from Caius' work, to Lyn Bailey, Sub-Librarian, Gonville and Caius College, for help with identification of the extracts for Caius' work, and to Bridget Heriz for the illustration of the Atlantic Sturgeon. The first map is reproduced by permission of Robert Halliday and the Editor of *The Suffolk Review* from Halliday's article there. The author has relied heavily on that article for references and historical information about the sea pea.

BOMBS IN COLLEGE ROAD

By A. J. Martin

There are still people in Framlingham who can remember the town during the Second World War. As with all major events, certain memories never leave us. Sometimes, however, our power of recall plays us tricks, and indisputable evidence which is brought to bear later on shows us that things were not always quite what we thought they had been.

The bare facts of the bombing of Framlingham in this particular air-raid are that at lunchtime on Sunday, October 6th, 1940, an aircraft arrived and dropped a stick of bombs. One person was killed. The purpose of this article is to enlarge on these statements by way of information which I have gleaned from those who witnessed the event. There may be readers who think they remember a different account, and it is hoped that they will contact the Editor's Correspondence page with corrections or additions to what follows here.

By the autumn of 1940, the Battle of Britain was almost over, and Germany started to turn its attention to a prolonged bombing campaign upon England.

At about 1.30 p.m. on October 6th, a Dornier bomber came out of the clouds at Parham. (This was, of course, long before the Americans established their base there). It came in low over the land, and some women in the open raced to find shelter for their children. The aeroplane did not open fire on them, but there was a search-light nearby and it saved its ammunition for that. The search-light was protected by an anti-aircraft gun nearby, and this swung round to engage the enemy. However, the gun jammed and the aircraft flew on towards Framlingham unscathed.

The Dornier arrived over Framlingham at the top end of Fore Street. It then turned over the town towards the west and dropped a high explosive bomb in the Saleyard. (This was a livestock market which was situated where The Elms sheltered accommodation and car park is now built). The next bomb fell in front of the Hitcham's Almshouses and damaged the length of the roof from the porch northwards. The third bomb fell behind the Almshouses, causing more damage to the roof on the west side. The fourth exploded harmlessly in open ground between the Almshouses and College Road where the Primary School playground now lies.

There is a brand-new, red-brick house on the east side of College Road, just below the road's bottleneck. But in 1940, a house stood there which was occupied by Miss Caroline Amelia Harvey. She was head of the Sir Robert Hitcham's Infants School, which very small children entered before they went up into the Boys or Girls Schools. Usually, Miss Harvey attended Church on a Sunday, and then went to her sister's for lunch. But on this day, she was slightly unwell and stayed at home. She was mending her stockings when her house suffered a direct hit from the fifth bomb.

These bombs were of a size that carried relatively small blast power. They tended not to scatter debris over a wide area, but rather to cause a house to collapse from the blast. Consequently, when they found Miss Harvey, she still sat in her chair: a stocking over one hand and a needle and thread in the other. She was sixty-two years old. Her funeral notice appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times* on the following Tuesday, saying that she died "suddenly", and that her funeral would be held in St. Michael's Church at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday.

The sixth bomb demolished the middle of five cottages in a terrace on the west side of College Road. The occupant was, fortunately, not at home. This ground was cleared some time after the raid, but whether as a direct consequence of it is not known. It remained empty for over sixty years, but currently a developer is erecting a terrace of three small dwellings.

A lady, then a girl, who lived in the lower of the three old cottages on the *east* side of the road in the bottleneck said she witnessed the bombing of this property. She said she was waiting for Sunday School when the bomb dropped, but she "didn't take much notice of it".

The seventh bomb fell harmlessly in the allotments where now Norfolk Crescent stands. Notwithstanding the limited blast power of the bombs in this raid, a large clod of earth was blown out of the allotments, and made a trajectory northwards until it entered the roof of the cottage behind the post-box at the corner of Mount Pleasant and College Road. It landed on the living room floor, and the present occupant says that the resulting repair to the ceiling can still be seen.

No-one, it seems, can bear witness to more than seven explosions. However, there is a book in the Suffolk Record Office in which the Police recorded where bombs fell, parish by parish, and in what numbers. Up until October 31st 1941, eight high explosive bombs had fallen on Framlingham. It is unlikely that just one further HE bomb was dropped on Framlingham over the next fortnight and, in fact, through the whole war only twenty-two HE bombs in total fell on the parish – which included open countryside. It would appear, therefore, that the Dornier dropped a further, eighth, bomb on that Sunday, and a resident of Norfolk Crescent has recently told me that he has heard a rumour than there is still an unexploded bomb in that vicinity.

There are differing accounts of what happened after the bombs had been dropped. Some say that the aeroplane disappeared into the clouds, anxious to get home. Others say that it machine-gunned a group of small boys but did not hit them. The *East Anglian Daily Times* reports such an occurrence, but due to the security restrictions, the location of the boys is not given. Someone said that the plane turned back over Framlingham and machine-gunned the Hitcham's School. Others say that it shot some tiles out of the roof between the fourth and fifth bombs, and that one can see today where some tiles have been replaced. It was also said at the time that the crew may have been relatively inexperienced and wished to off-load their bombs and get home. We do not know where they had come from nor whether they had dropped bombs on the way to Framlingham or, indeed, afterwards.

One might also wonder why, having arrived at Framlingham and seeing it all spread out below them, the crew waited until they were almost over the town before bombing it. They could have caused enormous damage between Fore Street and New Road with seven or eight bombs. Certainly during the First World War it was soon discovered, to the cost of the observers atop them, that churches made wonderful look-out posts, and they were soon attacked to remove this vantage point.

The Germans would surely have seen the gasometers in Albert Road. Considerable secondary damage would have been caused by a direct hit on this site.

Possibly, the crew may not have recognised the school as such, but if they had, they would have known it to be unoccupied on a Sunday.

It is probably not easy to kill people with a machine gun from an aeroplane, especially one less wieldy than a fighter, but if there was a group of small boys who were shot at, I wonder if the crew really tried hard to kill them or merely to frighten them for fun. The war was yet young, and the gunner and the bomb-aimer may themselves have been fathers from a small town like Framlingham. Perhaps they were slightly apprehensive about what they might have been sent to do.

Military activity increased rapidly in Framlingham from this raid onwards. There was a searchlight near Lampard Brook and there were military installations on Castle Meadow. As in all towns and villages, there was a Home Guard, and soldiers were sometimes billeted in homes.

Miss Harvey's house was cleared away and the site then left empty until recently. Before the builder cleared the garden, I found there and bought from him an ornamental flower-planter on a pedestal. I would like to think that Miss Harvey placed bulbs in that planter just before she died, and I am pleased that her name is recorded on the new house.

Miss Caroline Harvey in happier times: she is third from the right in this picture of "The Wartime Children of Framlingham at the Pageant Field", at the Hitcham School Sports Day 1939.

With acknowledgement to the Hitcham School and to Mrs. Evelyn Empson who kindly provided this copy image from an original held by Mr. Tony Moore

Editor's Note:

It is a longstanding tradition in the town of Framlingham that the pilot of the bomber concerned was in fact an "old boy" of Framlingham College, and that that stick of bombs was intended to wreak destruction there. (I am indebted to Mr. Douglas Woods for this information, himself a long-time resident of College Road and parts adjacent). As to the truth of this legend, I am unable at this time to comment, though information from local people who were there would be very greatly appreciated. But regardless of that, folk-memories of this kind (like that relating to the strafing of children by the bomber) are icons to be recorded and treasured in the history of this town.

Departure Point

... a lovely, small village school at Campsey Ash. There was the Headmistress's cottage next door, then the steep pitched roof and red brick of the school with its two classrooms, kitchen and cloakrooms. It had outside toilets and the playground was protected by fruit bushes and semi-wild flowers. A large swing was the only "play equipment". For the rest, the children used their imagination with stones, logs and the sand that was everywhere. The school cook and other helpers were nearly all aunts or relatives of the children being taught. Everyone helped at the annual fete or for school plays or outings. The villagers all met twice a day to bring or fetch their children who all walked to school. The local vicar ... gave religious instruction as it was a voluntary-aided church school. The chairman of the Governors from the "Big House" gave prizes and reigned with benevolence over his flock. It all worked. County inspectors would occasionally visit and depart quite happily after a nice cup of tea and scones with the Headmistress, reporting presumably that all was well with Campsey Ash.

From: Paul Briscoe, *Foster Fatherland* ... (Hough-on-the-Hill, 2002).

"History is five minutes ago"

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