

FRAM
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The Framlingham & District
Local History & Preservation Society

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Fram
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Framlingham and District
Local History and Preservation Society**

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All enquiries regarding Society membership should be addressed to the
Honorary Secretary at Rendham Barnes, Rendham, Saxmundham, IP17 2AB
telephone 01728 663467

For back issues of the journal, correspondence for publication, and proposals for
articles, contact the Editor, 43 College Road, Framlingham, IP13 9ER
telephone 01728 724324
mobile 07930 494888

*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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5th Series Number 13
August 2009

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

FRAMLINGHAM HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The idea of creating an historical archive for Framlingham was conceived in 2008. It was felt that this project should be undertaken as part of an existing historical organisation in the town, and I am pleased to announce that The Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society have agreed to have that role. The Archive will be a website project, to display material associated with the history of the town. There will be no requirement for premises or storage facilities for its accommodation.

The main part of the project, and the one to be developed first, is the photographic archive, **Fram on Film**, to include photos from the earliest available, up to around 1975. These would include all aspects of the town, from buildings, businesses, education, events, pastimes, people and transport etc. The images will be available on line to people everywhere and can also be viewed on the computer screens in Framlingham Library. Viewers who have information to enhance or correct caption details will be able to log such details for subsequent updating of the site. The Archive will be developed with time as further photos and relevant material become available.

For example, The James Breese Collection contains over 4,200 old bills and invoices for Framlingham businesses between 1882 and 1957. This collection, which is not generally accessible to the public, contains important information on people, trades, and prices etc. A sample of each business would be included as a separate link at a future date. They can then be seen on line at the click of your mouse.

There will be a separate link to a page for the Society, which can give details of the *Fram* Journal, meetings and membership etc. This could potentially increase membership numbers, and hence revenue.

To give you an idea of what is proposed, visit www.sudbury.co.uk/photoarchive. You can see the photos in their different categories, along with other links that have been subsequently added.

There are two main aspects to progressing this project. The first is to construct the website itself, for which I approached the people who built the Sudbury site, as they have a good working model, which can be modified for Framlingham, with variations in colour and format etc. The Society is funding the cost of this work, along with the annual hosting charge. The second part of the work involves scanning the photos, preparing captions, and uploading the material onto the site. This will be done in the "spare time" of members of the Historical Archive.

It is appreciated that not everyone has a computer and internet access. However, the website approach does allow this material to be accessed, which would not otherwise be possible due to the costs associated with traditional publishing, and the limited sales that are likely to be achieved. Generations who were born in Framlingham and are now living in far away places will be able to view all these photos.

Your help is needed to make the Archive as comprehensive as possible. This is an important opportunity for members of the Society to sort out any old Framlingham photos. Perhaps you know someone who has a collection. It does not matter if it is just one photo; it could be a rare one that has not generally been seen before. Don't let these images be hidden away, and potentially lost forever. My own collection, built up over many years, will be available for the Archive.

If you have any photos, please contact Tony Moore at No. 26 Mount Pleasant, Framlingham, on 01728 723417. They will then be sorted, scanned and returned.

This is the early stage of an important project to record photos of the town before they are lost or dispersed for ever. Progress, along with the website address, will be covered in future editions of the *Fram* and *Framfare*. It will take some time to build the site, write captions and upload the initial photos. If you would like to discuss any points, please give me (01787 247626) or Tony Moore a ring.

John Bridges

Now where is that box with all those old photos?

(Here is a small postscript from your Editor.

Please accept my apologies if you travelled to view the splendid mural at Wrabness station, referred to in an earlier Editorial, only to find yourself confronted by a long, grey blank wall. The mural had been removed for conservation and re-touching, but now, thankfully, is back on display.

Well worth a visit!).

**THE OPENING OF THE TOMBS OF THE DUKES OF RICHMOND AND
NORFOLK, FRAMLINGHAM, APRIL 1841
THE ACCOUNT OF THE REVEREND J.W. DARBY ¹**

By John Ashdown-Hill

(This paper was originally published in The Ricardian vol. 18 (2008). It is reprinted here by kind permission of the author John Ashdown-Hill and the Richard III Society Committee. I am also grateful to Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society member A. J. Martin for bringing the paper to the Society's attention.)

Framlingham Church, Suffolk, houses a remarkable series of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century funeral monuments which commemorate members of the Howard family, dukes of Norfolk, and their connections. Various publications have discussed the date and design of these tombs,² the generally accepted wisdom being that the monuments now standing to the north and south of the altar respectively were brought to Framlingham from Thetford Priory by the third Howard duke of Norfolk or his family, following the dissolution of the priory.³ Whether — and if so, which — human remains accompanied the tombs from Thetford Priory to Framlingham has been the subject of much debate. This article will offer a definitive answer to the first query and a tentative answer to the second, at the same time showing how these answers are of potential significance to those with an interest in Richard III.

Thetford Priory once housed the tombs of the last two Mowbray and the first two Howard dukes of Norfolk together with related burials. Following its dissolution the priory was granted by Henry VIII to Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk. Originally the latter seems to have intended to preserve the church building as his family mausoleum. However, the duke's long imprisonment, together with the temporary confiscation of the Thetford property, probably allowed the building to deteriorate excessively. The third duke seems to have started his own tomb at Thetford, but after his demise his heirs abandoned his project and moved his unfinished tomb, together with that of the duke of Richmond, to Framlingham. Other Howard monuments had already been removed from Thetford to the Howard Chapel at Lambeth. The removal to Lambeth of parts, at least, of the second Howard duke's tomb was apparently undertaken on the orders of his widow, Agnes Tilney, who was herself buried at Lambeth in 1545.⁴ She seems to have had only the decorative brasswork brought from Thetford. This was then affixed to a new stone base at Lambeth in order to constitute both a memorial to her late husband and also her own tomb. It seems that the old stone base of the second Howard duke's tomb was left at Thetford, with, presumably, his body still lying beneath it. The remains of the third and fourth Mowbray dukes of Norfolk apparently still lie in the ruins of Thetford Priory, beneath the sites of their vanished tomb superstructures to the north and south of the choir. However, no remains were found in the former Howard vault at Thetford when this was cleared by the Office of Works in 1935.⁵ It has therefore been assumed that the bodies of the first three Howard dukes of Norfolk, the remains of an unspecified selection of Howard consorts, and the bodies of the duke of Richmond and his bride were transported from Thetford to Framlingham.

Among the published accounts of the Framlingham tombs, only Edwards⁶, and Stone and Colvin⁷ mention the fact that the vaults beneath two of the monuments were opened in 1841.⁸ The tombs in question were those of Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, and of Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk. Stone and Colvin provide a reference to an unpublished manuscript at the British Library which constitutes the only known record of the 1841 investigation. This manuscript account is published here for the first time. It was written by

Revd J.W. Darby, the Framlingham Church Reader, who was present at the opening of the vaults. John Wareyn Darby (1791-1846) was a cleric with antiquarian interests. Blatchly's *Topographers of Suffolk* furnishes brief biographical details.⁹ Vicar of Wicklewood (Norfolk) from 1823, and subsequently rector of Shottisham (Suffolk),¹⁰ he was a friend of the antiquarian, D.E. Davy, with whom he toured Suffolk churches transcribing monumental inscriptions.¹¹ These transcriptions remained unpublished during Darby's lifetime, but appeared in print early in the twentieth century.¹²

Darby's account of the Framlingham investigations was in the form of a letter, addressed to an unknown recipient (possibly Davy), whom Darby hoped might elucidate the possible identity of the remains which had been found. His account states that the tombs were explored two days after Easter Sunday in 1841. The vaults beneath the monuments were opened, and the human remains interred there were subject to a somewhat rudimentary examination. Darby's manuscript makes frustrating reading. There is much that one would like to know, that he does not tell us. It is, however, the only extant description of the contents of these two vaults. Thus, despite its limitations, the account deserves to be better known and more widely accessible. What follows is a transcription of Darby's text. Abbreviations have been expanded without comment, and Darby's somewhat rudimentary punctuation has been modernised.

Darby's Account

[f. 8r]

Framlingham: an Account of the opening of the tombs of the Dukes of Richmond and Norfolk in the chancel of this church by the Revd J.W. Darby, Reader*

Framlingham. North and south aisles of the chancel: the monument for a duke of Norfolk on the south side of the communion table, and that of the duke of Richmond¹³ on the north side, are said to have been removed from Thetford when the priory was dissolved, but it was uncertain whether any bodies had been moved with them.

On Easter Tuesday 1841,¹⁴ in the presence of the rector, the reader*, the clerk, &c., it was ascertained that there was a vault (nine feet by six feet) under the tomb of the duke of Richmond, and on removing the bricks from the west end, there was found a skeleton entire, the coffin of wood having fallen to pieces. The body appeared to have been wrapped in many folds of cered cloth, and the teeth in the upper and lower jaw bones (fourteen in number in each) were quite perfect, and as the duke was only seventeen years old when [f. 8v] he died, this was without doubt his skull, and the body must have been moved with the tomb.

On his left hand was a body wrapped in sheet lead. On cutting through the lead near the place where there were three folds of lead, the skull of an older person presented itself —if we may judge from the state of the teeth. There was a large hole in the front of this skull, as if the head must have had some severe blow at some time or other. The hair was in a good state of preservation, and was of a fair or sandy colour. The bones were not sufficiently examined to make sure whether they were those of a female.¹⁵ Mr Howard of Corby, in the *Memorials* of his family, has not ascertained the place of interment of Lady Mary Howard, who was affianced to the duke of Richmond (but does not appear ever to have married him).¹⁶ Can this be the body of the 'duchess' (as she is called) who lived to about the age of thirty-seven, [f. 9r] or is it the body of the duke of Norfolk slain at Bosworth, when an arrow pierced his brain, and [who] was first buried at Thetford — and¹⁷ was he brought afterwards to Framlingham with the body of the duke of Richmond and his tomb?

The ground at the west end of the monument of the duke of Norfolk was then examined. After a time, there was found a narrow vault (nine feet by three feet) under the tomb, which had not been closed up with brickwork, but only a large piece of worked freestone, a fragment of bricks and mortar, and other rubbish, had been laid at the mouth. Remains of wooden coffins then appeared, and the skeleton of a body with the feet to the east. The thigh and leg bones were embedded in a thick substance (like fine clay and the straw of flax, mixed together) and the skull was surrounded with the hair of the head and beard, which was of a fair or sandy colour. Several of the teeth appeared to have been decayed previous to inter- [f. 9v] –ment, and some linen, wrapped round the back of the neck, had received an impression of the folds of the skin. The thigh bones measured rather more than nineteen inches in length.¹⁸

The skeleton of another body was found with the head at the east end. The crown of the skull was separated from the other parts (perhaps at the time of embalming the body) and the lower jaw bone was divided at the point of the chin. The front teeth above and below were very round and stout.

On further search, there was discovered beneath the above skeletons a leaden coffin which was then cut open over the part where the face might be supposed to lay, and the coffin was nearly filled with some liquid. Hair and skin remained on the face, but few teeth in the jaw bones; and the vertebrae of the neck were visible.

On the south side of this coffin, towards the feet, was found another [f. 10r] skull (and other bones — a lower jaw bone without any teeth) belonging probably to a female as, from the examination of the bones when all were taken out, there were the pelvis, *os sacrum* and thigh bones &c. of a female, and the same for two males. There were clavicles, ribs and vertebrae.

Amongst the rubbish in the vault were found fragments of two small figures carved in stone, one holding an open book, the other a scroll of paper. Now several small figures have been removed from the pedestals of the four corners of the monument, and from this it would seem that they were broken when removed from Thetford (as recorded) and thrown¹⁹ by the workmen into the vault. There was a quantity of very dry white sand, and about a dozen of plum and cherry stones, [f. 10v] the ends of which were cut off evenly as if with a knife. But had they not been carried in by rats or mice?

The figures on the top of this tomb must be those of the third duke of Norfolk (of the Howards) and of his wife, a daughter of Edward the 4th, and she is therefore laid on his right hand.²⁰ He died at Kenninghall, and was buried at Framlingham.

The second duke died at Framlingham and was buried at Thetford, with brass effigies of himself and his second wife, and that long inscription in Blomefield was probably engraven also on brass. Martin says the tomb was destroyed, and Mr Howard, that the effigies were removed to the Howard Chapel at Lambeth (built in 1522, now destroyed) at the dissolution of Thetford Priory. Now this tomb does not resemble such as upon which [f. 11r] brass plates are actually found, but the fragments of small figures found in the vault rather confirm its removal from Thetford. Is the body in the leaden coffin that of the third duke, who escaped being beheaded? And were the other three bodies brought from Thetford; and whose may we suppose them to be?

I should like very much to have some of your valuable conjectures.

April 1841.

Commentary

Darby's account describes the discovery of six sets of human remains. Darby himself speculates (and the present writer will now explore further) regarding the possible identity of these remains. Darby's list of bodies found is as follows:

North aisle (Richmond vault)

N1. A young (male?) body, wrapped in cere cloth, the head to the west. Darby assigns this to the duke of Richmond.

N2. An older body (sex not clearly stated) in a lead coffin; sandy hair; a hole (perhaps a severe injury?) in the front of the skull. The orientation is not stated. Darby assigns this to either John Howard, first duke of Norfolk, or to Lady Mary Howard, the duke of Richmond's bride.

South aisle (Norfolk vault)

S1. A male body (it had a beard) embedded in some 'substance', wrapped in linen and originally in wooden coffin; sandy hair and beard; decayed teeth; thigh bones just over 19" long. Orientated with the head to the west. Darby gives no opinion as to the identity of this body, or any of the remains found in the Norfolk vault.

S2. A body lying with its head to the east, with the top of the skull separated from the lower part, and the lower jaw in two pieces.

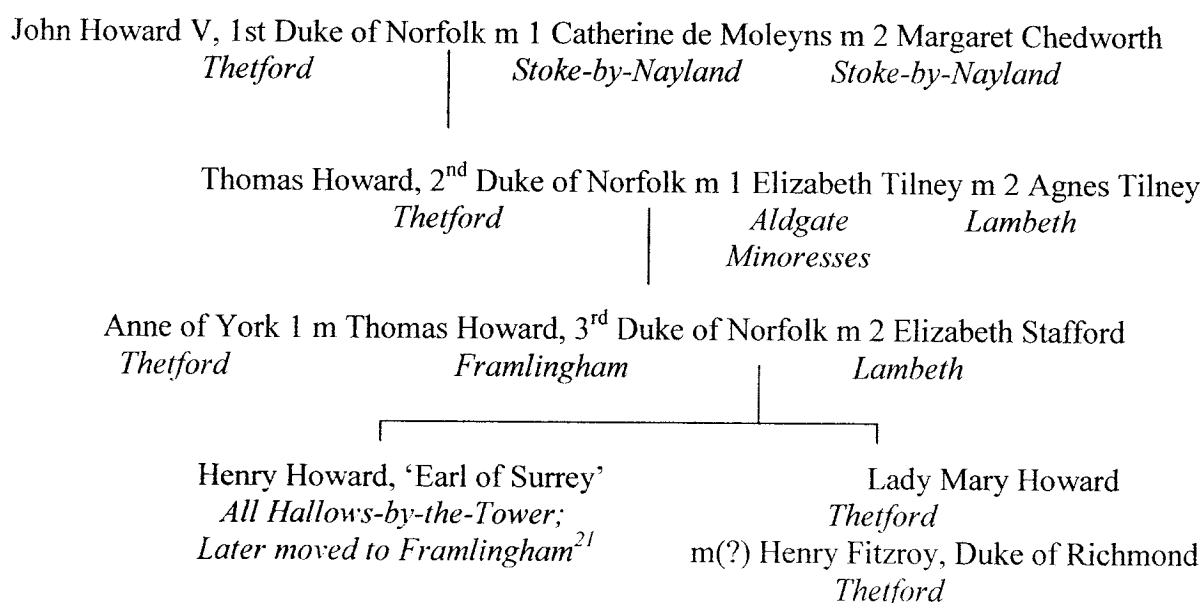
S3. A body in lead coffin filled with liquid. Hair (colour not stated) and skin were present. The sex is not stated.

S4. Lying beside S3, a female(?) body.

It will be helpful at this point to consider the Howard family tree, together with what is known of the burial locations of the principal family members.

Howard Family Tree

Locations are those of burial



One of the bodies (and presumably one of those found in the Norfolk vault, south of the altar) must be that of Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk, who was buried at Framlingham. The other remains are likely to be of persons buried originally at Thetford; these being the only remains likely to have been moved, with the Richmond and Norfolk tombs, to Framlingham. The case of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey can be ignored, since his tomb (and presumably therefore his body) are located separately from the vaults opened in 1841, and in a different part of Framlingham Church.

It can immediately be seen that the individuals named on the Howard family tree as originally buried at Thetford Priory are five in number:

John Howard, first Duke of Norfolk

Thomas Howard, second Duke of Norfolk

Anne of York, daughter of Edward IV and wife of Thomas Howard (later third duke of Norfolk)

Lady Mary Howard (“Duchess of Richmond”)

Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond

There is no doubt about these interments. Indeed, the third duke of Norfolk himself, in a petition to Henry VIII dated 1539, stated specifically that the remains of his father, the second duke, together with “the bodie of the late Duke of Richemond the kings naturall sonn, and also the body of the late wiff of the said Duke [and] the lady Anne awnte to his highness” lay buried at Thetford Priory.²²

It therefore seems logical to conclude that the six sets of remains found in the two vaults at Framlingham in 1841 represent the above five individuals, originally interred at Thetford Priory, together with the third duke of Norfolk himself, who was buried directly at Framlingham. The arithmetic seems persuasive.

Nevertheless, with the possible exception of the duke of Richmond, there is still clearly doubt as to which set of Framlingham remains correspond to which individual on the list. It would certainly be more satisfactory if the gender of all the remains in the two vaults had been established beyond question.

The male body from the southern vault listed above as S1 is probably that of the first, second or third Howard duke of Norfolk. The colour of the hair and beard seem to rule out the third duke, whose portrait by Holbein²³ appears to show a darker hair colour than “sandy”. However, representations exist of both the first and second Howard dukes showing what might be described as sandy hair.²⁴ Neither the first nor the second duke is shown with a beard in any known representation, but it is not impossible that one or other of them grew a beard later in life. Probably S1 represents the remains of Thomas Howard, second Duke of Norfolk (c.1444-1524). A formula exists for calculating the height of a living individual, based upon the length of the femur.²⁵ Darby reports that the femur of S1 was just over 19” in length. This suggests that the height of S1 as a living individual was approximately five feet ten and a half inches.²⁶

There seems to be little immediate prospect of clarifying the situation by opening the vaults again and subjecting the remains to a more thorough and careful examination. There is

currently no obvious means of access to either of those vaults opened in 1841 from within the chancel. An extensive restoration of the church was carried out during the period 1888-1909.²⁷ Among other changes this work completely altered the flooring around the tombs. A newspaper report of 30 September 1909 records the reopening of the church upon completion of the restoration work, and notes that “the flooring has been relaid and the passages and tomb spaces are done with marble terrazzo”.²⁸ This marble terrazzo flooring remains in place around the tombs and allows no visible means of access to the vaults.

Nevertheless, should an occasion for reopening either or both of these vaults ever present itself, further examination of the remains would be desirable. It would be very interesting to try to establish exactly how the first Howard duke of Norfolk was killed at the battle of Bosworth. It should also be borne in mind that the remains of the duke of Richmond would offer the opportunity to establish details of the Y-chromosome of the Tudor dynasty, while the remains of Anne of York (sister of the “princes in the Tower”) could provide the mitochondrial DNA sequence not only of this princess herself but also of her missing brothers.

¹ BL Add. MS 19193, “Papers Relating to Suffolk”, vol. 9, item 6, ff. 8-11.

² There is a popular account in A.J. Martin, *The Church of Saint Michael, Framlingham* (1978) pp. 9-15. Earlier published accounts of some or all of the monuments include G.O. Edwards, “Notes on the Howard Monument in the South Aisle of Framlingham Church”, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, (1859); T. Shave Gowing, “Framlingham Church”, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, vol. 3 (1863), pp. 340-51; L. Stone and H. Colvin, “The Howard Tombs at Framlingham, Suffolk”, *The Archaeological Journal*, vol. 122 (May 1966) and O.R. Sitwell, “The Howard Tombs at Framlingham”, *Suffolk Fair* (May 1975) pp. 20-24. I am grateful to Mr A.J. (Tony) Martin for his invaluable help in the early stages of my research.

³ Stone and Colvin analysed the evidence for this popular belief in great detail, and concluded that in general it is accurate. The tomb to the north of the altar at Framlingham — that of the duke of Richmond, illegitimate son of Henry VIII — was probably originally erected at Thetford. The tomb of the third Howard duke of Norfolk, which now stands to the south of the altar at Framlingham, was started at Thetford (albeit after the dissolution) but finally completed at Framlingham.

⁴ Edwards, “Notes”, pp. 2 and 6; Stone and Colvin, “Howard Tombs” p. 161.

⁵ Stone and Colvin, “Howard Tombs”, p. 162.

⁶ Edwards, “Notes”, p. 6.

⁷ Stone and Colvin, “Howard Tombs”, p. 162.

⁸ Sadly, both of these published sources give only very brief and erroneous accounts of what was found.

⁹ J. Blatchly, *The Topographers of Suffolk, 1561-1935* (Ipswich 1981) p. 16.

¹⁰ From 1832.

¹¹ In 1825 Darby compiled manuscript notes relating to the churchyard inscriptions at Campsea Ashe, Suffolk (Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch (hereinafter IRO) FC 116/D4/1). In 1832 he made notes on the headstones at the Church of St Mary, Ashby, Norfolk (www.lothingland.co.uk/ashby4.htm), perhaps based on E.C. Brooks, *A Thousand Years of Village History – Ashby, Suffolk* (Somerleyton 1977).

¹² C. Partridge, ed., *Suffolk Churchyard Inscriptions: copied from the Darby transcriptions made about 1825-34*, three volumes (Suffolk Institute for Archaeology 1913-23).

¹³ Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, the illegitimate son of Henry VIII by Elizabeth Blount, died 1536, aged seventeen.

¹⁴ Tuesday 13 April 1841.

¹⁵ Stone and Colvin, “Howard Tombs”, p. 162 state positively that the second body in the Richmond vault was female, but Darby’s account shows that there is no warranty for this assertion.

¹⁶ Darby is right to be hesitant. J.M. Robinson, *The Dukes of Norfolk* (Oxford 1982) p. 29, speaks only of a betrothal, though the third duke of Norfolk himself called his daughter Richmond’s wife (see below).

¹⁷ Two(?) incomplete words have been started by the writer at this point before he gives the next full word of the text.

¹⁸ Darby’s recorded measurement is imprecise, but “rather more than nineteen inches” presumably suggests nearer 19” than 20”. In calculating of the height of this individual (below), the length of the femur has been assumed to be 49 cms (or about 19¼”).

¹⁹ “In” deleted.

²⁰ Darby’s conclusion is now out of favour. The current opinion is that this female figure represents Elizabeth Stafford, second wife of the third duke of Norfolk.

²¹ The earl of Surrey has his own separate tomb at Framlingham. His body is therefore not one of those discussed by Darby.

²² Stone and Colvin, "Howard Tombs", p. 160, citing PRO [TNA], SP 1/156, f. 115.

²³ At Arundel Castle. See Robinson, *Dukes of Norfolk*, p. 24.

²⁴ The lost stained glass representation of the first duke, formerly at Stoke-by-Nayland, showed fair hair, as does the portrait of the second duke at Arundel Castle (Robinson, *Dukes of Norfolk*, p. 10). The sixteenth century "portrait" of the first duke painted for Lord Lumley and now at Arundel Castle (Robinson, *Dukes of Norfolk*, facing p. 32) shows much darker hair, but there is no reason to suppose that it is accurate.

²⁵ D.R. Brothwell, *Digging Up Bones: the excavation, treatment and study of human skeletal remains*, 3rd edition, (London 1981). I am grateful to W. White, Curator, Centre for Human Bioarchaeology, Museum of London, for this reference.

²⁶ According to Brothwell's formula the calculated height in centimetres would be $(2.32 \times \text{the length of the femur}) + 65.53$. Assuming S1's femur to have measured 49 cms (just over 19"), $2.32 \times 49 + 65.53 = 179.21\text{cms} = 5'10\frac{1}{2}"$.

²⁷ IRO, FC 101/E6/6: draft petition to the Lord Bishop of Norwich for a faculty to carry out the proposed renovations, dating from February / March 1888. There is no surviving record at the IRO of the grant of the required faculty, but work appears to have commenced later in 1888, the nave being tackled first.

²⁸ IRO, FC 101/E6/6.

Dr. Ashdown-Hill's book Richard III's "Beloved Cousyn": John Howard and the House of York, History Press, should be appearing towards the end of 2009.

For further details:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Richard-IIIs-Beloved-Cousyn-Howard/dp/0752451316>.

THE LANMAN MUSEUM THIRTY YEARS ON

By Bob Roberts

On October 18th 2006, the Society's Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary, Charles Seely, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society with a lecture following its Annual General Meeting, describing the history and development of the Society. An edited version of his paper has subsequently been published in this journal.¹ In his presentation, Charles recalled that in April 1978, it was resolved by the Society's Committee that steps should be taken to facilitate the creation of a separate Trust, to have responsibility for the care and operation of the museum previously owned and run by the Society.² It was not until autumn 1979 that the collection – then re-named The Lanman Museum – became publicly available at "The Courthouse", next to the town's library in Bridge Street,³ subsequently transferring to the first floor of the old poorhouse at Framlingham Castle in 1982.⁴

The Museum's general history has already been described in this journal by our Society's former Honorary Secretary,⁵ and I do not propose to re-visit it here. Andrew Lovejoy's article also drew on his expert knowledge of the Museum's artifacts, but did not deal in any great detail with printed, typescript and manuscript materials that are held in the Museum's library. However, to justify its status as an Accredited Museum, provision of a research service utilizing these latter materials is a significant factor, and this paper describes in outline the major strengths of these particular collections.

The jewel in the Museum's crown has always been its virtually complete file of our town's former newspaper, *The Framlingham Weekly News*, 1859 to 1938, purchased, with considerable prescience, for £100 from the late Joseph Cullum by our Society back in the 1970s when it had custody of the Museum.⁶ The individual issue from one hundred years ago is always on display under glass in the Museum's public area, turned over week by week by the Castle Custodian. However, for reasons of preservation of the fragile newsprint, (the most delicate material held by the Museum) all the other original issues of the paper are held elsewhere in secure storage with no public access except under the most exceptional circumstances. Microform copies of the entire file are held at the Museum itself, at Ipswich Central Library, Suffolk County Record Office (Ipswich branch), and, of course, the British Library. Although, in the longer term, the news contained in the *FWN* will provide a key resource for the modern history of Framlingham, retrieval from the file of data by subject, personal name and locality is currently a protracted task, unless the researcher has at least an approximate date in mind for any particular person, event or process. The Museum's Trustees hope, in due course, to digitize the entire newspaper file, thereby providing electronic access, but this will be a lengthy and costly project, necessitating an external funding bid. For the present time, the Museum is fortunate to hold an unpublished synopsis in typescript of major news items contained in the paper, compiled by our Society's President, Canon D. J. Pitcher.

The second significant serial held by the Museum is *Lambert's Almanack*, of which a virtually complete file is held from 1872 to 1917. Subject retrieval of information from this source is far easier than is the case with the *FWN*, as we have John McEwan's analytical transcript and index of the almanacks, published in a limited edition in 2000.⁷ (I can honestly say that I personally use this source more than any other, while researching enquiries received through the Museum).

The names, addresses and trades recorded in the above sources can be confirmed and augmented by county directories with sections covering Framlingham. The Museum has a small file of these for the mid to late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. There is much duplication between the data that they contain and that given in the almanacks, but they can sometimes provide additional detail, particularly with regard to public and official offices and their functions, and collateral information about the town and its surrounding area.

The Museum Trustees prefer not normally to retain any unpublished paper materials that they receive, instead passing them to Suffolk Record Office (normally its Ipswich branch), but two such sources are held at the Museum, which provide detailed information on (respectively) individual places/buildings, and people. Our former Honorary Life President, the late Commander Sitwell, compiled a large range of typescript and manuscript notes on localities in the town, particularly in its central area, which are held by the Museum. On the "people" aspect, the Museum has one of the very few copies of an indexed transcript of monumental inscriptions in Framlingham Cemetery to 1994.⁸

To provide contextual details for all of the above, the Museum has a representative range of secondary sources, notably the histories of the town by Hawes,⁹ Green¹⁰ and Clay.¹¹ There are also histories, descriptions and itineraries dealing with the wider hinterland of Framlingham's county and region, and literary works by worthies of the town and the surrounding area. On specific themes, there are the standard tomes on Framlingham College¹² and Framingham, Mass.¹³, as well as, rather idiosyncratically, a small collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century school primers and textbooks used in the town. In a class of its own is a large body of material relating to Framlingham Amateur Dramatic Society.

The Museum has a varied range of graphic materials. It has a growing collection of watercolours and a few oils depicting local scenes, as well as many hundred photographic prints, plates, negatives and slides. Printed ephemera are a fugitive and rarely preserved material in many repositories, but in Framlingham they find a safe home in the Lanman Museum.

Virtually all the above source materials are now stored in space that the Trustees share with English Heritage staff above Framlingham Castle's souvenir shop. (We are deeply grateful to EH for allowing us to have here accommodation for work stations for the Museum's Documentation Officers). Supervised direct access to the collections for research purposes can be provided by prior appointment.¹⁴

However, many enquiries are received from far afield, at home and abroad, and the Museum is proud to provide a research service in response to correspondence and telephone enquiries, without charge, and we also welcome local enquiries. To facilitate this service there is a full manual catalogue of artifacts, printed and manuscript items in the collections, compiled to comply with Museum Documentation Association standards, backed up by a detailed Accessions Register. The catalogue record is in the process of being computerized, greatly assisted by downloading of data from a central database in Ipswich overseen by the county's Museums Development Officer.

All of the above materials can provide a rich quarry for any researcher with an interest in the history and development of our ancient town, a rich resource for our local heritage.

Notes:

1. C. Seely, "The Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society: the first fifty years" in *Fram: the Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society*, 5th series, no. 12 (April 2009) pp. 4-9.
2. Lanman Museum. Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society, Minutes 3 April 1978.
3. A. A. Lovejoy, "Lanman Museum" in *Fram* 3rd series, no. 3 (April 1998) p. 7; and "The Town's Museum" in *Fram* 4th series, no. 2 (December 2001) p. 23.
4. Lovejoy, *art. cit.* p. 7 (The Museum's official title is still "The Lanman Museum at the Courthouse").
5. Footnote 3 above.
6. Information from the Society's Vice Chairman and Hon. Secretary. (There are a very few issues missing in the early years).
7. J. McEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)*, (2000).
8. "Record of Monumental Inscriptions in Framlingham Cemetery up to 1992; compiled by members and friends of the Framlingham ... Women's Institute" (n.d.).
9. R. Hawes, *The History of Framlingham ...* (1798).
10. R. Green, *The History, topography and antiquities of Framlingham ...* (1834).
11. E. Clay, *History and description of Framlingham ...* [1800].
12. J. Booth, *Framlingham College, the first sixty years* (1925).
13. Notably J. M. Merriman, *Framingham to Framlingham* (1931).
14. Initial contact Bob Roberts 01728 724324 and 07930 494888 or 43 College Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9ER.

NOTES ON THE HOWARD MONUMENT IN THE SOUTH AISLE OF FRAMLINGHAM CHURCH

By George Octavius Edwards

(The following paper was originally published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History, volume III (1859). It is reproduced again with due acknowledgement here, in the hope that it may complement the paper by Dr Ashdown-Hill which appears earlier in this issue. Readers may recall that the December 2002 issue (4th series, number 5) of Fram included A. A. Lovejoy's article "The Howard tombs in St. Michael's Church, Framlingham: an appreciation", leading on to correspondence in our April 2003 issue (4th series, number 6)).

Most of the visitors to Framlingham on this occasion have, I suppose, made some endeavours to learn beforehand what they were to see. If for this purpose they have been so diligent as to read the accounts of these monuments given in the following books, Hawes's *History of Framlingham* ...¹; Green's *History of Framlingham*²; Green's *Stranger's Guide to Framlingham*³; [Howard's] *Memorials of the Howard Family* ...⁴; Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*⁵; Martin's *History of Thetford*⁶; and elsewhere, they will probably be in a very doubtful state of mind as to whose this [Howard] monument is, having not less than four opinions to select from.

Under these circumstances, I have thought that an examination of this question might perhaps be interesting ... and I hope that before I conclude I shall succeed in settling their doubts, and satisfying them of the justice of Mr. Hawes's opinion, [that this tomb bears]

... the portraitures of Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk [meaning the third Howard, Duke of Norfolk] and one of his Duchesses (who was either his first wife, the Lady Anne, one of the daughters of King Edward the IVth, or else his second wife, the daughter of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham).

Then, after describing the monument and the coats of arms at the corners, he [Hawes] observes:-

But there is no coat for the Duchess, who in all likelihood was the Duke's second wife, the mother of Henry Earl of Surrey; because the Duke in his lifetime, after the attainder of her father the Duke of Buckingham (who did bear the King's arms), where the arms of his Duchess should have been ranged in his coat [of arms], had put a blank quarter in the place.

However, Mr. Blomefield says that upon the dissolution of Thetford monastery "the remains of the second Duke were removed with his freestone monument to this church, where it was placed on the south side of the altar;" and further says "on the top lies his own effigy, by that of Agnes, daughter of Sir Philip Tilney, knight, his second wife, who was buried at Lambeth church, in Surrey."⁷

This account of the monument I believe to be erroneous, and I found my belief on several grounds, viz:-

- 1st Martin, in his *History of Thetford*,⁸ says of the second Duke, "at the dissolution, his remains were removed to Framlingham, and his tomb destroyed."
- 2nd If the lady represented was the daughter of Sir Philip Tilney, there is nothing to explain the absence of her armorial bearings.

3rd There was attached to the tomb of the second Duke at Thetford, a tablet referring to the nature of the tomb itself, in a manner which shewed that it differed materially from the tomb we are now examining. This tablet, which contained the bulk of seven octavo pages of biography ... commenced as follows:-

forasmuch as it is written in the epitaph about the tomb here present, of the high and mighty Prince Thomas, late Duke of Norfolk, after his descent from his noble ancestors, declared in the same in writing, which is also set out in arms about the tomb: they that will see farther of his living and service done by him to his Prince, and of his honourable departing out of this world, shall resort and look in this table.

Now this clearly implies that the tomb of the second Duke not only was very rich in heraldic sculpture, but also bore a full genealogical epitaph; while the tomb we are examining bears only the arms of Howard, Brotherton, Warren, and Mowbray, quartered within a garter at each corner, and has no epitaph, nor even room for any.

4th It has been a constant tradition that the third Duke, during the latter part of his life, wore a collar with the motto "Graciâ Dei Sum Quod Sum" ("by the grace of God I am what I am"), in pious recognition of the hand of God in his escape from the scaffold by the death of Henry the VIIIth, the day before that appointed for his execution.

This collar will be seen represented on the Duke's effigy.

For these reasons, and for others of less weight, with which I will not trouble you, I feel satisfied that the tomb *is not* that of the second Duke, and that the male effigy *is* that of the third Duke. That the tomb and the effigies belong to one another may be inferred not only from the *a priori* probability, but also from the manifest congruity between the collar I have already referred to on the Duke's neck, the book in the lady's hands, and the general religious character of the whole monument. I may here remark by the way, that casual observers often miss one feature of this tomb which materially adds to its religious character; I allude to the little figures, of which it would seem there were originally twelve (three on each pillar), representing, I suppose, either apostles or patriarchs, though only four now remain, almost concealed between the corner pillars and the tomb itself.

It remains to consider who was the lady.

Mr. Green, in his *History of Framlingham*,⁹ endeavouring to reconcile Blomefield's statement that this is the monument of the second Duke, with the evidence afforded by the collar, that the male effigy is that of the third Duke, suggests that the effigy of the father was removed to make room for that of the son, but that the lady's effigy is that originally placed on the father's tomb, viz: that of his second wife, the son's stepmother.

Surely sepulchral honours were not so managed in those days; and even in these utilitarian times the cheapest advertising undertaker would not suggest, nor the most penurious noble or ignoble family adopt, such a method of immortalising the "dear departed".

However, Mr. Green has since abandoned this entirely unwarrantable theory. and. in his *Stranger's Guide to Framlingham*, calls the female effigy that of the third Duke's first wife. Ann, daughter of Edward the IVth.¹⁰

That the first rather than the second wife is here represented is the opinion of many antiquaries, and amongst others of the late Mr. Howard, of Corby.

I believe the arguments for this opinion are the following:-

- 1st The Howard family would rather commemorate their ancestor's alliance with the daughter of a King, than with the daughter of a Duke.
- 2nd The second wife was at variance with her husband, and lived apart from him, so that it is unlikely she would be buried in the same vault, or sculptured on the same tomb with him.
- 3rd The unusual position of the lady, to the right hand of her husband, is supposed to indicate that she was a Princess of the blood royal.
- 4th The first wife (according to Mr. Hawes) was buried at Framlingham,¹¹ but the second seems to have been buried at Lambeth.

In answer to the first I would urge that it is most unlikely that the Duke's descendants (who, be it remembered, were *all* descended from the second wife, the first wife having no issue but what died in early infancy) would select their father's first wife, rather than their own ancestress, to be represented on his monument.

As to the estrangement between the Duke and his second wife I would ask – if the Duke thought fit to desert the Duchess, for the superior charms of Bess Holland a washer in her grace's nursery, was that any reason that her children or grandchildren when erecting a monument to the Duke, should slight her memory, or prefer the Duke's first childless wife? Surely no.

But if, contrary to all ordinary custom and natural feeling, the Duke's descendants by his second wife (to whom the erection of this monument must be ascribed) thought fit to commemorate the first rather than the second wife, how are we to account for the absence of all indications of her royal descent? A king's daughter with no arms, no crest, no supporters, no insignia of rank whatever!

We have already seen how this absence of armorial bearings is to be accounted for in the case of the second wife. Her father was attainted as a traitor, and therefore she had no arms.

But no such explanation exists in the case of the first wife. She was doubtless entitled to bear the royal arms of England. Where are they?

It has been attempted to explain this by suggesting that at the time when this monument was erected it might have been dangerous for the Howards to ornament their ancestor's tomb with the royal arms.

I do not know when or by whom this monument was erected, and therefore perhaps do not duly estimate this danger. But I am at a loss to conjecture at what time the Howards could have feared to attribute royal descent to their ancestor's issueless wife, while they were actually, on this very tomb, claiming royal descent for that ancestor himself, by quartering the arms of England as descended from Thomas of Brotherton, fifth son of Edward the 1st.

I have said that the female effigy has no insignia of rank; this is not quite correct, for she wears a coronet. But this strengthens my case; for to have such a coronet, a ducal coronet like that of her husband, the second wife was clearly entitled as a Duchess by marriage. But the first wife never was a Duchess; she died in 1512, *o.s.* when as yet her husband was only Sir Thomas Howard. He did not become Earl of Surrey until one year, nor Duke of Norfolk until twelve years, after her death.

As to the position of the lady on the right hand, which is certainly unusual, I think it may be accounted for as a compliment paid to a wife (or, I should rather say to a mother or a grandmother), who, though deprived by her father's attainder of her right to bear the royal arms, was not the less by birth a Princess of the royal race of Plantagenet, standing nearer to the crown than her husband; for she was descended from Thomas, of Woodstock, son of Edward IIIrd; he from Thomas, of Brotherton, son of Edward the 1st.

As to the objection that the second wife was not buried at Framlingham, I would remark – neither was the second wife of the second Duke buried at Thetford, yet her effigy, and not that of his first wife, was placed upon his tomb there.

Lastly, I wish to call the attention of visitors to the form and features of the female effigy, requesting them to bear in mind that the first wife died at thirty-six, the second at sixty-four. I shall be surprised if they do not find here a further argument for the opinion I have endeavoured to maintain, that it was the latter, not the former, that the sculptor intended to represent.

Before I conclude let me state the present contents of the vault.

This tomb was opened in 1841, and the vault was found to contain four bodies, all apparently aged, three male and one female.¹² One of the former was in a lead coffin, the other three bodies were wrapped in cerecloth.

It may be difficult to draw any satisfactory inference from these bodies, but I should imagine that the male body, in the coffin, was that of the third Duke, who was buried here, the other three bodies having been removed, without their coffins, from Thetford.

The vault also contained a few fragments of sculptured stone, some of them seemingly being parts of the figures on the pillars above alluded to.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have noticed that the same mason's mark is cut upon this tomb as upon that of the Duke of Richmond (the Duke's son-in-law) and on that of the fourth Duke's two Duchesses. This may perhaps throw some light on the date of their erection.

Editor's Notes:

1. R. Hawes, *The History of Framlingham ... with ... additions and notes by Robert Loder* (1798).
2. R. Green, *The History, topography, and antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted ...* (1834).
3. R. Green, *Stranger's guide to the town of Framlingham ...* (1853).
4. H. Howard, *Indication of memorials ... of the Howard family* (1834).
5. F. Blomefield, *An Essay towards a topographical history of Norfolk. Volume II* (1805).
6. T. Martin, *The History of the town of Thetford ...* (1779).
7. Blomefield, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 125.
8. Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 123.
9. Green, *History*, pp. 131-2.
10. Green, *Stranger's guide*, p. 16; (also Green, *Guide to the town of Framlingham* (1865) pp. 16-17).
11. Hawes, *op. cit.*, p. 123.
12. See earlier in this issue of *Fram*.

FRAM

It is twelve years now since *Fram* changed from being the newsletter of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society to a journal appearing three times a year, containing longer articles based on research by Society members and others. Over that time, well over a hundred papers have appeared in *Fram* written by many Society members. However, of late, the flow of papers for publication from our local members has been diminishing, so I hope and believe that there may be many more potential contributors who need just this nudge to put pen to paper. Just to give a little guidance as to detail:-

- a. individual articles as published are normally not more than ten sides of A4, but greater length can be accommodated by splitting a paper between several issues;
- b. sources for the factual contents of the paper need to be identified but it is part of the Editor's job to expand as required citation details;
- c. our geographical remit is normally Framlingham and the surrounding area, but at least one or two articles a year normally relate to the county as a whole;
- d. articles can address the whole range of topics relating to this area – genealogy, people, buildings and sites, education, economic and social history, politics. (A theme we have barely covered up to now is the history and development of sports and pastimes);
- e. copy can be submitted either handwritten or in typescript, to the Editor's address;
- f. contributors receive two free copies of the issue in which their paper appears, and additional copies can be bought at cost (currently £1.00 per copy).

I look forward to hearing from all intending authors.

Bob Roberts
Hon. Editor, Fram

DEPARTURE POINT

"Madam, a circulating library in a town is as an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge; it blossoms through the year. And depend on it that they who are so fond of handling the leaves, will long for the fruit at last".

*From: R. B. Sheridan, *The Rivals**

“History is five minutes ago”

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