



FRAM

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

4th
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Number 4

August 2002

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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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AN EARLY AUTUMN OUTING

Those who attended the excellent talk by Tony Harvey about the Romanies will remember that we asked him if we may be shown his notable collection of horse-drawn vehicles. This comprises about forty caravans and carriages and includes half a dozen "rather special things" and a horse-drawn ambulance, possibly the last in existence, which was used for removing horses from the parade ground!

This is a chance to see perhaps the largest collection of such vehicles in private hands, and one which, being merely at Tannington Hall, is not a million miles away. Tony Harvey has an extensive knowledge of the builders, the users, the passengers and the horses, for whom these carriages were made, and we are privileged that he is prepared to spare us more time to enlighten us.

We will leave the Elms car park at 5.30 p.m. (note earlier time) on Wednesday September 11th 2002, the minimum number of cars taking the maximum number of people.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Since our Society is a Registered Charity, the highlight of its year (in a legal sense) is the AGM, which this year is to be held on 30th October at 7.30 p.m. at the Free Church Hall. This is also the time for payment of annual subscriptions (£7.00), or these may also be paid at the November meeting, *but no later*. After the formal business at the AGM has been concluded, Mr. Paul Briscoe has kindly arranged for us to be told about farming in the Framlingham area.

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

Not far away from your Editor's country cottage in Rushmere St. Andrew is a housing estate consisting entirely of prefabs.

For the benefit of those members of our Society too young to remember them, prefabs were single-storey dwellings created in many thousands at the end of the Second World War, to accommodate families, made homeless by the Blitz, both in London and in various other towns and cities. At that time, conventional building materials were hard to come by, if not totally non-existent, so never a brick did the average prefabricated dwelling see: their builders had to make do with less durable materials. But never mind - after all, these prefabs were intended to survive for only five or at most ten years. For people who had lost their all due to bomb damage and destruction during the Second World War, any roof at all overhead was much better than nothing, and there was always the assurance that the shanty towns thus created all over England were conceived, put up, and gratefully accepted, solely as temporary but very necessary expedients, to cope with the aftermath of War.

In the affluent Sixties of the twentieth century, an ambitious development was created for posterity in the centre of our County town. To quote from the 1969 Ipswich town guide "... this splendid newly completed commercial and living centre is a concept that is total in its imaginative concern for the provision of a dominant complex in the heart of Ipswich. Offices, shops, flats, penthouse suites, multi-storey car parks, ballroom, restaurant, public house, department store, banks and cafés are all joined in an architectural grouping that has earned genuine and sincere praise." Accolades, adulation and prizes came thick and fast from within both the architects and the town planning professions, and also from other English municipalities, envious of this Suffolk achievement.

Thirty-three years later, in 2002, those shops have long gone, as have the banks, ballroom and cafés. The office blocks have had their stark Brutalist nudity clothed in plastic, the subterranean restaurant is boarded up, and the rabbit warren networks of subways surrounding it are given over to more utilitarian uses, to provide work-stations for local muggers, and a convenience for drunken revellers caught short after the town pubs and clubs have closed down. Flats in the adjacent tower-block are perceived as somewhat less than desirable by potential buyers, and are available at lowish prices.

The prefabs at Rushmere St. Andrew continue to survive fifty years after their sell-by date, and even to flourish. Their small gardens front and rear are loved and cherished by both original owners and their successors in title, paintwork gleams, and new doors, windows, gutters and fences give the impression that the current occupants of the prefabs do not envisage their early demolition.

Evaluations and predictions for the built environment and the social milieu that that supports, be it from never so expert and distinguished a source, cannot always hope to stand the test of time. Man proposes; history disposes.

My last Editorial commended the prowess and humility, as an historian, of the late G. R. Elton. I have since been reminded of the passage in his splendid work *England under the Tudors* (1991) stating that Mary Tudor "fled into Norfolk, the stronghold - despite its protestant feelings - of the catholic Howards. Edward [VI] died on 6 July; four days later Queen Jane was proclaimed in London, but Queen Mary was proclaimed in Norfolk".

So even Caesar winks.

BIBLE, BARBER, SURGEON AND MAHARAJAH

By J. McEwan

I hope that this string of quotes will give the reader a flavour of the fun of historical research and that they enjoy reading it as much as I have had doing it.

Absalom in Framlingham

A few years ago when entering Market Hill from Bridge Street the crown and its flagstaff, centred at the eaves of a long peg-tile roof, declaimed the identity of the inn, the "Crown Hotel". Today that crown is no longer there. At least two hundred years ago this crown would have indicated to a foreigner the coaching inn of Framlingham. And for those who could read, to the right of the crown, was a board with the words "posting house."



Figure 1 Crown Hotel c1905

But most could not read in the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth-century. Hence the display of other signs outside the many establishments in Framlingham, including the one to the right of the Crown Inn indicating a barber's shop. The sign contained a picture of Absalom and a verse concerning his death.

Absalom

Absalom, as those of you who recall their Old Testament (and most people in the nineteenth-century could) was the third son of David and his favourite. In the Bible it is said of him that:

... in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. And when he polled his head (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.¹

His many exploits included the murdering of his half-brother Amnon, the eldest son of David who had raped his sister Tamar² and the usurping of the throne of Israel by driving out his father from Jerusalem.³

His father commanded his servants, including Joab, to "... Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with *Absalom* ..." when they did battle with the rebels:

... in the wood of Ephraim. Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*. For the battle was there

scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away.

And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said Behold I saw Absalom hanged in an oak tree.

... Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak.

And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

... And they took Absalom and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one of them to his tent.

Now Absalom in his life time had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day Absalom's place.⁴

When David was told the news of his son's death, the Bible records:

And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, Oh my son Absalom, my son, my son!⁵

Edward Clay

The first mention of the sign and Absalom is in the early 1800s, when Edward Clay in his *An History and Description of Framlingham in Suffolk* wrote:

From thence to the greater and better part of the borough, there is a passage over a bridge of brick, called Mill-Bridge, from a water-mill formerly near that place. The Market Place is spacious forming a triangle nearly equilateral; about which are some handsome and well-built houses; also many convenient shops for the sale of wares and merchandise. On the east side, over a Barber's shop, is a curious representation of Absalom, hanging by his hair on a tree, beneath which are these ludicrous but appropriate lines: —

O Absalom, my son, my son:
Had thou had thy periwig on, thou would'st not have been undone!⁶

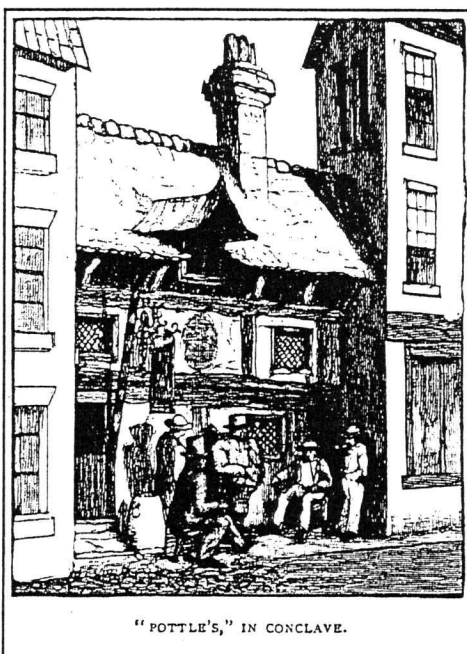


Figure 2 Engraving of "Pottle's" by Sir Henry Thompson

Sir Henry Thompson

Sir Henry Thompson had grown up in Framlingham. His father had been a Draper and Tallow Chandler on Market Hill.⁷ His shop was on the south-side of what is now the entrance to the Solar supermarket. Sir Henry is noted for giving the town clock to Framlingham in memory of his father.

Sir Henry left Framlingham in 1848 to become a surgeon and on giving up his hobby of painting turned his hand to writing novels. He wrote two under the pseudonym Pen Oliver. The second published in 1886, was called "*All But*." It is about the young squire of Laxenford in Suffolk and his dastardly stepfather. The events in the novel we are told begin "on the bright forenoon in May 1868."⁸ This novel included illustrations made by Sir Henry, the originals of which are in the Lanman Museum, Framlingham, together with other of his memorabilia. The engraving of "Pottle's" in figure 2 clearly shows a sign hanging from an iron bracket to the right of the barber's pole. Sir Henry starts Chapter VIII with the following description:

EXACTLY three doors from the Market Place, on the right, in that main division of the High Street which goes westward,⁹ stands an old-fashioned, narrow, high-roofed house, looking like a specimen of curious ancient workmanship, as it is, supported by a more modern, substantial, and lofty building on either side. From the irregular brown pantiled roofing projects a dormer

window, with its own unwieldy, covercle jutting forward like a Quaker's bonnet to ward off intruding wind and rain. The second story of the house heavily overhangs the apartment below, and tilts forward with an air suggesting the infirmity of age as regards itself, and some danger to others should the structure fall. The gravity of both conditions is mitigated, however, by the neighbouring houses alluded to, which look like two stalwart citizens who may be relied on to support this weak and imbecile creature between them. The outline of the floors, windows, and doors is broadly marked by dark oak timber, between which the surface is of shingled plaster. There is but one small front door, and at its side is one window below; two other windows open in the chambers above, just below the high roof and its dormer already described. Single door as it is, there is some difficulty in entering it. Three high, rough, well-worn steps must be climbed for the purpose, doubtless relics of a past age, when the village stream in flood-time would have entered any dwelling not so constructed. By the side of these is a big hewn stone about two feet high, with a thin iron ring nearly eaten through by rust, let into it for the purpose of attaching a waiting horse, while the big stone itself formed a mounting block for the horse's rider when he required to start. At the side of the door ran slantwise into the air a tapering pole about seven feet long, painted in a broad band of red and white alternating, and denoting, as all the world may know, a barber's shop—a barber's shop where one might be bled when the proper time of year came round. And all well-disposed and well-regulated persons were so bled, that is to say, every spring-time, whether well or ill, once a year in any case, less than a century-ago. Notwithstanding which, the chance of undergoing the operation a second or a third time was not inconsiderable, seeing that a severe cold, cough, or a fever of any kind was almost sure so to be treated at the outset. Our forefathers, like their successor, ate and drank much more than was good for them, and their activity both of mind and body being far less than that of the present generation, they had their own methods of getting rid of the superfluous blood which they made. They didn't go to foreign spas or Turkish baths, nor did they otherwise work it off after fashions now so universal, and so desirable, too, as long as habits of overeating continue, as no doubt they always will. So they did the simplest, and probably not the worst thing in the world, by making a little opening into a vein, and relieving the overloaded system at once. Who can say they were so very far wrong? It was a less sensual mode than the vomitorium of the Roman, at all events. It warded off much mischief in its way, rough but ready. So times change and fashions alter; the present age regards its predecessor as more or less barbarous in its habits, but whether in this matter we have changed so greatly for the better is a question perhaps yet to be determined.

But to return to Laxenford High Street. The house in question is of course "Pottle's". Did you say, "What Pottle's?" If you don't know "Pottle's," you know nothing of Laxenford. And "Pottle's," distinguished by the many marks already described, had one other notable feature, one more important than them all. This was its painted sign. An intricate arrangement of old hammered scrollwork in iron, springing from the big horizontal beam over the doorway, supported a wooden frame in which the old picture swung, and creaked, too, in a weird and ghostly fashion o' windy nights. It contained, in now faint outlines and in colours dark and smoky, the rude resemblance of a tree, in the branches of which hung, entangled by his luxuriant head of hair, a man in armour, from under whom a horse was escaping. With staring eyes and agonized expression the man seemed to be calling for help; but there was none to answer! And underneath was written, in accents of warning, the following lines:—

"O Absalom, my son, my son!
If thou hadst had but a periwig on
Thou couldst not thus have been undone!"

An admonition carrying weight, no doubt, in the painter's time, when periwigs were a fashion for men of all ages, and designed to indicate from a great historical incident how such productions of the barber's skill might in certain circumstances save valuable life.*

A warm sunny nook it was, the retreating lower part of the house leaving an angle formed by the projecting building on each side, one of which caught and trapped, so to speak, the earliest morning beams, as the opposite angle retained the latest rays of evening light and heat. The perfection of a corner for the "oldest inhabitant"—of whom it is needless to say there were several examples—who hobbled into it and thawed his stiff and knotted joints in the genial warmth, always, of course, by leave of Pottle. Pottle's right to the nook and to the hard hobble stone pavement in front thereof was by common consent indisputable. Absolute power being thus conceded to him, Pottle could deal summarily with all juvenile intruders, whose audacity would otherwise have rendered the spot unendurable. So "Pottle's" came in fact to be a kind of "White's" or "Boodle's" for the old and middle-aged standards of the working class of the village, plus of course, although in a subordinate degree, the individuals of all ranks who constituted an important category by virtue of employing Pottle to shave or crop them. A thoroughly sedate, respectable post of observation, replete with ancient traditions and old-world lore; a point of vantage from which the world beneath and around could be surveyed, reckoned up, and a good deal imposed upon. Quite

the equal, in a Laxenford way, of the well-known bow windows in St. James's Street, and in the opinion of "Pottle's" itself, collectively considered "more so." There was this fact to be added, that although it was by no means impossible that some member of "Boodle's" or of "White's" might not be altogether ignorant of "Pottle's," might even, indeed, on the occasion of a country visit, have mounted his hack from the stone block aforesaid, it was quite certain that no original member of "Pottle's" had ever heard of either of the two sets of respectable elderly gentlemen who met and sheltered under the roofs of—well, of what were after all but merely—monosyllabic myths—in comparison with the venerable "Pottle's." How insignificant, then, in the view of the Laxenfordian must be the fame of "Boodle's" or of "White's."

And there really was this great advantage on the side of the village club. "Pottle" was no myth, but a living entity.

Pottle, to look upon, was decidedly spare, narrow, and made up chiefly of limbs; altogether, five feet eight. What there was of body inclined to be curved in the back and rounded in the shoulder, as if from much leaning over to shave his clients who sat under him, one at a time, in the old armchair. His long arms suggested the action of natural development, to accomplish the purpose of bringing a razor into the best line to attack any portion of the sitter's chin, no matter what might be the operator's standpoint. His face was narrow, the nose hooked, the eyes near together, the facial length apparently increased by the presence on his chin of a rather long imperial, which, although very grey, was trained with the utmost care, as became an artist in hair-training. He had no other hirsute ornament below the scalp, obviously because nature had deprived him of a sufficiently luxuriant growth anywhere within that region to make training worth the while. So he shaved closely all but the middle of the lower lip, a practice enabling him advantageously to demonstrate what a master he also was of that delicate art. But on Pottle's head and over each temple there was a tolerable growth, and here the deficiencies noted elsewhere received full compensation. Here again the artist's taste was displayed in the contour of the lateral locks. And their utility moreover illustrated by the fact that in or above the right lock he always placed his long comb, as a clerk puts his pen behind his ear, ready for use when preparing to operate upon the hair of a client.¹⁰

* *The author himself has seen and sketched the redoubtable sign above described, and is ready to make oath, if need be, that the legend above given is correctly rendered. It used to be said in the village, that Pottle had been offered "fabulous sums" for the picture, amounting, as some have extravagantly declared, even to "a matter er five pound!" But with a public spirit which did him honour, he declared that he would "niver part with that there sign as long as he was hid shaver and cutter in Laxenford." But ultimately - so it is said - Pottle's virtue did succumb, to what pecuniary temptations history has not yet revealed. Rumour says that in a celebrated gallery not fifty miles from London the famous panel is still to be seen, having found therein permanent and comfortable asylum. In its new abode, even its oldest friends would scarcely recognize their familiar provincial acquaintance: the subject remains the same, but the painting has been "restored." And lastly, it now reposes in a fine old black Dutch frame, and on the lower border of this "is written, in letters all of gold," the honoured name of "William Hogarth!" More "last words"! It has recently come to light that the gallery picture is probably a replica, and not the original.*

Thompson by adding a footnote, which seems a peculiar action for a novelist, draws the reader's attention to the sign. It is as if he wanted people to recognise it. One wonders what Richard Lay's widow, who was still alive when the novel was published, thought of this caricature of her husband just four years after his death?

The Framlingham Weekly News

In 1894, eight years later, there appeared in Robert Lambert's newspaper *The Framlingham Weekly News* in its column 'Sixty-five Years Ago,' a description of Richard Lay and his premises. The column had been initiated by the editor on seeing a copy of *Pigot's 1831/2 Directory of Suffolk*:

Among [the cottages and lands], adjoining the Crown Inn, was a hair-dresser's shop, which stood on the site of the present entrance to the Corn Hall, and there was steps up to its floor level. This shop was tenanted by Mr. Richard Lay, and was papered with posting bills, horsemanship lithographed placards, etc. There are some few living who well remember him and the shop; also the

picture he had inside his shop, illustrating Absalom hanging on the branch of an oak tree and his mule or donkey running away. Beneath which were these lines as near as we can remember:—

O Absalom, my son, my son,
Hadst thou had thy periwig on
Thou would'st not have been undone!

—This picture is now in the possession of G. E. Jeaffreson, Esq. Mr. Lay was a man who seemed to live almost without the need for hats or caps, for he was seldom seen in the town with one on his head. His widow is still living in the town being his third wife.¹¹

Rev E. Cobham Brewer

This gentleman, who is immortalised by his famous dictionary of quotations, provides a provenance for the doggerel. *The Reader's Handbook of Famous Names in Fiction, Allusions, References, Proverbs, Plots, Stories and Poems* of 1898 contains the following entry:

Absalom. The general idea is that Absalom, fleeing through a wood, was caught by the hair of his head on a bough of a tree, and thus met his death; But the Bible says (2 Sam. xviii.9), "Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth." Apparently his chin was caught in a branch of the oak, and the mule ran off. There is nothing said about his hair getting entangled in the oak. Yet every one knows the doggerel—

Oh Absalom, oh Absalom, my son, my son,
Hadst thou but worn a periwig, thou hadst not been undone!¹²

Richard Lay

But what of Richard Lay who owned the sign? From the Poor Rate book of October 1840¹³ we learn that he was present in Framlingham as a barber.

No. of Assesment	Name of Occupier	No. of Votes	Name of Owner.	No. of Votes	Description of Property rated, namely, whether Lands, Houses, tithes impropriation, appropriation of Tithes, Coal Mines, saleable Underwood.	Name or Situation of Property	Gross Estimated rental
131	Richard Lay	1	Mrs Taylor		House	Market Place	
			John Oakley		Barbers shop	Market Place	

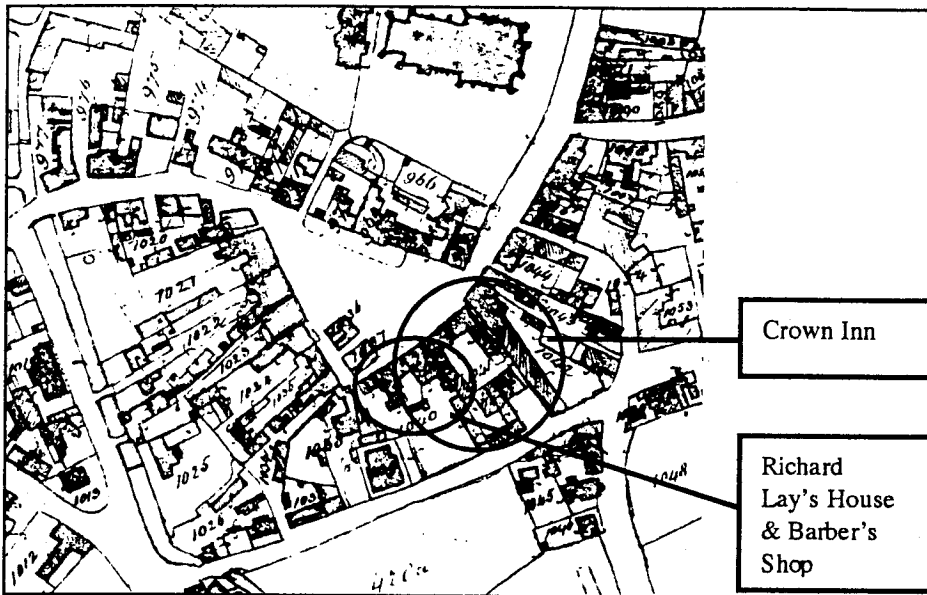
He then appears in the 1841 Census¹⁴ as a Hair Dresser with his first wife and their children.

Page No.	House hold no.	Place	First Names	Surname	Age ¹⁵		Profession, Trade, Employment or of Independent Means
					M	F	
13	90	Market Hill	Richard	Lay	40		Hair Dresser
			Letitia	Lay		35	
			Emma	Lay		14	
			Alfred	Lay	10		
			Richard	Lay	8		
			Walter	Lay	6		
			Letitia	Lay		2	
			Cordelia	Lay		1 month	

In the Registers of St. Michael's Church, Framlingham,¹⁶ we find the following entries for his family:

First Names	Last Name	Born	Baptised	Burial	Aged
William Zadock	Lay of Framlingham			8 January 1841	16
Emma	Lay of Framlingham		2 September 1827	1 September 1841	15
Alfred	Lay		28 June 1829		
Richard	Lay		20 May 1832		
Walter	Lay	2 February 1834	1 July 1834		
Letitia	Lay	26 March 1839	26 April 1839		
Cordelia	Lay	23 April 1841	16 July 1841		
Letitia	Lay of Framlingham, his wife			26 January 1844	40
Richard	Lay of Framlingham			17 May 1882	82

We can conclude that his children Alfred and Richard and Walter and Letitia must have moved away from Framlingham, as there are no further entries for them in the registers or censuses.



The Apportionment of Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes in the Parish of Framlingham in the County of Suffolk, dated 17th March 1842, records Richard Lay as the occupier of a house and shop next to the Crown Inn. The buildings are no longer there, being replaced, in 1873, by Gurney's Bank¹⁷ that eventually became Barclay's Bank. In the same document we find he has property outside of Market Hill

Figure 3 Market Hill Tithe Apportionment Map 1842

and shares with others the property where his barber's shop and house were situated. His house was owned by Widow Taylor and the shop by John Oakley. The plan accompanying the register shows the position plan numbers 1040 and 1041.¹⁸

Landowner	Occupier	Plan	Names & Description of	State of Cultivation	A	R	P
Lay, Richard	Himself & others	158	Lower Kettleburgh field	Arable	5	0	18
Lay, Richard	Himself & others	159	Upper Kettleburgh field	Arable	8	0	11
Lay, Richard	Himself & others	161	Cottages & Garden			1	26
Taylor, Widow	Barnes, Bridges and another	1040	House &c			1	20
Oakley, John	Rodwell, M. J.	1041	Crown Inn & Yards			1	5

Richard Lay was not the only Hairdresser in Framlingham as his entry in the 1844 Suffolk Directory for Framlingham is with three others:- Henry Driver also in Market Hill, George Gibbons in Castle Street, and John Moyses in Wellclose Square.¹⁹

On 7th July 1846, Richard Lay (widower) married Maria Royal, a widow, (née Block) of Framlingham. The 1851 Census shows they had no further children and that he was born in Middleton and his new wife in Easton.²⁰

Page No.	Place	First Names	Surname	Age		Birthplace
				M	F	
124	Market Hill	Richard	Lay	51		Middleton
		Maria	Lay		39	Easton
		Richard	Lay	19		Framlingham
		Walter	Lay	17		Framlingham
		Letitia	Lay		12	Framlingham
		Cordelia	Lay		9	Framlingham

In the 1871 census he was still there with his third wife, and the yard next door bears his name. (It is now known as The Mews).²¹

No. of Schedule	Street	Name	Surname	Relationship to Head of Family	Condition	Age m f	Rank, Profession or Occupation	Where Born
172	Market place	Richard	Lay	Head	Mar	71	Hair Dresser (Master)	Middleton
172	Market place	Maria	Lay	Wife	Mar	59	Wife of Hair Dresser (Master)	Easton



He died 12th May 1882 aged 82 years.²² They are buried together in the cemetery in Fore Street Framlingham in plot J1845. The tombstone is inscribed as follows:

RICHARD LAY
 WHO DIED MAY 12TH 1882
 AGED 82 YEARS
 LOOKING UNTO JESUS
 GOODBYE DEAR WIFE AND ALL FRIENDS
 DEAR
 I AM NOT DEAD BUT SLEEPING HERE
 I HOPE IN HEAVENS CHRISTIAN'S SHORE
 THAT WE MAY MEET TO PART NO MORE

ALSO OF MARIA HIS WIFE
 WHO DIED JANUARY 4TH 1904
 AGED 91 YEARS

Figure 4 Richard and Maria Lay's Headstone in Framlingham cemetery

In the 1905 *Lambert's Family Almanack* appeared the following obituary:-

Among those inhabitants removed by death may be mentioned ... Mrs. Lay, widow of Richard Lay, hairdresser, aged 91 years (her husband used to carry on business on the site of the Crown Hotel bar some 60 years ago, before the Corn Hall was built).²³

But what of the sign?

At least one inhabitant of Framlingham recalls seeing it.²⁴ Peter Stannard's 1959 lecture mentions it:-

At the Exhibition in the Assembly Hall in 1953 we had a Barbers sign lent by Ipswich Museum containing the same quotation and which it is said, hung outside Mr. Lay's shop.²⁵

The Keeper of Human History at Ipswich Museum, David Jones, confirmed that it was still in their collection. It is believed to date from 1720.²⁶

As mentioned earlier in 1894 it was "in the possession of G. E. Jeaffreson, Esq." On 16 August 1911, he died. The sign must have been sold sometime after 1894 and before 1929, when it is recorded as being in the Ipswich Museum. According to David Jones it was presented to the Museum by Prince Frederick Dulip Singh on his death in 1929.²⁷ Mr. Jones later wrote:

It is not recorded from whom the Prince acquired it. Prior to our conservation of the panel in 1996-7 its condition was described as follows: a very thick layer of varnish obscures the image. The frame is split and dented. The panel was previously restored: parts of the panel have been replaced, and gaps had been filled with gesso, bitumen and wax. There are several layers of repaints.²⁸

Prince Frederick Dulip Singh

A visit to the delightful Ancient House Museum in Thetford took the hunt further. There is a splendid display in the kitchen of this Fourteenth Century house of memorabilia and photographs concerning Prince Frederick's father, the Maharaja Dulip Singh, who was the last rightful Sikh ruler of Punjab. He was exiled to Suffolk and became Lord of Elvedon Hall outside Thetford. He married a "part Ethiopian, part German, Arabic speaking girl from a Cairo mission school; Bamba Muller."²⁹

Prince Frederick was their second son, born 1868. He set-up home as a bachelor at Blo' Norton Hall in Norfolk. Prince Frederick was a keen amateur antiquarian and art collector, strongly associated with Thetford Museum and in the preservation of local history. In his will he writes

I bequeath to the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Thetford (hereinafter called "the Corporation") the whole of my collection of Norfolk and Suffolk portraits Also any other



Figure 5 Prince Frederick Dulip Singh 1895, from a *carte-de-visité* in the Ancient House Museum, Thetford with their kind permission

antiquities or curios included in a list which has been prepared and will be found in my study I make these gifts to the Corporation partly because of my fondness for that ancient Borough and partly because I saved these portraits from dispersal from the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to which they belong and I would suggest that the portraits be hung in the Guildhall in the Borough of Thetford.³⁰

The list he referred to was dated March 1916. It contained entries for 85 “local portraits at Blo’ Norton Hall”³¹ and indicates they are “marked with a label Thetford.” None of the descriptions fit the Barber’s sign. He also states in his will:

I give devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever unto my three sisters Princess Bamba Sutherland of Lahore Princess Catherine Duleep Singh and Princess Sophia Duleep Singh both of ‘Faraday House’ Hampton Court to be divided between them as nearly as may be equal shares. ... And it is my wish and desire (but without imposing any trust or creating any equity) that if my residuary legatees do not wish to sell my collection of East Anglian books and manuscript they shall eventually present them to the Thetford Museum or to some other suitable body or library at Thetford.”

The will shows, that like many newcomers, he had been more concerned about retaining items in East Anglia than the inhabitants who sold them. There is no mention of Ipswich Museum in the will. Jim Deacon who catalogued the “Bequest to the Borough of Thetford by Duleep Singh,” itemised 184 Oil Paintings (mainly portraits), 139 Water Colours and Drawings, 30 Maps, 800+ Prints, plus about 300 items of bric-a-brac.³¹ But his list does not mention the panel, nor does he recall it;³³ yet another mystery.

Conclusion

Although novels are considered not to be prime sources by some historians, by others, they are deemed to be some of the best sources for descriptions of daily life in the past. Certainly, Thompson’s novel “*All But*” was considered by his biographer, Zachary Cope, to contain passages reflecting Thompson’s early experiences in Framlingham of his youth.³⁴ I would speculate that his description was nearer 1848 than 1868 the period given in his novel, when Richard Lay would have been approaching his fifties. Thus it is possible the Richard Lay was the model for “Pottle.” But do the shadows in the engraving of “Pottle’s” shop accord with its description in the text quoted above -

A warm sunny nook it was, the retreating lower part of the house leaving an angle formed by the projecting building on each side, one of which caught and trapped, so to speak, the earliest morning beams, as the opposite angle retained the latest rays of evening light and heat.

If we assume an afternoon scene then the shop would be facing south, but the Crown Hotel faces west. Another possibility is that it was in Yoxford High Street, which runs east-west. But no suitable group of houses seemed to have survived.

The verse

Old Testament	Rev. E. Cobham Brewer	Edward Clay	Sir Henry Thompson	<i>The Framlingham Weekly News</i>
O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!	Oh Absalom, oh Absalom, my son, my son, Hadst thou but worn a periwig, thou hadst not been undone	O Absalom, my son, my son: Had thou had thy periwig on, thou would'st not have been undone	O Absalom, my son, my son! If thou hadst had but a periwig on Thou couldst not thus have been undone!	O Absalom, my son, my son, Hadst thou had thy periwig on Thou would'st not have been undone!

The actual sign itself says.

O Absalom, my Son my Son
Had. you had a Perrywigg on
You had not. Been Undone



By kind permission of the Ipswich Museum Service

Acknowledgements

My thanks to staff of the Ancient House Museum and its curator Oliver Bone, Diane Aylward and Jim Deacon at Thetford and David Jones of the Ipswich Museum Service, for their help.

Notes

- ¹ II. Samuel, XIV. 25-26.
- ² II. Samuel, XIII.
- ³ II. Samuel, XV.
- ⁴ II. Samuel, XVIII-XIX.
- ⁵ II. Samuel, XVIII.33.
- ⁶ Edward Clay Jun., *An History and Description of Framlingham in Suffolk*. (Halesworth, W. Harper, undated) pp.126-27. It is believed to be around 1810.
- ⁷ Michael Youngman, 'Sir Henry Thompson, 1820-1904' in *Fram, The Journal of The Framlingham & District Local History & Preservation Society*, 4th Series, 3. (April 2002) pp.5-6.
- ⁸ Pen Oliver, "*All But*" (London, Macmillan and Co., 1886.) facing p.99. My thanks to Dr. Youngman for loaning me his copy. There are at least two copies in Framlingham and a third in Cambridge. Cope in Sir Henry's biography (see below) writes he believes the novel was set in Yoxford and some parts relate to Thompson when he was an evangelical young man before he left Framlingham for London to become a surgeon in 1846. p.2.
- ⁹ Here Thompson's description departs from Market Hill at various points. The topography described elsewhere in the book does suggest Yoxford.
- ¹⁰ Oliver, "*All But*," pp.99-106.
- ¹¹ *The Framlingham Weekly News*, 3 February 1894. 'Framlingham Sixty-Five Years Ago, No. VI, The Brewery.'
- ¹² Rev. E. Cobham Brewer, *The Reader's Handbook of Famous Names in Fiction, Allusions, References, Proverbs, Plots, Stories and Poems* (London, Chatto, 1898).
- ¹³ Framlingham Rate Books, Suffolk Records Office, FC101/G7/2/10.

- 14 Census Enumerators Books 1841, Public Record Office Microfilm HO107/1028/9 Folio 51 (p.13).
- 15 In this census ages were entered rounded down to nearest fifth year for those over fifteen.
- 16 *Framlingham Parish Registers Transcripts* (Suffolk Family History Society, 1996).
- 17 'Noteworthy Events, 3 February 1873,' *1874 Lambert's Family Almanack*..
- 18 Suffolk Records Office, Apportionment of Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes in the Parish of Framlingham in the County Of Suffolk 17th March 1842, FDA 104/B1/1a.
- 19 *White's Directory of Suffolk 1844*. p.196.
- 20 'East Suffolk Plomesgate District' *Suffolk 1851 Census Index*, (Suffolk Family History Society, 1996) vol.16, part 3, p.17.
- 21 Census Enumerators Books 1871, Public Record Office, Microfilm RG10/1762, (Superintendent Registrar's District: Plomesgate, Registrar's Sub-District: Framlingham) 1871 Census, Book 1, p.33.
- 22 'Obituary,' *1883 Lambert's Family Almanack Framlingham*.
- 23 'Obituary,' *1905 Lambert's Family Almanack Framlingham*.
- 24 Tony Martin, private conversation.
- 25 P. J. Stannard, 'The Inns of Framlingham, past and present' *Fram, The Journal of the Framlingham & District Local History & Preservation Society*, 3rd Series 1 (August 1997) pp.4-6, 2 (December 1997) pp.9-11 and 3 (April 1998) pp.4-6. (Read to the society on 30 November, 1959).
- 26 From a conversation with David Jones of Ipswich Museum (6th January 2002).
- 27 The prince died on 15 August 1926.
- 28 David Jones, Letter to John McEwan, 8 February 2002 Ref. DLJ/JRF [R195-12].
- 29 From the www.
- 30 The will of His Highness Prince Frederick Victor Duleep Singh M.A., M.V.O., F.S.A. of the Hall Blo' Norton in the County of Norfolk. 1926, Item 31.
- 31 It include portraits of "Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk K.G. beheaded 1572. Purchased from the late canon Mannings sale at Diss Rectory. He believed it came from Kenninghall Palace..." and a "(Man half length from Yaxley Hall) Lord Thomas Howard 1st Earl of Suffolk Son of Thos. 4th Duke of Norfolk "Brought at Yaxley Hall sale. Possibly it came from Framlingham Castle."
- 32 The list itemises three oil paintings: Thomas Howard 4th Duke of Norfolk, painted c1660 (DS.32), Thomas, Earl of Arundel c.1612 (DS.33) and Lord Thomas Howard, 1st Earl of Suffolk (DS.34); four prints of Framlingham Castle (DS.511, DS.564, DS.665, DS.848) plus one of the interior; an engraving of Albert Memorial Middle-Class College cut from 19th Century newspaper (DS.910) and two engravings of the castle (DS.904 and DS.905).
- 33 Telephone conversation 6 June 2002.
- 34 Zachary Cope, *The Versatile Victorian*, (London, Harvey & Blythe Ltd., 1951) p.169.

FRAMLINGHAM: AN APPRECIATION

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

(This article is an edited text of the Honorary Secretary's historical introduction to his public lecture at the Free Church Hall on 25th April 2002).

Framlingham has been here, albeit in various guises, forever. The archaeological record shows that palaeolithic man of the post-glacial period was present in this area. Two palaeolithic hand-axes have been found close to Framlingham. We can make an attempt at reconstituting the landscape as it would have been on the site of the town by studying post-Ice Age pollen found in these parts. It is clear that the landscape then was made up of deciduous trees, yew trees, and grassy glades, in which pig, elephas antiquas and horse were being hunted.

Iron Age man was present just over a mile from what is now the town-centre, as Joan Flemming, a member of our Society, discovered in 1985, when she identified an Iron Age site near the Kettleburgh road. On that hill-top site, 178 Roman grey-ware pottery sherds and 475 Iron Age pottery sherds were found. Clearly this part of the world was known in detail to our distant forebears. However, it is in the late sixth and early seventh century that Framlingham's identity became certain. The English Placenames Society is confident that as Framlingham's name ends in "ingham" the town site was first settled in at least the early seventh century. Framlingham is a part of the High Suffolk clay-lands, which in those days supported oak-woods and glades, perhaps a little like the Staverton Thicks of today. It is humbling to think that the fields round the town being covered with forest were then cleared literally by hand in order to produce a landscape for farming purposes.

With the entry for Framlingham in Domesday Book of 1086, the town becomes much more recognisable. In that document, it is stated that Framlingham boasted four manors and eleven other estates, varying between two and fifty-six acres. Roger Bigod, a cousin of William I (reigned 1066-1087) managed the largest manor with nine ploughlands and wood for a hundred hogs. The population of Framlingham was 600 and upwards. It is interesting to note that 32 Capital Pledges were given at the Manor Court in 1333, which meant that, as each single pledge registered that the good behaviour of ten males was guaranteed by the senior member of that tithe, the population of the town must have been bordering on a thousand people.

What we can glean from those early days is that the castle site had had a considerable impact on these parts. There may have been a pre-Conquest motte and bailey castle: it cannot be proved. However, we know that Roger Bigod as Earl of Norfolk from 1074 held 16 of the 629 manors in Suffolk, a man of considerable wealth and influence. In 1100, we know that Henry 1st (reigned 1100-1135) gave permission to Roger Bigod to build a motte and bailey castle on the site of the present Castle. Roger built the Castle, founded the Priory of Black Canons at Thetford, where the Bigods were buried, and died in 1107.

From then until about 1550, Framlingham's history was dominated by the presence in the Castle of a succession of aristocratic notables, who used the town as the centre for their vast estates. The Bigods, usually Stewards of the Royal Household, Thomas Brotherton, son of Edward 1st, from 1312 the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk in the fifteenth century, and the succeeding Howard Dukes of Norfolk from 1481, all meant that in that period, all roads led to Framlingham.

King John visited the Castle in 1213, and Henry III visited the Castle three times in his reign between 1216 and 1272. Edward I was here in 1277. And, of course, Mary Tudor was resident in the Castle between the 12th and 24th July 1553. This place was a magnet for anyone in the eastern counties who moved in the ambit of royal circles. It really is extraordinary that the town should be blessed with such antecedents.

One of the legacies of this was the granting in 1286, by the last of the Bigods, of the right to hold a market in the town. This market took place on six days at Michaelmas and on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

throughout the year. Thomas Brotherton added in 1324 a market at Whitsun on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at that festival. In 1712 at the time Hawes wrote his *History of Framlingham*, there was a market on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, a market at Whitsun and a market on every Saturday. We have retained the latter, and of course the Framlingham Gala takes place close to Whitsun. By the mid-fourteenth century, Framlingham was a thriving market town, with a prosperous business community. The legacy of the Bigods and their successors had turned the town into a seigneurial borough. Hawes in his *History* lists seventy-two burghers. (The duties of each burgher was limited to turning the hay in the Lord's meadow before it was put into cocks!).

One of the most notable occupants of the Castle - probably the greatest of them all - was the third Duke of Norfolk (1472-1554). In 1524, he inherited from his father, the second Duke, the Framlingham estates, succeeding him as the richest layman in England. His estates devoured much of Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, parts of North Wales, and sites in London. His long career brought great kudos to Framlingham. In 1513, he had become Lord High Admiral, and in 1521 became the King's Viceroy in Ireland, where his tenure was said to have been marked by "wisdom, vigilance, moderation and activity". He went on to become Lord Treasurer in 1524, and Earl Marshall in 1533. He saw military service in France and on the Scottish borders. A leading player in the Privy Council throughout Henry VIII's reign, he was known for his ruthless ordering of affairs. He was instrumental in the fall of Cardinal Wolsey, and saw two of his nieces, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, as Queens of England. Both died on the block, and he lifted not a finger to save them. The last lord in East Anglia to use serfs, for all that, he had the common touch, and got on well with ordinary men and women. His contribution to the Castle was to put a bridge across the moat, and to create eight chimney stacks, which somewhat detract from the wonderful medieval landscape the Castle presents. Perhaps his crowning achievement was to die in his own bed at Kenninghall, near Diss. It was certainly a close-run thing!

Framlingham Castle in the third Duke's view had become untenable as a domestic setting. In about 1535, the Howards vacated the Castle, and settled at Kenninghall. The matter was clinched by the marriage of the fourth Duke Thomas Howard (1536-72) to Mary Fitzalan of Arundel in 1555. The Howards moved their headquarters there, and Framlingham was on the way to becoming a backwater. The Castle's interior was in a very dilapidated state when the property was sold to a very senior lawyer, Sir Robert Hitcham, in 1635, for £14,000.

The time had come for Framlingham to establish for itself a new identity as simply a market town for its surrounding area, a status that it had achieved handsomely by 1700.

Seventeenth century Framlingham brought a number of characters to the fore, who demonstrate that the town at that time was still alive and well. Perhaps the most significant of these was Richard Golty (1596-1678), Rector of Framlingham from 1630 until his death. Having obtained his BA at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, in 1616, he was curate of a Lancashire parish from 1621 to 1624, then came as curate to Framlingham. The Rector of St. Michael's at that time was Thomas Dove, Bishop of Peterborough, who held the living *in commendam* from 1584 to 1630, the year of his death. Bishop Dove was one of the leading personalities of the Church of England at that time. A renowned and also scholarly preacher, he was a regular attendee at the House of Lords for the twenty years following his elevation to the episcopate. He probably never visited Framlingham.

Richard Golty was fortunate indeed, in that his living in Framlingham was worth in 1630 £43/6/-, the second richest benefice in the county. His main contribution to the town's history was to keep two account books, one of them for the recording of tythes. This book he maintained from 1628 until his death fifty years later. From it, we know for much of the seventeenth century exactly who was living and where in Framlingham - it is a mine of information.

Golty was a traditionalist in troubled times. He refused in 1654 to swear an oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth, and was ejected from his living. He then retired to his estate in Ashbocking, which had been purchased by his wealthy father Edward in the late sixteenth century.

From 1654 to 1660, the Rector of Framlingham was a certain Henry Sampson, an unordained don from Pembroke Hall, Cambridge. He was an Independent or Congregationalist, if not a Presbyterian. He is probably the town's first historian, for he wrote a history of non-conformity. On the restoration of

Charles II in 1660, he was ejected from the living, and Golty returned. To mark that event, a hatchment was placed in the church, at a cost of £10/3/9, bearing the initials of the two churchwardens, Christopher Newgate and Nicholas Brown, as well as those of Golty himself.

Another personality of the time was Nicholas Danforth, a man of position and influence in civil and church matters. Born in 1589, he was a farmer and a churchwarden at St. Michael's - his farm in New Street is still there. In 1634 he left a prosperous holding in a beautiful part of East Anglia, made dear to him by family associations of three or four generations. He arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, in September 1634, where he became a Selectman in 1635, a Deputy in the Grand Court in 1636, and died in April 1638. His main legacy to his adopted country was to have had an eldest son, Thomas, who founded Framingham, Mass., incorporated in 1700. Thomas was one of the first Treasurers of Harvard University, and became President of the Province of Maine.

A measure of our own town's prosperity at that time can be gleaned from a Hearth Tax return of 1674, when a total of 142 households yielded 860 persons, and a market rental indicated that ten shops were installed on the Market Hill and the surrounding area. On market days, there were thirty-five stallholders, including twelve butchers and six chapmen, a pedlar, a mercer, a smith and a cobbler.

The eighteenth century saw the town burgeoning. A survey of 1724 shows the population to have been 1,420 persons, practising twenty-six different trades and professions. Our historian Hawes has much to say of Framlingham at that time. He tells us that Framlingham in the eighteenth century had fully come into its own as a market town.

The next century saw Framlingham still in its heyday. The Napoleonic Wars brought a response from the townfolk, with seventy-seven loyal citizens signing Articles of Association. At that time, Major John Stanford commanded the Framlingham Loyal Volunteers, two hundred and forty men in three Companies, with a band of thirty men. (You can view a uniform in Mrs. Lockie's dining room at 7 Castle Street: painted around 1810, its discovery, hidden on the wall, in 2000 was most exciting).

Nineteenth century Framlingham had virtually everything its people might require, with its own surgeons, a full range of trades and services, and even a theatre from 1832 to about 1874. The railway came in 1859, and in that same year the first issue of the *Framlingham Weekly News* was on the news-stands. The Cattle Market came in 1889, heralding a seismic change in local farming from corn to cattle, following the agrarian depression of the late 1870s. Courts of law were held here from 1830, and the Framlingham Horticultural Society was founded in 1834. The 1851 Census records 2,451 residents practising sixty trades and professions. Twenty years later there were 2,515 people with eighty-three different occupations, ranging from photographer to piano-tuner, to gun-maker.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the influence of the Dukes of Hamilton at Easton upon Framlingham and the surrounding area was at its peak. As well as being a centre of social life, their house and estate also provided local employment, not to mention much enjoyment for many in the town and its surroundings.

However, Framlingham at that time was the home of some very poor people as well as those who were abundantly rich. While the Rector at St. Michael's church had an income of £2,000 *per annum* (£120,000 in today's money), farm labourers at that time were lucky to earn fifteen shillings for a week of grinding and unremitting toil.

Nevertheless, the town certainly held together. Perhaps a description from *Framlingham Weekly News* of a town event in 1900 will demonstrate the corporate emotions of the people then living there. On the nineteenth of May in that year, report was received in the town of the relief of Mafeking, and

many were the shouts of joy and relief which were shouted across the breakfast table that morning. Flags were immediately seen floating on the Church and College towers and an hour later the whole town was doing honour to the saviours of the little South African veldt village by the display of the Union Jack and other similar designs. At nine o'clock the School [Framlingham College] consisting of over 300 pupils marched from the College to Market Hill carrying flags and banners and needless to say in a state of wildest excitement. Speeches from the Guildhall followed. Cheers were given.

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

The celebrations went on for three days!

Queen Victoria died in January 1901: it was the end of an age. Twentieth century Framlingham and its diverse changes mirrored what was happening in so many communities in England over that time. A few pointers will suffice. It was a time of transformation. In 1906, the telephone came to Framlingham, and at about that time A. G. Potter commenced selling motor-cars. A pumped water-supply available to all did not come until 1938, though the sewage system had been installed in 1894. A refuse collection service was provided from 1935.

Seventy loyal men of Framlingham gave their lives in the First World War. An effect of that War was to hasten the pace of change. Some women got the vote in 1918 (ten years were to elapse before they were fully enfranchised). The threat of the Poor House receded, and the old had become entitled to a pension, however small, in 1909. The British Empire in 1918 was at its greatest extent, but all that began to change after the Second World War.

Locally, the most notable inter-war event took place at the Castle where the Framlingham Pageant took place between the 8th and 11th July 1931. The Duke of Norfolk graciously accepted the role of President for the event, which involved the whole town, boasting as it did some eight hundred performers. It was reported in the national press, and had as its legacy not only the lifelong friendships formed then, but also the purchase of the Gun Field, renamed the Pageant Field, for the town.

Framlingham since the Second World War has seen the greatest changes of all, not only in the geography of the town, but also in the way its people live. The railway closed in 1952, the telephone exchange became automatic in 1961, and water supply was installed on a district basis in 1958. The Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 paved the way for the recognition of Framlingham as a place worth conserving.

The present mirrors the past. So perhaps a few facts about Framlingham in 2002 are not out of place. The population of the town in 1991 was 2,941. In 1951 it was 1,900 or so. These figures reflect a great change in the town's geography. Since 1951, a number of small estates have been built round the core of the town, the latest addition being Andrew Burt Close, completed in 2001, and named after the man who was Head of Sir Robert Hitcham's School for twenty-seven years.

Again, Framlingham's past is closely linked with its present economic situation. Tourism is here important; more than 70,000 people a year visit the Castle and the Lanman Museum there. Education has strong historic roots, and is a major employer in the town. Services such as retail outlets, banking and accountancy, legal and medical services, are all well represented.

But what makes the town special is the background to all these activities, in the form of the Conservation Area centred on the Market Hill, which, with Castle Street, Church Street, Double Street, and adjacent parts of the town, comprise its central Conservation Area, which is protected by law under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. The 1972 Town and Country Planning Act put the rules and regulations regarding the Conservation Area into place. The legislation recognized seventy-four Listed Buildings in Framlingham, of which Framlingham Castle, the Poor House in the Castle, and St. Michael's Church were Listed Grade I. The other seventy-one are Grade II* and II, while there are at least fifty others which were recognized in 1972 as being Grade III, but that status has now been dropped. We can be grateful that we have a town which (we hope) is safeguarded for the future. It is that combination of the very old and the almost new that gives Framlingham its particular character. Anyone coming to live in or near the town will quickly assimilate what makes the place tick. It can be said that Framlingham lives up to its reputation as an economic and social centre for the surrounding sixteen villages or so, giving the town a total catchment area population of at least 7,500 people.

One need say no more except that Framlingham today is sustained by its past in much detail. The heritage that comes down to us is a precious one. It cannot be taken for granted. Framlingham is rightly described as the finest market town in east Suffolk.

APPENDIX

(The book-list below details the main sources for the historical introduction to the lecture given on 25th April 2002.)

J. Booth. *Nicholas Danforth and his neighbors*. (Framingham, Mass., Framingham Historical and Natural History Society, 1935).

Census England and Wales 1991. *County of Suffolk: statistical tables*. (London, HMSO, 1992).

J. G. Coad. "Recent excavations within Framlingham Castle" in *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology Proceedings*, vol. XXXII, part 2 (1971).

H. Colvin and L. Stone. "The Howard tombs at Framlingham, Suffolk" in *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 108 (1965)

Department of the Environment. *Framlingham Castle: official handbook*. (London, HMSO, 1980).

J. G. Evans. *The Environment of early man in the British Isles*. (London, Elek, 1976).

Framlingham Weekly News 1859-1938 [Lanman Museum, Framlingham Castle holds a complete file].

R. Green. *The History, topography and antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted ...* (London, Whittaker, Treacher & Co., 1834).

R. Hawes. *The History of Framlingham ... begun by the late Robert Hawes ... with ... additions and notes, by Robert Loder*. (Woodbridge, Loder, 1798).

M. L. Kilvert. *A History of Framlingham*. (Ipswich, Bolton and Price, 1995).

A. A. Lovejoy. "The Village of Easton, Suffolk: an appreciation" in *Fram*, 3rd series, number 12).

D. MacCulloch and J. Blatchly. "An early organ at Framlingham" in *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology Proceedings*, vol. XXXVII, part 1 (1989).

R. Marks. "The Howard tombs at Thetford and Framlingham" in *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 141 (1984).

A. J. Martin. *Guide to the church of St. Michael's, Framlingham*. (1978).

J. Newman. *A Survey of the archaeological finds in the parish of Framlingham*. (Ipswich, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Unit, 2001).

Oxford Companion to British History. (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1999).

J. and F. Packard. *Thomas Mills: Suffolk Baptist and benefactor*. (Ipswich, East Anglian Magazine Ltd., 1980).

C. Reed. "Dissent into Unitarianism: origins, history and personalities of the Framlingham Meeting House and its congregation" in *Fram*, 4th series, forthcoming.

D. Renn. "Defending Framlingham Castle" in *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology Proceedings*, vol. XXXIII, part 1 (1973).

J. Ridgard. *Medieval Framlingham: select documents, 1270-1524*. (Woodbridge, Boydell Press, 1985).

J. M. Robinson, *The Dukes of Norfolk* (Chichester, Phillimore, 1995).

C. Seely. "The Last of the Kilderbees". (Unpublished, 1998). [Text of a lecture given to the Society, January 1998].

O. R. Sitwell. *Framlingham: a short history and guide*. (Linton, Plumbridge, 1982).

**FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ARCHIVES AND MEMBERS
PAST AND PRESENT**

By Beryl Whitehead

As at October 2001, the Town Councillors were as follows:

Chairman:

David Griffiths a Chartered Engineer, formerly General Manager with B.T., now runs several small businesses

Vice-Chairman:

Roger Etheridge sells machinery to the farming community

Jill Banfield

formerly a travel consultant

Keith Bartholomew

a qualified accountant who owns Carley and Webb

Michael Booker (Rev)

Chaplain to Framlingham College - retired *#

Kevin Coe

Building Maintenance Operative with S.C.D.C.

Chris Haesler

works for Bibby's #

John Lockyer

retired professional engineer and management consultant #

Tony Martin

retired farmer

John McEwan

has his own business managing European projects in Telecommunications Research

Judy Masters

retired from the Employment Service

Geoffrey Mayhew

runs his own heating engineering business

John Morris

retired farmer *#

Beryl Whitehead

teacher - officially retired but I still do supply work #

Peter Wyartt

runs his own business, also distributes medical supplies and is a marketing consultant

#

Councillors who have served more than one term

*

These Councillors have resigned since November 2001.

Of these Councillors, six are still working full time, two were still working when they became Councillors but have since supposedly retired, and seven were retired when they came on the Council, albeit two had taken early retirement. The claim has been made that we are a group of retired people, which is not true at the moment.

At the meeting of 5th February 1895, a committee was set up to sort out the books and papers belonging to the Parish. They sorted them into:- (1) Wholly Ecclesiastical, (2) Partly Ecclesiastical and partly Parochial and (3) Exclusively Parochial. The "Wholly Ecclesiastical" and the "Partly Ecclesiastical and partly Parochial" were kept in the Parish Chest in the possession of Rev. Pilkington. The "Exclusively Parochial" were in the custody of Mr. Damant, collector of Poor Rates. These latter included:-

- a) Old deeds commencing 1362 ending 1658. These were marked as "relating to Town Lands and as having been examined in 1852 by Mr. William Edwards and stated by him to be of no value to the Town".
- b) a map of the Town Lands made in 1797 and corrected in 1800.
- c) Articles of Association - Framlingham Volunteers dated 1798
- d) Order of Town Meetings from 1727 to 1757
- e) Overseers Account Book 1767 to 1834
- f) Old Registers relating to parish Workhouse
- g) Registers of Parish Apprentices commencing in 1816
- h) Poor Rate Books for the last 50 years.

It is possible that some documents might have survived and be in the Ipswich Record Office, and some maps may be with the Parish Recorder. It would be very interesting to know if any of these records are still in private possession.

Page 5	19	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	2000	1	2	
Whitehead Beryl																										
Bridges Peter																										
Bush G. John																										
Newton Lavinia																										
Campbell Jack																										
Fulcher George																										
O'Brien Madeleine																										
Winter L. June																										
Etheridge Peter																										
Douglas Janet																										
Briscoe Paul																										
Bullingham Andrew																										
Bushby Peter																										
Haesler Chris																										
Creegan Brian																										
Hunt Maurice																										
Baird Caroline																										
Booker Michael Rev																										
Finn Rayleen																										
Lockyer John																										
Morris John																										
Cook Brian																										
Banfield Jill																										
Coe Kevin																										
Etheridge Roger																										
Griffiths David																										
Martin Tony																										
Masters Judy																										
Oglesby Shiona																										
Wyartt Peter																										
Bartholomew Keith																										
Mayhew Geoffrey																										
McEwan John																										
Carley Margaret																										
Elmer Michael																										

The question is often put as to when the Framlingham Parish Council became a **Town Council**. In the minutes of the 8th November 1974, the heading "A meeting of the **Parish Council** was held in the Court House" appeared at the top. Following through the minutes for that month, there was a circular from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils stating that some large Parish Councils had decided to call themselves Town Councils and asking whether we wished to change our name. This was put to the vote, and it was agreed by 11 votes to 2 that Framlingham should have a Town Council.

The minutes of the next meeting in December 1974 stated that a meeting of the **Town Council** took place. It was as simple as that!

THE FRAMLINGHAM TITHE MAP 1842

By John F. Bridges (Bridgessuffolk@btopenworld.com)

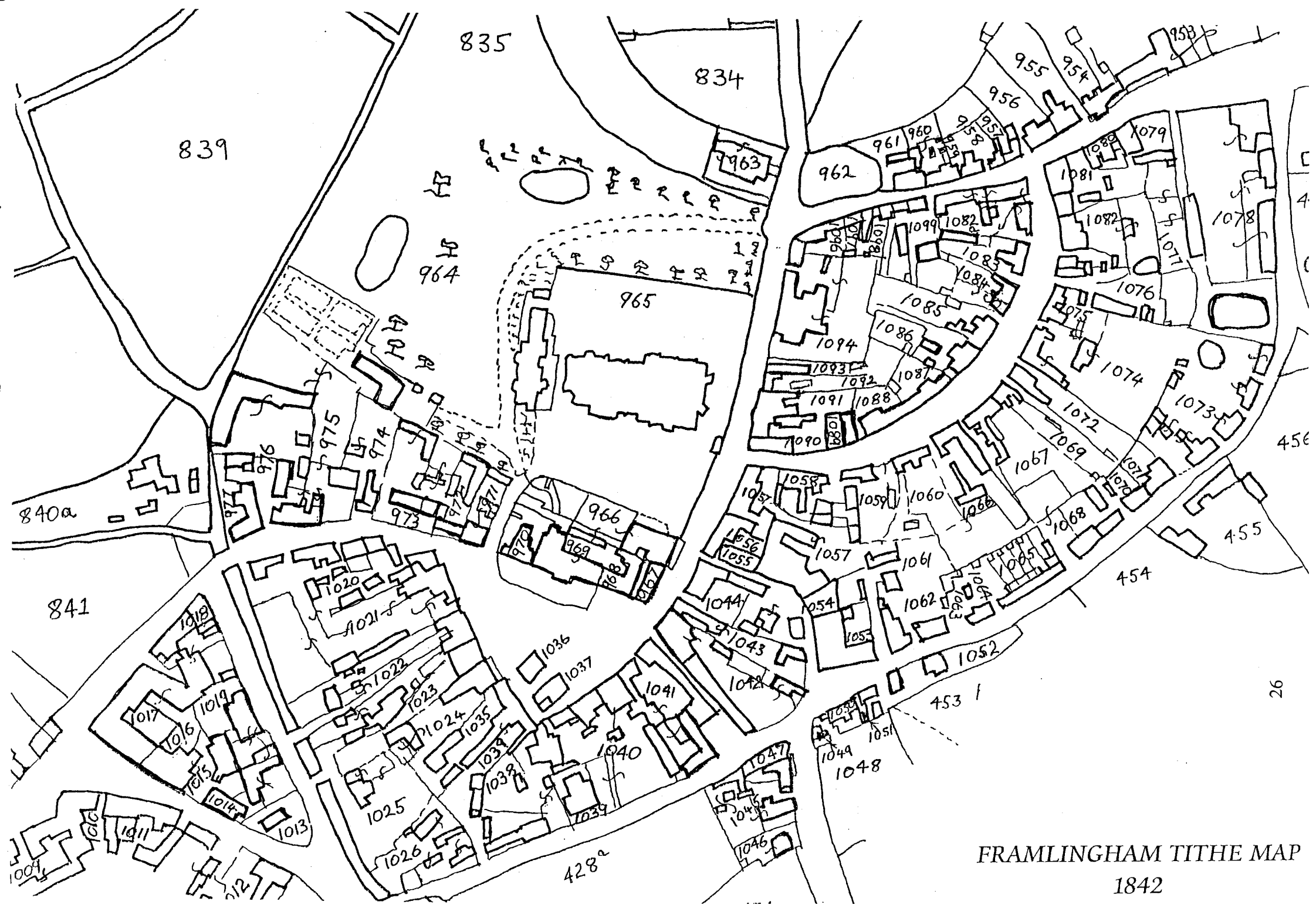
Tithe maps are an important source of information for local historians, as they can enable the location as well as the owner and tenant of a property to be identified. Many old documents provide a wealth of general detail, but the location is not clear, only the town or village being stated.

Tithe payments had been in existence for a very long period of time, whereby a proportion of a farmer's income was due to the Church, and was normally paid in kind. The payments were causing considerable unrest by the beginning of the nineteenth century, both on religious grounds and through exemption of the expanding industrial/commercial businesses. Rural violence was widespread, and eventually the problem was addressed by the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. A new tithe rentcharge was to be paid in money by all the affected people, based on a scale regulated by national corn prices. However, to establish the new system, the details of the existing arrangements had to be determined.

The Tithe Commission met with the parishioners of Framlingham in August 1841, to settle the terms of the tithe commutation. The annual sum of £1,272 by way of rentcharge was to be payable to the Reverend George Attwood and his successors. These agreements then formed the basis of the Tithe Apportionment, which states the landowners' liabilities. The associated tithe map shows the land and property with its own numbering system, which was referenced to the Apportionment Book. The date of the Apportionment book and map for Framlingham is 1842. As part of our family history research, I wanted to determine the exact location of Silvanus Bridges' blacksmith shop in Double Street. A visit to the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich yielded the three original, very large maps, which of necessity cover the surrounding countryside. The overall size of the maps is some 12 feet by 7 feet (3.66m x 2.13m), which restricts the detail of the town centre. Unfortunately, the map has been used so much over the years that the centre section is very difficult to read, with certain important sections missing altogether. A further copy of the map is held by Pembroke College, Cambridge, and I was able to obtain a photocopy of that. Prior to the age of mechanical copying, the production of a further map would have been a major task, and the date is given as 1847. A comparison of the two maps shows slight variations in building layout, and the positioning of reference numbers etc. On larger properties, it is not always clear which adjacent portions of land are part of them. This is generally indicated by a long S which joins them together, but these have not always shown up clearly. The attached map is therefore a tracing of an enlarged copy of the Cambridge map, with the numbers determined by inspection with a magnifying glass, and trying to account for adjacent numbers which are unclear.

More clarity may be possible from the original maps in the Ipswich Record Office, if there is a particular property of interest. You will need to order all three parts from the strongroom. Those in the open access filing cabinets are copies which are very difficult to read, along with a copy of the Cambridge map of the town centre. Locations beyond the town centre are well detailed, and the original map, along with the Apportionment Book, should provide the necessary information. I have avoided shading the buildings, in order to produce a cleaner copy. In general, the buildings are outlined in a heavier pen than the surrounding boundary line. Also, the map is not annotated, as per the original. The Church is clearly evident in the centre, and all other locations can be determined from that. After all, the road layout has not changed in some 160 years.

The following list provides the property numbers, owners, and occupiers for the town centre area.



FRAMLINGHAM TITHE MAP
1842

No.	Owner	Occupier	Description
428a	Attwood, Revd. George (Glebe)	Himself and another	House and garden
434	Goodwyn, Edmund Goodwyn	Himself	House, yards etc.
453	Attwood, Revd. George (Glebe)	Daniel Waller	Much Hill Close, Pasture.
454	Attwood, Revd. George (Glebe)	Wightman, Robert	Muckhill Close
455	Edwards, Charles	Himself and others	Cottage and garden
456	Edwards, Charles	Himself and others	Back Street Meadow
465	Diss Town, Wallace, Thomas Edwards	Edwards, George	House etc.
834	College , The Master & Fellows of Pembroke Hall.	Carr, Robert	Garden
835	Ditto		Castle, hills & ditches
839	Ditto	Attwood, Revd. George	Low meadow
840a	Blumfield, Stephen	Himself	Shop, yards etc.
841	Sir Robert Hitcham, Trustees of.	Jonathan Wightman.	Calf's Pightle, Pasture
953	Edwards, George	Himself	Pasture
954	Pembroke College	Darby, Revd. William	House and garden
955	Baldry, Benjamin	Himself	House and gardens
956	Middleton, Isaiah	Himself	House etc
957	Bridges, Susan	Bridges, John and another	House and garden
958	Harding, John	Rowe and another	House etc
959	Fulcher, Robert	Hammond and another	House etc
960	Rowlands, Richard	Smith, Henry and another	House etc
961	Fulcher, Robert	Himself and another	House etc
962	Pembroke College		Castle pond
963	Whitmore, John	Himself	House and property
964	Attwood, Revd. George (Glebe)	Himself	Rectory House
965	Ditto	Himself	Church Yard
966	Edwards, William	Welham, Robert	House etc.
967	Clutten, Henry	Himself	House etc.
968	Smith's exors.	Pierson, Misses	House etc
969	Pierson, John	Himself, Broadwater estate	House and premises
970	Wyatt, Anne	Herself	House and property
971	Baldry, Benjamin	Springett, Miss	House and yards
972	Dale, Samuel	Himself	House and property
973	Clutten, Henry	Himself and others	House, yards and premises
974	Fruer, Samuel	Garlett, John	House etc
975	Unitarian Meeting House	Themselves	Meeting House
976	Wightman, Jonathan	Himself	Premises
977	Blumfield, Stephen	Himself	House and garden
1009	Brunning, James	Himself	White Horse Inn and yards
1010	Leek, Spencer	Himself	House etc
1011	Blumfield, George	Himself	House and premises
1012	Pierson, John	Whiteman, Jonathan	House, yards etc
1013	Ditto	Ditto	Coach house etc
1014	Fruer, Samuel	Webb, Mark and others	House etc
1015	Fruer, Samuel	Himself and others	House etc
1016	Fruer, John	Capon, Jonathan	House etc
1017	Long, Revd.	Clodd, Edward and others	House etc
1018	Ditto	Leek, Stephen and others	House etc
1019	Fruer, Samuel	Himself and others	House etc
1020	Woolnough, John	Middleton, John and others	House and premises

1021	Thompson, Henry	Himself	House, yards and premises
1022	Fruer, Samuel	Fruer, Mrs and others	House etc
1023	Jeaffreson, William	Himself	House etc
1024	Edwards, Louisa	Clubbe, Charles	
1025	Bloss, Mary Ann	Herself and others	House and premises
1026	Dalleston, Henry	Himself and others	House and premises
1027	Thompson, Abraham	Hall, William and others	House etc
1028	Jeaffreson, William	Clarice, John and others	House etc
1029	Ditto	Phoenix	House etc
1030	Methodist Meeting House, Trustees of. Clodd, George	Themselves	Chapel
1031	Jeaffreson, William	Himself	Garden
1032	Blumfield, Stephen	Kerridge and another	House etc
1033	Hill, Daniel	Oakley, William and others	House etc
1034	Wightman, Jephtha	Lancaster, Edward and others	Queen's Head Inn etc
1035	Edwards, Louisa	Widow Vice and others	House and premises
1036	Ditto	Lancaster, Edward and others	Shops
1037	Taylor, widow	Newson	House etc
1038	Bridges, Samuel	Himself	House and garden
1039	Independent Meeting, Trustees of. Thompson, Henry	Themselves	Chapel
1040	Taylor, widow	Barnes Bridges and another	House etc
1041	Oakley, John	Rodwell, MJ	Crown Inn and yards
1042	Edwards, Charles	Himself and others	House, shop and premises
1043	Barker, Elizabeth	Herself	House and yard
1044	Green, Richard	Himself and another	House etc
1045	Smith, Samuel	Himself and others	House etc
1046	Ditto	Baldwin, TW	House etc
1047	Bridges, John Fruer	Himself	House and yard and Smith's shop
1048	Attwood, Revd. George (Glebe)	Bloss, Samuel	Garden
1049	Manning, Sarah	King, William	House etc
1050	Wightman, Jonathan	Wightman, Robert	House etc
1051	Smith's exors	Harding and others	House etc
1052	Whayman, David	Himself	House etc
1053	Edwards, Charles	Lancaster, Edward	Premises
1054	Cobbold, John	Bloss, Samuel	Stable and premises
1055	Thompson, Abraham	Everett and another	House etc.
1056	Cobbold, John	Crown And Anchor Inn	
1057	Thompson, Abraham	Keer, George	House etc
1058	Ditto	Bloss, Robert and another	House etc
1059	Webb, Mark	Dixon and others	House etc
1060	Edwards, William	Lee, George and others	House etc
1061	Edwards, William	Himself	Garden
1062	Cobbold, John	Bilney, Francis	Waggon & Horses Inn
1063	Baxter, Joseph	Himself and others	House and premises
1064	Edwards, Charles	Smith, Philip and others	House etc
1065	Bridges, Samuel	Baxter, Joseph and others	House and yards
1066	Hart, Daniel	Woods, Samuel	House etc
1067	Cottingham, Mary	Kinnell, John	House and garden
1068	Read, Paul	Himself	House etc
1069	Edwards, Charles	Boult, Miss	House and premises
1070	Webb, Mark	Watson, James and others	House etc
1071	Manning, Sarah	Vice, widow and another	House etc
1072	Ditto	Herself	House etc
1073	Bridges, Susan	Waller, James and others	Houses and gardens

1074	Bridges, Susan	Bridges, Silus and others	Houses and garden, blacksmith's shop etc
1075	Cornish, Robert	Wells, Thomas and another	House etc
1076	Bridges, Susan	Leggatt, John and others	House and garden, Wright's shop
1077	Stanford, Jane	Pike, William and others	House etc
1078	Ditto	Herself	House etc
1079	Fisk, William	Himself	House etc
1080	Lecch, William	Himself	House etc
1081	Wright, Ann	Herself	Hare And Hounds Inn
1082	Hill, William	Himself and others	House etc.
1082a	Edwards, Charles	Waters, Charles etc	House and premises
1083	Smith, Joshua	Nichols, William and another	House etc
1084	Bridges, Susan	Measures, John and another	House and garden
1085	Aldis, John	Himself and another	House and garden
1086	Smith's exors	Taylor, widow and another	House etc
1087	Freeman, Edward	Himself	House etc
1088	Freeman, William Dave	Himself and another	House etc
1089	Edwards, William	Himself	Premises
1090	Wightman, Jesse	Barker, Miss and others	House and premises
1091	Sparkhall, William	Capon, Miss and another	House etc
1092	Mason, Mrs Mary	Cooper, Maria	House and garden
1093	Edwards, William	Unoccupied	House etc
1094	Edwards, William	Himself	House and premises
1095	Cooper, James	Gibbons, George	House etc
1096	Bridges, Susan	Dorling, Charles	House and garden
1097	Smith, Joseph	Carr, Robert	House etc
1098	Smith, Joseph	Himself	House and premises
1099	Barker, Samuel Keer	Gosling and others	House and premises

CORRESPONDENCE

18th April 2002

49 Birch Tree Drive
Emsworth
Hampshire

Dear Editor,

Further to your recent exhibition of Self postcards at Framlingham Castle, I remember John Self very well, probably because he had the unusual habit of spending a long time standing outside his shop door, opposite Bonny's the bakers shop. I found the story of the early years of the Parish Council most interesting, and I can recall some items with which my Father had to deal when he was the Clerk in the early 1930s, such as the bills for bread and cheese and beer for the firemen when they attended a fire, usually haystack fires.

Another unusual source of income for him was a request for information about people who had applied for hire purchase loans, and his remuneration was usually a sheet of stamps. Instead of taking his pony and cart to Wickham Market to the workhouse there, he sometimes went by train if it was a wet day, and cash the old age pension books of the inmates at the post office, ten shillings at that time and over 70 years of age. Nine shillings went towards their keep and they were allowed to keep one shilling. Hard times indeed.

Strange to say he did not receive a salary as Registrar of Births and Deaths, but was allowed to keep the fees for the certificates, one shilling or a half crown for a full certificate.

I may have already mentioned my Father bought the land and buildings called Shimmens Pightle to house his pony after he moved from Harrow in 1914. I have been told the word "pightle" means a piece of ecclesiastical land, and it is commonly used in the Biggleswade area where he was born, so perhaps he named it thus. When he moved to Woodbridge in 1936 he sold it to George Cooper who was a furniture maker with a small workshop just before the steps leading to the Church.

Yours faithfully,
Geoff Taylor

9th May 2002

49 Birch Tree Drive
Emsworth
Hampshire

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for your letter of the 1st May.

My father, Herbert Charles Taylor, born in Biggleswade, had various positions in Llanelli, Gloucester and Harrow as a Registrar of Births and Deaths and Relieving Officer, and previously in a Solicitor's office, unlike his father and grandfather who were into threshing engines and contract ploughing teams. He moved from Harrow to Framlingham in 1914 because my elder brothers were suffering from frequent heavy fogs and the Doctor advised a move to the country, and also because he was shot in the arm together with a Policeman also wounded when he was called to take a man of unsound mind to the mental hospital.

This was another of his duties as a Relieving Officer, and in my 'teens I often accompanied him on these trips to Melton. Father initially came to the town from Harrow by a pony and cart to view the area and facilities, he liked what he saw and applied for the post and later moved by train (as you obviously know Fram had a railway at that time). He often used it to go to Wickham Market every week to the workhouse and the Supt. Registrar's office there.

I always thought my Father sold Shimmens Pightle to George Cooper, but my memory may be faulty, as early in 1935 I left Fram, and became a London Policeman in Limehouse (what a shock that was!), together with Stanley Gosling a few weeks earlier; his father is remembered on the First War memorial outside the church door.

My brothers and I had a grand time after school looking after the goat and the chickens and bantams at the Pightle or fishing in the pond at the top.

Yours faithfully,
Geoff Taylor

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Departure Point

"He's a beauty, he is!" said the old man, pointing with his pipe stem to the valve set. "During that bit of a strike you had up in Lonnun we could heear 'zactly all that wor passing as clear as I can see you, sor".

"Aye," said the old lady, "we liked that Mr. Baldwin for he wor as plain as if he wor in this room, but Mr. Churchill hemmed and hawed till you felt like wishing to get up behind him and give 'un a shove".

From: H. V. Morton, *In Search of England*
(London, 1927)

"History is five minutes ago"

THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN
ARE MAKING HISTORY

**Framlingham and District
Local History and Preservation Society**

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**history and heritage in Framlingham and mid-Suffolk
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