

FRAM

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

Number 1

**5th
Series**

August 2005

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Framlingham and District
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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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The picture on our journal's front cover is from the late John Western's Suffolk Calendar 1988© and is reproduced by kind permission of Mr. Gilbert Sills.

An exhibition of John Western's pictures took place at Ramsey Cottage, Monewden from 13th to 29th August of this year.

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FRAM

5th Series Number 1

August 2005

Registered Charity no. 274201

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

Nearly fifty years have elapsed since the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society was formed. In its early days, from the 'sixties, the Society also had oversight of the superb collection of local memorabilia amassed by its Honorary Curator, the late Harold Lanman. The Society became a Registered Charity, and in 1978/79, its collection of artefacts moved down from its previous accommodation in Double Street to become a separate Registered Charity, "The Lanman Museum at the Courthouse". A few years later, the Museum transferred, still as a separate entity, to Framlingham Castle, where it continues to flourish.

Other than that, the core activities of our Society have not changed to any great degree over time – winter lectures by both Society members and speakers from outside, summer visits day and evening. From 1968 to 1974 the Society had a *Newsletter*, which was resurrected in enlarged form in 1997, as *Fram*, and in 1979 a "Preservation Sub-Committee" was created, becoming in 1991 the Planning Sub-Committee, to comment to our local planning authority, what is now Suffolk Coastal District Council, on planning applications submitted mainly (but not exclusively) pertaining to the Conservation Area at the centre of the town. For a few years, from 1997, the Society was blessed with a Development Sub-Committee, particularly charged with identifying potential initiatives to be proposed for support by the Society, for the betterment of the town's heritage and environment and, where appropriate, the promotion of the Society itself. It is with initiatives of this kind, and their significance in defining our relationship to the town, that this Editorial is particularly concerned.

A defining moment in the evolution of our Society was in 1997, when the businessman L. W. C. Pegler bequeathed to the Society the entire contents of a UK bank account. Although Mr. Pegler was mainly resident abroad, he returned to England from time to time, and had found it useful to have here a local source of pocket money. That "pocket money" amounted almost to a five figure sum, and provided for the Society a very welcome input, enabling it to support, either solely or in partnership with other bodies, various initiatives in the town, as noted below:

- (a) restoration of the nineteenth-century crane to the rear of Carley and Webb's;
- (b) erection of a plaque in the Great Hall of Framlingham Castle to Mary Tudor, commemorating her being proclaimed Queen of England while residing at the Castle (this is claimed to be the only memorial to her in the whole of the UK);
- (c) contributing to the cost of repairing and restoring the main entrance gates of the Pageant Field;
- (d) contributing to the cost of a memorial bench at Framlingham Castle to Monica Tett, a long-standing member of the Society;

- (e) funding a refurbished door in character with the main entrance door to the Unitarian Meeting House in Bridge Street;
- (f) erection of a plaque on the Market Hill to the distinguished Victorian surgeon, Sir Henry Thompson;
- (g) supporting the exhibition mounted by our Trustee Tony Martin in 2001, to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Framlingham Pageant;
- (h) funding an initial survey of "The White Cottage", Dennington Road, with a view to its preservation as a rare specimen of clapboard construction for this part of East Anglia.

The above list of projects may seem quite impressive (and it is pleasing to note that the original sum bequeathed still remains largely intact, thanks to occasional fund-raising as well as prudent house-keeping). Nevertheless it raises an issue, with regard to the preservation, *and development* of our town's amenities.

I have referred, in earlier Editorials in *Fram*, to the activities and achievements of both the Ipswich Society and the Harwich Society in sustaining the built heritage of the respective towns that they serve, as well as ensuring that that heritage is not in any way compromised, while having also a watching brief, to ensure that their town's amenities are maintained and developed. Their respective areas are, of course, in both physical and demographic terms, more extensive than the town of Framlingham, even if one allows for the fact that both our own Society and the museum for which it once had responsibility, have a geographical remit beyond the confines of the town itself. Nevertheless, those other societies – to take them as two fairly local comparators – have a different focus and have different objectives to those of our Society, despite our own involvement with both planning and preservation matters. I recall a Trustee of our Framlingham Society commenting to me a few years ago that creation of amenities and access to them might at times conflict with preservation of the town's built heritage.

We have, at present, the Framlingham Development Trust as well as the Business Association, certainly forces to be reckoned with in nurturing the facilities available in our little town, but self-evidently with widely different priorities to those of our own Society and to those of the two town amenity societies referred to in the preceding paragraph. If there is a need in terms of lobbying and providing input to the local planning process, our own Society with the many other voluntary groups in the town, must clearly have a role, but only within the context of our own individual and disparate objectives.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOUBLE STREET, FRAMLINGHAM, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

By Jo Rothery

Framlingham, a small Saxon market town, serves a predominantly agricultural community. It is

... a charming little town with neat streets, prosperous houses and sloping market place
... [with] nearby Framlingham Castle, a tall irregular circle of grey stone [that] stood here in
Saxon times ...¹

In 1851, the town had a population of 2,450, but by 1981 this had declined to 2,190.² Double Street, formerly Bow Street³ because of its curved nature, is reputed to have changed its name when it became the first street in Framlingham to have houses on both sides⁴, Muriel Kilvert⁵ suggesting that the street may have been part of the inner double moat that surrounded the original wooden castle prior to 1100. Approximately 230 yards long, the street is flanked on both sides by a variety of buildings, mostly Listed. Two maps were studied: the Tithe Map 1842⁶ (Figure 1) and Poole's map of Double Street 1980-1988⁷ (Figure 2), buildings from the fifteenth to the twentieth century being observed from the road and easily identified on the latter. Gable Cottage, sideways on to the road between numbers 10 and 14, is deemed to be eighteenth century⁸, but is not easily visible and has not been included. Number 36 has been omitted also, for the same reason. Numbers 22 and 24 are unListed, and whereas both these buildings are probably eighteenth century, they have modern double-glazed windows and doors.

During the Victorian period, Double Street was the major shopping area, but with many residential dwellings. Analysis and comparison of the 1851 and 1881 Census Returns show the changes in population, ownerships and occupations, and these findings have been briefly related to the street as it is in 2001.

There appears to be a common belief that the north side of Double Street was the first to be developed. However, this may not be the case, as the Tithe Map clearly shows evidence of burgage plots on the south side of the street backing on to Fore Street (formerly Back Lane) in effect keeping a distance between the inhabitants of the castle and the lesser folk. Infilling on the north side probably occurred at a later date. The two maps show the existence of yards previously used for housing and trade.

Architecture

The maps of 1842 and 1980-88 show that very little has changed in terms of structure, during the one hundred and forty-six year date span, with just one new building dating from the 1950s. The oldest house in the street⁹ is number 20. It is described as

... early C17, with C15 core ... timber framed ... [with] clear evidence that the roof has been raised several feet ... the lower wall plate ... appears to be complete ... [there is] a long splayed scarfing joint and indications of the position of a long hall window ...

The present house appears to be an adaptation of an earlier medieval 3-bay house¹⁰, the substantial central chimney stack and another on the right-hand gable end being built when the roof was raised and the second storey added. The seventeenth century purlins are the only external indications of a timber frame. With the exception of the shop window, all the others are of contemporary three-light metal casement type with horizontal glazing bars, the frames being flush with the plaster, indicating an early date. The bay window shop front is a later addition, and probably dates from 1840 when sheet glass became available¹¹. It has six glazed panels, four at the front and one each side, each having glazing bars to the top third, with the two side panels opening. The plain architrave surrounding the front door is of late seventeenth century origin¹² probably installed at the time the roof was raised. The six-panel fielded door dates from the early to mid eighteenth century.

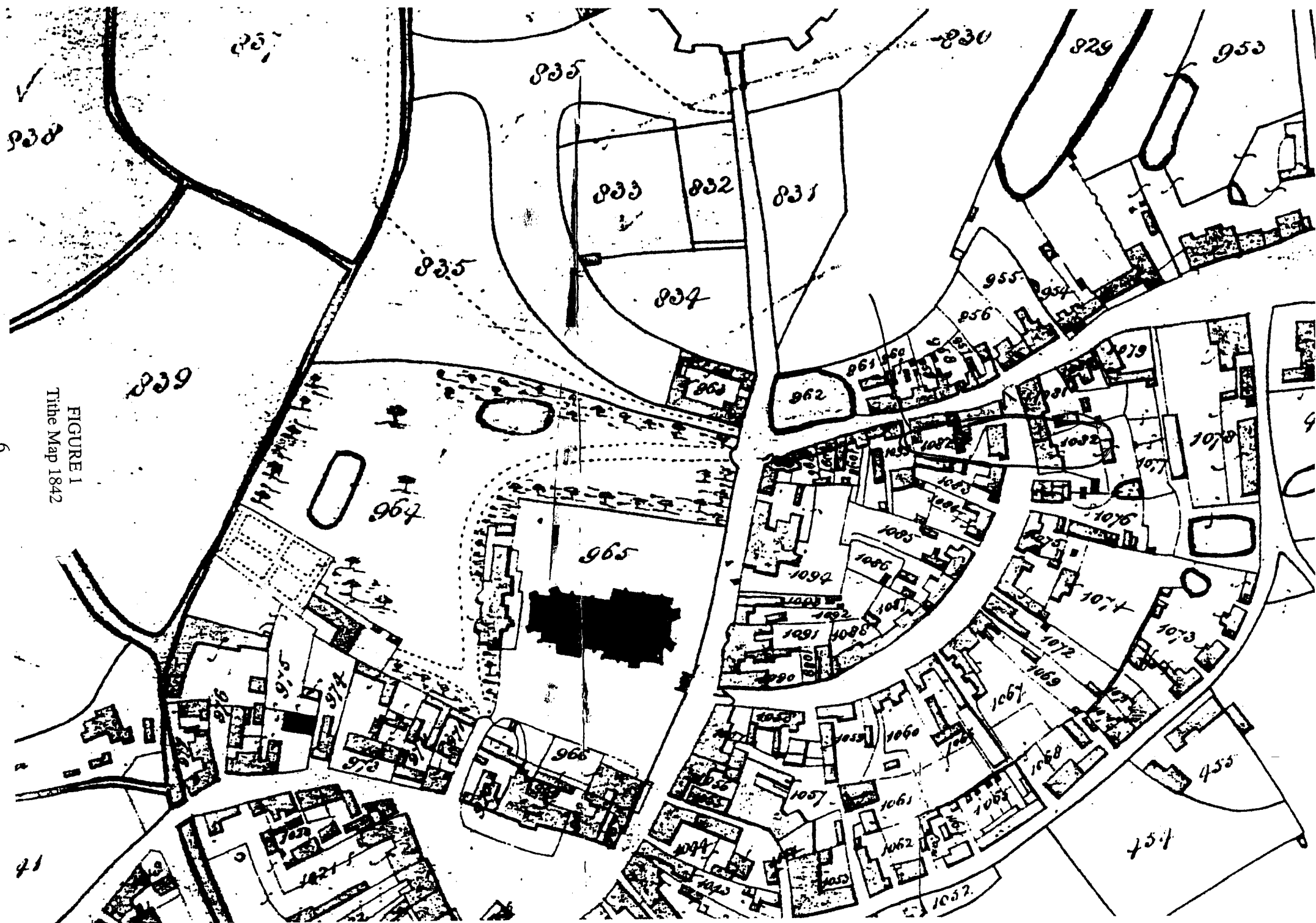
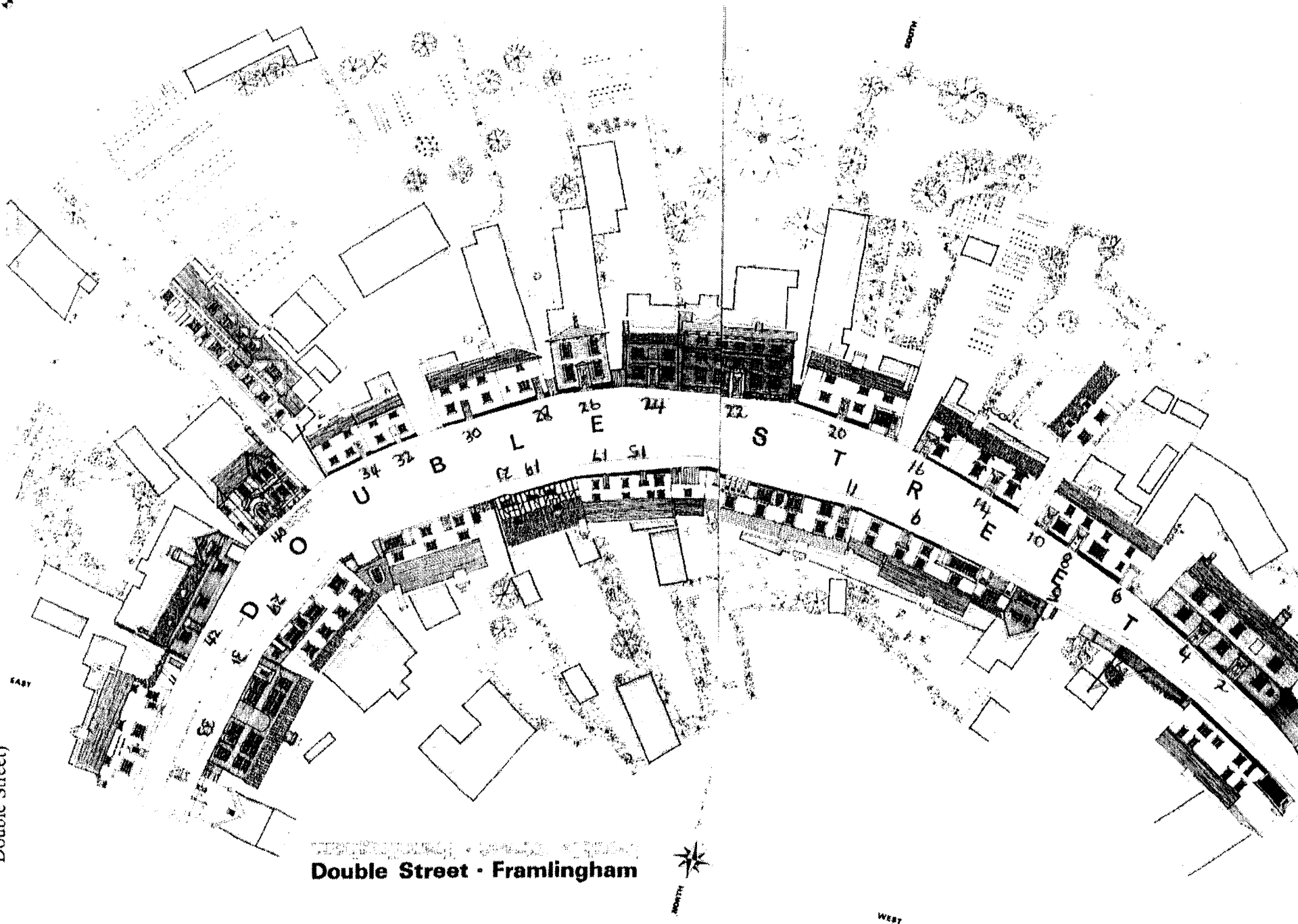


FIGURE 1
Tithe Map 1842

FIGURE 2
Map of Double Street by Roger Poole 1980-88 (Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. Poole of
Double Street)



By the sixteenth century numbers 9, 28/30 and 42 were in existence. Number 9 was for many years a booksellers/printers. Originally a single dwelling, this three-bay building has a substantial internal red brick chimney stack with a plain tiled roof and overhanging eaves. The timber frame is rendered, it being

... normal practice from the late sixteenth century, on the eastern side of England, to plaster over all the exteriors of timber-framed houses ...¹³.

It is probable that a modernisation scheme took place in the late eighteenth century, as the sash windows are fitted flush with the rendering, and the architraves and pediment surrounding the front door are of a similar design to Numbers 2/4 and 6/8/10. The four-panelled front door is of a slightly later date, but it would appear that the roof on the small building to the right has been raised to accommodate the sash window. There is ample evidence to support this early date, including "... good plain framing ... long arched braces ... [and] blocked original windows ...",¹⁴ with the early nineteenth century shop window existing from the time of the printing business.

The building now numbered 28/30 has an early history as a blacksmith's house and shop with a considerable range of other buildings behind. The map¹⁵ (Figure 3) shows the somewhat complicated living arrangements relating to this area. This house was originally a three-bay single-span house that has been divided into two. The hipped roof on the right-hand side is a feature that denoted the status of the owner when it was built. Such roofs were considered "... as lofty statements of status above the gabled roofs of lesser ... folk ..."¹⁶, though it is difficult to see how this applies this area during the nineteenth century. The plasterwork, marked to simulate stone, and the shallow architraves around the window and door, indicate an early date.

Number 42, known as "East Gables", is a "... House. Mid C19 face to C16 and C17 core ..."¹⁷. It appears to be a single storey building with attic of plain box construction¹⁸, with gabled cross-wing of two storeys and attic. The tall internal chimney with oversailing courses is at the junction of the two buildings, and it is suggested that part of the original house was demolished to accommodate the cross wing. Is it possible that the original building was an open hall house of an even earlier date? There is a further chimney on the left-hand side. Timber rafters can be seen on the long wall of the cross wing and are the only external indication of a timber frame. Late Victorian modernisation took the form of the then fashionable large paned sash windows with decorated pediments above.

During the seventeenth century there was considerable infilling or rebuilding in Double Street. Numbers 2/4, 6/8/10, 11, 14/16 and 44 were all built on the south side, probably replacing earlier buildings.

The building now numbered 2 and 4 Double Street is of late seventeenth century three-bay design¹⁹ with a substantial red brick central chimney stack and oversailing courses under a plain tile roof. Built of brick, with Flemish bond²⁰ (a method fashionable in the late seventeenth century), there is a decorative band at first-floor level. The left-hand side, previously unpainted red brick²¹, has now been painted to attic level. The present windows (four at first floor with one band, and three on the ground floor), are of late eighteenth century design with set-back frames and slender glazing bars²². It is probable that the house was divided some time in the eighteenth century, the two front doors being of the same design with unusual eight-panelled fielded doors, the top two being glazed and set in panelled columns with flat pediment^{23, 24}. Both ends of the house are of particular interest. Iredale and Barrett²⁵ describe laying cobbles in thick mortar "with bricks to provide a square strong corner (quoin) and, tumbled in, to stabilise the gable". The left-hand gable is constructed with narrow red bricks of a type and size used before the Act of Parliament of 1776. However, instead of cobbles, narrow red bricks are used in the main body of the gable, giving a very decorative effect. On the right-hand side the brickwork is of Flemish bond utilising the darkened headers to make a pleasing design, the attention to detail indicating the status of the owner within the community. The number of buildings associated with Numbers 2/4 in 1857 was considerable²⁶ (Figure 4) and would appear to support this theory.

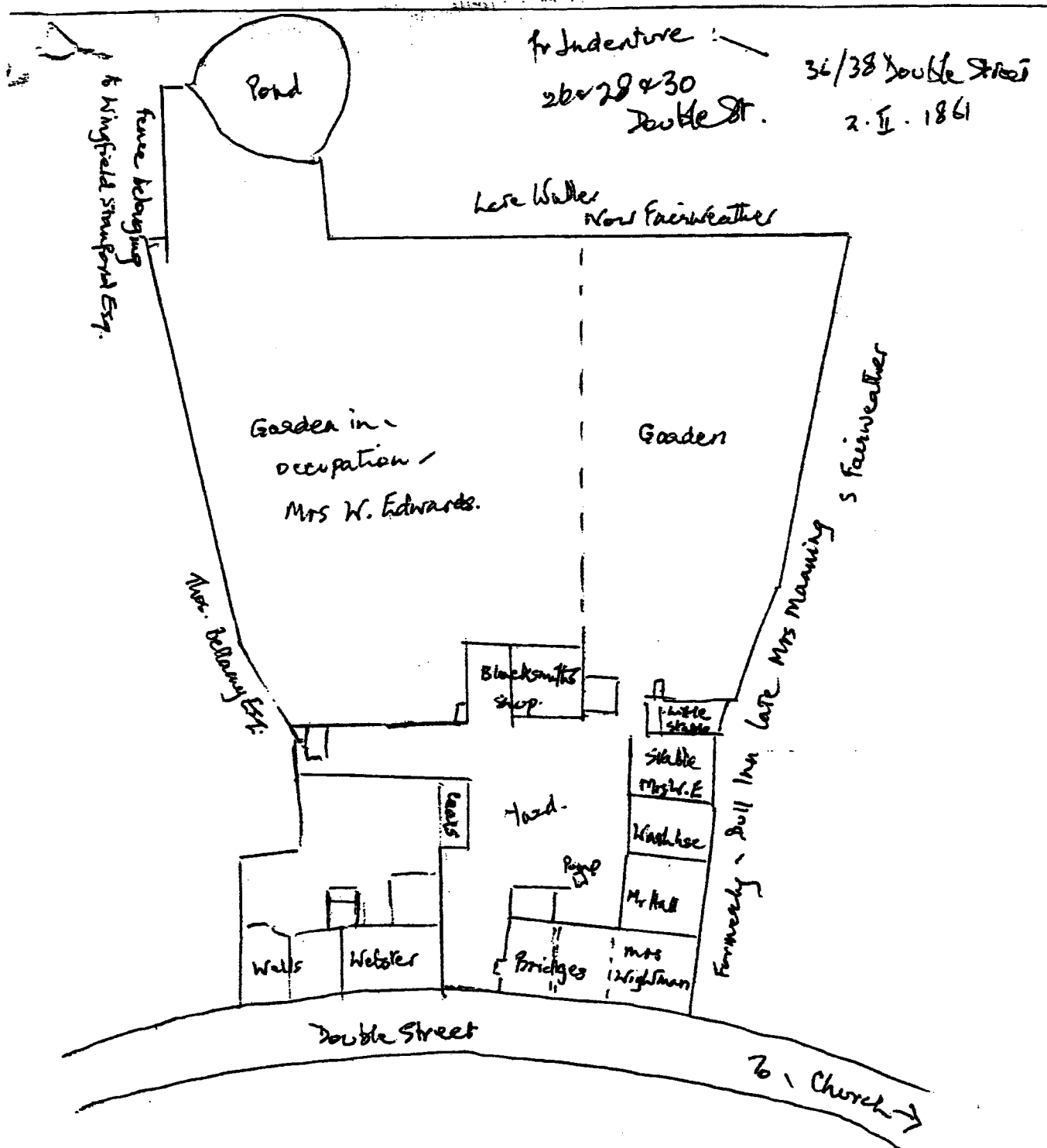


FIGURE 3

10

Numbers 6, 8 and 10 Double Street were originally one late seventeenth century timber-framed house²⁷. Now under a pantiled roof with no visible timber framing it is rendered and painted. The three front doors date from the early eighteenth century and are of a similar design to Numbers 2 and 4, suggesting the building was divided into three at about the same time.

The first floor windows, flush with the plasterwork, are contemporary with the age of the building, two having metal casements with fixed lights, and a similar one with transom and mullion lights at the top²⁸. The shop window with large panes of glass would seem to date from 1840, supporting the statement that " ... sheet glass, [was] available in large clear panes after 1840 ... " ²⁹.

Number 11 Double Street is another three-bay timber-framed house that has been substantially altered over the years. The large windows at ground level are evidence of early shop fronts, whilst there is also a line that can be seen under the plasterwork at first floor mid-window level, that runs along the length of the building. Is this possibly evidence that the building was originally a single storey, open hall timber-framed dwelling, the roofline having been altered to accommodate the upper storey? If so, the roofline would correspond to the building on the left-hand side. The roofing slates³⁰ and the design of the upper sash windows suggest that the building had a radical re-vamp some time in the mid nineteenth century.

Numbers 14/16 comprise a timber-framed house of eighteenth century origin with a mid nineteenth century frontage, central red brick chimney stack, roughcast under a pantiled roof³¹ but the general shape of the building suggests an earlier three-bay single span house³². English Heritage whilst overseeing building work at Number 16 has recently dated the house as 1640³³. Division possibly occurred during the eighteenth century, the architraves surrounding the front doors³⁴ being contemporary with other buildings in this group. The present window frames date from 1840^{35 36}. The decorative pierced and fluted bargeboards, fashionable between 1860-1910³⁷, clearly show that the original façade was set further back.

Number 44, known in 2002 as Dove House and formerly called "The Dove" and later the "Hare and Hounds", is a late seventeenth/early eighteenth century timber-framed core house under a pantile roof and chimney stack with oversailing courses.³⁸ The building has modern, painted render, and the windows reflect a variety of styles from the early three light metal casement type to the later six vertical panelled Victorian sash. On comparison with Roger Poole's Map, it is evident that a small two-storey annexe with front door has been added to the right hand side, the style very much in keeping with the original building.

The house known as Number 19/21 with flush-fitting windows and doors, and chimneys with the oversailing courses, is of seventeenth century origin³⁹, whilst the frontage of this building, with attic, and mock timber framing front under an orange-terracotta pantile roof, is from the nineteenth century⁴⁰. However, on looking at the roofline, the proportions look incorrect, with the substantial chimney dominating Number 19. Could the left-hand third of this house have been demolished some time during the late eighteenth century in order to build the "double dwellers" now known as Numbers 15/17? If so, was the seventeenth century building a three-bay single storey open hall dwelling? The Tithe Map⁴¹ shows a further building at the rear of Numbers 15/17, with access being gained over land adjoining Numbers 19/21, supporting a theory that the yard area originally belonged to one dwelling. However, in 2002 the only access to this further building is through Number 15.⁴²

Numbers 22 and 29 represent eighteenth century buildings, but with the evidence of burgage plots on the Tithe Map it is apparent that buildings existed long before this date. Number 22 Double Street, known as "Northwold", is a Georgian style town house on three floors "... C18 and early C19. 3 storeys ... "⁴³, "with red-brick Flemish bond frontage, under a slate roof, rare on smaller houses until the seventeenth century ... "⁴⁴. " ... In the eighteenth century ... a symmetrical façade was considered essential ... " ⁴⁵. "Northwold" is one of those houses. The sash windows with original glass⁴⁶, are well set back in the late eighteenth century manner, have slender glazing bars adapted to the design of the building with six panes in each sash at ground floor level, and decreasing numbers on the floors above. The eighteenth century six-panel door with raised fielded panels has a plain fanlight above, a

substantial porch with moulded architraves, frieze, cornice⁴⁷ and fluted Doric columns⁴⁸. The front door is adorned with cast-iron door furniture, the foot scrapers⁴⁹ being fashionable from the 1790s.

Number 29, known in 2001 as "Goodbreys" antique shop, has a central chimney with oversailing courses under a black pantiled roof. The first floor windows are twelve-pane sashes typical of the late eighteenth century, with frames set back from the wall. All the windows have very ornate brackets and pediments indicating alteration during the late nineteenth century. The six-panel glass door has decorative paned large windows either side. The four rounded half columns across the shop front support a heavy moulded cornice dating from the time of the modernisation. The substantial timber framing is evident through the windows of the shop. A twentieth century brick archway with Venetian-style window links 27 and "Goodbreys".

Numbers 24, 26 and 31/33 are all considered to be nineteenth century houses. The Tithe Map and Poole's Map both show the plots of land for Numbers 24 and 26, to be very narrow with very limited access. Could this be evidence of earlier burgage plots with rebuilding taking place in the nineteenth century?

Number 24 Double Street is described as " ... Early 19th Century face to older core ... "⁵⁰. No timber framing is visible. " ... Old timber-framed houses were often refaced during this period ... for reasons of fashion ... "⁵¹. This white/grey brick symmetrical house in Flemish bond with earlier red-brick sides under a grey slate roof would appear to fit this description. The central doorway has a recessed panelled architrave, simple, early to mid-eighteenth century entablature, and six-panelled raised fielded door suggesting the possible re-use of materials, with another refurbishment taking place later in the nineteenth century when the windows were changed. This was possibly a case of "keeping up with the Jones's" as Number 26 has been remodelled in a similar manner.⁵²

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, only two buildings have been built in Double Street; Number 40, known as "Winston House", and Numbers 5a/5b. "Winston House" was built on the site of an earlier dwelling,⁵³ the red brick walls being evidence of this. A wealth of decoration was incorporated into the construction of the building, at a time when it was fashionable to have classical arches, brackets and Greek-style motifs, to name but a few. The stripped-pine front door has the original Art Nouveau glass panel⁵⁴, and is supported by two similar panels on either side. " ... Arts and Crafts enthusiasts [had] introduced stained glass into the home from about 1860 onwards ... "⁵⁵, and the steps leading up to the coloured tiled lobby, were one of the "must haves" of the Edwardian period. All in all, this house has all the excesses such as turrets, decorative white brickwork, bay windows and mouldings associated with buildings of this era.

The most modern building in the street is Number 5a/5b, built in the 1950s⁵⁶ on the site of the former printing works. Luckily, the modern brickwork and concrete lintels under a pantile roof do not intrude too greatly on the surrounding area.

Residents, Population and Trades

During the Victorian period, there had been a growing awareness that insanitary conditions, overcrowding and poor water supplies were linked to poverty and ill health. Chadwick's *Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Working Population* (1848) and the second *Public Health Act* (1875) were just two of a range of measures taken by central government that enabled town councils to address the situation. During the period 1851 to 1881 the population, and the number of dwellings in Double Street increased. Figure 5 below shows that in 1851 there were 155 people living in 24 houses, giving an average occupancy rate of 6.4 per house.

By 1881 the number of households had risen to 39 with a slightly higher population of 166, giving a lower occupancy rate of 4.2 persons per dwelling. From this information, it would appear that many of the houses were subdivided during this period. The figures for 2001 show a further decline with just 53 people living in thirty houses, an average of 1.7 per house.⁵⁷

FIGURE 5

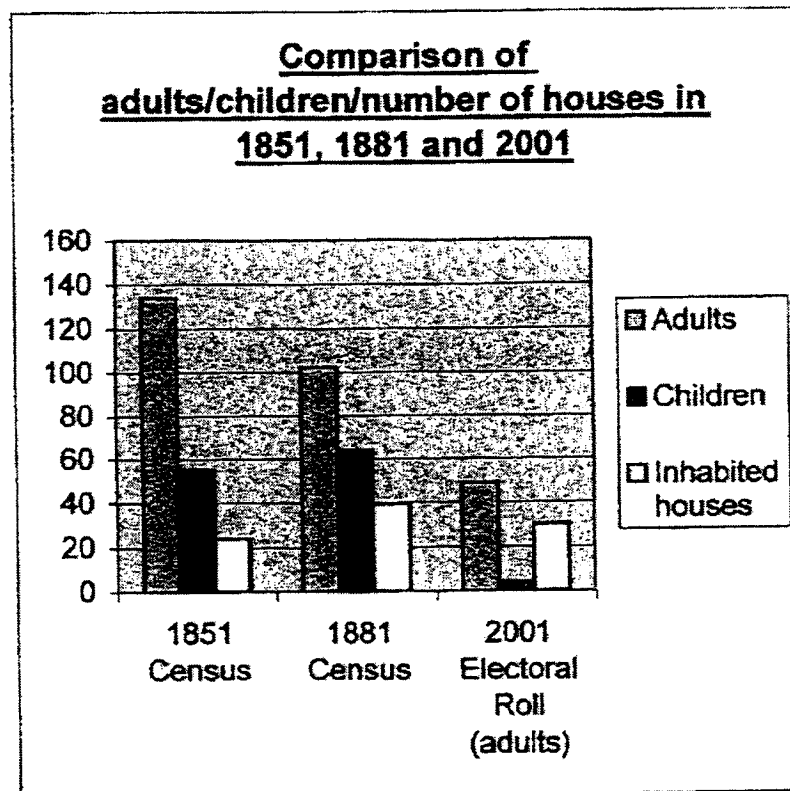


Table 1 shows all the trades and occupations of Double Street residents taken from the 1851 and 1881 censuses. In 1851, 39% of the population was involved in crafts and industries such as blacksmith, whitesmith, dyer and wool comber, and 32% were in the distributive trades. However, by 1881 the percentage in crafts and industries had dropped to 31% and the distributive trades, such as tailors, milliners, grocers, booksellers and shoemakers, had risen to 41%, reflecting the growing affluence of the middle classes in Victorian society and the impact of the Industrial Revolution.

In the trade directory for 1844⁵⁸ thirty-two trades and professions were listed in Double Street, but by 1858⁵⁹ this figure had dropped to seventeen, dropping still further by 1937⁶⁰, when there were just eleven. The same 1937 directory records seven notable private residents, illustrating the move from a commercial area to a residential street, and in 2001 "Goodbrey's" antique shop is the only business trading. Those people trading in Double Street regularly advertised in the *Framlingham Weekly News*. From these advertisements it seems that W. Robinson's business as draper, milliner and grocer, carried on at "London House", Double Street in 1859⁶¹ had, by 14th February 1891, relocated to Market Hill under the direction of S. M. Starling. The exodus from Double Street as a commercial centre was gaining momentum. *Lambert's Almanack 1906* lists five businesses (watchmaker/jeweller, tailor, baker/confectioner, rope/net maker and painter/plumber), in 1908 six are mentioned, dropping to three by 1911. The changeover to a residential street continued, and *Kelly's Directory 1937*⁶² shows that the Clerk of the Parish Council, J. P. N. Todd and the Registrar of Births and Deaths, L. J. Waddell were in residence. "The Farrier's Arms" and "Hare and Hounds" were trading, also the baker, tailor, second-hand furniture dealer, physiotherapist, boot repairer and insurance agent. The extracts from these directories give an indication of the changes taking place in the street, but the information cannot be relied upon to reflect a full picture at any given time.

TABLE 1

Trades/Occupations*		
	1851 Census	1881 Census
<u>I & II Gentry, Nobility and Clergy</u>	-	1 (independent)
<u>III Farmers & Agricultural Trades</u>		
Agricultural labourer	2	-
Farmer	1	2
Ostler	1	1
Horse dealer	1	-
Miller	1	-
Gardener	-	3
Field Worker	-	1
Miller	-	2
<u>IV Crafts & Industries</u>		
Textile		
Dyer	1	-
Draper	8	4
Silver/Gold embroiderer	1	-
Ironwork, Metals and Heavy Industry		
Machinist	-	1
Whitesmith	-	1
Whitesmith/ironmonger	2	-
Brazier	-	1
Blacksmith	-	1 (retired)
Building Trades		
Bricklayer	1	-
Plumber/glazier	-	2
Carpenter	-	1
House Painter	-	1
Builders	-	3
Leather workers		
Currier	1	-
Miscellaneous Trades		
Cabinet Maker	1	2
Coachmaker	1	-
Harness-maker	2	-
Straw-bonnet maker	1	-
Wheelwrights	2	-
<u>V Distributive Trades</u>		
Milliners	1	5
Bakers	1	3
Shoemakers	3	2
Butcher	1	1
Chemist/Druggist	2	2
Dressmakers	4	4
Tailors/tailoresses	2	5
Innkeepers	1	1
Sweet seller	1	1
Greengrocer	3	-
Plain needlework	-	2
Grocer/draper	-	3
Bookseller/binder	-	1
<u>VI Miscellaneous Services</u>		
Bank Agent	1	-
Schoolmasters/mistresses	5	5
Housekeeper	2	2
Errand Boy	1	1
Music Teacher	-	1
Marine Store Merchant	-	1
Servants	8	9
Unreadable	1	-

* Categories as suggested by John West, *Village Records* (1962) p. 170

Owners and Occupiers

Tracing the ownership and occupancy of a small sample of the buildings showed some of the trades and professions represented in this very busy street (Table 2). Number 20, owned by Daniel Hart, was a baker's from 1844 to 1938, passing through the hands of Edward Woods, Thomas Gravlin, Henry Dew and Anna Dew. In 2001 it is a private residence.

Number 28/30 has a long history as a blacksmith's house and premises. John Fruer Bridges⁶³ is recorded as being eligible to vote in 1830, but by 1844 Silvanus Bridges, (an Overseer of the Poor in 1835⁶⁴) was the occupier of the property owned by Susan Bridges⁶⁵. From 1851-1881 the property belonged to Ed. Bridges and after 1890 but before 1907, the owner was Miss M. Edwards, the occupiers being Symonds (coal stores) and Geo. Hall Jnr.⁶⁶. In 2001, the house is divided, and the two dwellings are occupied by M. Thurlow (28) and E and P Brady (30)⁶⁷.

There were two schools for boy and girl boarders at Numbers 42 (Schedule no. 19 – 1851 *Census*) and 24 respectively. The former, known as Hill's Academy, was run by William Hill and his wife Sarah, who in 1851⁶⁸ had twelve boarders and two maidservants. The school appears to have catered for the gentry, listing sons of eight farmers, two surgeons and one merchant. The Hills were already living there in 1835⁶⁹, but by 1881⁷⁰ the school had closed, Mr. Hill had died, and Mrs. Hill was in residence with a maidservant, one Julia Gardner. In 1851, the girls' school was run by Rachel Boulton, with pupils being born as far away as Calcutta⁷¹, but by 1881 the establishment had passed to Elizabeth Goodacre⁷². She employed one assistant teacher who had been born in Bristol, and a domestic servant. Four girl boarders aged from 6-16 had been born as far away as London and Great Yarmouth⁷³. In 2001 Number 42 is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Shuster⁷⁴ and 24 by C. and R. Sampson⁷⁵.

In 1842 Numbers 2/4 was owned by Abraham Thompson and occupied by Robt. Bloss⁷⁶, a butcher⁷⁷, still in residence in 1851⁷⁸. In 2001 the owners are D. and M. Meynell who live in Number 2 and the occupier of Number 4 is P. A. Allen Jones⁷⁹.

TABLE 2

Owners/occupants		
Numbers 2/4	1841	Owner: Abraham Thompson. Occupier: Robt. Bloss and another ⁸⁰
	1844	R. F. Bloss – butcher ⁸¹
	1847	-ditto- ⁸²
	1851	-ditto- ⁸³
	2001	D. & M. Meynell (Number 2), P. A. Allen Jones (Number 4) ⁸⁴
Number 7	1841	William Dove Freeman: owner/occupier ⁸⁵
	1844	Freeman – Bookseller/printer and stamps seller ⁸⁶
	1851	-ditto- Bookseller ⁸⁷
	1858	George Bayes – bookseller, stationer ⁸⁸
	1874	Robert Lambert – printer, publisher, stationer, insurance agent ⁸⁹
	1892	-ditto- ⁹⁰
	1911	-ditto- ⁹¹
	1911	Laura Maria Newland ⁹²
	2001	Mr. & Mrs. Barwell ⁹³
Number 20	1841	Owner: Daniel Hart. Occupier: Samuel Woods ⁹⁴
	1844	Edward Woods – Baker ⁹⁵
	1851	Thomas Gravlin ⁹⁶
	1874	-ditto- ⁹⁷
	1881	-ditto- (master baker and confectioner) ⁹⁸
	1892	Arthur Henry Dew ⁹⁹
	1906	-ditto- ¹⁰⁰
	1911	-ditto- ¹⁰¹
	1916	-ditto- ¹⁰²
	1937	Mrs. Anna Dew – Baker ¹⁰³
	2001	Mr. & Mrs. Llewellyn-Reece ¹⁰⁴

Numbers 28/30	1841 1844 1851 1858 1874 1881	Owner: Susan Bridges. Occupier: Silvanus Bridges ¹⁰⁵ and others as blacksmiths Silvanus Bridges ¹⁰⁶ Ed. Bridges – Master Blacksmith ¹⁰⁷ -ditto- ¹⁰⁸ -ditto- ¹⁰⁹ Bridges ¹¹⁰ After 1890 and before 1907: owner Miss M. Edwards. Occupiers: Symonds – coal stores, Geo. Hall Jnr. House and garden ¹¹¹
Number 42	1841 1844 1851 1858 1874 1876 1881 2001	Wm. Hill – occupier: himself and others ¹¹² Hill – school ¹¹³ -ditto- ¹¹⁴ -ditto- ¹¹⁵ -ditto- ¹¹⁶ -ditto- ¹¹⁷ Sarah Hill ¹¹⁸ Mr. & Mrs. Shuster ¹¹⁹
Number 44	1841 1851 1874 1881 1892 1908 1937 2002	Ann Wright ¹²⁰ George Marjoram (Innkeeper and Horse dealer) ¹²¹ John Howlett (pig dealer and victualler) ¹²² -ditto- (publican) ¹²³ -ditto- (victualler/pig dealer) ¹²⁴ Horace Claude Howlett ¹²⁵ Mrs. Phyllis Howlett (Hare & Hounds) ¹²⁶ Cooper ¹²⁷

Figures 6 and 7 reflect the places of birth as taken from the 1851 and 1881 Censuses.

FIGURE 6

Inhabitants of Double Street 1851 –
showing places of birth

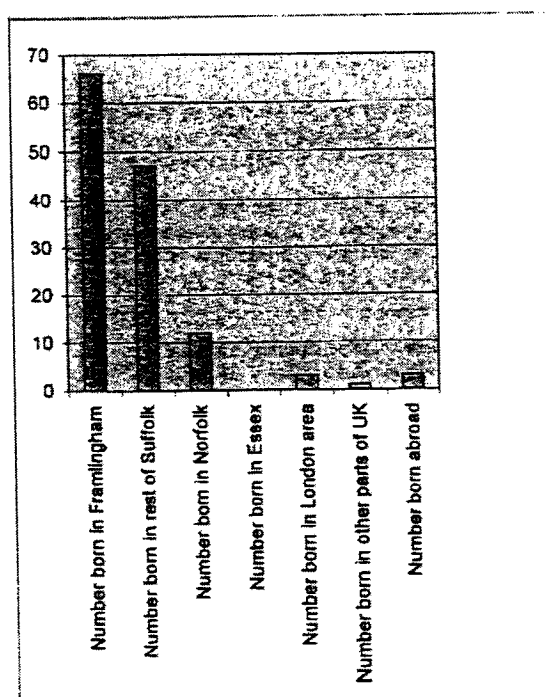
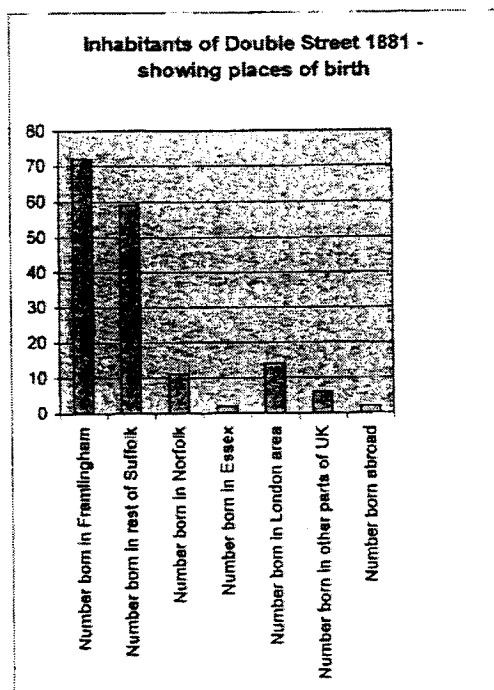


FIGURE 7



In 1851, out of a total of 155 residents, 86% of the population of Double Street had been born in or around Framlingham. By 1881 the number of residents had risen to 166 but the percentage had dropped to 79%. This earlier figure possibly reflects the effect of the agricultural depression when workers left the villages for the towns in considerable numbers. The biggest change is shown in the migratory pattern. In 1851 14% of the total residents living in Double Street arrived from other areas compared with 19% in 1881. These figures also show an increase in the number of people moving to Framlingham from the London area: 2% in 1851 and 8% in 1881, probably in part due to the opening of the branch railway from Wickham Market to Framlingham in 1859. At about the same time the advent of the tarmac road surface in the 1860s made long distance travel much easier and more comfortable. Better communication by rail, road, telegraph and mail all contributed to an increasingly mobile population.

Interestingly, in 1851 nine percent of the population had removed from Norfolk but by 1881 this figure, in spite of the population increase, had dropped to 6%, the earlier figure representing considerable migration at the height of the agricultural revolution. The low figures for those moving from Essex suggest that any movement in that county was towards London and the industrial areas of the south.

In conclusion, it is evident that Double Street has a very early history, but when comparing the two maps of 1842 and 1980-88, the actual structures comprising the townscape appear to have changed very little over the last hundred and sixty years or so. Perhaps the most noticeable features are the shop windows now in all but one case incorporated into private dwellings. The colour-washed rendering throughout the street mostly obscures the original timber framing, leaving one to speculate a great deal on the age of the houses. From the external survey the impression gained is that several of the houses on the north side were originally single storey open halls extended upwards to give a first floor. Houses on the south side are mostly two storey three-bay timber-framed buildings, most of which were divided into multiple dwellings in Victorian times. Some of these have since reverted to being one dwelling. Buildings erected in the twentieth century do not detract from the charm of this quiet residential area. The popular theory that the south side of the street was built after the north side cannot be substantiated. The evidence of possible burgage plots, the fifteenth century core of Number 20, and the early date of 1640 given to Numbers 14/16 by English Heritage, are all evidence that the south side was, in all probability, the first side to be developed.

The hey-day of Double Street as a craft/industrial/commercial centre was in the early Victorian period, and by the time of the 1881 Census there was already a very significant shift towards the service/distributive trades. By 1881 the shops were removing to the Market Hill, the population had risen, and the street showed signs of "gentrification". The decline of Double Street as a commercial centre had started, and today in 2001 the population is much reduced and the street is primarily residential, only one shop still trading. Between the years of 1851 and 1881 the majority of Double Street residents were born in Framlingham or in villages within a ten-mile radius, although better methods of communication and travel ensured that people continued to migrate to Framlingham.

Notes

[In the listing below, Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich branch) is abbreviated SRO. The directories cited, as well as Census records (Enumerators' Returns) (microfilm), *Framlingham Weekly News* (microfilm) and *Lambert's Almanack* are held and have been consulted by the author at that Office. The Lanman Museum Framlingham owns a complete file of *Framlingham Weekly News* (originals and microfilm), most issues of *Lambert's Almanack*, and several of the directories cited. It is hoped to be able to provide these sources for public access, by appointment, at a new resource centre in the town. (Editor's note)].

- 1 M. L. Kilvert, *A History of Framlingham* (1995) p. 4
- 2 W. Goult, *Parish histories* (1990)
- 3 P. J. Stannard, "The Inns of Framlingham" in *Fram*, 3rd series, no. 1 (August 1997) pp. 4-6 and No. 2 (December 1997) pp. 9-11
- 4 D. Dymond and E. Martin, *An Historical atlas of Suffolk*, 3rd edit. (1999) pp. 108-9
- 5 Kilvert, *op. cit.*, p. 6
- 6 SRO. Tithe map 1842 (P461/104)
- 7 R. Poole, "Double Street 1980-1988" (Author's collection)
- 8 SRO, "Listed Buildings Survey" 1989 (LBS) p. 31
- 9 *Ibid.* p. 35
- 10 P. Cunnington, *How old is your house?* (1980) p. 56
- 11 D. Iredale and J. Barrett, *Discovering your old house* (1991), p. 51. [For latest views and methodology for tracing the history of individual domestic dwellings, see also N. W. Alcock, *Documenting the history of houses* (2004). (Editor's note)]
- 12 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 159
- 13 D. W. Lloyd, *The Making of English towns* (1984) p. 52
- 14 SRO, LBS p. 31
- 15 Map loaned by M. L. Kilvert
- 16 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 39
- 17 SRO, LBS p. 37
- 18 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 26
- 19 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 56
- 20 *Ibid.* p. 46
- 21 SRO, LBS p. 33
- 22 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 159
- 23 SRO, LBS p. 33
- 24 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 152
- 25 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 18
- 26 SRO. HB11 475 Framlingham
- 27 SRO, LBS p. 33
- 28 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 157
- 29 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 51
- 30 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 149
- 31 SRO, LBS p. 34
- 32 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 56
- 33 Information Mrs. E. Wright (owner No. 14)
- 34 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 49
- 35 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 159
- 36 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 51
- 37 *Ibid.* p. 41
- 38 SRO, LBS p. 32
- 39 *Ibid.*
- 40 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 40
- 41 SRO. Tithe map 1842 (P461/104)
- 42 Information Mrs. Fairweather owner No. 15
- 43 SRO, LBS p. 32
- 44 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 149
- 45 *Ibid.* p. 158
- 46 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 49
- 47 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 236
- 48 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 49
- 49 *Ibid.* p. 48
- 50 SRO, LBS p. 32
- 51 Cunnington, *op. cit.* p. 92
- 52 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 49
- 53 Information owner No. 34
- 54 Iredale, *op. cit.* p. 51
- 55 *Ibid.*
- 56 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 57 Information Mrs. I. Coe
- 58 *White's Directory 1844*
- 59 *Post Office Directory 1858*
- 60 *Kelly's Directory 1937*
- 61 *Framlingham Weekly News* 3.9.1859
- 62 *Kelly's Directory 1937*
- 63 Muriel Kilvert, personal notes
- 64 SRO. FC101/F1/4 (Framlingham Ratings, Valuations and Assessment)
- 65 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 66 SRO. FC101/F1/4 Framlingham Ratings, Valuations and Assessment)
- 67 SRO. F07-B09 (Framlingham Electoral Roll 2001)
- 68 1851 Census
- 69 SRO. FC101/F1/4 (Framlingham Ratings, Valuations and Assessment)
- 70 1881 Census
- 71 1851 Census
- 72 1881 Census
- 73 *Ibid.*
- 74 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 75 *Ibid.*
- 76 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 77 *White's Directory 1844*
- 78 1851 Census
- 79 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 80 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 81 *White's Directory 1844*
- 82 SRO. HB10/10/9/61/15
- 83 1851 Census
- 84 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 85 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 86 *White's Directory 1844*
- 87 1851 Census
- 88 *Post Office Directory 1858*
- 89 *White's Directory 1874*
- 90 *White's Directory 1892*
- 91 *Lambert's Almanack 1911*
- 92 SRO. HD 1809
- 93 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 94 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 95 *White's Directory 1844*
- 96 1851 Census
- 97 *White's Directory 1874*
- 98 1881 Census
- 99 *White's Directory 1892*
- 100 *Lambert's Almanack 1906*
- 101 *Ibid.* 1911
- 102 *Ibid.* 1916
- 103 *Kelly's Directory 1937*
- 104 SRO. F07-B09 (Framlingham Electoral Roll 2001)
- 105 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 106 *White's Directory 1844*
- 107 1851 Census
- 108 *Post Office Directory 1858*
- 109 *White's Directory 1874*
- 110 1881 Census
- 111 SRO. FC101/F1/4 (Framlingham Ratings, Valuations and Assessment)
- 112 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 113 *White's Directory 1844*
- 114 1851 Census
- 115 *Post Office Directory 1858*
- 116 *White's Directory 1874*
- 117 SRO. HD266/1 (Incumbent's Register of Parishioners 1876)
- 118 1881 Census
- 119 Information Mrs. E. Wright
- 120 SRO. FDA/B1/A1 (Apportionment)
- 121 1851 Census
- 122 *White's Directory 1874*
- 123 1881 Census
- 124 *White's Directory 1892*
- 125 *Kelly's Directory 1908*
- 126 *Ibid.* 1937
- 127 Information Mrs. E. Wright

A VISIT TO SUFFOLK IN 1823
Excerpts from a journal written by Dr. Anthony Todd Thomson MD, FRCP, FLS

Edited and abridged by Dr. Ian Gregg DM, FRCP, FRCGP

Preface

In September 1823, a London doctor named Anthony Todd Thomson (ATT) and his wife, Katharine (KT) stayed a few days at Woodbridge *en route* for Edinburgh and the Scottish Highlands. Throughout their travel, ATT kept a journal in which he recorded the events of each day, the places they had seen and the people they had met, and in many cases these were accompanied by the reflections, opinions or emotions which they evoked in him.

The original manuscript of the journal has not been discovered, but a copy of it, typewritten about 1910, was among many other documents and books relating to ATT and KT inherited by the author of this article, their great grandson.

The extracts required substantial reduction in length on account of the prolixity, repetitiveness and occasional ambiguity of the text. Difficulties arose from errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling (probably due either to the circumstances in which the journal was written or the typist's inability to decipher it). A particularly difficult problem when transcribing was the lack of knowledge about the reasons underlying ATT's decision to write a journal and by whom he expected it to be read. Great care has been taken over retaining ATT's own style and preserving as accurately as possible the presumed sense of his statements. The views of Woodbridge and of High House are from engravings by T. Higham, in *Excursions to the County of Suffolk*, by T. K. Cromwell (1818-9).



FIGURE 1

Born in Edinburgh in 1778, Anthony Todd Thomson spent most of his life in London. Having qualified in medicine at Edinburgh University in 1800, he moved to London and established a practice in the rapidly developing area of Chelsea. A year later he married and bought a house in fashionable Sloane Street. His practice, which included very poor as well as wealthy patients, was immediately successful, and by 1823 he had become one of the wealthiest general practitioners in London.

In 1810, he delivered the mother of the future Elizabeth Gaskell (née Stevenson). On her death a year later, her widowed husband married ATT's sister, Catherine, who has been vilified by biographers of Mrs. Gaskell as a heartless stepmother, despite much evidence to the contrary.

In addition to his practice, ATT found time to write what became a standard textbook of materia medica, first published in 1811 and subsequently in many editions. He was also a prominent member of a group of doctors who brought about the Apothecaries' Act of 1815, that laid down regulations over the qualifications necessary to be a general practitioner. His first wife having died in 1815, ATT married Katharine Byerley (qv), he being aged 42 and she twenty years younger.

When the University College of London was founded in 1826, ATT was chosen to be among the first professors of medicine, and his lectures were said to be highly popular amongst students. Obituaries and memoirs written after his death in 1849 testified to his prodigious capacity for work and his humane attitude towards his patients, poor and rich alike.

The entry in the 2004 *Dictionary of National Biography* contains several errors. The memoir written by his widow is an eulogy, some of it of doubtful reliability. The best description of his life has recently been written by Sir David Innes Williams (D. Innes Williams "Anthony Todd Thomson and the rise of the general practitioner" *Journal of Medical Biography* 10 (2002) pp. 206-14).

Katharine Thomson (1797-1862) was Anthony Thomson's second wife. They married in 1820, five years after the death of his first wife. They must have first met during her childhood about 1805-09, when her family was also living in Sloane Street. She was the seventh of eight daughters of Thomas Byerley (1748-1810), who was the nephew and business partner of the celebrated potter, Josiah Wedgwood (1730-95). When aged eight, she was a boarder at a school in Brighton, where she probably first met Elizabeth Page, whose family she and ATT visited in Woodbridge. In 1810 she and some of her sisters established a remarkably progressive school for girls in Warwick: after fourteen years and two moves it became known as the Byerley Sisters' School at Avonbank, Stratford on Avon. The daughters of many celebrated families attended it, one pupil being the future Mrs. Gaskell. A history of the school and the Byerley sisters – *A Quest of Ladies* – was written in 1949 by Phyllis Hicks. KT taught for only a few years until her marriage, but she remained in contact with the school and visited it several times. On the journey described in ATT's journal, they visited Peterborough Cathedral and ATT records how much she was moved by its association with the deposed Queen Catherine of Aragon, who was buried there, and the roles played by Henry VIII and Wolsey. Subsequently she wrote many books, some on historical subjects, but mainly historical romances. Although her books were popular and widely read, none was especially distinguished, and within a few years her name had been largely forgotten. A list of her publications will be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

1. Preparations and Departure

Some writer – Horace Walpole [1:1] I think – has asserted that, if a man were to note down merely what he sees and hears he would make an amusing book. If this be true of a work expressly intended for publication, how much amusement might an individual obtain from the habit of preserving memorandums of whatever occurs within his observation when he leaves home on holiday?

I have resolved, therefore, to keep a journal of the travel which my dear Katharine [1:2] and I are about to make to Scotland [1:3]. The period of our absence from Sloane Street having been fixed and our two sons sent to be under the care of their aunt, Mrs. Thomson left for Woodbridge in fulfilment of a promise, made previous to our marriage [1:4], of visiting the family of our excellent friend, Mrs. Page [1:5]. Professional engagements prevented me accompanying her, but I proposed to join her as soon as possible.

Having arranged everything, including attendance to my patients by a colleague during my absence, I left home on Monday, the 23rd of August. I stepped into my carriage [1:6] at seven o'clock in the morning and was conveyed to Aldgate [1:7], where I took my seat in the Woodbridge coach [1:8] which left at eight o'clock.

2. The Journey to Woodbridge

The easy means in which stagecoaches are now hung; the excellence of the horses which drag them, the masterly manner in which they are driven, the commodiousness of the vehicles themselves and the smallness of the fares, render stagecoaches the most agreeable method of travelling [2:1].

The coachmen are a very superior class of men compared with their predecessors of twenty years ago: many possess much local information and readily reply to the enquiries of the traveller. Instead of stopping at every public house, most drive fifty or sixty miles without taking any refreshment. Since the Peace [2:2], the French custom of having relays of horses has been universally adopted, and a journey of eighty miles is accomplished with ease in eight or nine hours.

If a person feels disposed to converse on a stagecoach, he will always obtain amusement. Being fearful of rain, I had taken an inside place which I shared with a pert Abigail who was also going to Woodbridge to take up a new place in his vicinity. "Servants", she informed me, "is worse now than every time it was because of the stinginess of mistresses. It is very hard upon poor girls to work their fingers off and get nothing but their bare wages. Why, Sir, if it was not for perquisites, servants could not live".

Since the conversation was not exactly to my taste and the weather was clearing, I left her to meditate on the sorrows of her sisterhood and mounted upon the top of the coach [2:3]. The seat on the box beside the driver is always considered the best and is usually occupied by a passenger who is either known to the coachman or has previously taken pains to secure it [2:4]. It was presently in possession of a man who was an amateur in the science of the whip and experienced in the slang of the art.

"That off-hand leader be a smart sprig", said he to coachie, as he received the reins from him when we stopped to leave a parcel. "She has some blood", was coachie's reply, "and requires looking after". "Leave that to me", rejoined the amateur. "Yah, quiet hizzy! What be ye after?" Then turning to me, he observed, "She be a rare good one – yah hizzy yah! They drive better cattle on this here road than on any out of London". "And", he continued, "I'll bet five to one there be'ant a better driver out of town that this here Mr. Coombs. Why, Sir, a horse will doe more for a word from Dick Coombs than for all the lashings of some blackguards that mount a box. Did you notice how knowingly he tickled that restive jade?" The coachman returned, vaulted into his seat and away we went.

The country within ten miles of the city has a most disagreeable aspect. The hovels are ruinous and filthy and their inhabitants squalid, dirty and lazy. However, as we proceeded from Brook Street towards Colchester the country improved greatly, though the traveller cannot avoid being struck with the bad taste [2:5] in cottage architecture on this line of road and its prevailing style of Gothic [2:6]. This is in no respect suited for cottages but is in place only where ideas of magnificence and sublimity are necessary to be impressed on the mind [2:7].

Near Chelmsford we passed the ruins of buildings which during the war had served as a depot for French prisoners. We stopped for half an hour at Colchester for dinner before continuing our journey to Ipswich, where we had to change coaches and part with Mr. Coombs. I found him to be as civil a man as he was a good driver. He took care of my luggage [2:8], saw it properly packed on the coach to Woodbridge, and gratefully received the small sum which I gave him as a gratuity. His successor, known to all the passengers by the familiar name of George, was as good whip as Mr. Coombs. He had a round good-natured countenance with a smile and "Good day!" for almost everyone we passed. We arrived at Woodbridge at a quarter before five, having accomplished the journey of 76 miles from London in eight and three quarter hours, with half an hour for dinner at Colchester.

3. The Pages and their House

The Pages' servant met me where the coach arrived [3:1]. I hurried into the house with the ardour of a lover to receive my excellent wife in my arms, but she had not returned from a ride with Mr. Page and one of his daughters. I was cleaned and dressed, therefore, before I pressed her to my bosom and received that warm and enthusiastic greeting which constitutes the choicest blessing which Heaven has bestowed upon mortals.

Mr. Page and his two daughters [3:2] were the kindest of hosts, eager to ensure our comfort, warm-hearted and unremitting in performing the honours of the house. Mr. Page leads an enviable life, being beloved by his equals and venerated by his inferiors. He has the kindest disposition, is generous and open-hearted, and of the easiest access to the poor. Having the duties of a magistrate, he renders a patient ear to their complaints, trifling disputes, and administers impartial justice, and is acknowledged to be a man of genuine probity.

But I could easily perceive that the presence of strangers and visitors was necessary to break the monotony of his ordinary habits of life. He and his daughters require society to give a zest to their existence and to change the current of their ideas, excite their energies and give the spur to their almost dormant social faculties [3:3].

Mr. Page is proud of the little place over which he presides. He has displayed good taste in laying out the land which is attached to his house with a good kitchen garden and two large vine houses in which he cultivates the choicest grapes, more for the pleasure of making presents to his friends than for the supply of his own table.

4. Impressions of Woodbridge

Woodbridge possesses no attractions as a town: its streets are narrow and irregular and, with few exceptions, the shops are rather mean in their appearance and in their display of goods [4:1]. The houses, however, are clean, and the people appear comfortable and contented. The church, which is situated in the highest part of the town, (Figure 2) is built of flint, flanked with free stone, and has all the genuine character of the Gothic architecture of the twelfth century.

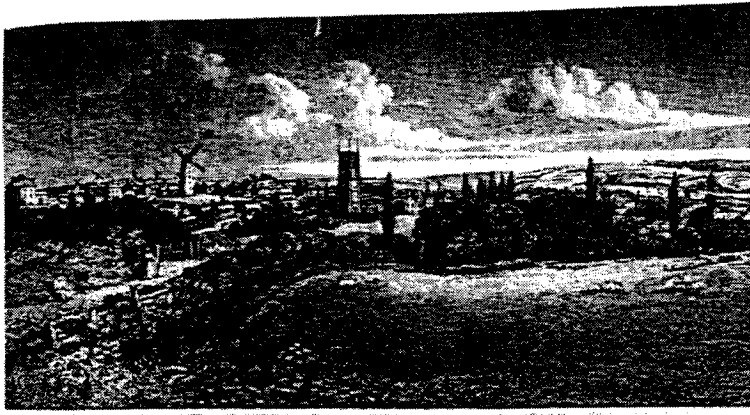


FIGURE 2

The most picturesque view of Woodbridge is obtained from the heath on the other side of the River Deben. There is no bridge but passengers are conveyed by a ferry boat for the fare of one penny. At high tide the river has more the aspect of a lake than a river [4:2] and the ships and boats give great liveliness to the scene [4:3].

The church is the most prominent feature in the landscape, its tower rising above the red roofs of the houses which cover the gentle declivity between it and the river. Several windmills crown the ridge that forms the boundary out of sight. At low tide, the river can be seen winding in a serpentine direction for many a mile through the vale, which is composed chiefly of meadows and corn fields.

During our stay in Woodbridge, I usually botanised in the mornings [4:4]. In the Deben, whose water is salt, I observed several marsh plants growing within the tide mark of the river, including *Salicornia fruticosa*, which I gathered and pickled for the table and *Chenopodium hybridum*.

The heath is seldom visited except by sportsmen or rabbit shooters. At this moment, whilst I am lying upon the turf and gazing upon the little town before me, not a soul is in view and not a sound breaks the silence except for the crackling of the pods of the furze as they burst to scatter their seeds; and the hum of bees as they suck the blossoms and wild thyme. The Heavens smile and all is peace and repose.

5. A Visit to the High House

On the day after my arrival, our ever attentive host proposed a ride to Campsea Ash [5:1] to visit Mr. Sheppard [5:2] at his mansion called the High House, [Figure 3] and afterwards to ride to Framlingham to see the ruins of the celebrated castle.

The High House [5:3] is of the age of Elizabeth. In front of it there is a bowling green which is surrounded by a noble yew hedge, clipped into grotesque masses in the Dutch style. The entrance hall is paved with marble and the rooms are large and panelled with oak.



FIGURE 3

THE HIGH HOUSE, CAMPSEA ASH.

After Mr. Sheppard and his wife had insisted on our partaking of a cold venison pasty and drinking wine with them, the worthy man then showed us his pictures. One is a head by Rembrandt, the finest of that artist's works I have seen [5:4]. I could have gazed upon it for hours, expecting to hear old Parr [5:5] address me, so truly does he seem alive. He also possesses a self-portrait head of Vandyck, an excellent portrait by Jansen of Prince Henry (son of James I) on horseback, an astonishing piece by Hander, in which two swans seem quite alive, and several other paintings of considerable merit and value [5:6].

Behind the house, the garden is enclosed by more yew hedges, fashioned into a wall upwards of twenty feet high. Other hedges of the same character terminate in vistas, while one forms a shelter to walk alongside a canal [5:7] which extends the whole length of the garden.

Near the bowling green are some ten of the finest cedars in this country; one of them being upwards of a hundred and eighty years old and all the others are above a hundred. The lower branches of the oldest trees lean upon the ground and cover a large space of it. I also saw a very perfect specimen of the Cork tree (*Quercus suber*) and several of the largest Ilexes I have ever seen. Near the house a plantation exhibits the celebrated quincunx [5:8] of the old planters containing some noble elms, beeches and oaks.

he improved taste of modern times looks with contempt upon this style of gardening, preferring a more natural style, but I was delighted with the view of such formal pleasure grounds as those which Mr. Sheppard has had the good taste to keep up in their original state. He felt a pride in the antiquity of his place and trusted that his son, after him, would preserve it unaltered [5:9]. I shall long remember with satisfaction of having seen one of the best specimens of taste in the lay-out of the grounds of that period which is termed the Augustan age of England [5:10].

6. Framlingham Castle and Church

Leaving the High House, we rode on to Framlingham. On entering the castle of Framlingham by a gate which still remains entire, what was our astonishment to find in the interior a workhouse and some almshouses [6:1]. The castle is a total ruin, nothing remaining but the exterior wall which is of prodigious strength and consists of thirteen square towers at nearly equal distances from one another with intervening battlements and ramparts [6:2]. The valley at the base of the castle, now covered with swampy meadows, was originally a large lake or mere, which communicated with the sea.

There was something revolting in the prostitution by the workhouse of an ancient abode of regal pomp. The mind naturally conjured up the former splendour, when knights and ladies crowded its halls and this formed a striking contrast with the present inhabitants who are the outcasts of Society, dependent for even the miserable subsistence they enjoy on the bounty of the public.

Framlingham Church [6:3] is an elegant structure of the fourteenth century. It is kept in good repair but injured in some degree by a septennial daubing with whitewash. Among the monuments is one of the Duke of Norfolk who, when Earl of Surrey, won the Battle of Flodden and of his son Henry Howard (the poetical Earl of Surrey), the Earl of Northampton and his wife, Frances Devere (daughter of the Earl of Oxford). There are also monuments of two duchesses of Norfolk, wives of the second Duke who, if not flattered by the sculptor, must have been very beautiful women. The monument to the Duke of Richmond (natural son of Henry VIII) is painted and gilded in vile taste, but we were informed that an annual sum is given by Pembroke College, Cambridge for keeping it under repair. However, it would redound to the honour of the college were the sum bestowed for destroying this elegant monument with paint and gilt to be expended on cleaning it to bring out the pristine sharpness and beauty of its carving.

Returning to Woodbridge for a late dinner, having ridden about twenty-two miles, we were much fatigued but highly pleased with all that we had seen.

7. A Dinner Party

On our last evening, our excellent host provided a treat for us at dinner in the society of Major and Mrs. Moor and Mr. and Mrs. Shawe who had been invited expressly to meet us. Major Moor, who has spent many years in India, is known as a writer on Oriental subjects [7:1]. Since his return to

England he has compiled a dictionary of Suffolk words. It is the only one of his productions that I have seen; it bears the mark of haste and is capable of much improvement.

Mr. Shawe is unknown to the public, but is a gentleman of a highly cultivated mind, refined manners and elegant taste. Having served in the army, he has seen a good deal of the world [7:2].

We passed a most agreeable evening. The conversation was general and both instructive and amusing. Mrs. Shawe, who takes a great delight in natural history, informed me that she had hatched twelve partridges under a hen and, though now fully grown, they came night and morning at the sound of a bell to be fed like chickens. She also had a robin who was hatched in a nest in Mr. Page's greenhouse and, having very early become accustomed to the sight of man, he will hop upon the gardener's foot whilst he is at work. It is curious that a sparrow hawk permits the little songster to feed close to him with impunity yet he wages constant war against sparrows.

We were warmly pressed to dine with Major Moor on the following day. However, we had to bid adieu to our kind friends since we had determined to proceed on our journey next morning in order to be in time for the steam vessel which would touch at Scarborough [7:3] on the following Sunday.

8. Onward to Cambridge

Next morning we stepped into the coach for Bury St. Edmund's. The weather was fine and after leaving Ipswich I persuaded Mrs. Thompson to join me at the top of the coach. One of our companions was acquainted with the county and named to us the different gentlemen's seats which we passed. Another passenger scarcely opened his mouth except to call pigs "black game" and the poor gleaners "thieves".

Suffolk is an excellent corn county and everybody was employed in carrying or reaping it. The peasantry seem comfortably lodged and clothed and the only circumstance indicating poverty was the multiplicity of gleaners. Farmers in Suffolk are not niggardly towards gleaners. The beauty and healthy looks of the children and the decency of their attire was remarkable.

The soil in some parts of Suffolk is a light sand and in others a light clay. Beet is pretty generally cultivated for feeding cattle and I observed very extensive fields of both Swedish and common turnips.

The coach stopped at Bury St. Edmund's, near the beautiful Saxon gateway leading to the Abbey. I noticed nearby, set into the wall, a stone inscription recording the execution of a young woman who was guilty of arson and robbery [8:1]. Monuments thus erected to the memory of the wicked are as likely to be as productive of good to posterity as those which detail the best and most splendid achievements.

As the coach was to remain an hour at Bury and we were anxious to reach Cambridge in time to see the colleges, we ordered a post-chaise to Newmarket where we changed the chaise and the horses.

Resuming our journey, we reached Cambridge a little before five o'clock. We strolled to Trinity College in search of our young friend, Mr. William Page Wood [8:2] who, notwithstanding its being the long vacation, was there for the sake of studying. He spent the evening with us at our inn and still more strongly confirmed our esteem of his character. He advances his opinions with simplicity and modesty, displaying good sense and soundness of judgement. His energy is likely to crown all his efforts with success.

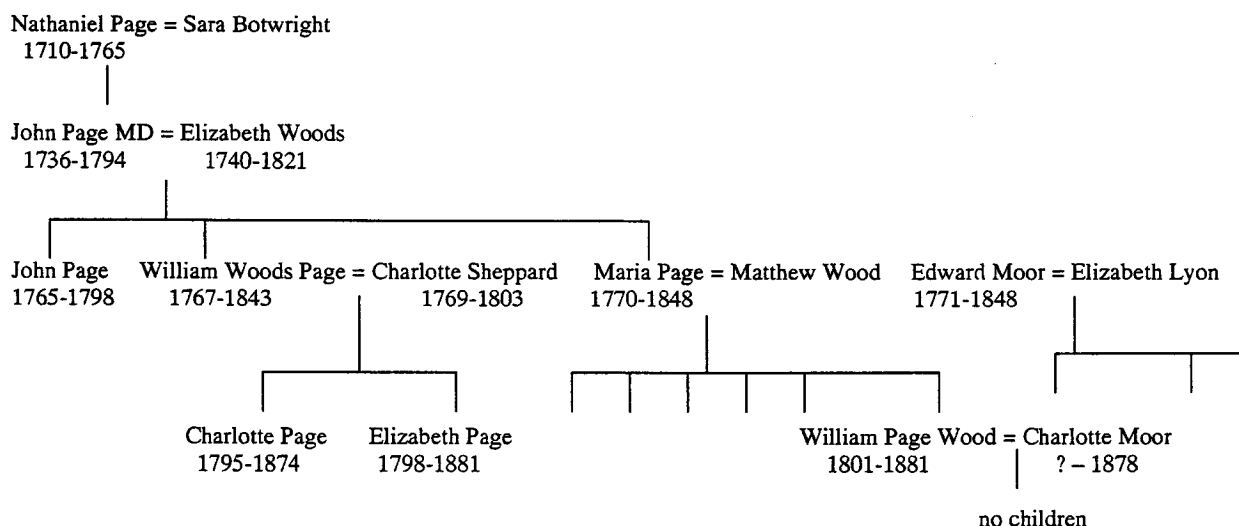
9. Envoi

After an overnight sea voyage from Scarborough to Edinburgh on the steam packet *James Watt*, ATT and KT spent several days seeing relatives and friends. They then set out on a tour of the Highlands that ended at New Lanark where they visited Robert Owen and saw his famous mill and school. Leaving Edinburgh on the steam packet *Soho*, they arrived three days later, on the 7th October, at the Port of London, "pleased, grateful and contented".

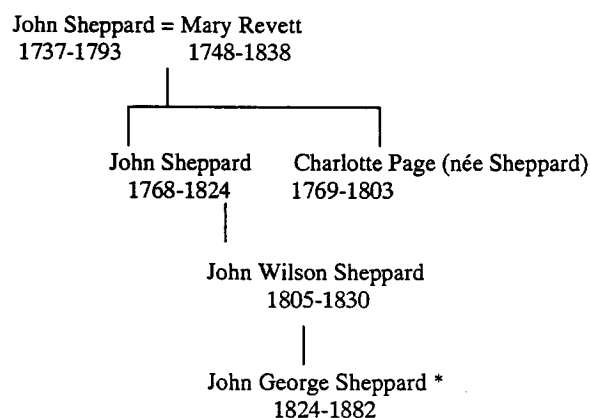
A search of the Baptismal and Death Registers of St. Luke's Church, Chelsea revealed that on 13th November 1823 a daughter Charlotte was born to Dr. and Mrs. Thompson of 92 Sloane Street, but died aged 21 months in August 1825.

It is extraordinary that KT should have considered it wise to embark on a long journey by coach, much of it on roads in the Highlands, when she must already have been at least 28 weeks pregnant when they left London for

Woodbridge (even if the birth was premature). Equally surprising is ATT's acquiescence in view of his considerable experience in midwifery and knowledge of its potential dangers. Nowhere in the whole journal can there be found any suggestion that KT was pregnant or needed to take special care. Indeed, ATT records that when he arrived at Woodbridge (part 3 above) she had been riding with Mr. Page.



Tree 1
Page family with links to Woods, Wood and Moor families



* W W Page acted as his guardian from 1830

Tree 2
Sheppard family with links to Page family

Notes:

- 1:1 Though Walpole's remark may have given ATT the idea of keeping a journal during his travel, it seems probable that he wrote it as a personal diary and with no intention of publishing it. The whole journal contained over 61,000 words.
- 1:2 The only instance when ATT used KT's first name. Elsewhere in the journal he referred to her as "Mrs. Thomson" or "my excellent wife".
- 1:3 ATT's motive to return to Edinburgh was to see his brother and many other relatives and friends there and afterwards to make a tour of the Highlands.
- 1:4 ATT and KT married at Barford, near Warwick in 1820, he being aged 42 and she 23 years.
- 1:5 Clearly an error in transcription of the original manuscript, since *Mrs* Page had died twenty years previously. Presumably the words should have been "the *Misses* Page".
- 1:6 Doctors with affluent practices owned carriages for visiting their patients and usually employed a coachman.
- 1:7 The Bull Inn at Aldgate was the terminus for stage-coaches to East Anglia.
- 1:8 The Shannon coach taken by ATT went only to Ipswich (the Coach Office in Cornhill), where he had to change to a local coach for the last seven miles to Woodbridge.

- 2:1 Macadamisation of the roads and the introduction of elliptical springs for suspension of coaches were other factors which greatly improved the comfort of travel. But it was not without its dangers, the most serious of which was overturning at speed.
- 2:2 The war with France was still prominent in national memory. In 1803-05, Suffolk was considered to be a likely area for invasion. Barracks were built in many towns, including Woodbridge, and volunteer militia were raised and commanded by the local gentry.
- 2:3 This unsympathetic and condescending remark illustrates a sadly common attitude towards servants by those who regarded themselves as upper-class members of Society.
- 2:4 Mr. Pickwick travelled to Ipswich on the top of the coach, accompanied by the red-haired Mr. Peter Magnus (*Pickwick Papers*, chapter 22).
- 2:5 "Taste" was a word greatly in vogue among the upper classes at this period. ATT used it with tiresome frequency in his journal, qualifying it by words ranging from "excellent" to "vile".
- 2:6 Cottage Gothic, Carpenter's Gothic and Cottage Ornate were all terms used to denote the Gothic style when applied to cottages or small houses, with arched windows and doors, and use of wood and plaster to simulate stone.
- 2:7 In the 1820s the newly-introduced Neo-Gothic style of architecture began to be used very widely in the building of churches. One of the first to be built (designed by James Savage and completed in 1824) was St. Luke's, Chelsea (ATT's parish church). It was a wholly authentic reproduction of the ancient Gothic style, its flying buttresses being the first to be constructed for several hundred years. ATT's opinion of Neo-Gothic architecture was later expressed more emphatically by Augustus Pugin who considered it to be the only suitable style for Christian worship.
- 2:8 Highwaymen were far less active in most parts of Britain by 1823, but theft was always a danger. A year previously on the Ipswich-London coach, an employee of a bank carrying £40,000 in banknotes for transfer to its Colchester branch, left the coach to relieve himself and his briefcase was stolen during his absence of "less than a minute later". (*The Times* 14-28 Sept, 1822).
- 3:1 Coaches from Ipswich arrived at either the Sun or the Crown at Woodbridge. The latter inn was on the crossroads of Quay Street and Cumberland Street, only a few yards from the Pages' house.
- 3:2 William Woods Page (WWP), a widower for twenty years, was aged 56 in 1823 (Tree 1). His wife, Charlotte, was the sister of John Sheppard of High House (Tree 2). WWP's sister, Maria, married Sir Matthew Wood (Tree 1). Their second son was William Page Wood (Tree 1). The second son of a doctor of Woodbridge, he was educated at Edinburgh and Leiden universities. During the time of threatened invasion, he commanded the militia detachment at Bawdsey, where he was then living, and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. He owned farms in Clopton (where he and his wife were buried in the family vault) and in several other parts near Woodbridge. In 1798, on the death of his brother, John, he inherited The Grove in Cumberland Street, Woodbridge. He demolished it in 1819, and on its site built the fine house that still exists, hardly changed externally, and now named Eden Hall. WWP's only surviving children were Charlotte, aged 27, and Elizabeth, aged 25 years – the same age as KT whom she probably first met at a boarding school in Brighton [see p. 20 above. *Editor*]. Charlotte kept a diary of family events and used her artistic talent on a "Whim book" in which she sketched visitors to their home: sadly, this has not been traced. (Information obtained from an unpublished history of the Page family by the late Mr. John Page Phillips, a direct descendant of Elizabeth, and made available to myself by the kindness of Mrs. Daphne Lloyd).
- 3:3 ATT's patronising supposition is belied by the number of their friends and the record of their travels – a grand tour of Europe in 1816-17 with WWP's nephew, John Wilson Sheppard (Tree 2), a six months tour of Germany and Scandinavia in 1825, and a visit to the Isle of Wight and Wales with Major and his daughter (Tree 1) in 1826. Both daughters married happily in 1832.
- 4:1 It seems that ATT had insufficient opportunity to see Woodbridge's elegant Tudor buildings, including the Shire Hall, the almshouses and the Abbey built by Thomas Seckford (died 1587). He also failed to notice the Tide Mill, originally built in the twelfth century and rebuilt about 1795.
- 4:2 At high tide the Deben filled a basin whose dam allowed it to empty slowly and turn a water wheel.
- 4:3 Though in 1823 trade was still an important activity of the harbour, with imports of coal and exports of corn and wool, the river was fast becoming silted up and unusable.
- 4:4 Botany was still an all-important basis of therapeutics, and ATT had had a special interest in it ever since he was an undergraduate. In London he gave regular lectures and wrote a book on the subject. He was honoured by election to a fellowship of the Linnean Society. During his lifetime pharmacy developed rapidly with the introduction of inorganic forms of treatment, which he studied while he became Professor of Materia Medica.
- 5:1 Campsea (or Campsey) Ash(e), also known as Ash by Campsey, is a small village about six miles from Woodbridge. Its small church of St. John the Baptist contains many memorials to members of the Sheppard family (Tree 2).
- 5:2 In 1823 the owner of High House was John Sheppard, brother-in-law of WWP (Trees 1 & 2).
- 5:3 High House (Figure 3) was built for John Glover who had been in the service of Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk. In about 1560 it was bought by an ancestor of the Sheppard family, whose descendants retained it until 1882, when it was bought by James Lowther, first Viscount Ullswater, and Speaker of the House of Commons. It was demolished in about 1950 and the only part to survive is the stables.
- 5:4 Despite extensive enquiries, the whereabouts of none of the paintings has been traced.
- 5:5 "Old Parr" presumably refers to the famous Thomas Parr who died in 1635, at the supposed age of 152 years and was buried in Westminster Abbey.
- 5:6 After the death in 1882 of John George Sheppard, who had no children, all the contents of High House were sold at auction. Only the catalogue of the third day of the sale has been found. It lists paintings by Titian, Veronese, Romney and Tillemans; that suggests that the Rembrandt and the other especially

- valuable paintings had been auctioned on one of the previous days.
- 5:7 In addition to the long canal, there were two shorter ones. All have survived to the present day. In parts of Suffolk with clay soil, canals were easy to construct and the clay prevented leakage. Detailed and illustrated descriptions of the gardens and canals of High House may be found in *Country Life* (Anon., 1905 XVIII 54-62) and in *Garden History* (P. F. Springett, 1974 II 77-84).
- 5:8 The quincunx pattern was a square of four trees with one at the centre. However, this does not appear on contemporaneous plans of the estate and ATT may have been incorrect.
- 5:9 John Sheppard died four months after ATT's visit.
- 5:10 ATT's meaning by his use of the word "Augustan" is obscure.
- 6:1 The castle never contained almshouses. The poorhouse, built on the site of the great hall, was joined at right angles to the house of the warden of the poorhouse and ATT probably mistook its appearance with two entrance doors for that of almshouses. The poorhouse was erected in the 1650s in execution of the will of Sir Robert Hitcham.
- 6:2 An innovation in military architecture was the absence of a keep and reliance for defence being placed on the massive walls and the towers projecting from it, making it possible for archers to shoot along the walls and to enfilade besiegers.
- 6:3 St. Michael's Church, a beautiful example of the Perpendicular style of architecture, was built and altered many times between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries. Its high ceiling makes the interior very light, but the reference to whitewashing is obscure.
- 7:1 Major Edward Moor, FRS, FRSA (1771-1848) lived at Little Bealings, about two miles to the west of Woodbridge. Aged 11, he went to India as a cadet in the East India Company army, and in 1799 took part in the battle of Seringapatam and the defeat of Tippu Sultan. He married a surgeon's daughter, Elizabeth, and after their return to England in 1803 he wrote books about Hinduism and its customs. A few months before the Thomson's visit his *Suffolk Words and Phrases* was published.
- 7:2 Mr. Robert Shawe and his wife, Frances, lived at Kesgrave Hall on the Ipswich Road; an imposing mansion that had been rebuilt in 1812. He and many relatives had served in the army. He, together with Major Moor, John Sheppard and WWP, were all members of the same hunt. In 1832 he was elected Member of Parliament for East Suffolk and, as a Whig, supported the Reform Act and the abolition of slavery.
- 7:3 After a two day journey they planned to catch the steam packet from London to Newhaven (Edinburgh) when it called at Scarborough.
- 8:1 The memorial recorded the execution in 1800 of Sarah Lloyd, a 20 year-old servant girl who was found guilty of theft and arson of her employer's house. ATT's belief in the benefit and deterrent effect of capital punishment might have changed if he had known that some years later the true culprit, Joseph Clark (Sarah's lover), having escaped and gone abroad in the army, made a dying confession that he was solely guilty and she had played no part in the crime (*East Anglian Magazine* 1952/53, 12, 52-56).
- 8:2 William Page Wood (1801-1881) was the youngest child of Maria Page and Sir Matthew Page, hence was WWP's nephew (Tree 1). Much of his early childhood was spent at Woodbridge in the care of his widowed grandmother, Elizabeth Page (née Woods). He attended Woodbridge School until he was eight years old, and later went to Winchester College. After studying in Geneva, he returned to England and spent three years at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he decided upon a legal career. He became associated with Henry Brougham at the time when the latter was championing the cause of Queen Caroline. As a Radical he soon achieved eminence in legal circles until in 1868 he was made Lord Chancellor, Baron Hatherley. His continuing affection for Woodbridge is shown by his visits there and his marriage in 1830 to Charlotte (daughter of Major Moor, Tree 1). They had no children. Described as a man of great piety and retaining great affection for Woodbridge, he was a prominent contributor to the cost of building, in 1842-46, a second church (St. John the Evangelist). He was buried at Great Bealings, the parish church of the Moor family.

Acknowledgements

Many people have given encouragement over the writing of this article and valuable help in the search for historical and genealogical data. In particular, I wish to thank the following:- Mrs. Joanna Martin, the staff of the Suffolk Record Office, Mrs. Daphne Lloyd, Drs. John and Dorothy Black, Mr. Bob Roberts, the late Mrs. Janice Robinson, Mrs. Eileen Donnelly, Professor Robert Gregg, and my wife, Mary.

CORRESPONDENCE

24th February 2005

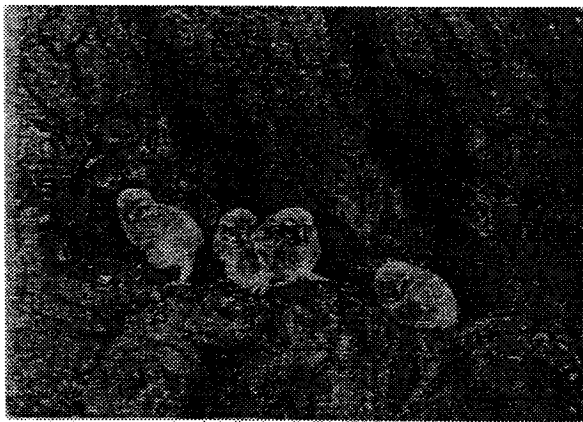
5 Capel Close
Summertown
Oxford

Dear Editor,

In an article in the August 2003 number, I wrote about the Reverend Bywater, and I can now add a little detail. My mother, as mentioned in the article, occasionally took us to his Methodist chapel and, though I remember little of Reverend Bywater's sermons, I have the clearest recollection of the strong voice which led the singing: it was the contralto of Mrs. Bonney, the baker's wife, from across the way. Mrs. Bonney, like the Reverend Bywater, died at quite a young age, from cancer, if my memory serves me right, but there may be other survivors of that long-past time who could confirm this.

I am offering this further note because I see that *Fram* is now publishing half-tone illustrations. As mentioned in the August 2003 number, the Methodist parson was a keen bird photographer – it was a more difficult art in those days, and he used a plate camera and did all his own developing and printing. In memory of him, here are two examples of his work.

Yours faithfully,
Arthur Staniforth



Owlets in an ancient oak tree nest, c. 1929



A great tit at the nest in our Beauty of Bath apple tree, taken from a hide at D'Urbans Farm, c. 1929

DEPARTURE POINT

... Mary Tudor of England came to Framlingham at the critical moment of her accession in 1553: Lozowski, disgusted, wrote: "Queen Mary ... was imprisoned [?] in this castle and we hoped we might still find some vestiges of her rooms, for I was with a man equally passionate about her as I am: we were looking for details, but cruelly misled. An old woman led us to a murky recess in the thickness of the walls and gravely assured us that it was there that the queen was engendered of a serpent. There is no absurdity that religious fanaticism and antipathy will not produce: Queen Mary was catholic, the people of Framlingham are protestant: that explains everything .."

from M. de Lazowski "*lettres à un ami*"
in *A Frenchman's year in Suffolk 1784*
(1988) (Suffolk Records Society XXX)

“History is five minutes ago”

**THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN
ARE MAKING HISTORY**

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

RESEARCHING

RECORDING

SUSTAINING

**history and heritage in Framlingham and mid-Suffolk
through**

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