

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

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December 2008

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

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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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FRAM

5th Series Number 11
December 2008

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

Since 1982, I have served as Archivist and Librarian to a livery company in the City of London. My appointment occurred through no merits of my own: it came about almost as an historical accident, as part of the job description for the post to which I was appointed in that year in the City of London Libraries and Art Galleries. However, by another historical accident, my services to that livery company have continued for me, even after my departure from the City Libraries several years ago.

The duties of the position are hardly onerous: responding to letters and telephone-calls from enquirers interested in the company's history (its members, properties, etc), arranging the transfer of printed and manuscript items from the company offices to Guildhall Library, sometimes compiling and researching obituaries for publication, of deceased company members. Most interesting for me, however, is when I am asked to advise on, and often action, the disposal of materials of historical interest that have been included in the effects of, not just deceased company members, but also, sometimes, their friends and relations.

Just over a year ago, a fellow liveryman contacted me seeking advice about the appropriate repositories to receive the contents (archival, printed, artefacts) of a house in Bognor Regis in Sussex. (For me, it was truly a case of *déjà vu*, since Bognor was the favoured holiday destination for my family when I was a child!). The collection had been amassed by a very long-serving elected Member of the City of London Corporation (1861 to 1901). What was truly remarkable was that for nine decades after the man's death in 1915, the entire collection, not to mention the entire house containing it, had been preserved as integral units, in late Victorian splendour, forming an impressive (if intimidating!) time capsule.

The components of the collection were many and varied: voluminous published calendars of City archives which in those far-off days were passed automatically to all Corporation Members, menus for dinners and banquets in the City, sermons preached before the Lord Mayor, Minutes and supporting materials relating to the man's Ward Club, plus one or two exotics, like a pamphlet detailing the aims and services of the City of London Truss Society.

Praise be, almost all the items were in good physical condition – a substantially built, virtually unheated High Victorian villa provides ideal environmental conditions for the preservation of paper materials. Over a couple of visits there and with the help of a removal company, I was able to sort and distribute the collection, passing the Ward items to Bishopsgate Library, the printed calendars to the Manuscripts Section at Guildhall Library, and the menus and pamphlets to Guildhall Library Printed Books. (One or two standard treatises on City history have now found a happy home on my own bookshelves, as working tools for a company archivist).

On a different but related plane, I sometimes have similar tasks to perform in relation to the Lanman Museum at Framlingham Castle. Recently, a local person sought my advice on the disposal of effects left to her by a deceased parent. As a result, an early twentieth-century chamber pot is being added to the Museum's growing lavatorial collection, and we have been delighted to receive from her an original water-colour of Framlingham Castle, given as a wedding present sixty years ago. A George V Diamond Jubilee mug duplicated one already held by the Museum, and may be assigned elsewhere.

A few months earlier, the Museum was offered a large collection of colour slides, some watercolours, and one oil-painting, depicting local scenes, again among the effects of a local person. Many of the colour slides related to scenes outside the Museum's geographical collection area, and have therefore been offered to the Museum of East Anglian Life, though no response has yet been received from there.

A dilemma sometimes arises when the Lanman Museum is offered manuscript items (letters, diaries, property documents, etc.) included in the effects of deceased local people. Often the executor/potential donor expresses the wish to "keep it in the town", and should that donation (or, more rarely, deposit) then take place, the wishes of the donor, or depositor must, of course, be respected. However, neither the Lanman Museum nor any other public cultural/heritage space in Framlingham at this time is able to provide the environmental conditions (humidity, temperature control, etc.) that comply with the relevant British Standard for the storage of fragile and therefore vulnerable paper materials (BS 5454). Furthermore, for both operational and security reasons, access to Museum materials for research purposes has necessarily to be restricted. In contrast, an Approved Repository for the receipt of archival records (normally in the case of our Museum's collection area, the Suffolk Record Office Ipswich branch) can provide a controlled environment for the care of paper and other materials, as well as generating an electronic record of holdings that is remotely available to researchers, and, not least, there is physical access for enquirers to consult individual items, normally without any prior formality.

To end on a positive note (one that I have sought to re-emphasize both verbally and in print in the town of Framlingham and elsewhere), when one is going through that painful process of sorting through and disposing of the life records and relics of a deceased loved one, please do not hesitate to contact either the Museum or the Historical Society for advice. On the legal aspects of probate we have, of course, no role or competence, but the preservation of heritage materials to provide enlightenment and enjoyment for posterity is for both charities, a key concern.

THE THREE WORKHOUSES OF FRAMLINGHAM

By J. Anthony Broster

During the three hundred years in which Workhouses (also called Work-Houses, Poorhouses, or Houses of Industry) could be used to attempt to solve the problem of the poor and destitute of a parish

The Workhouses were intended to be "less desirable than life outside", with the theory being that if things inside the Workhouse could be made as disagreeable as possible, then they would be encouraged to find work and not depend on the Poor Rate. This was intended to be accomplished by strict discipline, sparse food, and separation of not just males and females, but of families¹.

Framlingham (including the neighbouring parish of Saxtead)² was involved with three workhouses: the Parish Workhouse in the Castle Bailey at Framlingham, the Loes & Wilford Union Workhouse at Melton, and the Plomesgate Union Workhouse at Wickham Market.

As early as 1697 the philosopher John Locke, then working as a civil servant, had suggested in a pamphlet *A Report of the Board of Trade to the Lords Justices respecting the Relief and Employment of the Poor* Hundred Houses, each serving several parishes and run by a board of representatives from each parish.³

As can be seen above, there were in the area of Framlingham, two union workhouses and one parish workhouse. The parish workhouse was built under the terms of the will of Sir Robert Hitcham; he died in 1636, but as a result of disputes arising from his will, partly settled by an ordinance issued on 20th March 1653 as a result of a petition to Oliver Cromwell, to amend some of the will's terms,⁴ the building was not entirely completed until 1724. It cost from parish records less than £600.00, and housed a maximum of 199 paupers, in what today would seem to have been very cramped conditions.

It was during the reign of George I, that the town's second Parish Workhouse (also described as being a poorhouse or a house of industry) was erected in 1724. This replaced [*sic i.e.* enlarged] an earlier small workhouse dating from the 1650's. The Trustees of Sir Robert Hitcham erected the new [*sic*] workhouse against the western walls of the interior of Framlingham castle. The parish held the lease granted by the Masters of Pembroke College, Cambridge. It was built using materials from demolished buildings (attributed to the nonconformist minister Henry Sampson 1629 – 1700) within the castle. The number of inmates varied depending on the time of year. During the fine spring and summer weather, numbers would be as low as 30, but during the cold autumns and bitter winters, as many as 100 would be sent there by the authorities.⁵

It is interesting to note that Richard Green in his *History of Framlingham* stated that:

Sir Robert Hitcham's will directed that all non-stone buildings in the castle be pulled down.⁶

The main reason for the increasing numbers of poor during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was not the enclosure of villages as this had taken place in east Suffolk at least a century earlier, but the mechanisation of the agricultural industry, the increasing price of wheat and therefore bread, the reduction of agricultural wages, together with the poor economic state of the small farmer (tenant or owner)⁷:

From old records, some dating from 1780, we even have the names of some of these hapless souls in the Castle Poorhouse. They list countless individuals and whole families.

One such family by the name of 'Mallows' consisted of 6 children and their parents in 1809. Another family of 4 were called 'Barber', with other family names ...⁸

The agricultural riots, burning of buildings, and smashing of threshing machines which took place in 1816, 1822 and 1830 over most of East Anglia were all part of the same story. After 1815, however, the Napoleonic and French Revolutionary wars were over and soldiers and sailors were returning home and looking for work. Neither farming nor industry were now supporting the war effort, and there was just no work for these men. This had followed on from the general agricultural depression before the start of these wars. The result was that the agricultural worker was badly treated in respect of wages, often the farmers being subsidised by the Speenhamland System of poor relief.⁹ The result was that there were more and more people seeking the help of the parish. Poor rates were rising at a rapid rate; those in Glemsford (West Suffolk) rose from £678 5s 8d in 1772 to £2,129 12s 11½d in 1796 a rise of 314% or 13.1% a year.¹⁰

The Loes and Wilford hundreds union workhouse was built in 1765 under a private act of parliament at Melton.¹¹

The Incorporation, which comprised 33 parishes, built a "House of Industry" at Melton at a cost of about £9,200. According to a parliamentary report of 1776, the buildings comprised "a chapel, a mansion house, and also of dwelling, and working rooms for the poor, a pesthouse, brewhouse, washhouse, millhouse, and other outhouses". The main building was a H-shaped two-storey structure constructed in red brick.¹²

The Act of 1765 to authorise the formation and building of the workhouse was very detailed, defining what the trustees could and should do, giving permission to bind apprentices, borrow money, build one or more workhouses, having furniture and materials to set the poor to work, and dismissing persons capable of maintaining themselves. The total cost of its building amounted to £9,200, to accommodate only 100 paupers, but in lavish (for its time) conditions; this compares with the similar capacity Framlingham workhouse, a total of £92 per head for Loes & Wilford compared with the £6 for Framlingham forty years earlier. (The Framlingham cost index linked to 1765 would only have been £743, the Loes and Wilford union cost was twelve times as much).

The pioneer city in setting up an effective workhouse was probably Bristol, where the parishes combined under a special Act to create a single authority, the Corporation of the Poor.¹³ The initiative was taken by a merchant called John Cary, who in 1698 opened the "New Workhouse" on what were for the time enlightened principles.¹⁴

After some disputes over effectiveness and cost-saving of the workhouse, at the meetings of overseers, it was closed in 1826 after a further private act of parliament¹⁵ which cost the Trustees £249. 7s. 0d (£249.35) and the paupers returned to their own parishes. The property was finally sold to the Suffolk County Council after correspondence:

To the Owners and Occupiers of Lands in the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford. Gentlemen:
Although a great deal of discussion has taken place respecting the propriety of doing away the establishment at Melton, yet there may be ...¹⁶

notices and advertisements in local¹⁷ and national newspapers (the Times¹⁸) to be used as the county mental hospital. The union incorporated all the parishes within the Loes and Wilford hundreds except for Framlingham.

The main reason for closing the Melton poorhouse was financial. There is a minute of Trustees¹⁹ showing that their calculation of keeping a family of parents and four children at the workhouse amounted to £1. 18s.10½d a week or £101. 1s. 6d a year compared with the

out relief required to maintain the same family of 12s 0d a week or £31. 4s. 0d a year; that meant that the cost was more than three times as much at the Melton workhouse, than the cost for out relief.

The Plomesgate union workhouse was opened in 1837, built under the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.²⁰ As there are considerable records in the Suffolk Record Office concerning all three workhouses, it is intended in this paper to concentrate on the parish workhouse at Framlingham. This was not closed until 1837 at which date the paupers were transferred to the Plomesgate Union workhouse at Wickham Market. It is proposed in this article to look at the Loes and Wilford Union workhouse to compare the two. The Plomesgate Union workhouse will only be referred to incidentally. It is very interesting to note that Framlingham did not use the facilities of the Loes and Wilford workhouse at Melton, where economies of scale should have made such an option vital in keeping the Poor Rate in check.

The minute books of the Framlingham Churchwardens or Overseers at the time of the creation of the Loes and Wilford union are unfortunately not listed as being available at the Suffolk Record Office, nor is the minute book of the Loes and Wilford Union for the same period. Therefore it is necessary to look at other available information to see if an explanation can be found as to why Framlingham did not use the union facilities. There is probably one major explanation, in that Framlingham already had its own workhouse which had been running quite successfully for some years.²¹ Its site and building having already been paid for, Framlingham Overseers would see the borrowings that the Loes and Wilford Union would have to (and did indeed incur) and the repayment of capital and interest on this, would be an additional burden on their payers of the poor rate; not good news as far as they were concerned. If a comparison is made between the daily costs of keeping a pauper in the two workhouses, then the situation is even more interesting. In 1831/32 the Framlingham Workhouse food costs amounted to 3/1¼ a head per week, in 1824/25 it amounted to 3/0¾. The Loes and Wilford Union cost of food per head in 1809 amounted to 3/1¼, that is twenty-two years earlier, and during this period the rate of inflation caused by the Napoleonic Wars between 1809 and 1834 was 23.8%, and the rate between 1824 and 1834 was 2.8%.²² In contrast, the annual wages of an agricultural labourer had dropped from 1810 £42.04 to £31.04 in 1827²³, a decrease of 25%.

The finances of the Framlingham Workhouse had three sources: firstly the gift of the land and buildings by Robert Hitcham, including a lease from Pembroke College, Cambridge, as trustees to Sir Robert Hitcham's will to use the castle grounds for the poorhouse

Sir Robert Hitcham's will directed that all non stone buildings in the castle be pulled down, erect and build at Framlingham one house, to set the poor on work, the poor and most needy and impotent of Framlingham, Debenham . . . First; and after them of other towns if they see cause, and to provide a substantial stock to set them on work, and to allow to such persons of them so much as they shall think fit.²⁴

Second, the poor rate, and income received from rentals and interest where money or land was held in trust for the poor of the town. In addition to these, there were the actual monies earned by the paupers, and in some cases money received in respect of apprenticeships.²⁵ Detailed records were kept of transactions, but some of those which have been referred to in this paragraph are: the general overseers' account book, book of requirements, register of apprenticeships, paupers admitted and discharged, goods consumed (both quantity and cost). In addition to these were the minute books, and the poor rate collection records, and a host of

correspondence, together with bills and receipts and bastardy orders. The main items bought in the year to 6th June 1825 were flour, beef, beer (as the water being polluted was undrinkable), at a total cost of all provisions of £231,7s,6d. The total number of paupers dealt with in the year on a weekly basis was 1,408 at a cost per head per week of 3s, 3½d. In the year to 13th August 1832, the main purchases were again flour, beef and beer at a total cost of all provisions of £264, 9s, 6d, but this time there must have been a milk cow as no milk was purchased; potatoes were also harvested from the workhouse grounds (quantities of potatoes with no value are recorded). The total number of paupers amounted to 1,594 at a slightly increased cost of 3s 3¾d, despite the “free” milk and potatoes, and the fact that no porter was purchased for the sick.²⁶

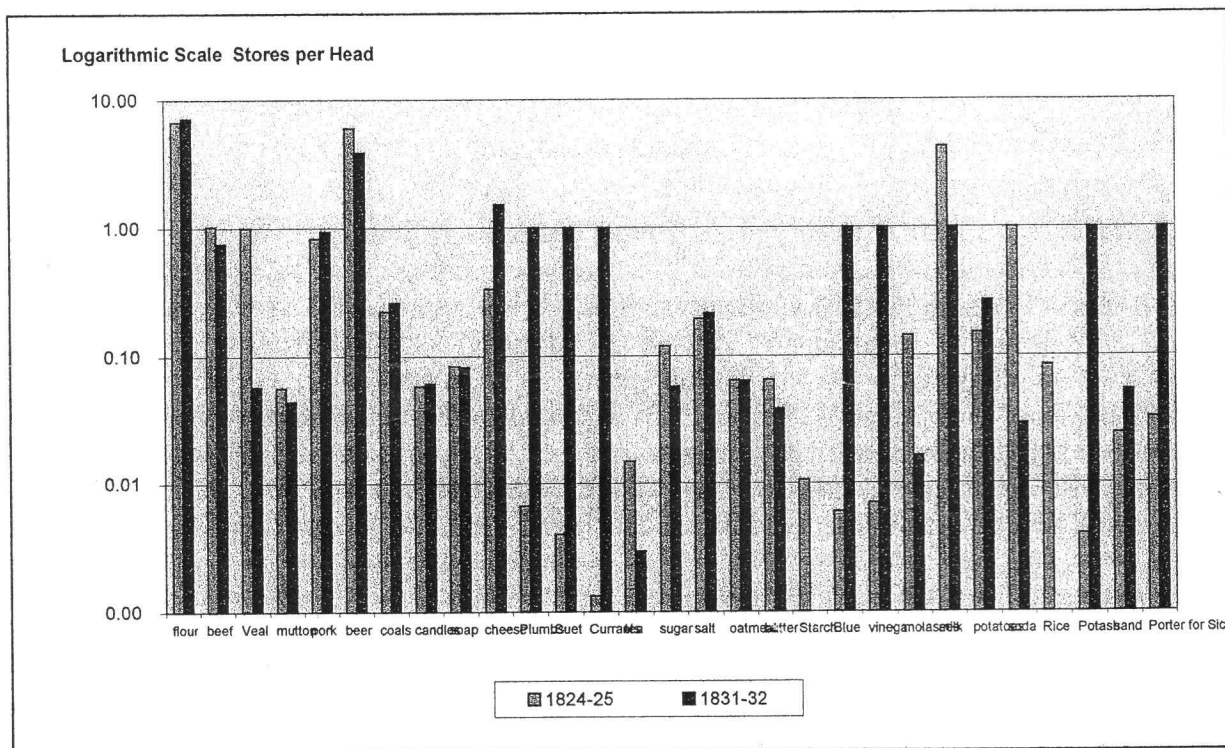


Figure 1. Consumption per head per week Framlingham 1824/25 and 1831/32
 The left vertical line in each column records stores per head consumed 1824-25,
 the right line, stores per head consumed in 1831-32.²⁷

On looking at the monthly returns of requirements for the four years to 7th April 1817, the most numerous request was for stockings (both men’s and women’s); these amounted to 90 or 30% of the total required, the next item was handkerchiefs (for tying at the necks of men and women); this amounted to some 71 items being 23% of the total.²⁸ The other requirements are shown in Figure 2 below. The "Pieces" were all of material, being lengths or scraps of Brown Cotton, Calico, Cotton, Druggetts, Duffle, Flannel, Grogam, Hemp, Mantling, and Serge.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Bedding | 4% |
| Hats/bonnets | 13% |
| Breeches/trousers | 1% |
| "Pieces" | 18% |
| Boots/shoes | 2% |
| Handkerchiefs | 24% |
| Jackets/coats/waistcoats | 6% |
| Stockings | 32% |

Figure 2. Requirement of Framlingham Workhouse May 1813 – April 1817²⁹

All these would have been required for the repair of clothing, except perhaps the twenty yards of Hemp required as a separate item, which may have been used for making clothing rather than for its repair. All these items would have cost the Overseers and therefore the rate-payers; it would appear that a reasonable number of the paupers arrived at the workhouse in a state of almost undress, although the bonnets were for the women to wear to church. The other items regularly requested in the winter months were pattens³⁰ to enable work to be carried on outside in the wet and mud, and conversely list shoes³¹ to be worn in the dry summer months for the ladies to attend church or one of the Free Church chapels.

The key thing with regard to all systems adopted to look after the poor of a parish or union of parishes was that all the officials (except the Master of the Workhouse) were unpaid, some serving for years but others alternating between a group of gentry. Secondly, all these officials lived in the community and had like their neighbours to pay the poor rate. There was therefore considerable pressure to keep this as low as possible, and certainly not to increase the demand on themselves or their friends.

One of the main ways of relieving the poor rate was to apprentice girls and boys up to eighteen years of age. The Framlingham overseers did this, extracting fines from some of the wealthier rate-payers (based on rateable value of their properties) who refused to take on the apprentices. The register of apprenticeships covering the period from 14th November 1816 to 20th December 1816 records eighty-eight apprenticeships, for both boys (45) and girls (43) aged between twelve and seventeen. The largest majority by far were in the farming community, largely as labourers or household servants. Most of the masters were from Framlingham and Saxtead (75%) with the others coming from other local villages within five miles of the parish, such as Parham and Badingham. The terms of the agreements depended on the age of the child, but had to expire when the child reached eighteen years of age. It is expected that none of these apprenticeships provided any formal craft training, but were used to obtain cheap labour for carrying out menial tasks either in the house (girls), business premises or farms. On looking at some of the earlier apprenticeship indentures, it is possible that the apprenticeships were at least in part for craft training, such as on 1st May 1706 "poor child" Simon Catchpole (son of James Catchpole) was apprenticed to chair-maker Frances Kell of Framlingham,³² also Thomas Rogers, a poor child, was apprenticed to John Harvard of Wickham Market, a Miller and Millwright, until twenty-four years old, this indenture is dated 5th November 1685.³³

The earnings of the paupers are from two main sources, indoor (carried out at the workhouse) and outdoor (carried out away from the workhouse); the actual income from such work is very small considering the total cost of running the institution. The earnings in the seven years to March 1824 averaged £2, 19s, 0d a week³⁴; this did not make a large contribution to the expenditure when the food alone cost between £3 and £6 a week averaging £4, 9s, 0d a week in 1824/25.³⁵ In addition to this were the building maintenance costs, the wages paid to the Governor and his wife, and clothing for paupers, apart from any administration costs. It is interesting to note that the poor relief (including out relief) paid out by the Loes and Wilford Union in the ten years ending 1809 decreased from £7,129 to £6,755 or by 5.2%³⁶, which almost exactly parallels the inflation drop of 5.4%. There is of course no exactly comparable record for the Framlingham workhouse, but there are annual summaries of poor rates collected for the seven years to 1830, when the poor relief (including outdoor relief) reduced from £2,285 to £2,135 or 6.6%³⁷ but prices had risen over the same period but by 0.075%. It appears that both workhouses were controlling their costs (for both indoor and outdoor relief), but assuming a similar number of paupers at the start and end of the periods

examined, it would appear that Framlingham had a better control of its costs than the Loes and Wilford Union.

The admissions records for Framlingham for the years from 1809 to 1833 (when it was closed)³⁸ record the numbers resident from as low as 24 in August and September 1824 to 71 in February 1818 averaging 42.2 residents over the period. The busiest months were January through to April with the maximum in February. Against this, the quietest months were August and September (harvest time). These numbers reflect the total occupancy of the workhouse. It is, however, interesting to look at the admissions and discharges over the year, as this reveals some interesting variations in that although the maximum number of admissions were in January and February, and the maximum number of discharges was in August, nevertheless August also had an above average admissions rate, while November had high admissions and discharges, which left the number of residents at near average.

| | Total | | Percentage | |
|-----|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Admitted | Discharged | Admitted | Discharged |
| Jul | 2 | 7 | 1.5% | 6.3% |
| Aug | 12 | 19 | 8.8% | 17.0% |
| Sep | 15 | 11 | 10.9% | 9.8% |
| Oct | 7 | 4 | 5.1% | 3.6% |
| Nov | 18 | 14 | 13.1% | 12.5% |
| Dec | 11 | 12 | 8.0% | 10.7% |
| Jan | 24 | 1 | 17.5% | 0.9% |
| Feb | 22 | 9 | 16.1% | 8.0% |
| Mar | 12 | 3 | 8.8% | 2.7% |
| Apr | 7 | 6 | 5.1% | 5.4% |
| May | 4 | 12 | 2.9% | 10.7% |
| Jun | 3 | 14 | 2.2% | 12.5% |
| | 137 | 112 | | |

Figure 3. Framlingham Workhouse Admissions & Discharges 1809 to 1816³⁹

The Loes and Wilford Union Day Book of Paupers⁴⁰ reveals the explanations as to both admissions and discharges. The main reasons for discharges were as follows: apprenticed, employment, absconded, died, able to support self, husband/father able to support wife/child, well of smallpox, head being well. The causes of the deaths were often listed, the main ones being: consumption, smallpox, in infancy, much infirm, burnt, fever, whooping cough, epileptic, in infirmary. The reasons for admission were just as varied, being: smallpox (four in one day), order removal, infamous character, husband/father absconded, with husband/father, hurt by boar, to be apprenticed, to be inoculated (from smallpox), returned from placement, father in prison, insane; these are apart from being out of work, or elderly, base-born child, pregnant. The periods inspected in the Day Book were October 1795 (two pages) and March 1797 (another two pages) comprising approximately two hundred entries. With regard to insanity in a much later period, the cost of maintaining lunatics of the Plomesgate union at the county mental home (previously the Loes and Wilford Workhouse) was £2,771 in the year to March 1925 (the numbers could have increased as a result of "Shell Shock" from the First World War); which was the same as the cost of the Indoor and Outdoor relief for the same period.⁴¹

| | Total | Average | %age |
|-----|--------|---------|------|
| Jul | 958 | 39.9 | 8.1% |
| Aug | 933 | 38.9 | 7.9% |
| Sep | 932 | 38.8 | 7.9% |
| Oct | 960 | 40.0 | 8.1% |
| Nov | 974 | 40.6 | 8.2% |
| Dec | 986 | 42.9 | 8.3% |
| Jan | 1,031 | 44.8 | 8.7% |
| Feb | 1,081 | 47.0 | 9.1% |
| Mar | 1,078 | 46.9 | 9.1% |
| Apr | 1,011 | 44.0 | 8.5% |
| May | 975 | 42.4 | 8.2% |
| Jun | 938 | 40.8 | 7.9% |
| | 11,857 | 494.0 | |

Figure 4. Framlingham Workhouse Occupancy numbers 1809 to 1833⁴²

This would suggest that many of the hard core paupers were in fact mentally ill, with parents and other family too poor to support and care for them. It is also interesting that the workhouse appears to have been a centre of treatment for smallpox. The situation of the workhouse is very near to the centre of the town, and would not be considered suitable to be an isolation hospital by twentieth century standards.

The authority for the use of a Parish Workhouse as at Framlingham, is largely based upon the 1601 Poor Law Act, "An Acte for the Reliefe of the Poore",⁴³ but possibly the main act was Sir Edward Knatchbull's Act of 1722 – 3 for "Amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Implyment and Relief of the Poor".⁴⁴ This act is summarised as follows:

The Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, with the Consent of the Major Part of the Parishioners, in Vestry, or other Publick Meeting for that purpose assembled, upon usual notice given, may purchase or hire any House or Houses in the Parish or Place, and Contract with Persons for the Lodging, Keeping and Employing of poor Persons; and there they are to keep them, and take the Benefit of their Work and Labour, for the better Maintenance and Relief of such Persons. And in case any poor Person shall refuse to be Lodg'd, Kept and Maintain'd in such House or Houses, such Person shall be put out of the Parish Books, and not entituled to Relief. Where Parishes are small, two or more such Parishes, with the Approbation of a Justice of the Peace, may unite in Purchasing or Hiring Houses for the Purposes aforesaid. And Church-Wardens, etc. of one Parish, with the Consent of the Major Part of the Parishioners, may contract with the Church-Wardens, etc. of any other Parish, for the Lodging and Maintenance of the Poor But no poor Persons, or their Apprentices, Children, etc. shall receive a settlement in the Parish, Town, or Place to which they shall be removed, by Virtue of this Act. *Note.* This is a General Law, and extends to all England.⁴⁵

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) published in 1725 *An Account of several work-houses for employing and maintaining the poor*, an early directory of parish workhouses which said that there were 126 parish workhouses. By the enlarged edition of 1732, the total stood at 181 workhouses, and these were those listed for England only: Paul Slack said that there may have been more than seven hundred workhouses nationwide by 1732.⁴⁶ Suffolk has only one workhouse listed in the 1725 publication by SPCK, and that was at Mildenhall. By the time of the Parliamentary survey of poor relief of 1776-77, there

were eighty-four parishes and towns with workhouses, including Ipswich with twelve workhouses split between its parishes. The Ipswich workhouses housed between 10 and 100 paupers, with Framlingham's workhouse dealing with 100 paupers.

Concerning the Loes and Wilford workhouse at Melton, this union was created by a separate private act of parliament in 1765,⁴⁷ well before the Thomas Gilbert Act of 1782⁴⁸ which was aimed at providing or at least organising poor relief on a county basis, with each county being divided into large districts relating to their ancient Hundred. This is considered the main act relating to the creation of Poor Law Unions, but there were several rural incorporations prior to this date, most either created by separate acts of parliament or created under the Workhouse Test Act (Knatchbull's Act of 1722-3)⁴⁹. There were fourteen such unions before 1782, ten of which were in Suffolk, and two in Norfolk; only six more rural incorporations took place before 1834, none in Suffolk and two in Norfolk.

It would appear that the Framlingham Workhouse was well run. No mention is made of punishments in the minute books, unlike Melton and Wickham Market. There were advantages in having free supervision, and no Master appears to have been employed. The paupers were all very well known to the Overseers, and perhaps the paupers respected them, or even hoped to be employed by them for at least harvest, or when things improved or when the paupers returned to health. There had been riots in some of the bigger workhouses that were built after the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act,⁵⁰ it is interesting to note that most of the rioters were not inmates of the workhouses but local people, from the labouring classes to minor yeomen.

The workhouse represented a bold, ruthless and in some ways successful attempt to solve a problem almost as old as society itself, pauperism: the state of needing to be supported by the rest of society.⁵¹

The whole concept of the workhouse was beginning to be ignored; in place of these outdoor relief was used. The workhouse was being used to punish the lazy not the ill or unlucky.

Even the ambitious, pioneering 'Hundred House' at Nacton near Ipswich had failed to fulfill its early promise. Within a year of its opening out-relief had begun to creep back; by the end of the century food and materials were almost openly being stolen from the union, cash was being embezzled, and costs soaring. The reason was a loss of interest, and hence supervision, on the part of the local gentry.⁵²

Concerning the Loes and Wilford Union workhouse at Melton, this as already mentioned was closed before the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.⁵³ The building was of too high a standard and the care of both the healthy and sick was costing too much. The whole scheme was set up with too grandiose a plan. All the parishes were represented on the Board of Management, but it can be seen by the minute books that attendance soon fell off. It is suspected that the men who finally got the scheme going did not know what they were doing.

By the 1820s, there was considerable dissatisfaction with the operation of the incorporation and its failure to produce the anticipated reductions in the poor rate for its member parishes. This had largely been brought about by the initial large debt incurred by the building of the palatial House of Industry, and also the high standards of living and medical relief it provided. Contributions to the running costs from the sale of goods and materials manufactured by the inmates also failed to live up to expectations. In 1826, the incorporation was dissolved by another local Act⁵⁴ - "And whereas inconvenience and the increase of expense in the management of the poor has arisen from the said establishment, without any adequate beneficial result, either to the poor themselves or to the greater number of parishes composing the incorporation".⁵⁵

Notes:

[Editor's interpolations enclosed in square brackets].

1. P. Higginbotham, [http: www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk), (Accessed 26 December 2007).
2. Framlingham and Saxtead have been one ecclesiastical benefice since the eleventh century.
3. N. Longmate, *The Workhouse: a social history* (2003) p. 25.
4. R. Green, *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted ...* (1834) p. 111.
5. A. G. Moore, "Dare to be poor", in *Framfare* 52 (November 2007) pp. 21 – 2.
6. Green, *op. cit.*, p. 109.
7. J. Rothery, "Rural unrest in Suffolk 1816 – 1837" in *Fram: the journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society*, 5th series, no. 8 (December 2007) pp. 8 – 9.
8. Moore, *art. cit.*, pp. 21 – 2.
9. A system relating poor relief to the price of bread, family size and weekly earnings.
10. A. Young, *A General View of the Agriculture of the county of Suffolk* (1813) pp. 22 – 3.
11. [5. Geo.3 c.97] Copy of Statute setting up Union at Suffolk Record Office Ipswich (SROI) ADA11/AAL1/1/1.
12. P. Higginbotham, [http: www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk), (Accessed 26 December 2007).
13. [11. Will.3 c.18].
14. Longmate, *op. cit.*, p. 23.
15. [7. Geo.4. c.1].
16. *Ipswich Journal* 1st January 1825.
17. *Ibid.* [1824 *passim.*].
18. *The Times* [1824 *passim.*].
19. SROI ADA11/AA1/22 (Minutes of Trustees).
20. [4. & 5. Will.4 c.76].
21. For an image of the former poorhouse c. 1900, see J. Black, "The Care of the poor in Suffolk", in *Fram, op. cit.* 5th series, no. 2 (December 2005) p. 12.
22. [http: measuringworth.com/ppoweruk](http://measuringworth.com/ppoweruk) (Accessed 30 November 2007).
23. [http: privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~alan/family/N-Money.html](http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~alan/family/N-Money.html) (Accessed 28 November 2007).
24. Green, *op. cit.* p. 109.
25. Apprenticeships were a way of removing from the workhouse girls and boys under eighteen, the age when apprenticeship normally finished. They were not usually trade apprenticeships, but used as a means of providing cheap agricultural or domestic labour.
26. SROI FC101/G19/4/2 (Monthly Return of Provisions).
27. SROI FC101/G19/4/1; FC101/G19/4/2 (Monthly Returns of Provisions).
28. SROI FC101/G19/7 (Monthly Return of Requirements).
29. SROI FC101/G19/7 (Monthly Return of Clothes Required 15th August 1831 – 28th December 1835).
30. High wooden shoes or clogs to raise the feet out of the wet or mud.
31. Light shoes made of cloth.
32. SROI FC101/A3/3/18 (bundle of indentures).
33. SROI FC101/A3/3/19 (bundle of indentures).
34. SROI FC101/G19/2/1 (Monthly Return of Earnings).
35. SROI FC101/G19/4/2 (Monthly Return of Provisions).
36. SROI ADA11/AC3/1 (extracts from Treasurers' Accounts).
37. SROI FC101/G18/1-8 (Poor Rates Summaries).
38. SROI FC101/G19/1 (Monthly Return of Paupers).
39. *Ibid.*
40. SROI ADA11/C3/1-4a (Day Book of Paupers).
41. SROI ADA06/AC6/1 (General Ledger 1925).
42. SROI FC101/G19/1 (Monthly Return of Paupers in the House of Industry Framlingham 6th June 1809 – 5th November 1832).
43. [43. Elizabeth c.2].
44. [9. Geo.1 c.7].
45. *Ibid.*
46. P. Slack, *The English Poor Law, 1531-1782* (1990).
47. [5. Geo.3 c.97].
48. [22. Geo.3 c.83].
49. [9. Geo.1 c.7].
50. C. Paine, "Suffolk workhouse riots" (lecture 17 November 2007) SRO Bury St. Edmunds branch.
51. Longmate, *op. cit.* p. 14.
52. *Ibid.* p. 33.
53. [4. & 5. Will.4 c.76].
54. P. Higginbotham, [http: www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk) (Accessed 26 December 2007).
55. [7. Geo.4 c.1].

THE MILLS OF FRAMLINGHAM

PART 3

MAULDEN'S MILL, BRIDGE STREET

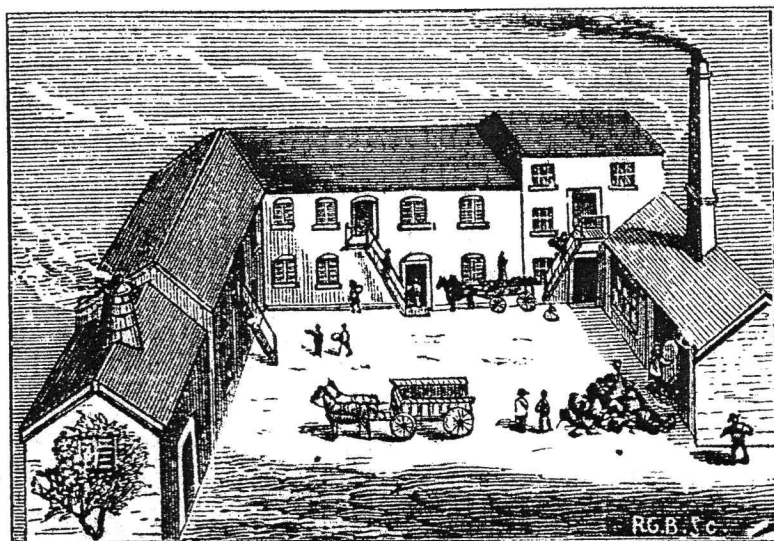
By John F. Bridges

The mill (map reference 284636) was located on the site of the new housing development in Bridge Street, which has adopted the name "Maulden's Mill". The narrow entrance lane and the original "Check House" are the only surviving links from a period when this was the industrial heart of the town.

There were no windmills here due to the low-lying and enclosed nature of the site, so flour milling did not commence until steam power was introduced. By 1801, a malt office, mill house, kiln and sheds had been built by Joseph Cattermole, and occupied by Jonathon Wightman, **James Maulden**, Simon Watson and Thomas Baldwin¹. The mill house related to a horse-driven malt mill. In 1822, the property was mortgaged to Charles Clubbe, the illustrious Framlingham attorney². Tithe rents were paid of 5d. per annum by Jonathon Wightman for property described as "now a malt office near the Mill-bridge"³.

James Clutten purchased the maltings site in 1846 for £650⁴, and it was here that the young James Maulden (son of the above James) got his first job. He was sufficiently interested in his work, that he decided to move to Brockford⁵ to gain more experience in another maltings. After a few years he returned to Bridge Street with his growing family, and became responsible for the running of the maltings. For a period around 1877, the firm traded as Maulden and Noble⁶, coal, corn and seed merchants, before James purchased it in 1879 for £600 plus £50 interest.⁷

It is in that year that the first reference to "miller" occurs⁸. Prior to that, the only mechanisation had been the horse-driven malt mill. James soon started his expansion plans with the purchase of a steam engine and a pair of French burr stones for flour milling. An illustrated advertisement of 1885 clearly shows a tall chimney emitting smoke, with some unidentifiable machinery in the open-fronted building next to it⁹. The malt kiln is on the left of the illustration. There is some uncertainty over the exact form of steam power employed at this time. John Hewitt described how his father Tom went as an apprentice to Maulden's mill, where his job was to look after a steam "beam" engine. James was very particular about the operation of the steam engine, and several youngsters had lost their jobs because he claimed that they were running the engine too quickly. Tom was well aware of the situation when he took the job, but was soon told to "slow her down boy". Tom turned so that he partly obscured the controls from James, and laid both arms on the beam. He then straightened his back without moving the beam and said "how's that sir?" James was quite happy with this despite there being no reduction in speed, and claimed that Tom was the "best boy I've had in years". There is reference in the book to the "stones" revolving at the correct speed, so this is not the later roller plant.¹⁰ Beam engines were used to drive flour mills¹¹.



Maulden's malting kiln and steam mill (Lambert's Almanac, 1885).

George Cooper referred to the stones being driven by a portable steam engine¹². This is a different type of engine, commonly used on farms, whereas a beam engine is a fixed installation within a building. The mill stones were still used after the roller plant came into operation, and it is possible that the portable set could have replaced the beam engine at some time.

Further buildings and offices were added with the date of 1887 on them. He also started farming at this time, with about forty acres in Wilby, and then with two further farms in Framlingham, one being Hill Farm. A year later he bought land in Station Road with direct access to the railway siding. Despite the harsh economic conditions in farming at this time, he saw this as a suitable area to invest the income from his growing malt and milling business. This had not always been the case in earlier years, as he had recalled hiring the mill at Little Haynings (the post mill in Saxmundham Road) for one year. At the end of that year, his net profit was eleven pence,¹³ (about 5p).

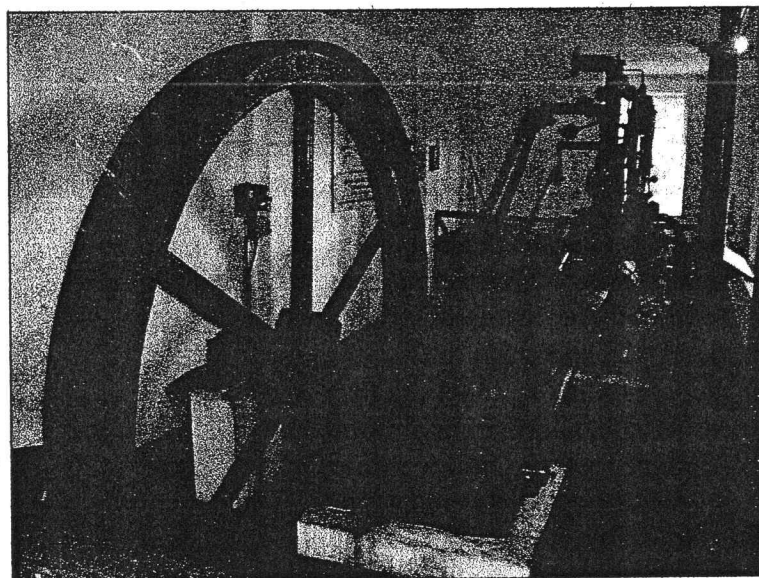
His two eldest sons James and William came to work for their father, and were to see the most exciting phase of the development; the introduction of the new roller mill in 1891. This latest technology was being introduced to new and upgraded mills, and was to have profound effects for all millers who were reliant on traditional stone-ground methods. Previously, the wheat had been ground by passing it between a fixed-bed stone and a rotating upper stone, with power supplied by wind or water, and later by steam and oil engines. Few windmills were built after about 1860, and despite alternative forms of power, could not rival the quantity and lower cost of the roller mill flour.

The main impetus for change was the ever rising imports of quality flour, whose value was significantly higher than that of our home produced flour.¹⁴ One of those countries exporting their flour was Hungary, which was also the birthplace of the roller mill. This new form of milling was the central theme to a large exhibition in London in 1881. The first complete roller mill had previously been installed at Bilston near Edinburgh in 1878. Following the exhibition, large installations at ports soon followed, including Cranfields at Ipswich Dock in 1884¹⁵. By the early 1890s, small roller plants were being installed in country areas.

E. R. & F. Turner of Ipswich¹⁶ were at the forefront of roller development in this country, but James Maulden did not even need to look that far. Whitmore and Binyon of Wickham Market had manufactured traditional milling machinery before moving on to the new roller systems. This company had expanded greatly since George Binyon joined them in 1868¹⁷, and from around 1885, roller mill production became an important part of their output. In the period from 1886 to 1893, they erected forty-five roller plants¹⁸ varying from one and a half sacks to forty-five sacks per hour. Those installed in Suffolk were:

| Date | Capacity | Location | Customer |
|------|----------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1889 | 3 | Haverhill | F H Taylor |
| 1890 | 2 | Knodishall | F H Wormold |
| 1890 | 10 | Ipswich | J Fison & Co. |
| 1891 | 3 | Beccles | R J Read |
| 1891 | 1½ | Framlingham | J Maulden |
| 1892 | 4 | Sudbury | I Clover |
| 1892 | 1½ | Layham | P S Mason |
| 1893 | 2 | Cornard | E Baker |
| 1893 | 2½ | Wickham Market | R Rackham |
| 1893 | 2 | Southwold | Smith and Girling |

The capacity figures relate to the number of sacks per hour, with the approximate weight of a coomb sack of flour being a staggering 280lb. (127kg.). We are fortunate that the Rackham steam engine from Wickham Market has been preserved. It can be seen in the Bobby building at the Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL), in Stowmarket, where the flywheel can be operated by electric power. A stroll downhill from there will also reveal one stand of a Whitmore and Binyon roller mill located within the Alton watermill.



Whitmore and Binyon steam engine (MEAL).

No detailed records survive for Maulden's plant, but the specifications and estimates for the Rackham mill¹⁹ show that the horizontal condensing engine itself cost £250. The roller plant and labour etc. cost approximately a further £1200. There is reference to £250 in relation to Maulden's mill²⁰, which would relate to the steam engine only. The roller plant may have cost slightly less money than Rackham's, as the capacity was lower.

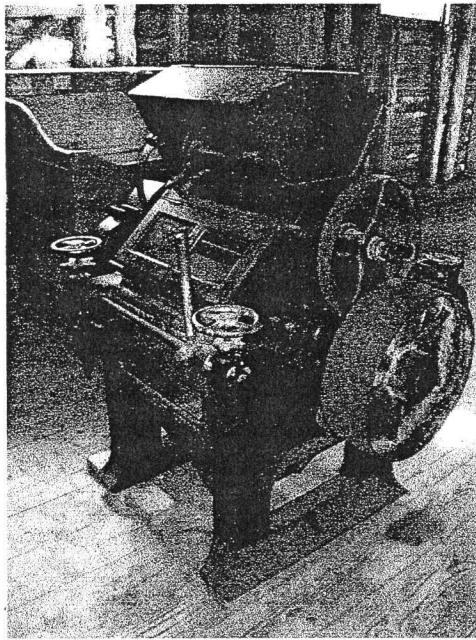
The following were typical components of a Whitmore and Binyon roller plant²¹ as installed at Maulden's mill:

- Whitmore and Binyon 20 hp compound condensing steam engine (high and low pressure cylinders), steam pressure of 90 pounds per square inch, engine speed 95 revolutions per minute
- Nordberg engine governor
- One Cornish boiler of Low Moor iron
- One multi-tubular boiler of Low Moor iron
- Break rolls
- Reduction rolls
- Rotary and reel scalpers
- Centrifugal dressers
- Purifiers
- Grain conveying systems

From the specifications for the Wickham Market and Great Cornard mills, it is likely that Maulden's mill had four break rolls and six reduction rolls. Each roller mill (as shown in the photograph), had two pairs of rollers, and was known as a "stand", the total number of stands therefore being five.

The break rolls normally had a number of inclined saw-tooth grooves²² in each roller, which ran at a speed differential of about 3:1. This produces a shearing action on the grain, with the further breaks having increasing numbers of grooves. Various scalpers, centrifugal dressers and purifiers operate in conjunction with the break and reduction rolls, the latter normally having smooth-faced chilled iron rolls running at a speed differential of around 1.2:1. These reduce the stock and convert it to flour. There was much complexity in these systems, and great skill and experience was required in their operation.

Maulden's new plant was located on three floors in a brick building, and his adverts refer to "The Old Castle Roller Mills", producing twenty sacks per day. That would relate to a working period of over thirteen hours based on the capacity. The business was doing very well, with agents for his flour and meal listed in all the surrounding towns and villages. George Cooper recalled the wonderful sight of Suffolk horses setting out with their yellow tumbrels loaded with sacks of flour. There were four horses and tumbrels kept at Bridge Street and two horses and wagons at the Station Road site.



Whitmore and Binyon roller mill (MEAL).

In 1896, James purchased Robert Lambert's printing works²³ in Church Street, which would be run by his two younger sons Harry and Edwin. *The Framlingham Weekly News* continued to be printed by them. The mill adverts for that year also include reference to Kelsale, where he owned a fine tower mill by John Whitmore, and a post mill.

James' wife Emma died in 1901 aged 59 years. She had borne him twelve children, four boys and eight girls. He married Mrs H W Preston a year later. In 1905, he died at the age of 63.

Following their father's death, the roller mill and station property were put up for auction. Previously in 1902, the mills at Framlingham and Kelsale had been equally passed to them. James seems to have lost interest in the Bridge Street site and moved to Kelsale where a roller mill plant had also been installed. It is not clear why the Framlingham business was put up for auction in two lots. Lot 1 was the Bridge Street complex, while Lot 2 comprised the Station Road land and buildings.

Lot 1 was either withdrawn, or did not sell, as it continued to be operated by the family. Lot 2 is described in the auction catalogue. This document,²⁴ of which about two thirds survives, describes the Station Road site. It had a 219 feet long frontage to the railway, with spacious granaries capable of holding 2,500 combs, along with other buildings. It was located between the land of Francis Read and Mr Heffer senior. From the Valuation Office Map of c.1912 in The National Archives, Kew, these properties can be identified, from which James Maulden's site²⁵ can be located (map reference 284627). By that time, it was owned by Robert Nesling and partly let to Edwin (EG) Clarke, who would take over from Maulden as the major employer in the town. The map is based on the 1904 edition which was surveyed before that date and does not show all the buildings, and in particular another granary which had only been completed just before James' death.

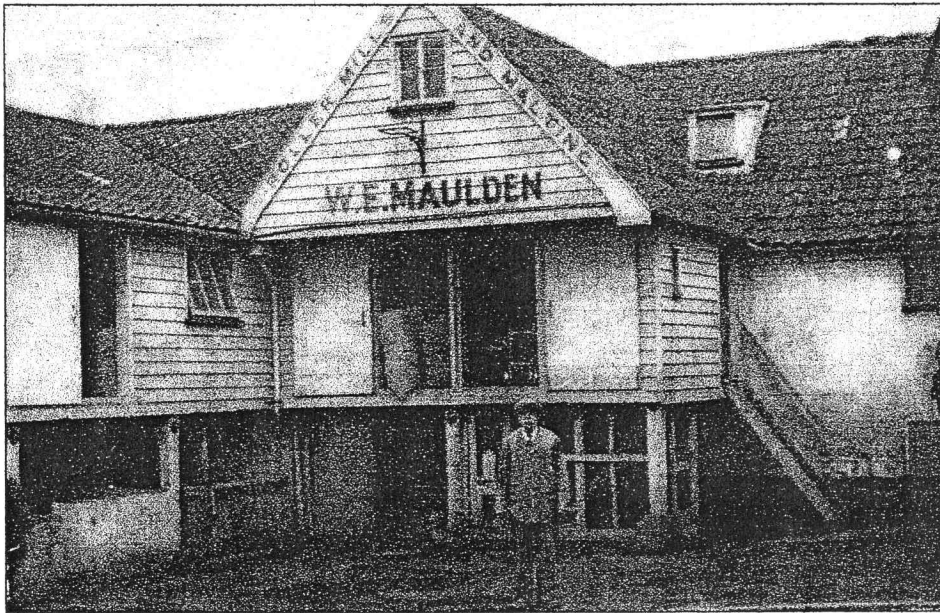
1897 receipt showing range of products available (James Breese Collection).

| FRAMLINGHAM & KELSEA | | Roller & Stone Flour Mills and Maltings, | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|-----|----------------|----|----|
| | | <i>Sep. 23</i> | | 1897 | | |
| | | <i>Mr. Jas. Breese</i> | | <i>instead</i> | | |
| | | Bought of JAMES MAULDEN, | | | | |
| | | Roller & Stone Flour Miller & Maltster. | | | | |
| CORN, COAL, AND CAKE MERCHANT. | | | | | | |
| Sacks. | Stones. | | | £ | s. | d. |
| | 5 | Golden Drop ... | ... | | | |
| | | Roller Patents ... | ... | | | |
| | | Roller Whites ... | ... | | | |
| | | Roller and Stone mixed ... | ... | | | |
| | | Household stone ... | ... | | | |
| Tons. | Cwts. | Bean ... | ... | | | |
| | | Supers ... | ... | | | |
| | | Middlings ... | ... | | | |
| | | Rubbings ... | ... | | | |
| | | Coal ... | ... | | | |
| | | Coke ... | ... | | | |
| Combs. | Stones. | Barley Meal ... | ... | | | |
| | | Peas ... | ... | | | |
| | | Wheat ... | ... | | | |
| | | Malt ... | ... | | | |
| | | Mixed ... | ... | | | |
| | | Beans ... | ... | | | |
| | | Crushed Linseed ... | ... | | | |
| | | Linseed ... | ... | | | |
| | | Crushed Oats ... | ... | | | |
| Combs. | Bushels. | Malt ... | ... | | | |
| | | Bar. Hops ... | ... | | | |
| | | Malt ... | ... | | | |
| | | Peas ... | ... | | | |
| | | Barley ... | ... | | | |
| | | Wheat ... | ... | | | |
| | | Beans ... | ... | | | |
| | | Oats ... | ... | | | |

In 1909 there was a deed of exchange, whereby William became owner of the Framlingham mill, and James of the Kelsale mills. From the early 1920s, William was effectively the only flour miller in Framlingham, as Fred Button ceased his Mount Pleasant mill operation around this time, and Buckmaster's Victoria steam mill was mainly grinding animal feed.

The roller mill was more efficient than the stone mills, but the much larger roller complexes in the towns and ports could produce flour even cheaper. Grain arrived at the ports from far away, and was unloaded directly to the adjacent mills. The development of road transport by lorry increased after the First World War, and this meant the flour could be taken directly to more distant customers. The country miller, even with roller machinery, was reliant on a shrinking customer base.

The access to the Bridge Street site was, and still is, very narrow, which prevented large lorries easily gaining access. The combination of such factors and continued reliance on steam power saw the slow decline of the business, with flour production ceasing²⁶ in 1946. By this time William's two sons Willoughby and Stanley were also working there. William died in 1949. His sons carried on with animal feed production and coal deliveries until 1955 when business ceased. There are over 100 surviving invoices²⁷ for the company, covering the period from 1891 to 1948.



Glory Carr, steam engine operator at the roller mill (C. Wells).

John Maulden, son of Stanley, recalled as a ten-year-old boy in around 1943, how he could freely wander around the mill amongst all the machinery. This was in a time before the phrase "health and safety" had been invented. The large flywheel of the Whitmore and Binyon engine was sunk into the floor, and he observed that Glory Carr the mill engine operator, was highly skilled in the control of the steam.²⁸ He would always stop the engine with the crankpin at 12 or 6 o'clock, as the piston would be at its mid position. If stopped at 3 or 9 o'clock, the piston was at the extremity of its travel, and much more difficult to start.

The premises were sold to E. G. Clarke and Sons in 1955, who then used it as a grain store. The preservation culture was not sufficiently established in those days, and the steam engine, boilers and machinery were broken up for scrap. These once vibrant buildings were then sold to Walne's Garage in 1967, and used for car storage. The final blow came in 1992 when fire destroyed the buildings. In 100 years, they had gone from a complex which heralded the latest milling technology, to a burnt out ruin.

(I would like to thank Robert Baker of Great Cornard and Lisa Harris of MEAL for information on Whitmore and Binyon. Also, thanks to John Maulden for background information on the family business, and Chris Wells for the photo of his grandfather Glory Carr.)

Notes

1. Suffolk Record Office Ipswich (SROI) 999/83.
2. SROI HD11:475/1038.
3. R.Green, *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxted...* (1834), p.260.
4. SROI 999/85.
5. *Framlingham Weekly News (FWN)*, November 25th, 1905.
6. J. McEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)*, (2000), p. 359.
7. SROI Tithe Deeds.
8. McEwan, *op.cit.*, p. 361.
9. *Lambert's Family Almanac*, (1885).
10. J. Hewitt, *Two Horse Power*, (1991), p. 28.
11. R.H.Clark, *Steam-Engine Builders of Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire*, (1950), p.80.
12. Lecture notes by George Cooper, 26 March 1969.
13. *FWN*, November 25th, 1905.
14. R.Voller, *Modern Flour Milling*, 3rd. Edition, (1897), p.193.
15. Christine Clark & Roger Munting, *Suffolk Enterprise, A Guide to the County's Companies and their Historical Records*, [nd]. p. 5
16. The Ipswich Engineering Society, *The History of Engineering in Ipswich*, (1949), p.68.
17. Phyllis Cockburn, *Whitmore and Binyon Engineers and Millwrights of Wickham Market, Suffolk*, (2005), p.11.
18. *Millers' Gazette and Corn Trade Journal*, August 30th, 1893.
19. MEAL, library.
20. Notes from John Maulden.
21. George Cooper notes, and information from Robert Baker and MEAL.
22. Voller, *op.cit.*, pp. 205-207.
23. McEwan, *op. cit.*, p.161.
24. Moore Garrard & Son, auction catalogue, 1906, via John Bridges.
25. J. Bridges, *The Commercial Life of a Suffolk Town: Framlingham around 1900*, (2007), map on p.147.
26. Notes from John Maulden.
27. James Breese Collection, via John Bridges.
28. John Maulden, Suffolk Radio interview, 16th January, 1998.

FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE PAGEANT

(The Editor has been unable to trace the authorship and provenance of this piece. That it was written to accompany the famous Castle Pageant of 1931 seems a reasonable assumption, but it does not appear in the extensive and detailed official programme of that pageant. Any information from readers would be most welcome)

In sooth, thou wear'st a warlike mien,
O ancient fortress – towered and grey –
Mere shell of what thou once has been
Yet still majestic in decay.

No more thy stout portcullis falls
To check the onrush of the foe.
No sentry guards thy mouldering walls,
Only the birds fly to and fro.

But ere thou fall'st – a stubborn prey –
To that all conquering giant – Time,
Thou shalt review the vast array
Of those who knew thee in thy prime.

Upon thy bridge once more thou'lt see
The Saxon front the invading Dane;
And watch the fierce intruders flee
Pursued alike by thrall and thane.

Stout Ailmar's Suffolk pride of race
Shall flout again the "furriner" –
The blustering Bigod kneel a space
And fealty to King William swear.

Thy worn grey stones shall echoes yield
To joyous sounds that welcome home
The hero knight of Flodden field,
War-weary, never more to roam.

Save when (attended solemnly
By chanting friar and funeral knell)
Thou see'st him slowly passing by
To rest where once he loved to dwell.

Thou shalt re-live that day, long past,
When Mary shelter sought – and then
Was here proclaimed a queen at last
Amid her Loyal Suffolk men.

Shalt, too, behold the crowds that throng
The old Elizabethan Fair;
And see the priests escape among
The fun and frolic-makers there.

Howard shall bid "God Speed" once more
To Danforth, ere he sails the sea;
Sir Robert Hitcham, as of yore,
Dispense his kindly charity.

So they shall pass – and thou shalt steep
Thy soul once more in lethargy:
And through the future ages sleep
With only ghosts to trouble thee.

CORRESPONDENCE

April Cottage
Kettleburgh Road
Framlingham
Suffolk
IP13 9SD

18 August 2008

Dear Editor

In your editorial in the August 2008 *Fram* Journal, you mention that the [previous] editor was pleased to see the removal of the canopy in front of Wick's. It was not to everyone's approval when Mrs. Chapman-Purchas had it taken down. The structure was made of cast-iron uprights, with decorative features. For many years this was a good meeting place, undercover, especially for coach outings etc.

As for billboards, there was a large one on the old stables of the Station Hotel, Station Road.

Another was in Well Close Square, on Gobbit & Kirby's premises, this usually advertised Guinness is Good for you.

Also, there was a set of small ones on Hatcher's building *i.e.* the old cart shed of Pound Farm in Badingham Road. In the early 1950s these were updated with aluminium boards by Mills & Rockley. When they were first put up in their shiny condition, an elderly lady was heard to remark, "why do they need mirrors here" while she admired herself.

At that time most of the posters were for farm sales, giving details of the acreage and what livestock, horses, cattle, pigs etc. and farm machinery went with the sale. Michaelmas was the time for most farms to change hands.

There would certainly have been other boards in the town.

Yours faithfully
Bill Flemming

[My predecessor as Hon. Editor of Fram who expressed delight at the removal of the Wick's canopy was a Mr. E. C. Shanks, 64 Waddington Way, London, SE19 (Editors of Fram come from far and wide!).]

Victoria Mill House
Framlingham
Suffolk
IP13 9EG

22 August 2008

Dear Editor,

I thought a fitting footnote to John Bridges' piece on Victoria Mill would be to say that I found four large firebricks, made in Stourbridge, in our rubbish heap. Clearly they originated in the Steam Mill.

I also unearthed a keystone labelled "F. L. 1810"; can anyone throw any light on this person who doesn't seem to have been an inhabitant of our house?

Yours faithfully
John Black

[The Editor looks forward to publishing response(s) to Doctor Black's enquiry in the next issue of Fram].

17 Saxmundham Road
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3 September 2008

Dear Editor

Several members expressed interest in the Pulhamite cliff at Bawdsey while on the Society's visit to the Manor. I was lucky enough to hear a lecture by Simon Swann about it, in Framlingham last January, as a member of the Suffolk Gardens Trust. Simon gave out notes from the Pulham website. I enclose a copy of them for your perusal. You will see that the firm started in Woodbridge and that Bawdsey is mentioned.

Someone asked me if there was any connection with Simon Pulham of Framlingham; it is a question that I am unable to answer, but Woodbridge isn't so very far from Framlingham, so there is a possibility that there is a connection which may come to light if one were to research the topic.

Yours faithfully
Jenny Broster

[It is hoped to include Simon Swann's notes in a later issue of Fram].

“History is five minutes ago”

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