

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

Number 20

**5th
Series**

December 2011

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

It came as a complete surprise when I was informed that my name had been put forward for president of our Historical Society. It is a position which I am very pleased and honoured to accept. The Society was founded in 1956, with Commander Sitwell being an early president, holding the position for nearly 30 years. I recall him as a thorough researcher of our local history, and you will find his name against many Framlingham documents in the Record Office. Our outgoing president David Pitcher along with those before him were all committed to the Society and the history of our town, and I will try and carry on that tradition.

My family connections with Framlingham date back to around 1724, when my ggggggrandfather Silvanus set up in business as a blacksmith in Double Street. Later generations carried on the trade in Fore Street where the old forge building still exists on the corner with Fairfield Road. When my future in-laws visited the town in 1971, they asked if the names on various gravestones in the churchyard were associated with our family. What gravestones would they be I asked? This started my interest in our local history as no one in the family knew anything about those ancestors. Canon Bulstrode readily let us take the parish registers home in order to research various births, deaths and marriages, which my wife Pat wrote up in shorthand.

This just goes to show how quickly your own family history can disappear, and this applies equally to the history of the town. I was conscious while talking to someone recently that they had no real knowledge of the business that was previously carried on in their place of work, and why should they? Someone had mentioned that the shop might once have been a car showroom. Many of us grew up with Potters showroom being on the Market Hill, and yes it does seem like it only went yesterday. There are many events that happened much longer ago that we all wish had been recorded. The changes that are happening in our present times are certainly worthy of record for future generations.

All my working life has been spent in that foreign land that used to be called West Suffolk. Many visits were made to Framlingham to see my mother and also visit senior citizens, who were only too pleased to talk about their early life. It was a privilege to know them and record their memories; sadly they have all passed away now.

The future of local societies everywhere can be uncertain because of the rising costs of membership and organised events. There can be alternative attractions to attending a lecture on a cold night, but invariably the latter would be more rewarding than much of the fare available on the every increasing number of television channels. The Society still has a good membership number with high attendance at our meetings, and

the key to this is the provision of good speakers. Within our county there is a very strong base of local history research, and we should be able to draw on that for a long time to come. The matter of summer visits is a more complex one, as there are several factors which influence their uptake. Their future will depend on your support in 2012.

I would like to encourage members to become involved in some aspect of the history of our town, either individually or in conjunction with others. This could for example relate to the history of the house or street where you live, or maybe a wider look at a specific period of our town's history. There is an amazing amount of material available to view in our excellent Record Office in Ipswich, where the staff are always ready to help. Much information can be found on history websites, along with books and guides to help you. Our Lanman Museum is a good place to get ideas as you will see so many artifacts covering the life of our town.

By the time you read this we should be living back in Framlingham, and I look forward to meeting our members and hopefully discussing ideas you may have for local history research.

John F Bridges

FRAMLINGHAM ON FILM
1875 to 1975

By Tony Moore

It has been just over 3 years that the first photograph was scanned for *The Framlingham On Line Photographic History Archive*. This was of Maulden's Steam Roller Mill (*circa*, 1891) in Bridge Street, which housed the once famous steam engine manufactured by Whitmore and Binyon of Wickham Market. Regrettably, this lovely old engine was to be broken up and scrapped. The mill itself was finally closed in 1955.

The archive itself has slowly but surely grown to almost 500 images comprising old original photographs, second generation copies from originals, and postcards. The years covered date from 1875 up to 1975 give a year or two either side of these dates. There are also somewhere in the region of forty to fifty other images waiting to be scanned and posted on the archive. Unfortunately, we do happen to be lent and/or given photographs in good faith that turn out to be duplicates or copies of ones that are already in our possession. In many cases no details or history can be provided; these are accepted however so that there will be a possibility that future research will provide some answers.

Interested persons often say, "I suppose you don't want any old family photographs?" thinking mistakenly that they will be of no interest. "Wrong", many hold a wealth of information and history, especially the backgrounds and locations that may have long since disappeared after the photograph itself was taken.

The subjects covered appear in nine separate sections although for obvious reasons there is a slight overlap some times. The sections start with The Townscape, Trades and Services, The Castle, Church and Chapel, Education, Events and Pastimes, People, Transport, and Wartime and Military.

The Maulden's Mill photograph was the first photograph to be donated for the archive, but the last photograph has yet to arrive. The whole venture has not ended, and is therefore ongoing. The response and interest has been encouraging as not only local people loan their old photographs to be scanned for the archive, but those from further afield from Cambridge to Edinburgh have responded as well.

The photographs loaned for the archive are returned to the donor once scanned. In cases where the donor does not want them back, then they are given to the Lanman Museum for filing in their reference library. This way they are preserved for any future research purposes. It may also be said that a photograph just like a painting can tell a whole story that perhaps a hundred words can't. A small cross section of photographs taken from the current online archive will appear in our next issue.

I should add that the archive is always ready to accommodate more of those hidden photographs in discarded albums and in cupboards and drawers. Access the Archive by entering www.framlingham.com then under the heading Visiting Fram you will find our heading Historical Archive.

SIR ROBERT HITCHAM SCHOOL 1653 - 2010

By Terry Gilder

Introduction

There are various reasons why I have chosen this subject. Perhaps the main one is that I was a headteacher of the school from 1977 to 1996. Another good reason for a local historian to study the history of the school is that it illustrates very well the development of English education in the last three hundred years. This examination of the history of the school also addresses the history of education in Framlingham generally, for its existence can be set against a background of general educational provision in the town throughout this period. The reason that the starting point of 1653 has been chosen will also be explained in the course of the study.

The history that I am setting out to unravel is well documented since Framlingham is well endowed with its local historians. Principal among these are two books. The first is the *History of Framlingham*, written by R. Loader and published by him in Woodbridge in 1798. The second is the history written by R. Green, *The History, Topography and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxtead*, published in London in 1834. Both writers give prominent attention to the story of education in the town. There are also excellent primary sources. The Governors' minute book and the log books of the school for the latter part of the nineteenth century are particularly fertile with information, which illustrates that crucial period in English education when elementary education became universal.

Framlingham as a community has another rich historical documentary source. Each Saturday from 1859 until the outbreak of the Second World War, a weekly newspaper was produced. The *Framlingham Weekly News* was a newspaper in broadsheet form which carried local advertisements on the front page and general local news on the back page. (There are up to four pages of densely written national news on the inside.) The comments on the back page frequently consider the issue of education in and around Framlingham and the study of these comments, alongside information gleaned from the sources named above, make very interesting reading. In some cases a clearer understanding of what really was happening emerges from this source. I have also made use of local directories, and some other special publications particularly relevant to Framlingham.

The Sir Robert Hitcham School has passed through various metamorphoses in its 357 years history. When it was founded as a consequence of Sir Robert Hitcham's will it was a free school. Today its status is that of a voluntary-aided primary school. In the intervening period, particularly that of the late nineteenth century, it illustrated the continuing debates about locally funded as against nationally funded educational provision. For Framlingham this has been a story not without controversy. Framlingham has long had two strong sources of charitable educational provision. These clashed in the late nineteenth century and led to particular developments for the provision of education in Framlingham as it is today.

Framlingham

Framlingham's golden era was the middle ages when the Dukes of Norfolk had the castle of Framlingham as their family seat. In this period Framlingham was described as "warehouse of East Anglia". Not only was the castle a strong centre of defence but its very presence attracted people of importance and commercial activity (mainly concerned with the servicing of the castle) on a very grand scale. The story of the castle, and the history of Framlingham in the middle ages, has been well documented by the local historian John Ridgard. By the time with which this study is concerned, Framlingham had lost that degree of significance, but it remained a busy and resilient community. When the Dukes of Norfolk decided to sell the castle it was purchased by Sir Robert Hitcham and so this story can really be said to have begun.

In order to give some indication of the size and significance of Framlingham through the years I quote population figures furnished by Wendy Cole (1990): 1080-120, 1327-52 tax payers, 1524-85 tax payers, 1603-449 adults (this includes the parish of Saxtead), 1801-1854, 1831-2445, 1851-2450, 1871-2569, 1901-2562, 1931-2101, 1951-1943, 1971-2258, 1981-2190. In the seventeenth century, when our study effectively begins, the town still considered itself to be a borough. It could refer back to a survey made in the time of Edward VI which clearly recorded its status thus. Loader (page 417) quotes *How Loes Hundred is taxed to Queen Anne* showing at this time the annual tax upon manors, messuages, lands, etc. For the town of Framlingham it was £251 9 shillings as opposed to £210 4 shillings and 5 pence for Woodbridge. This indicates the importance and size of Framlingham in its earlier history. Woodbridge is now a larger town than Framlingham.

Sir Robert Hitcham

Sir Robert Hitcham is one of the important characters connected with the history of Framlingham. His tomb is still to be found in Framlingham Church among the illustrious monuments to the Howard family. Sir Robert was a local Suffolk boy who had made good. He was born at Levington in 1571, and after education at North Gate School, Ipswich and Pembroke College, Cambridge, he entered the Inns of Court. A contemporary and friend of Francis Bacon, he rose to be Attorney General to the Queen Consort of King James the first and then Serjeant of Law to King Charles the first. He retired to Suffolk to Seckford Hall, perhaps glad to have escaped the intensity of political activity at Whitehall. He may also have been unwell, for having bought Framlingham Castle for the sum of £14,000 in 1635, he lived only one more year.

When his will was published it included provisions which changed the life of Framlingham in various ways. He ordained that the rich inheritance he left behind should be devoted to the following causes: a school was to be created at Framlingham, for forty boys from Framlingham, Debenham and Coggeshall. Almshouses were to be founded at Framlingham and at Levington. He instructed that the internal buildings in the Castle should be dismantled and sold. The income from this was to be added to the substantial amounts that were forthcoming from rentals on the extensive land which he bequeathed to Pembroke, his beloved college, which was to be the trustee body of his will.

The Sir Robert Hitcham School in the seventeenth century

Loader explains the provisions of the will. Forty boys were to receive a free education.

None can be admitted but those whose parents belong to the parish and are members of the Church of England. Their education is confined to reading, writing and arithmetic. The scholars were not supplied with any books at the expense of the trust. A master was to be appointed who should make a report to the trustees at the quarterly meetings of the state of the school and the conduct of the boys.

Loader, who quotes Sir Robert's will in full, additionally advises us that the master was to have a salary of £40 a year and that the pupils were to be the poorest children of the town. The master was also authorised to give £10 to each of them to bind them apprentice.

It proved to be a difficult will to enforce. Indeed the people of Framlingham contested it. The will was unworkable in the sense that Sir Robert seemed to wish that children from Debenham (10 miles distant) and Coggeshall (45 miles distant) should come within the provision of the one school. The issue was sent to Whitehall for a decision. An interesting document exists (see appendix A.) in which Henry Scobell, Clerk to the Council to Cromwell writes the judgement. Cromwell and his officials seem to have solved the problem by deciding that each place should have its own school. To this day there is a Sir Robert Hitcham School at Debenham and a building with the Sir Robert Hitcham crest can be seen in the High Street of Coggeshall, though that place no longer has a Sir Robert Hitcham School as such. Something else which seems to have been added by this judgement was that the Master should confine his duties to teaching grammar and that an Under Master or Usher should be appointed, at a salary of £20 per annum, to teach reading, writing, and the casting of accounts. The income of Sir Robert's estate should also make provision *to maintain such of the grammar scholars at the University of Cambridge* (Green's italics) as they should think fit and the Master and Fellows of the college should admit and allow of. In a footnote Green (page 112) notes:

grammar has never been taught, nor have many scholars ever been admitted to the college: the will, it is to be observed, does not go to this extent.

The first master appointed was one Zaccheus Leverland. Leverland, who had formerly been a Clerk in the Herald's Office, served in this role between 1653 and 1673. Leverland was an amateur historian upon whose work Loader and Green subsequently drew for their own histories. What kind of schoolmaster he was we can only guess. No details exist of how the school actually operated at this time. We can only assume that it was similar to descriptions and pictures of other charity schools of the time. The school was in the centre of the town on the Market Hill. Green (page 183) states:

the school was originally kept in an upper room of belonging to the Market Cross, a large building formerly standing upon the Market Hill, but the college [Pembroke] having, in 1788, ordered it to be taken down, a new and more commodious School House was erected contiguous to Sir Robert Hitcham's alms houses, standing at the Western extremity of the mere.

We shall consider the significance of the last part of this last sentence shortly, but the quotation from Green tells us several interesting things. Framlingham was clearly like other medieval towns of its size and character in having a market square with a market cross. The trustees moved the pupils into the upper room of the Market Cross, and here they stayed until 1788.

In fact a footnote on page 187 of Green gives us even more interesting evidence taking us further back into the history of Framlingham and its education. In the part of his book where he writes about the Guildhall of Framlingham he makes the following footnote:

It is evident from this that previous to the founding of Sir Robert Hitcham's trust there had been a parochial or some other Foundation School, and which was in existence as late as 1632, as Shene, the Churchwarden, then enters a payment relative to it thus:- It. to Baldry for removing the old seates (not saying from whence) into the school house, etc., 4s. and 6d.

The Guild Hall remains to this day looking over the Market Hill, being situated on its northern side. Green had attempted to unravel the history of the Guild (of St Mary) with a limited degree of success.

Green (pages 183-4) lists the names of the masters who followed Leverland. In many cases these were ordained clergymen. Sir Robert had also made provision in the will for a Readership. This was an appointment for a person to read morning and evening prayers with the inhabitants of the Sir Robert Hitcham almshouses. For the next 200 years the Reader was often also the Master of the school.

The school during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

The school ceased to be sited on the Market Hill in 1788. An interesting story accompanies this change. In that year the citizens of the town petitioned Pembroke College to move the school. In their letter to the College they write as follows:-

the schoolroom is an improper one being low and much exposed to heat and cold. The situation is inconvenient being in the heart of the town and the children have no place to retire when necessity occasions [to go to the toilet] and so, much annoyance and disturbance is caused to the inhabitants of the town.

Pembroke acceded to this request and a new school building was built at the end of the almshouses in New Road. This building which was built at right angles to the almshouses, which had been built in 1654 still stands today. Pupils going into school pass it each morning for it is alongside the rear school drive. Today it serves the function of being the meeting place of the freemasons of Framlingham.

One imagines that education in this building continued much as it had done when the school was on the Market Hill. It was still sited in this building when Loader and Green wrote their histories. The early directories of Framlingham also refer to its existence.

A new possibility clearly presented itself to the officers of St Michael's Church at this time. The late eighteenth century was the time of the Sunday school movement by Robert Raikes. Another petition was sent to Pembroke College requesting that the new school building should be used to house a Sunday school. In an age when Sunday school attendance has all but completely ceased, it is interesting to read what going to Sunday school was like 200 years ago:

the master or mistress [in fact there were both, one for boys, one for girls] shall teach and instruct such children to read in the Holy Scriptures and to learn and repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, the collects and catechism from the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England.

During the winter, school began at nine o'clock and ended at four, in the summer it was from eight o'clock until six o'clock. And in between they had to go to Church twice, to the morning and afternoon service.

Green in 1834 and the directories indicate a varied pattern of educational provision for Framlingham during the early part of the nineteenth century. The summary I here quote is that in the *Victoria County History* for Suffolk which in the year 1833 listed the schools in Framlingham as follows:-

one endowed School (by Thomas Mills) 55 attend (15 of those free), 5 infants' day schools (78 attend), two daily schools (47 attend), three boarding schools (64 girls attend), one Sunday school (established Church) endowed by Robert Hitcham (94 attend), one Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school (107 attend), one Unitarian Sunday school (57 attend) and one independent Sunday school (120 attend) girls free school established (date unknown) in existence (1844), 84 attend.

This information is confusing and does not match all the directories that I have examined.* It is nevertheless valuable information insofar as it indicates how varied the provision in Framlingham was at this time. What is clearly indicated by the information is first that there was a separate school for girls linked to the Sir Robert Hitcham school and second the very strong presence of non-conformity in the town, which was exercising a powerful pressure for educational provision.

Whilst the forty boys were being educated in the school attached to the almshouses, a school for girls, presumably those whose families had affiliation to the Church of England, was in existence in the poor house of the Castle. The mistress of the school was Dinah Tucker. To what extent this was helped by Sir Robert Hitcham money is difficult to establish. The non-conformist school set up under the provisions of the will of Thomas Mills deserves special mention and plays an important part in the story of education in Framlingham in the nineteenth century.

Thomas Mills rates as the second great benefactor to Framlingham. Indeed today, his bequest provides more income for the causes of the town than that of Sir Robert Hitcham. The story of Thomas Mills is documented in the book by John and Faith Packard published by East Anglian Magazines Ltd. Thomas Mills was a successful businessman and a Baptist local preacher. There are almshouses in the town bearing

* The listings contained in provincial directories are far from exhaustive. *Editor*

his name, and the present comprehensive school of Framlingham is named after him. We shall explain how this happened later in the study, but at this stage it is necessary to consider the impact that non-conformity had for education in Framlingham at this time. It will be best illustrated when we describe later how the trustees of Sir Robert Hitcham responded to the 1870 Education Act.

The Albert Memorial College (known as Framlingham College)

The College was Framlingham's response to the death of Prince Albert. Perhaps it ought more properly to be seen as the response of the gentry of East Suffolk or maybe the whole county. The *East Anglian Daily Times* of 29th March 1862 carried an article as follows:-

On Wednesday evening last, a meeting was held proposing to send to the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke College praying for their assistance in the aid of the middle class college. It contained 250 signatures of the clergy, gentry and trades people of Framlingham. We sincerely hope they will grant our request.

By the 12th April 1862 the newspaper was able to publish a list of subscribers to the cause headed by the Earl of Stradbroke giving £500, and these lists continued in subsequent issues. On the 31st May 1862, a reply from Pembroke College had been received, and the following was printed:-

We are happy to learn that the Masters and Fellows of Pembroke College have made the most liberal offer to the executive committee of the Suffolk Albert Memorial, namely a site for the building and £200 annually. There appears to be nothing wanting but the power to appropriate this money and land belonging to Sir Robert Hitcham Estate, to this purpose Sir F Kelly has, we believe, undertaken to carry the case through the Chancery Court. We anxiously await the issue.

To what extent this decision was in line with the original intentions of Sir Robert Hitcham will remain a question for debate. The subsequent history of the Albert Memorial College, now a boarding public school for boys and, since the early 1980's, for girls, is a separate issue for study. Its activity as an institution has at various times and in various ways impinged upon the life of the Sir Robert Hitcham School. A few pupils in some years have moved on from the Sir Robert Hitcham School to become pupils of Framlingham College. In the period 1944 to 1974 boys passing the eleven plus examination went to Framlingham College on a scholarship basis. The public school lends help to the Sir Robert Hitcham school in various ways and invites the head teacher to annual speech days.

Debates in Framlingham about the way forward

The quickening pace of development and interest in educational provision generally at the national level was reflected in Framlingham at a meeting of the Framlingham Mutual Society reported in the *Framlingham Weekly News* for the 5th February 1870. The subject chosen for this 25th annual meeting of the society was "Education". F S Corrance, MP, was in the chair. J Hammond L1.B. of Mary St Elms, Ipswich, was present as the main speaker and said he was pleased to come to Framlingham because of its interest in education. He explained that there were two schemes before the country, the League and the Union. In his view the League system had been tried in

Prussia and had failed, it was expensive and produced a lower class of teachers. As regards religion, he would not see that it should be discontinued. At the present time there were between three and four hundred parishes in England without schools and not within a mile of having them. He said, "Let us get more into school"; he favoured the Union approach.

The Reverend S Browning (who, according to *White's Directory 1874* was in charge of the day school on Woodbridge Road) disagreed with both. He said, "Have Bible teaching, stamp out sectarianism but 'put up' with the Roman Catholic element". Mr William Hill (the Master of the Thomas Mills non-conformist school) announced himself as a teacher of forty years standing. He used an odd but memorable phrase "too much in the custard", but said "Yes, keep the Bible". The Reverend T Cooper looked back many years to the time when in the old town of Framlingham, both the Rector, the curate and the local gentry of the town were opposed to educating the poor or lower-classes, he was pleased it had changed. He suggested, "Keep the parson out, let parents teach the religion". He supported the League or perhaps a compromise between League and Union.

The *Framlingham Weekly News* for the 19th May 1871 announced that petitions in favour of an unsectarian education had been signed by citizens of Framlingham hoping that Mr Forster will take notice. How the debate in Framlingham continued during the 1870's I have been unable to ascertain well, though I have consulted issues of the *Framlingham Weekly News* during this period. The crucial year seems to have been 1877 for *White's Directory 1892* records that

the scheme of 1877 also provides for payment by Mill's trustees of £300 a year to the governing body of Sir Robert Hitcham's almshouses and schools, which body was increased to 15 members, the eight additional being appointed, four by Pembroke College and four by the trustees of the Mill's charity.

The Packards in their book (pages 52-53) give the background to this story from the non-conformist point of view. In 1875, the Mill's charity trustees had written to the Charity Commissioners saying that they had about £100 available annually for Education. They planned that on the forthcoming retirement of Mr William Hill, they would spend this money, plus £850 invested in Consols, to give education for girls of all classes in the parish, as they did not intend to educate any more boys. The scheme was turned down by the Commissioners in 1877 in favour of their own scheme, which included the closure of the school at Framlingham Castle (that is the Sir Robert Hitcham School for girls held there, as previously mentioned).

The Packards go on to say how the uniting of the two schools was not welcomed by the dissenters in the town. They felt it unjust that £300 should be taken annually from a fund left by a Baptist for the education of Framlingham children of any denomination to be appropriated to Church of England purposes. Mr John Browne, a non-conformist minister at Wrentham is quoted as saying, "Old Thomas Mills would turn over in his grave to find his money applied to such purpose". Shortly we shall examine how they got their own way, causing difficulty for the operation of the Sir Robert Hitcham School.

A new Sir Robert Hitcham School (1879)

This study now reaches the stage where documentary evidence becomes much more available to present a clear picture of what was happening. In the school archives (which are now held by the Lanman Museum) is the Governor's minute book which begins with the record of the meeting held at the Crown Hotel, Framlingham, Thursday November 7th 1878. There is much mention of how the governing body will apply the appropriate clauses of the scheme. Even clearer is a surviving copy, much dilapidated, of the original bye-law signed by the chairman and the clerk of the Plomesgate Union which established the school. (see appendix B.)

At their meeting on the 21st November 1878, the Governors resolved to place an advertisement in *The Times*, *The Daily News*, *The Schoolmaster* and *The School Board Chronicle*. By the meeting of the 18th December they had spotted the candidate who was eventually to become the first headmaster of the new school. By the meeting on January 1st, Mr Edward G Warren of Deeping St James in Norfolk had been interviewed and judged to be a very satisfactory candidate.

There was already a new building to accommodate the school, located on a piece of land behind the almshouses and the site of the previous school. It was at the time called the White Horse Meadow (to this day it is opposite the White Horse public house) and was Sir Robert Hitcham Trust land. Various accounting details are recorded in the Governor's minute book, but no information is available of the actual cost of the new building. We know that it was made of local red brick (by the local builders, Mallows) because photographs exist of it as it was in the early twentieth century. As will be recorded later, in 1937 the building was substantially remodelled removing the upper storey of the 1879 building. To this day some of that building stands with distinctive flower patterned bricks used as decoration as in some of the housing of the late nineteenth century elsewhere in Framlingham. The Governor's minute book entry for the 18th December 1878 records as follows:-

It was resolved that the members of the Governing Body, then present, be the School Committee, and that they be empowered to carry out at once the minor requirements and that the fencing, draining, gravelling and other requisites necessary to complete the school buildings and grounds, be commenced as soon as a favourable answer is received from Pembroke College offering a certain sum in aid of the above.

On the 10th March 1879 the school is opened. Mr Warren (who was to stay until 1910) himself acted as Headmaster of the three separate schools; the boys' school, the girls' school and the infants' school. He was additionally in charge of the boys' school and declared himself with a flourish on the first page of his log book. His wife became the mistress of the girls' school. Miss Smeed was the mistress of the infants' school and her first entry in her log book was on the 14th March 1879 as follows:-

commenced work in the Framlingham infants School 10th March 1879. 36 children Attended Monday morning. Highest number 45; ten of whom know their letters. Children exceedingly backward, none of them are able to write letters or figures.

The log books of all three schools provide rich details of life in a late nineteenth century elementary school. Details of the syllabi are listed, there are the reports of the visiting inspectors, both the H M I (A J Swinburne is a name which appears for several years) and the Diocesan inspector. The schools consistently attracted favourable reports. From time to time of the leaders of the schools record instances where they had cause to punish children. Mr Warren seemed firm but fair, and his governing body backed him when he took a disciplinary stand. He certainly found the Suffolk country boys with whom he worked stubborn and sometimes resistant to his discipline. He found it necessary to inter-change with his assistant Mr Francis, both to improve the discipline and the performance in the standards in different parts of his school.

Attendance at school at this time was dependent upon the payment of fees. At their meeting on the 22nd January 1879 the governors fixed fees as follows:-

Labourers:	one child - 2d	family - 3d	
Assistant mechanics:	first child - 3d	second child - 2d	remainder - 1d each
Trades men and farmers:	first child - 6d	second child - 4d	remainder - 2d each

The staffing of the schools can be assessed by careful analysis of the log books but another good guide is the payment schedules from the Governors minute book.

Warren E. G. - £25, McBain A. V. - £12.10s, Cooper W. - £12.10 [assistant masters]
 O'Neil W. - £1.1, Fairweather W. - £1.1 (pupil teachers) [staff members of the boys' school]
 Warren O. - £17.10, Woolnough E. - £7.10, Clow E. - £2.2, Vice E. - £1.1 [staff of the girls' school]
 Falshaw A.L. - £15, Smith J. - £2.10 [staff of the infants' school]
 Laurie J.L. [the mistress of Saxtead School] - £12.6s.

These details are taken from the minute book for the 8th October 1884. The payments represent one quarter of a year's salary for each individual. It will be noted that provision is made for the school at Saxtead. This was an added consideration for the Governors. Saxtead has long been linked with Framlingham and was part of the estate of the castle inherited and passed on by Sir Robert Hitcham. The Governors were therefore bound to make provision for the education of its children. A separate Saxtead elementary school existed until it was closed in 1954, when its pupils began to attend the Framlingham school. The above accounts also mention the "school pence" being the fees paid in accordance to the schedule mentioned above.

The operation of the schools continued to progress in much the same way as regards the Governors until 1903, when a new minute book commenced with the following entry:-

The first meeting of the new Managers under the Education Act of 1902 was held at the Schools on Monday, July 6th 1903. Six *managers* were appointed, four foundation Managers, one by the parish council and one by East Suffolk County Council.

This was a pattern of management that was to continue until the legislation of the Conservative government of the nineteen-eighties.

Secondary Education in Framlingham

Whilst this is primarily a history of the Sir Robert Hitcham School, the development of secondary education in the town had an obvious bearing on the story of the school. In fact, of course, the elementary school was serving the function of teaching children during the first part of the century, who, since 1944 have been deemed to be "secondary school pupils". The first development was the establishment of the Mills Grammar School for Girls which functioned in Framlingham from 1902 to 1979.

It will be remembered that the Mills Trustees on behalf of the non-conformist population of Framlingham were unhappy about paying money to an institution they (with justification) regarded as a Church of England establishment. The Mills Trustees had continued to petition the Charity Commissioners to reverse their original ruling that their money should go to the Sir Robert Hitcham School, and succeeded in retaining it to save towards the establishment of a girls' school. The *Framlingham Weekly News* of 20th July 1901 announced that, "the scheme is now maturing and a school will be built at a cost of £1,550".

This development placed pressure upon the trustees of the Sir Robert Hitcham School which now began to run at a loss. There is a gap in minute books for this crucial period but the *Framlingham Weekly News* again furnishes us with the necessary information. In an article entitled "The Collapse of the Voluntary System" in the 1st June 1901 issue, the paper explains how the defection of the Mills had affected the scheme for the elementary school. There was an annual deficit of £414.19s.10d against an expenditure of £1007.3s.3d. Appeals to the ratepayers had not helped. Could the school continue in its voluntary role? The question of handing over the school to board would have to be considered. My exploration of the *Framlingham Weekly News* has not yet furnished me with an answer of how this issue was resolved. The managers who first met in 1903 do not mention the problem, and their minute book has only small-scale details of expenditure, not including teachers' salaries. This does suggest that they had lost responsibility for these payments, and thereby it was virtually a board school.

The story moves forward to 1937 when the East Suffolk Education Committee resolved to establish a secondary modern school in Framlingham. This was an early move towards the development which was to be national policy in the wake of the 1944 Education Act. The consequence for the Sir Robert Hitcham School was the remodelling referred to earlier. The log book of the boys' school announces how the school would be closed for seven weeks to enable rebuilding to take place. On 20th August 1937, the following entry occurs:- "I, John Platts, opened the new Framlingham Junior School at 9a.m.". Now one log book tells the story for the entire school; it had become a co-educational school for five to eleven year old pupils.

One final significant detail in the history of the school is recorded in the Managers' minute book for the 5th December 1950. In that year the Rev. M Bulstrode was appointed to the living of Framlingham, and immediately seems to have decided that the opportunity to acquire voluntary-aided status for the school should be taken. This was a possibility under the provision of the 1944 Education Act. If a church which had a school linked to it historically, could furnish twenty five percent of the capital

cost of the establishment, it could apply for voluntary-aided status with the attendant privileges of appointment of staff and control of the syllabus for Religious Education.

There was a joint meeting of the Hitcham Trustees and the managers at the Rectory when the decision to apply was taken. The immediate problem was to raise £13,000. It was decided that this was possible. One contribution was made by Rev. Bulstrode who offered the fee payable to the Reader (£50 p.a.) for which provision had been made under the will of Sir Robert Hitcham. The school would enter the "Barchester Scheme" of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, whereby loans were accessible specifically for the maintenance of voluntary-aided schools.

It could now be said that the school had returned to something of the status that was implicit in the original foundation. There was, however, one strange outcome of this particular process in the story of the school. When the application was made the school lost the name of Sir Robert Hitcham. When I was appointed in 1979 it was to "Framlingham Primary School". The managers expressed to me the wish that the historic name be restored. It appealed to my sense of history, and I was pleased that when I made application to the Education Committee this in fact happened, so that for the majority of my incumbency, I was the headteacher of "Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School, Framlingham".

The story of the school in the last thirty years has been one of growth in size, both in terms of buildings and in pupil numbers, not to speak of reputation. A significant development in the 1980's modernised the school providing modern classrooms, a spacious school hall, and a kitchen so that for the first time meals could be cooked on site. Further extensions have developed the White Horse Meadow site to its ultimate. Now the school roll is in excess of 300 pupils, boys and girls, a far development from the provisions of Sir Robert Hitcham's will for a school of forty seventeenth century boys.

List of sources

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Sir Robert Hitcham School. Managers' minute book 1903-1979

Ibid. Boys School log-book 1879-1894, 1937

Ibid. Infants School log-book 1879-1898

An Ordinance settling and confirming the Mannors of Saxtead and Framlingham
(1654) (Appendix A.)

Plomesgate Union. Bye-law (1879) (Appendix B.)

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Green, R. *History, typography and antiquities of Framlingham and Saxtead* (1834)

Kirby, J. *The Suffolk traveller* (1734)

Loader, R. *The History of Framingham* (1798)

Packard, J. and F. *Thomas Mills, Suffolk Baptist and benefactor*

Reeve, S. *Stanley Reeve recalls* (1995)

Gives details of his headship of Framlingham Secondary Modern School, 1937-1941.

Lambert's Almanac (various years in early twentieth century)

Kelly's Directory (various years)

Victoria County History of Suffolk (1911)

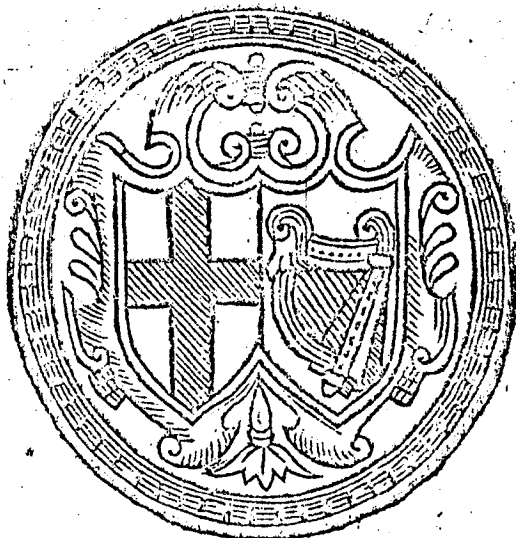
White's Directory (various years)

Midwinter, E. *Nineteenth century education* (1970)

Northeast, P. *The Suffolk Review* (1981)

AN
ORDINANCE

For settling and confirming of the Mannors of
Framlingham & Saxtead
In the County of *Suffolk*, and the Lands,
Tenements and Hereditaments thereunto belong-
ing, devised by
Sir Robert Hitcham, K^{ght}.
And late Serjeant at Law, to certain charitable uses.



Monday March 20. 1653.
Ordered by His Highness the Lord Protector, and his Council, That this
Ordinance be forthwith printed and published.
HENRY SCORRELL Clerk of the Council

London, Printed by Henry Hills and William du-Gard Print-
ers to His Highness the Lord Protector, 1654.

BYE LAWS

MADE UNDER

Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, as amended by the Elementary Education Act, 1876,

For the PARISH OF FRAMLINGHAM, in the County of Suffolk, by the School Attendance Committee of the Plumessgate Union.

Definitions.

1. In these Bye-laws

The Term "district" means the Parish of Framlingham.

The term "child" means a child residing in the district.

The term "school" means a certified efficient school.

"Attendance" means an attendance at a morning or afternoon meeting as defined by the Code of 1876.

The "Code of 1876" means the Code of Minutes of the Educational Department made in the year 1876 with respect to the Parliamentary Grant to Public Elementary Schools in England.

The term "Local Authority" means the Local Authority for the district acting for the time being under the Elementary Education Act, 1876.

Children to attend school.

2. The parent of every child of not less than 5, nor more than 13, years of age, shall cause such child to attend school, unless there be a reasonable excuse for non-attendance.

Reasonable Excuse.

Any of the following reasons shall be a reasonable excuse, namely:—

(a) That the child is under efficient instruction in some other manner.

(b) That the child has been prevented from attending school by sickness or any unavoidable cause.

(c) That there is no Public Elementary School open which the child can attend within three miles, measured according to the nearest road from the residence of such child.

Time of attendance.

3. The time during which every child shall attend school shall be the whole time for which the school selected shall be open for the instruction of children of similar age, including the day fixed by Her Majesty's Inspector for his annual visit.

Provision as to religion and labour Acts.

4. Provided always that nothing in these Bye Laws—

(a) Shall prevent the withdrawal of any child from any religious observance or instruction in religious subjects;

(b) Shall require any child to attend school on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which its parents belong; or

(c) Shall have any force or effect in so far as it may be contrary to anything contained in any Act for regulating the education of children employed in labour.

Provision as to standard for exemption.

5. And provided always that—

(a) A child between ten and thirteen years of age shall not be required to attend school if such child has received a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools that it has reached the *Fourth Standard* prescribed by the Code of 1876.

(b) A child between ten and thirteen years of age shown to the satisfaction of the Local Authority to be beneficially and necessarily employed shall not be required to attend school for more than 150 attendances in each year, if such child has received a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools that it has reached the *Third Standard* prescribed by the Code of 1876.

Penalty.

6. Every parent who shall not observe, or shall neglect or violate these Bye Laws, or any of them, shall, upon conviction, be liable to a penalty, not exceeding, with the costs, five shillings for each offence.

The above Bye Laws were made by the School Attendance Committee of the Plumessgate Union, at a meeting held on the 26th day of May, 1879.

G. F. POOLEY,

Chairman.

CHARLES H. READ,

Clerk.

FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE

By Andrew Lovejoy

(This brief survey was presented to the Castle Studies Group of London on 9 April 2011 at Framlingham Castle.)

There has been a castle on this site since 1100 when Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and a cousin of William 1st, built a Motte and Bailey castle here. We do not know exactly what that castle looked like, but essentially it would have consisted of a mound surmounted by a palisade and a fortified square tower. That castle, as a result of the Bigod's participation in national political affairs in the twelfth century, was pulled down on the orders of Henry 2nd in 1175. It was the second castle on this site by another Bigod, between 1190 and 1210, which we can admire today. Its cost must have been phenomenal, for at that time the comparable castle at Orford cost £1413.10s.10d to build, a huge sum in those days.

The present castle is a curtain wall castle. Towards the end of the twelfth century such curtain wall castles were built of stone and therefore expensive. Framlingham Castle was one of the first castles of its kind to be constructed in England. The castle was built with five different kinds of stone. It consists of thirteen towers and the walls stand forty feet high. The walls' foundations extend fourteen feet into the ground and the walls are eight feet thick. It took fifty-two men to man the castle walls in times of warfare. Only on one occasion was the castle caught up in warlike activities, when King John, besieged the castle on Saturday 12th March 1216. The castle soon surrendered.

The study of Framlingham Castle would not be understood if no mention was made of the seigneurial occupants of the castle between 1190 and 1530. The Bigods up to 1306, Thomas Brotherton, son of Edward 1st, until his death in 1338, the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk between 1399 and 1481, and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk until circa 1530, ensured that all roads led to Framlingham. Framlingham Castle became one of the social centres of East Anglia. To give a detailed history of those persons and their residence here in Framlingham would take some time to relate. We can at least say that the noble residents of the castle spent most of their time between the Royal Court in London and Framlingham and their vast estates. Much of their history is of a national nature and does not here concern us. The castle with its full complement of officers and staff must have had a large influence on the development of Framlingham. It has seen many outstanding social events. King John visited the castle, newly built in 1213, and Edward 1st (1272-1307) certainly came there. It should be noted that Framlingham was the headquarters for the economic aspects of the Bigods, Brothertons, Mowbrays and Howards vast estates. The turnover of the warehouses of the Brotherton's time at Framlingham in the fourteenth century, amounted to over two thousand pounds a year - a vast sum in today's terms. It is worth remembering that the Bigods were the fifth richest family in England in 1165, and the 3rd Howard Duke of Norfolk (1473-1554) was the richest person in England after Henry VIII. There were times when the occupants of the castle caught the headlines. The Kew Public Record Office and the archives of the Dukes of Norfolk at

Arundel tell it all. That, of course, was between circa 1100 and circa 1530, the latter date being that of the abandonment of the castle by Thomas Howard 3rd Duke of Norfolk for a more comfortable residence at Kenning Hall, near Diss in Norfolk.

Perhaps the castles apogee was reached with the presence in the castle of Princess Mary Tudor between 12th and 24th July 1553. She raised her standard there with a view to claiming the throne of England in opposition to Lady Jane Grey and the Duke of Northumberland. Mary's rebellion was the only one in Tudor times that led to the defeat of the central government. Details of her stay here were published in 1554 by Robert Wingfield of Brantham, Suffolk, in his book *Vita Mariae Reginae*. That book, in Latin, has fortunately been translated into English. It is a dramatic story which brings out all the atmosphere of living in those dangerous times.

The story of the castle as a domestic residence really ends with the 3rd Howard Duke of Norfolk electing to move permanently to his new palace at Kenning Hall. The castle fell into decay, though it was a prison for recusant priests in Elizabeth's reign. In 1635 the castle was sold by the Howards for £14,000 to a very senior lawyer, Sir Robert Hitcham. He died in 1636. His will was ratified by parliament in 1653, and from then on, as Sir Robert's will required, the buildings within the walls of the castle were removed. Anthony Sampson removed, at that time, 125 loads of stone for £5.8s.8d.

We know, in detail, the juxtaposition of the various buildings within the castle grounds from two sources. The 2nd Howard Duke of Norfolk died in the castle on the 21st May 1524. His will, and attached inventory, assists us in realising the richness of the contents of each room within the castle grounds. The history of Framlingham Castle, before the interior buildings were removed from 1656 onwards, is detailed in Henry Sampson's description in his book published in 1663. Henry Sampson was Framlingham's first local historian and Rector of Framlingham during the Commonwealth period 1650-1660.

In the castle grounds there are the remains of a Poor House, which was finally completed in 1729. The castle has been used as a general meeting facility especially since the Poor House closed in 1837. The local militia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had their headquarters there. Even the 12th Duke of Hamilton, living in nearby Easton in December 1879, ordered thirty carpenters to convert the castle into a fairy castle for the purposes of holding a rather splendid ball there. Dancing continued for hours and the Duke of Manchester, the father-in-law to the 12th Duke of Hamilton, was the honoured guest. The band of the Suffolk Regiment provided the musical content of the evening.

The Ministry of Works took over the day to day running of the castle in 1913, which saw the development of the castle in its present guise. More recently English Heritage have developed the castle into a major tourist attraction in East Anglia. Over 60,000 people visit the castle annually. Whether you are a child, student, castle expert, academic or an average adult, your presence here is expressing your liking of a massive piece of architecture, over nine hundred years old, clearly Framlingham Castle has a bright future.

Let the last word be with The Lord Deben (the former Rt Hon John Gummer, PC, MP) and Lord William Whitelaw, KT, PC, who stood together on the lawn of Framlingham College observing the castle, when they agreed that their view of Framlingham Castle was one of the finest in England.

CORRESPONDENCE

15.3.11

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Dear Editor

A few days ago, the aerial picture of Framlingham Castle, in The Daily Telegraph, brought back many memories, some good, but definitely, some not so good! The latter: when as vice-captain of Mills Grammar School hockey team, I had to take our visiting team up and along the walls of The Castle. Having always lived in flat Suffolk, actually born in The D'Urbans Farm, Fram, I did NOT like heights one little bit - was I glad to get the girls down!

But - a Good memory. In 1931 I was a rose-girl, in The Pageant and had to scatter rose-petals at the passing Duke of Norfolk (and he WAS The Duke of Norfolk!) as he rode by on his enormous black horse.

My brother, Arthur R. Staniforth (now in hospital in Oxford) went to Fram. College. I've found the Fram. December 2002. I think you must have sent it to him, which he then forwarded to me.

In there, is the magnificent picture of Charrington.
But, oh dear! He REALLY was The Duke of Norfolk.
In 1931 I was only eight years old.
Lots more memories were brought back.

Yours sincerely
Patricia M. Staniforth

DEPARTURE POINT

... the historian's craft [is]... akin to the cryogenic trade - warming up the frozen history of the archive until it begins to talk. Such a delicate procedure is usually best performed by hand.

From: Tristram Hunt, "Online is fine, but history is best hand on", in *Observer*, 3 July 2011.

“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**

LECTURES

VISITS

CAMPAIGNS

PUBLICATIONS

Join our Society and make history

BETTER