

LOOT Johannes Rozier was Henry VIII's Captain of Horse at the siege of Boulogne in 1544 and he did rather well out of the pillage. He bought the house now known as Wistaria Cottage, Hacheston, which is rather more than a cottage. Rozier applied to the College of Heralds for a crest but was not granted one. Nevertheless he continued to use a crest and even represented it on the side of his house where it remains to this day. The present owner, Mr Gordon Hardy, found beside a beam by the fireplace two interesting relics, viz. a letter from the Curate of Saxtead to Rozier and a bill from Mrs Rozier's dressmaker, both documents over 400 years old and now in the County archives at Ipswich. There are several Roziers living in Suffolk today. (Mr GEO.COOPER)

CRINKLE-CRANKLES Building a wall in wavy fashion certainly makes it interesting (and probably saves bricks — one thick against two thick). The longest is at Easton though today unhappily breached; another is at Bramfield, and there is even a short length behind Steggall's shop on Market Hill and another short length behind Mrs Fulcher's bungalow in Mount Pleasant. In a recent talk the Editor of *THE EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE* mentioned that the crinkle-crinkle seems to be a Suffolk speciality, there being forty examples in the county but only twenty in the rest of England.

WOMEN DRIVERS Readers of the London *TIMES* have recently been treated to some correspondence about Queen Boadicea (our district was within her territory). It started with a reference to the statue below Big Ben in that she had her right arm out but was turning left (or was it the other way round?) — a real woman driver's action. A reply came that obviously Boadicea was doing it to confuse the just too logically-minded Romans. Yet another reply was that the fault lay not with the Queen but with the sculptor, obviously a man, who portrayed her in a false position. And there the matter rests — though we can still wonder that she could control the plunging horses by willpower alone, not having any reins.

SMUGGLING MEMORIES A Laxfield farmer was at work in his fields in that lovely part of High Suffolk when he had a presentiment. At least this is what he called it and not by any means a twinge of conscience. He went home, removed some tubs of gin which were stored away in one of his chambers and sank them in a pond. He then returned to work and looking back shortly afterwards he was in no way disconcerted to see the heads of some Excise Officers thrust out of one of his upper windows. ... a memory of the 1800's from "A WINDOW IN SUFFOLK" (Jobson)

CHARITY AT HOME Our civilisation has been evolving gradually over the years to reach a higher standard than any other — for the vast majority though improvements are still possible. Much of the progress has been due to our development of the use of money, its storing and re-use to finance large enterprises. In our district our farms have developed, in about a century, from the subsistence level (i.e. simply feeding the farmers' and workers' families) to the money economy whereby manufactured goods and amenities can be bought in addition. A glimpse of the world before that was seen, by the kindness of Canon Bulstrode, in the form of the Mills Charity chest wherein at one time documents and probably cash were stored. About nine feet long and of unbelievable weight it has seven locks, i.e. one for each trustee. In other words, all seven trustees had to be present to open the 'strong room'. The smaller parish chest, three hasps and locks, may date from 1400.

ACCOMMODATION UNITS In the Crowfield area there are several farms built in the 1600's — 1600 AD to a standard pattern (originally each with 40 acres) by the Shrubland Hall Estate. The one visited had withstood the ravages of time well no doubt by reason of the intelligent care given to it by the present and previous owners. The rooms are quite large and lofty, with many exposed beams in ceilings and walls. The bedrooms still have the hand-hewn oak floor-boards. The building is protected as being of historical interest. (Mrs MAY SHANKS)

WHY POLLARDING ? There are still many pollarded willows along our streams, e.g. the Alde from Badingham to Rendham and beyond. It is probable that there are several reasons for pollarding. The straight limbs were ideal for fence-posts and rails. Ralph Wightman in his book '*RURAL RIDES*' gives another reason. The limbs were cut into uniform short lengths, stored in stacks like cornstacks and used as fuel for baking ovens.

EA's INFLUENCE ON
THE US

Our churchwarden Nicholas Danforth who emigrated to New England in 1634 was no penniless emigrant. This is what Cotton Mather (1663-1728) the New England minister and historian wrote of him...

"... a gentleman of such estate and repute in the world that it cost him a considerable sum to escape the Knighthood which King Charles the First imposed on all of so much per annum ... at Framlingham in Suffolk where he had a fine mansion." Today, standing midway between our town and Saxtead Green, it is a pleasant farmhouse of average size but in Danforth's time it would have been outstanding in comparison with other contemporary houses many of them of clay lump i.e. earth. Nicholas sailed from London in the ship 'GRIFFIN' with six children - Elizabeth, Anna, Thomas, Lydia, Samuel and Jonathan. Anna became Mrs Matthew Bridge, their daughter married Capt. Benjamin Garfield and was ancestress of James Garfield, President of the USA. Nicholas died 1638. His eldest son Thomas was first Treasurer of Harvard University (1654-69) and died in 1699 after nearly fifty years of public life as Judge, Governor and in other capacities. The second son, ^{RGS}Samuel Danforth, was one of the first five Fellows of Harvard - he was eminent as churchman, poet and astronomer. A descendant of his was Josiah Quincy who was President of Harvard in the early 19th century. There is no doubt that the characterful Danforth family (and those of Winthrop of Croton and of Wythe of Saxtead) were towers of strength in the building of the new nation.

A PAINSTAKING AND
HARDWORKING
SURVEYOR

Isaac Johnson, 1754-1835, of Woodbridge born at Pettistree, had to be hardworking to earn enough money to care for his first wife Elisabeth n^ee Maxwell of Norwich who died in 1813, and his second wife Mary n^ee Fisher of Woodbridge and his twelve children. Like

some other surveyors he was an artist at heart; many of his mappings are embellished with rough but exquisite sketches of the mansions and houses to which the fields, meadows, fens and pightles belonged. The Ipswich & East Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich contains several portfolios of maps and tracings happily rescued from his office after his death, all of them interesting and some bearing lovely drawings of great merit. In his later years, when his talent was better known locally and he was financially able to devote more time to such artistic pursuits he was entrusted with many commissions by local gentry including the Hon. Geo. Savage-Nassau of Easton, Edmund Gillingwater of Lowestoft, Edward Fitzgerald's father, Major Moor of Bealings, Robert Onebye of Pettistree, John Revett of Brandeston and many others. During his long life he compiled several volumes of his drawings and paintings of local mansions, country houses, churches and castles. The most interesting is his volume of Suffolk churches, over 500 of them, which can be seen in the municipal library in Ipswich. But how he found time to visit all of them during his continual journeyings through the countryside and his host of other work remains a source of wonder. The water-colour of Framlingham Church shows little difference from today though the south side of the tower has a small window and no clock-face. Besides being both artist and surveyor Isaac was also an antiquarian and something of a poet. One of his Woodbridge descendants with an honoured name - W. Johnson Naunton - lent Isaac's *'Miscellaneous Pieces, original and transcribed, in prose and verse'* to the exhibition of six Suffolk characters held at the Aldeburgh Festival of 1953. Possibly these pieces were composed as he jogged along on his horse through the Suffolk scenery he loved so much and put down so beautifully for all of us to admire.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

APRIL 26 MEETING

Mr W.G. Arnott of Woodbridge spoke on 'Some Interesting Places in the Framlingham District'.. The speaker indicated that there is no evidence that our town was a Roman centre, being off the Roman road Coddendam - Peasenhall. The site of the Roman settlement at the latter location is as yet untraced. Ubbeston was probably a Roman site. Our district was then mainly oak forest (Occold = oak wood) and names ending in '-field' (Cratfield etc.) indicate open spaces in wooded country. '-ing' in names refers to tribal settlements, e.g. Framlingham. The East Anglian Kings' palace was at Rendlesham and Sutton Hoo must have been the main base. Walton Castle, Felixstowe was built on a Roman camp, but is now visible only at low tide. It was a Bigod castle like Framlingham and a 'Bigod Way' linked the two (there is an 'Earls Way Farm' at Sibton) - it is said to be haunted by a coach drawn by headless horses. Essex - the kingdom of the East Saxons - had an entirely different system from East Anglia. It was mainly large farms with serfs whereas East Anglia was mainly yeomen with small farms, i.e. free men. Much remains to be done. For example, Venta Icenorum (just north of Norwich) - Boadicea's capital - has yet to be dug. A minor query is as to the significance of the wild men on our fonts - these are peculiar to our district. Altogether an absorbing talk packed with interesting material pleasantly presented.

NEW ZEALAND EAST
ANGLIAN SOCIETY

We have received a cheery letter from Mr H.C. Case, convener of the above Society, in reply to ours suggesting the exchange of newsletters. Their first newsletter sends best wishes to our Society; Mr Case asks incidentally for the names and addresses of any East Anglians in NZ in order to bring to their notice the existence of that Society of kindred spirits all that distance from home. We will be happy to pass to him any names. Mr Case writes from Kaingaroa Forest, a place with a romance of its own. Much of the soil of NZ is amazingly fertile (didn't they introduce watercress, and it grew ten feet high?) and when they planted square miles of an imported species of pine it matured in under twentyfive years. They had reckoned on this taking 65 years and thus were faced with all those square miles of timber to be felled and marketed. They coped and even brought in overseas experts to build and operate a mill to make newsprint which they now export.

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As regards the Lecture given on 28.2.72. Mr Salmon's reference to Dennington was to the effect that it was probably the only remaining example of the loft surviving above the periclose screens or screens to side chapels. There are, of course, several examples of surviving mediæval rood lofts e.g. Attleboro, Norfolk and Flamborough, Yorkshire, and in particular in some remote little churches along the Welsh border. In the total of 170 round towers East Anglia had been extended to include (inaccurately, of course) Cambridgeshire and Essex.

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MYSTERY TOUR
12.5.72.

A full coach of members enjoyed this evening tour devised by our Chairman and conducted by Mr Geo. Cooper, with refreshments arranged by Mrs Cooper at The White Hart, Wickham Market. At Easton, there were viewed the longest crinkle-crankle wall in England; the round houses formerly occupied by the Marquess of Hamilton's keepers; Martley Hall, formerly a dower-house. Parham Hall, home of the Willoughby family (Lord Willoughby was Lord High Admiral at the time of the Ship Money Act, 1634), the sale of whose ornamental gates led to an Act of Parliament to prevent similar sales. Johannes Rozier's fine house (of about 1500) at Hacheston. The fine avenue of trees which formerly led to Campsea Ashe House, now demolished, the home of Lord Ullswater, twenty-five years Speaker of the House of Commons. The site of Sudbourne Hall, home of Sir Richard Wallace who gave the magnificent Wallace Collection (old masters, armour etc.etc.) to the nation. To many, the highlight of the tour was Staverton Thicks, primæval forest and the oldest in Europe (and it looked the part) — oaks over a thousand years old and an 80-ft holly, the oldest in the world. The quaintly named quincunx planted by the first Lord Donegall in 1794. These are the units of four beech trees with a Scots fir in the middle (placed like the five on dominoes). Butley Abbey (founded by a Suffolk man in 1171) gatehouse with the largest number (35) of armorial bearings anywhere. These places with their stories and the many more covered by the running commentary underline the very considerable interest within our district.

ORIGIN OF AN ODE

Why is it that the newspaper in which the groceries are wrapped is of such absorbing interest?

Mrs Hemans, the English romantic poetess, on holiday for a few days in North Wales in about 1820, found it so. It was a Boston, Mass. paper and it included an account of a Forefathers Day (only later did the term 'Pilgrim Fathers' become accepted) celebration at Plymouth, Mass. She hadn't heard of the Forefathers before but their deeds as described struck a responsive chord and she wrote the ode '*Landing of the Pilgrims*' which was to become almost her chief memorial. As might have been expected she made errors, not knowing the coast nor much of the history (the coast was anything but 'stern and rockbound'; Plymouth was not 'the soil where first they trod'; they were not seeking 'freedom to worship God', they enjoyed that in Holland, but to make a better living). A Harvard Professor was sufficiently ungracious to point out to Mrs Hemans these comparatively minor errors and she burst into tears and rushed from the room. He need not have bothered — today he is practically forgotten whereas Mrs Hemans is assured of remembrance for a long time yet in the US.

AREA
REPRESENTATIVES

It is intended to enroll area representatives who would act as means of contact between the committee and members of the Society in his or her area. They might, for example, distribute this newsletter and in so doing could pass back to the committee the views of members. Subscriptions could be paid to AR's. Anyone willing to act in this capacity ('friend, philosopher and guide') please to contact the Editor of this newsletter (address at end). The job could bring interest of its own and would help in developing the Society.

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'THE FLODDEN HELM" Legends are not always correct though they often have a basis of truth. 'The Flodden Helm' in our Church seems a case in point. In about 1900 Sir Guy Lakin, Keeper of the King's Armoury, pronounced the helmet a genuine fighting helmet of the period of Flodden (1513). This is now considered a quite superficial and erroneous judgment. In 1968 the Rector took the opportunity when it was removed for chancel redecorations to have the Tower of London Armouries check on its condition and authenticity. They replied (March 1969) '... the helmet no longer presents its original appearance as two important components are missing. It was originally made as a tilting helm having a moveable visor (missing) and a chin-piece defending the lower part of the face (also missing) ... the date is about 1500...' The Victoria & Albert Museum in the course of compiling a record of arms and armour preserved in English churches sent representatives to see the helm and basic agreement with the Tower of London Armouries opinion was expressed. Mr Tony Martin compiled a six-page 'Norfolk Lion Supplement' to the parish magazine, the concluding words of which were ... 'It will now be clear that the helmet could not possibly have been used in its present form at Flodden; and it will be obvious that no helmet, even in a wearable condition, could ever have been managed by a man on horseback, let alone in active participation of tournament or battle, surmounted by the extra weight of Cap and Crest It seems, in conclusion, that the helmet in its present form was made thus by a medieval undertaker whose job was to provide a heraldic device suitable for the funeral of the Duke of Norfolk. He may have taken an existing helmet and dismantled it to the bare essentials which can be seen or he may have put some spare parts together and made a helmet to show the heraldic necessities. We shall never know.'

SAXTEAD DESCENDANT ? Unexpectedly the opportunity arose for the writer, recently in USA, to visit Williamsburg, Virginia, the town on which J.D. Rockefeller, Jnr, has expended £34-million in recreating as at 1776. While there ought to be a law against Americans making historical films they have done simply amazingly well at Williamsburg. The short introductory film deals with an imaginary Virginian farmer, a loyalist, who gradually evolves to support the Independencers. Portrayed without rancour the film includes as a leading character Geo Wythe (rhymes with Smith) whose ancestor is believed to have gone from Saxtead in about 1644 (see Issue 5). The Wythe mansion, up to the usual high standard of intelligent restoration, is in the centre of the town. Thinking to send postcards with the postmark we proffered these in the Post Office. The mob-capped 1776 dressed girl exclaimed 'but they haven't stamps'. To the explanation that one expected to buy stamps in a post office, she replied 'but stamps hadn't been invented in 1776'.

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NEW MEMBERS WANTED ! Please invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society —
Minimum Subscription 50p a year

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Articles or information for this newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to
E.C.SHANKS, 5 Howden Road, London SE25 4AS or Maypole Green, Dennington, IP13 8AH.

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