

Some may be surprised at the wide range of associations with our district that we record from time to time but if one is interested it is possible to find similar links in any group of people. There is, however, a tendency to overlook or to discount the familiar whereas others may see the romantic side. It may seem a long call to the Habsburgs, the Imperial family of the old Austria-Hungary, but a titled member of that family did live locally. The old arrogance came out when Beecroft, blacksmith at Earl Soham, called on him to ask for a settlement of a long outstanding debt. The Count and his servant threw him out breaking his arm in so doing. (Mr G. COOPER)

#### FLAILING TUNES

In his book '*Ask the Fellows who cut the hay*', Geo. Evans, who lives at Helmingham, mentioned a boy at Kelsale who, in about 1850, started work on a farm at 6d a week. As a young man he received 10d a coomb for threshing with a flail (like two broomsticks joined by a leather thong). He did 3½ coomb a day. Later, say in 1900, the pay was 3/- a coomb but he termed it '*real down-right slavery*'. The group of men could ring tunes or simulate bell changes when flailing.

#### VALUES OF YESTERYEAR

Mr Lanman's father was a watchmaker in our town and, as a boy, our Curator had to clean customers' watches. This entailed taking the timepieces apart, cleaning the parts with brushes and refined whitening and reassembling. Little pegs were used to clean the pivot holes and this had to be done 'as many times as the peg came out dirty'. And the charge? Half-a-crown!

#### DERNFORD = DANFORD ?

All Framlinghamians know that Nicholas Danforth or Danford, native of our town and churchwarden of St. Michael's, left here for America aboard the good ship GRIFFIN in 1635 with his six children — at the ripe middle-age of 50. One of those, his son Thomas, is generally regarded as the founder of Framingham, Massachusetts, our sister town. There are still numerous descendants of the Danforths in America, though fewer nowadays in Suffolk if local 'phone directories provide a fair reflection of numbers. There were, however, many in our local villages enumerated in the Census returns as late as 1871. 1635 was in a difficult period in England for men of deeply held religious views; indeed many leading local churchmen left the country, including one of my own kinsmen Samuel Packard of Stonham Aspall who sailed, aged 26, for Boston from Ipswich in April 1638 on the ship DILIGENT with his young wife and daughter, both Elizabeths, for religious reasons. Over there they had twelve more children and founded the numerous American Packard family which includes Joseph Packard, the well-known divine, and several others listed in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (but that is another story). Last year, at Madingley Hall in Cambridge, I was interested to chat to a good-looking and obviously wealthy Boston lady who was on a literature course taking place there at the same time. She mentioned that the name she had acquired on marriage was Danforth, that her husband's ancestors had great historical links with great families in this country and at least one of them had been Governor of Massachusetts. Not really knowing much about that I expressed interest and was however disappointed to hear that she herself had never heard of Framlingham or our links with Framingham. I had wanted to hear from one of the family my long held but never investigated theory that perhaps the Framlingham Danforths (or Danfords) were descendants of the Lords of the Manor of Dernford Hall in Sweffling. Robert de Dernford was the Lord in the 1327 Subsidy Return and John Dernforth in the Returns of 1524 and 1568. No trace of Dernforths appears in later Sweffling Returns. Dern and Dan are pronounced very similarly in our local dialect and the Danforths/Danfords seem to have appeared about then in Framlingham. Any volunteers for further investigations?

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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Mr Gerald Leedam has most generously undertaken to pay for the repainting of the exterior of our museum, including essential repairs (and the Society at the AGM expressed its thanks to him). Mr Leedam, one of the four Trustees of the Society, thus adds to the handsome gifts he has already made to our town, such as the early donation of £150 to our Society. Every time we pass the Castle Pond (and remembering its former dilapidation) we are reminded of Mr Leedam's gift in having it landscaped as a memorial to Sir Winston Churchill.

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EELEY JOE

Formerly many men of our district were equally at home as seamen as on the farm. The following comes from Allan Jobson's 'A Window in Suffolk', which is one of a series of books interestingly written about our district: Eeley Joe was very interested in the sailing ships that came in and out of the river and as he had had rather too much of the buckle-end of his father's belt he, at the ripe old age of 13, decided to leave home. He joined the 'ALDBORO', his pay being 15/- a month. He soon learned there was a rigid ritual even aboard a floating coffin for they all went down to meals in strict seniority and on no account must a boy go in with his cap on. Now part of a boy's job on a ship was to cook the food and a particular item fairly frequently in occurrence was a plum pudding. That was fair enough but there were snags in it as well as plums. If the boy made too much he had to eat up what was left and was not allowed anything else until it was all gone. If, on the other hand, he made too little, then there was nothing for the boy. The ingredients were broken biscuits that seemed to date back to Nelson's days, plums bought on shore and a little flour. He soon left the 'ALDBORO' and a few months later the ship foundered with all hands.

THOSE PILLAR BOXES

Among the features of our town are the letter-boxes in Double Street and on the corner College Road/Mount Pleasant. Of all the tens of thousands of boxes in use in this country there is only one in use (in Dorset) older than our two. Technically, ours are termed 'Early Mainland' and they date from about 1856. 'Mainland' is the term because the very first pillar-box was set up in Jersey in 1853 by Anthony Trollope, the novelist, who was a Post Office official. In an investigation in 1965 it was found that there is today only one (at Gosberton, Lincs) contemporary with our two. *The Sunday Observer* published, in its November 5 magazine, a picture of the Double Street box, locating it, however, in 'Framlington'. We wrote pointing out the error and mentioning the second box, but the letter was not published.

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Wm. Reeve, who died in 1969, used to smoke herrings in Queen's Head Alley to sell at 48 a shilling. His brother, known as Paunch Reeve, kept the Queen's Head public-house which only recently closed down.

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MERRY (?) ENGLAND

Sir Thos. Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, whose tomb and that of his Duchess is in our church, certainly was, as the Scots say, 'a man o' pairrts'. He was uncle to Anne Boleyn but pronounced sentence on her 'to be beheaded or burnt according to the King's mercy'. A staunch Romanist much opposed to the 'new learning' maintaining that it was 'merry' in England before the 'new learning' came in. The Duchess accused her husband of very cruel treatment including dragging her out of bed by her hair. The Duke did, however, maintain Elizabeth Holland at Earl Soham (her house was searched when the Duke was arrested). Henry VIII dying on the day Thomas was to be beheaded saved the Duke but he languished in prison for 6½ years.

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Dudley Haynes was a local artist of merit. When he was a few months old a negligent nursemaid let his pram run backwards down a steep garden slope and overturn. The doctors did their best but eventually decided he couldn't possibly live for more than a few months. His spirit was, however, unbroken and he was an inspiration to all around him though strapped to a board in a special invalid carriage for his whole life of acute pain and discomfort. His sister, Mrs Barton of West Drayton, Middlesex, has now presented to Canon Bulstrode the copper engraving plate of his picture of our church. The Canon felt that its rightful place was in the Society's museum and has kindly passed it to us.

CONSERVATION IN  
FRAMLINGHAM

An interesting booklet under this title has been published by the East Suffolk County Council as the first step in a positive conservation policy for the town. Its explanatory sub-title is '*An appraisal of the quality and character of its townscape*'. This skilled assessment, building by building, area by area, can only be beneficial. It contains nine excellent maps, an aerial photo of the whole town and sketches including one of the Market Hill proposal. It is a little unfortunate that the sixty photos of buildings (is it Mr Lanman's car passing Jeaffreson's Well?) have not reproduced too well (probably too small in relation to the process used). Nevertheless the report is well worth its 35p and is available from The Castle Bookshop.

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Between the wars a Badingham Rector took pupils for residential coaching. Eventually he retired from parochial duties. Moving to Leatherhead, Surrey, he made coaching his full-time occupation. His Badingham College was still in operation there quite recently.

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A.G.M. Business was methodically dealt with at the Annual General Meeting. Treasurer Mr Baker's accounts showed we were financially stable in keeping within our income though subscriptions constituted only a third of our receipts. Mr Fiske declined re-election as chairman and the meeting accepted this with regret passing a unanimous vote of thanks for the years that he had guided the Society's affairs. Mr J.Frere Kerr was elected chairman and thus adds to the years he was previously chairman. Miss Ella Brownsord and Mr C.Seeley were elected vice-chairmen. Mrs Cooper's wish to relinquish the secretarship was noted with regret and with thanks for the four years she had carried out these time-consuming duties. Mr E.C. Shanks was elected honorary secretary. Comdr. Sitwell and Mr J.L.Breese did not wish to stand for re-election to the committee. The meeting expressed to them the Society's thanks for their work over the past years. Mrs Webster, Mrs Graves, Miss Roberts and Mr Paskow were elected to the committee.

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FRAMLINGHAM  
AUSTRALIA

In our fifth issue we detailed how Canon Bulstrode tracked down the story of how our Australian namesake town got its name. Briefly, the 1805 Rector of Dennington was the Rev. and Hon. F.Hotham and his son became Governor-General of Australia. The latter probably named Framlingham and Dennington, both near Melbourne, after the places in which he grew up. Just published is No.42 of the part publication '*The British Empire*' in which is reproduced an official notice appealing to 'all true subjects of the Queen' (in Australia) to enrol to preserve Social Order etc. in view of 'recent events at the mines at Ballaarat'. It is issued over the name of Chas.Hotham — lately of Dennington, Framlingham (which was the address before our post town became Woodbridge). The notice is not dated but the 'recent events' were probably the 1854 'Eureka Stockade' rebellion when 120 or so armed diggers defied troops and police until 25 were killed.

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Thistles cut in May — come again next day — Thistles cut in June — come up again soon — cut them in July — they'll be sure to die.

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LADY JANES

After the A.G.M. on October 23, Lady Jane Turnbull gave a talk on Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for nine days in 1553 until displaced as a result of the proclamation of Queen Mary at our town. Our member is descended from an uncle of that Lady Jane Grey and our Lady Jane mentioned the ragging she experienced at school, her natal name having been Lady Jane Grey. For example, a wag would tell her "Well, enjoy yourself, you have only X more months of life" (Lady Jane had been beheaded at just 17 years of age). The nine-day queen, greatgrand-daughter of Henry VII, did not have a happy childhood but when nine was sent to Court as part of her training. There Catherine, last wife of Henry VIII, took a fancy to her and for the first time Lady Jane experienced love and acceptance but even this lasted only two years because Henry died and Queen Catherine married again. Lady Jane went back to her parents. The Duke of Northumberland schemed to marry her to Edward VI but the latter was too ill and the Duke married her to his son, Guildford Dudley, pressurising Edward to designate Lady Jane as his successor. Fourteen days later the King died. Lady Jane refused to be proclaimed Queen but again was over-ruled, a course that ended on the block. Her father, uncle and husband were executed with her. A sad story sympathetically told by her collateral descendant.

LAMBERT'S FAMILY  
ALMANACK FOR 1916  
- price one penny

This quaint 152-page survival from the past records the prices of that time: tea from 2/2 a lb. - 40-piece tea-sets from 7/- - garden spades 2/9 - men's suits from 30/- made to measure - ladies' waterproof coats from 16/11 ; 7-piece suite in good leather-cloth £4.10/- (made on the premises) - penny post - national insurance 4d. a week. Among 'Local Events 1914-15' are 'Motors in collision' - 'Zeppelin raid on Yarmouth' &c - 'Capt. E.P.Clarke wounded in France' - 'fall from ladder causes death of Mr Benjamin Durrant (resulting in cessation of his butchery business)'. A fair proportion of the businesses recorded are still in operation, many in the same family. 'The Garage of Garrards' advertises the hire of open or closed cars with careful drivers from 6½d a mile. The death of R.J.Carley is noted and the fact that his brother, S.G.Carley, and he built up a large connection as Grocery & Provision Merchants. C.E.Downing was a rope and net maker in College Road.

MISS BRUNGER

On leaving the town Miss Brunger has kindly presented to the museum her file of cuttings &c. relating to her visit to Framingham, Mass. in 1950. The genial Miss Brunger has for long been almost a Framlingham institution and the town will not seem quite the same without her. Members at the AGM unanimously voted to send Miss Brunger their good wishes for

'TOLD YOU SO' In our seventh issue we commented that as a result of the spread and interchange of ideas we might see bagpipers skirling up Market Hill wearing the MacBaldry and MacRunnacles tartans. Now we have had a letter from the US Time-Life firm signed by a Howard McAllum (Allum, like Baldry and Runnacles, being local surnames).

In Issue 11 we mentioned that the shares of the parent company (Bibby) of Clarkes, the maltsters, and of Fram Eggs had gone up from 40p to 100p. Since then those shares have reached 171p — no doubt as a result of the mention in this news-letter!)

OUR MUSEUM Miss E. Brownsord presented to members at the AGM copies of a businesslike report of the Museum Committee. This covered 66 openings at which there were 364 visitors. Twentythree members had acted as sitters-in, Comdr. Sitwell nine times and Mr Jones eight. The meeting expressed their sincere appreciation of everyone of those members' co-operation. Also to Mrs Dowsing and Mr Brown for the electrical re-wiring and general help; Messrs Lanman, Jones & Sitwell were thanked for their untiring efforts in keeping the museum up to date as regards interior maintenance and the acquisition of 'new' pieces of interest. Altogether an excellent example of the practical teamwork that is the background of our Society.

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Tomb and grave-stones do not last for ever. A number of authorities have urged that the inscriptions be recorded while they are still legible and Brigadier Packard has given concrete support to these appeals by co-operating with the Rector of Easton in producing a 37-page booklet of those at Easton. This is a valuable book of reference for the future. Researchers, genealogists etc. are often helped by the facts contained in inscriptions. Publication, on paper, can be more enduring than stone &c. subjected to atmospheric erosion. Brigadier Packard followed up this booklet with another dealing with fields and field names in the parish of Easton. It is much more than a simple record of names. Ownership, sizes, origins of names and general analysis are added and also comparisons with the Tithe Map of 1837. It is to be hoped that others may do similar work for other parishes. More power, too, to the Packard elbows.

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MEMORIES FROM MR LANMAN Of Mr and Mrs Canham who kept a tiny sweetshop in Fore Street where Moy's, the coalmen, now are. The children watched until Mr was out because the kindly Mrs Canham was generous with her weighing. Of Charles Myall nearby watchmaker, whose son Obadiah built some of the writer's house.

AGNES SURRIAGE Surely our interest includes our daughter town in Massachusetts. Not that an excuse is necessary to justify the telling of a good story. Ashland (pop. 2497) is about three miles from Framingham. In 1750 Sir Harry Frankland, descendant of Oliver Cromwell, friend of the Earl of Chesterfield and, for some years, a Crown official in Boston, built a manor house in Ashland, planting an orchard and arranging a garden filled with ornamental trees imported from England. While on a visit to Marblehead he saw a beautiful young girl, Agnes Surriage, scrubbing the floor of a tavern, took a fancy to her and carried her away to Boston to receive a polite education. Finding that she was snubbed by Boston society, he brought her to Hopkinton (3½ miles away) where they lived very happily. They travelled a great deal, and Agnes' beauty and grace aroused ardent admiration in all the gay capitals of Europe, where Puritan snobbery was happily absent.

In 1755 during a visit to Lisbon, Portugal, the pair were caught in an earthquake; this apparently caused Sir Henry to think on his latter end for he came back to America a changed man and married Agnes. He died in 1768. In 1775 Lady Agnes was suspected, rightly or wrongly, of Tory (i.e. loyalist) sympathies and felt it best to sail for England. Her career was not yet ended however, for after a decent interval she married another titled gentleman. Ashland's cherish<sup>ed</sup> story has been told in 'Agnes' a poem by O.W. Holmes; in 'Brampton Sketches' by Mary Claflin; in 'Old Town Folk' by H.B. Stowe and in 'Agnes Surriage' a novel by Edwin Bynner. Did H.W. Freeman adopt for his book 'Joseph and His Brethren' the incident where Frankland was attracted to Agnes at Marblehead? In Freeman's book Ben Geaiter chose for his housekeeper Nancy when he saw her scrubbing a doorstep in our town. Geaiter's farm, called 'Crakenhill' in the book, was Oaken Hill Hall, Badingham.

DAM BAD RUM that is understood to be 'Ladies Bath Room' in Swedish. It could be applied to Countess Wells Farm (just beyond the Castle) which used to be the bath for the ladies of the Castle. It had steps down to the bath which was filled in only about three years ago.