

Market Hill in 1907 and Later: Mr. Geo. W. Cooper writes in a vivid and lively style: "As a resident on Market Hill for 67 years I can remember many interesting sights and sounds and in particular Saturday Market Day. A place of hustle, bustle and business; farmers' gigs and countrymen's wagons and carts coming in early in the day to put up at the various inns and hostleries. Our Town Crier would be announcing items of special interest with his '*Oi Yea, Oi Yea, Oi Yea, this is to give notice*' and ending with '*God Save the King and Hang the Crier*'. A hundred or more Welsh ponies milling around in a circle. Towards evening the naphtha flares would be blazing. Cheap Jacks selling their wares - watches, culinary articles, china etc. In season (October) there would be a heavy dray loaded with Lowestoft herrings - 48 a shilling. What a place of colour, light, movement and noise! There was the travelling dentist with a banner on which 'SUDDEN DEATH' stood out in ten-inch red letters and underneath, very small 'to toothache'. A borrowed chair and table, a pile of discarded molars. '*No charge; give me what you like,*' and when he had taken out the offending tooth, '*Didn't hurt you, did I?*' 'No' and then the queue began, to have their teeth out. I remember two visits of his around 1907-10. I was told that he became a very famous dentist in London. I bought paraffin from Garrards for the Fire-Eater. He swallowed a pint and by working his chest muscles blew a flame twelve feet long which roared like a mighty blow-lamp. He also walked round the Market Hill with a 40-gallon barrel balanced on his nose. He challenged anyone to do this and a sailor did take him on and actually did it. His nose was however, much out of joint afterwards. This character used to lie on the ground and ask a blacksmith's striker to break paving stones on his chest using a 14 lb. sledge hammer. Of side-shows, there was the Lobster Lady, the Duck with Four Legs, the Calf with Three Legs. The greatest sight I ever saw on Market Hill was 'Bostock & Wombwell's Giant Menagerie'. The huge tent covered the entire Market Hill; just outside the Crown Hotel and Barclays Bank were two great Burrell steam showmen's engines, their brass all a-shine, churning out the electricity. We did not sleep for two nights, the roaring of the lions and tigers kept us awake. I remember races for wagers to the white post and back, sometimes for ponies, more often on foot, a yard for a year. '*I'll race you to the white post and back,*' and then the fun was fast and furious as a book was soon made up. What colour, what life, of the earth, earthy but the good earth, not the dull grey sameness of today. Fights? Yes, many!! We were known as a two constable town."

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November 27 Meeting Commander Sitwell gave a most interesting and carefully prepared talk on Thomas Mills, who came to Framlingham as a boy looking for a job. He found this with a wheelwright and shared in the prosperity consequent on the increase in wheeled vehicles. His employer left the business to Mills who continued to prosper but who experienced a terrible tragedy when his only child choked to death. Having seen the building of the Hitcham almshouses, Mills in his turn gave his adopted town the Mills almshouses, the architectural style of which is true 'William and Mary'. Commander Sitwell showed and discussed plans he had drawn of the Tomb House and of Framlingham as it then was. He showed that the road to Wickham Market was Crown & Anchor Lane and past where Mills Grammar School now stands; also that the road to Saxtead and Earl Soham was that between Tomb House and the Mills Almshouses.

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January 24 Meeting Mr. Peter Northeast, Industrial Archaeology Sub-committee, Suffolk Local History Council, gave members an insight into the work of his organisation. He invited assistance in preserving items of historical and other interest which were liable to disappear or be destroyed. Among the slides he showed were some that he invited help in identifying. Only two remained as mysteries. One was a sort of pugging mill, worked by a horse on a circular track but the grindery part resembling a wooden tub with sides about 2½ ft. high. The other unsolved mystery was a farmhouse type of building of rectangular plan. The features which should identify were two brick buttresses one each side of the ground floor window at the end of the building. Members thought it might be Danforth's New Street Farm but could not be certain. A note on the back of the photograph had stated '*birthplace of a president*' but without further explanation, e.g. of what the president. Almost all members participated in identifying the other mystery photos giving many facets of information even to the names of persons, particularly a post

Lord Cranbrook, Past President, who has always taken a real interest in our Society, afforded us some of his valuable time on February 26 in giving a talk on Arts and Sciences in Rural Suffolk. He referred to the normal evolution whereby men sought others of similar intellectual interests. About 150 years ago formal and informal groups were formed to discuss various aspects of art and sciences and to exchange ideas. The standards of, for example, their poetry and essays were not high but the start had been made. Lord Cranbrook instanced the Earl Soham Book Club whereof subscribers contributed for the purchase of books then comparatively expensive. These were passed to each in turn according to a list pasted on the flyleaf. The Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History had started in 1848 as the Bury St. Edmunds Institute. The first book on the birds of Suffolk was published by them. Lord Cranbrook deplored too much passive TV viewing instead of participating in activities but though not possessing a 'goggle-box' himself he thought TV was one of the best things that had happened. Many people were, however, participating and he mentioned that one of his ploughmen is a very knowledgeable ornithologist. Lord Cranbrook considered that such is the complexity of modern farming operations more intelligent and educated personnel will be required to man our farms and that in fact those types are in course of development now.

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The film of the 1932 Framlingham Pageant has now been traced. It is hoped to arrange a showing for next session.

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Miss Jeaffreson has kindly presented to the Society a copy of the privately printed pedigree of the Jeaffreson family. Three Doctors Jeaffreson served the community in Framlingham, the last, her father, practised for forty years and then capped those splendid records by presenting to the town the well and structure at the crossroads next to the Haynings. In the days before piped water the provision of a well and pump was a benefaction indeed.

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Several members have answered the questions posed in our first issue. The makers of the low bias bowls known as Frams were Messrs. Norman, better known as the gunsmiths of Church Street. Our museum has some. It is understood that the Queen's Head inn-sign is being restored by the purchasers of the premises. Mr. P.J. Stannard has indicated that the Guildhall (recently re-named 'The Mansion House') should probably be included among the buildings standing in 1553 when Mary I was proclaimed Queen at Framlingham. Mr. Geo. W. Cooper interestingly amplified the story about the Zeppelins as follows: "Soon after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War the 1st 4th City of London Royal Field Artillery arrived in Framlingham. They set up camp on the Haynings Field, i.e. the field bordered by Saxmundham Road and Badingham Road (now built on and enclosing the Pageant Field). Four rows of horse lines were set up along Badingham Road and right-angled to it, with a harness room at the road end of each line. First of all, tents were set up, then army huts. On the site of the last bungalow in Saxmundham Road a large circular trench was dug. The spoil from this was thrown outwards, forming a steep bank. The old 15-pounder guns were drawn on to this bank and their tailstocks dropped into the trench. This brought their muzzles up. They fired one trial shot and the gun promptly went over on to its back. So all that work was in vain. The new 18-pounders arrived about January 1915 and away went the regiment to France. They were followed by the 2nd 4th C. of L. R.F.A. Early in 1915 we heard a low droning in the sky and soon a Zeppelin came over. She dropped one bomb near the Haynings Field and a large splinter, weighing about three pounds, went right through one of the harness room roofs, but no one was hurt. This Zepp went on to Woodbridge where the Norfolk Yeomanry were encamped on Bromeswell Heath. Without orders the trigger-happy farmers' boys opened fire on the airship and down came the bombs on Woodbridge. The entire regiment was later severely reprimanded. An amusing sequel however came from the book written by Count Eckener, perhaps the most famous commander of Zeppelins. The Zepp in question was going on to London but she began to lose height slowly. She turned away over the North Sea, losing height all the time. Everything was jettisoned, - instruments, bombs, clothing, boots. She just made the German coast near Cuxhaven but she broke her back on landing. The crew were dressed only in their underwear. Upon examination, the envelope and gasbags were found to be full of small holes. The bullets of the Yeomanry had done their work well." (Mr. Cooper correctly identifies the site of the horse lines. The raid was on August 12, 1915 and the Zepp was the L.10. On June 17, 1917 Zepp L.48 was brought down in flames at Theberton. Zepps crossing to England made their landfall either at Happisburgh, Norfolk or at Sizewell, Suffolk. - Ed.)

100 hours
damaged
debris of
blue's look
28 hrs + wood
bombs

Aug 12 correct BU T current info says not lost that night, but in the end on 3 Sept 2015. struck by lightning - all killed

Our district dimly comes into history as the south eastern extremity of the territory of the Iceni tribe whose name is perpetuated in Icknield Way, Icklingham, Ixworth and many other place names. Our heavy claylands were however, heavily afforested and the primitive tools of the time were inadequate both for clearance of the trees and for tilling the land. The lighter soils near the coast were too remote from the Iceni capital, Venta Icenorum (near the present Norwich). As a result our district was practically uninhabited although it is thought that there was an outpost fortress on the site of our castle. After receiving the submission of the Iceni in about 40 A.D. the Romans proceeded to develop East Anglia both with roads and with settlement. A main road was constructed from Colchester ('the first town of Britain') to the Iceni capital and nearly all of the road is in use today. The road sweeps across our maps and the countryside in masterful curves. Among subsidiary Roman roads was one from Coddendam to Peasenhall and the general line of this can be seen on a map, less than half being in use today. From Peasenhall to the Mustard Pot, Badingham, the road is more or less straight but the present road then turns right down White Horse Hill to cross two arms of the river Alde. Was this a Roman diversion? or did the Roman road continue in a straight line down the hill to cross the Alde below the Mustard Pot? Tracing the line further on the map, the part of the Clayhill road parallel to the Dennington-Badingham road seems to be Roman. The green road, Gipsy Lane, off the Saxtead Bottom road seems again to be Roman. The Roman line is resumed at about Saxtead Mill and the modern road continues broadly straight to Framdsen police station and to Pettaugh where the direction alters a few degrees to the south to Coddendam. As compared with the Roman road the present one has therefore, the biggest gap between the Mustard Pot and Saxtead Mill. Does anyone know whether any Roman traces have been found in the fields along that line? It seems likely that there was Roman settlement in the district because the Ordnance Survey map records that a hoard of Roman coins was found behind Dennington Place in the early 19th century.

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Frumetty on Christmas Eve was a local custom. Whole wheat was boiled until the grains burst. Then milk was added and sugar, spice and raisins stirred in, nutmeg grated over. It was eaten with ceremony befitting its ancient origins because this was formerly the main food of the agricultural population and of many others too. Even further back it was the staple diet of the Roman soldiery, frumentum being Latin for wheat. Frumetty, furmitty, frumenty - several variations in name - is known all over England.

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Books of local interest: Titles and authors of books would be welcomed for inclusion in this Newsletter. There are H.W. Freeman's books, of which '*Joseph and His Brethren*' is set in Bruisyard and Framlingham. The foreword by W.H. Mottram, another East Anglian author, includes discussion on the local use of 'do' and 'fare'. '*The Winthrop Woman*' by Anya Seton records in story form the amazing vicissitudes of Elizabeth Winthrop, one of a family that emigrated in 1631 from Groton near Sudbury, Suffolk, to New England. Truth can be much stranger than fiction.

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That excellent provoker of thought, G.B. Shaw, is said to have observed that there is good evidence that this planet is the lunatic asylum for the rest of the universe. Some local evidence exists in support of the theory in the shape of a road hazard of quite astonishing seriousness having been allowed to continue for over a hundred years. But look at it from the point of view of the road-user going north. One motors up a longish hill along a nondescript road. At the top one bears right to a very wide road through glorious trees. There is a gentle slope down, a picturesque flint cottage on the right, and one was lulled into a sense of well-being when suddenly fate struck. The road narrowed, became steep and at the steepest part turned right-angles left. The road camber was completely the wrong way and the surface tended to be slippery especially when wet. Family memories record that in the last century a clergyman was killed when his trap overturned. The limit surely was in 1962 when a giant Centurion tank and its transporter overturned on that adverse camber. Powerful lifting tackle had to come from a distance and then the weight and awkwardness broke that. In the last few years the Stratford St. Mary by-pass - a beautiful one providing grand views - has been built, proving that things can be done. The delay of a 100 years or so suggests that they simply ran out of excuses as to why it could not possibly be done. At any rate Gun Hill is no longer a London-East Anglia road hazard. Even for local traffic the dangerous parts of the hill have been improved.

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Span of Memory: At one time there was a discussion as to the most remarkable span of memories. The ultimate ran on these lines: an old man then living had, when a child, been told by another old man that, to the latter, a third old man had given an eye-witness account of, for example, Cromwell's funeral. Though no evidence was brought forward something of the kind could have occurred. In a minor way there was in this district a memory of this kind. A local man in Wellington's army had lost his leg (or had been severely wounded in the leg) at Waterloo. There was no Red Cross in those days and he walked back to his village using his musket as a crutch. Has anyone any further information?

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Fifty years ago the school mistress in a nearby village had occasion, owing to illness, to remove some of a pupil's clothing. The wrath of the mother descended upon her because the child 'had been sewn up for the winter'.

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It is only in comparatively recent times that there has been for the mass of the people much contact outside the immediate village. Even today it is easy to over-estimate the volume of outside contacts. For example, though the tomato was introduced in 1596 it was only in about 1900 that John Citizen in the villages came to know of it. In this district it was related that first there was a rumour of a new fruit that was available in Framlingham. Then specimens came and were passed from hand to hand. The first tomatoes were deeply indented; the smooth round tomato was only later developed. A common reaction on first tasting the fruit was of dislike perhaps because a fruit was expected to be sweet. The taste was however, soon acquired and accepted.

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The last Peasant? In the 'low meadows' of the river Alde at Badingham there lived in a 'two-dweller' what must have been one of the last peasants. With the grand Suffolk name of Runnacles, he was quiet and thorough in everything he did. His vegetable garden was a picture and along the front of the cottage was a single line, all there was room for, of large and healthy polyanthi. He would go to work wearing a broad-brimmed hat and on his back a straw frail (knapsack). Mrs. Runnacles was a female replica, quiet, spotless and always wearing a neat white apron. The public footpath from Oaken Hill Hall to the White Horse passed along the front of the cottage and the door was usually open disclosing the spotless, neat and cosy interior.

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In the time of Elizabeth I farms were completely self-supporting. They bought no supplies whatever from outside. In the normal course of evolution this has changed and farmers now buy better designed and better made supplies (buildings, seed, tools, clothes etc.) from specialists. Concentrating on their real job, farming, the farmers are far more efficient than their ancestors. Even a century ago there was however, much still made on the farm and much of this was the concern of the farmer's wife. For example, lighting was mainly by rushlight - candles were only for high-days and holidays. In fact current opinion said that they were both wastefully expensive and injuriously bright for the eyes. A housewife of the time described to one of the last generation how the rushlights were made. A mass was collected of the rushes (juncus) which grow in damp places. These were skinned to the pith and hung on laths or rods. A tank of fat (probably mutton) had, in the meantime, been heated and the many rods with hanging piths were rested on the top of the tank and left for the fat to soak into the pith.

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"and District": Said Alice in Wonderland's Humpty Dumpty "*When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less.*" In the same way when we use the word "Framlingham" it includes the "and District" in the name of our Society unless, following Humpty Dumpty's example we mean otherwise. What area does the "and District" cover? Again, what we mean it to cover! We intend to include any good story within the wider confines of East Anglia. And 'wider confines' is the right term because East Anglia seems to be expanding from the original Norfolk and Suffolk. Such authorities as the East Anglia Economic Planning Council, the East Anglian Magazine, etc. now seem to include Essex, Cambridge, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, give or take a county or so.

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Contributions for FRAM are welcomed and should be handed or sent to E.C. Shanks, 64 Waddington Way, London, S.E.19. Write the complete paragraph or note down the gist and we will develop.