

On 28 January Commander Sitwell continued his story of Framlingham in the past at a well-attended meeting. He first told about - and illustrated with broadsheets - the dramatic bankruptcy in 1832 of Mr. Geo. Brook Keer, the largest property owner in the town, a brewer and owner of many inns and alehouses in Framlingham and the surrounding villages. The forced sale of Mr. Keer's many properties had a stunning effect on the community, lasting many years. This led on to the story of the theatre started by Mr. Fred Atkinson and his company of strolling players which performed there. Framlingham had soldiers, too! In 1770 the Dragoons in support of the Excise men and then the Volunteer Company at the time of the Napoleonic invasion threat. How the milk supply of the town was distributed was also described, and how Mr. Lambert in his Almanac lambasted the Charity Commissioners for violating the Mills Trust set up for the education of the poor children.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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Two years ago it was decided that members should research into the histories of individual buildings and the Misses Brownsord, Miss Garrad and Mrs. Kitchen adopted the Old Meeting House. Miss E. Brownsord gave a talk on 26 February based on their quite extensive searches. The Trustees and others had been most helpful and a chest full of papers was lent, some of the documents in Elizabethan English. Miss Brownsord outlined the origins in Europe and England of groups who later became known as Nonconformists. In our district interest in their ideas started in Elizabeth's reign and the first meetings were in private houses and in the Linkhorn (later 'Lincoln') barn on the old Saxtead road. Members were known variously as 'Independents' and 'Anti-Trinitarians'. The name 'Unitarian' was first used in 1664, but this produced a split in the congregation, the breakaways adopting the name 'Congregationalists' eventually building the meeting-house in Fore Street. Thus the 'Old' in the name of the Meeting House that was built in 1717. The lack of conformity led to persecution but this did not stop their progress. In 1774 it was recorded that there were 259 regular worshippers.

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... licensed to sell
tea ...

Mrs. Jecks-Wright's paragraph in the last issue on the recently found inscription '*JOSIAH MIDDLETON - licensed to sell tea and tobacco*', interested our County Librarian, Mr. E.F.

Ferry, who wrote: "Tea dealers were obliged by law to have sign-boards fixed up, announcing their sale of tea, in August 1779. This licence was not abolished until 1869. The duty on tea during this period was at times as high as 100% but in 1784 the tax was reduced from 50% to 12½% and the notorious window tax was introduced in lieu. As a matter of interest, Haydn's Dictionary of Dates records that about eleven million pounds of tea were imported in 1779, a figure which had grown to 139,223,289 pounds in 1869. Josiah Middleton presents something of a mystery. According to directories, he was never in Double Street but in White's Directory for 1844 there is an entry for Hezekiah Middleton, Double Street, while Josiah is in Castle Street. This address continued to be given until between the years 1855 and 1868 he moved to Wellclose Square. His name disappears in 1883. Throughout he is simply described as 'shop-keeper'. How his name came to be found in Double Street, I cannot explain, unless he owned both premises and let Hezekiah take over Double Street."

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Our town's lack of a printed Guide is in course of being remedied. Commander Sitwell is compiling one in the form of successive walks describing the many items of interest.

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Our Curator, Mr. Lanman, had an early interest in aircraft and remembers a balloonist in 1901/2 ascending in an hot-air balloon from a spot near the Sick House (behind the cemetery). Parachuting down, the man was unfortunately injured owing to landing on a plough near Parham. Mr. Lanman was one of the first model aircraft makers in the county and made about 500 models. In 1909, the year in which Bleriot flew the Channel, Mr. Lanman's model aeroplane flew a quarter-mile. He attended the first Aero Exhibition at Olympia in 1910. He met many of the early pioneers including A.V. Roe, Graham White and S.F. Cody ('Buffalo Bill'). In about 1912 he saw James Radley fly a Bleriot monoplane at Helmingham Park.

D-I-Y MUSKETS

Our enterprising Gunsmiths have this notice in their window:
'BUILD YOURSELF A "BROWN BESS". KIT OF PARTS FOR 39" INDIA
PATTERN MUSKET; STEEL BARREL, SHAPED WALNUT STOCK, FULL SET OF LOCK CASTINGS, BRASS
FURNITURE etc. £40.'

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Mrs. Packard recorded some interesting details from the Census Enumerator's Return of 1851, when Framlingham's population was 3,592. No less than eleven schools are listed but numbers of pupils are not given except boarders. Many of the surnames are still represented today. Of the four schools in Double Street the teachers (and probably proprietors) were Rose Robinson, Rachael Boulton, Wm. Hill and Mary Fairweather. Wellclose Square had two schools, principals Thos. Sharman and Anne Haddock. Others were at Castle Street (Wm. Dorling), Woodbridge Road (Mary Hall), Back Street (Dinah Tucker), and Fairfield Road (Susan Rogers). Samuel Lane of Sir Robert Hitcham Charity's School is listed as in the Castle. Only Dorling, Hill and Mrs. Rogers had been born in Framlingham. Dorling was only 19, Miss Haddock 30 and Mrs. Hall 34. Hill seems to have had the biggest establishment with 12 boarders and even two servants (Phebe Scoggins, 17, and Mary Allum, 15). Eight of the boys were farmers' sons and included a John Carley (13) of Badingham, two Neslings (Bedfield and Ashfield) and a Plant of Sweffling. Two Willsons were surgeons' sons, Fred Smith 'tradesman's son'; Wm. Newson, 'merchant's son', was born at Patnam on the Ganges. This school had only boy boarders whereas Miss Boulton had girls only. Of her seven boarders two were Newsons, born Calcutta and possibly sisters of the Wm. Newson at the nearby boys' school. Father Newson was probably local-boy-made-good in India. Behind Matilda Fisk (10), born Bath, was possibly another parent maintaining links with his origins.

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Directories

The first books for which local historians tend to reach when delving into the history of a parish are the directories. For Suffolk, the series starting with Kirby's *SUFFOLK TRAVELLER* in 1734 and going on to the current edition of *KELLY*, through *WHITE'S* editions beginning in 1844 and including the *POST OFFICE GUIDE* of 1846, *HARROD'S* of 1864, *MORRIS'S* of 1868 and the *IMPERIAL GAZETTEER* of 1872 is remarkably full. Mr. John Kirby of the well-known Wickham Market family described Easton in 1764 as follows:

"This was formerly the Lordship of an ancient family in Kettleburgh surnamed Charles. Afterwards the Wingfields of Letheringham were proprietors of both. Anthony Wingfield removed from Letheringham to Goodwyns in Hoo and was created a Baronet in 1627. He built the White House at Easton and removing from Hoo made it his seat. To him succeeded Sir Richard, Sir Robert and Sir Henry; his son Sir Henry sold all his estates in this neighbourhood to the 1st Earl of Rochford, Master of the Robes to King William III in 1695. The 2nd Earl of Rochford commanded the left wing of the English army at Lerida in Spain where he was slain 14 July 1710. Frederick, 3rd Earl of Rochford succeeded and died in 1738. William Henry 4th Earl of Rochford succeeded and sold the Easton estate to his younger brother Richard Savage-Nassau. He is married to her Grace the Duchess Dowager of Hamilton and Brandon, who have for several years made this their Residence."

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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More Saxtead Links
with New England

Rose Kerridge, baptised April 1572 at Saxtead, married Thos. Clarke of Westhorpe, 14 miles east. Of their 8 children one, Margaret, married Nicholas Wythe of Saxtead, a friend of Danforth. In 1644 Wythe emigrated with his one daughter Sarah to New England (*see last issue as to their descendants*). A second of the 8, John, emigrated to Boston in 1637 and later was co-founder with Roger Williams of the tiny state of Rhode Island. This state early took the view, then revolutionary, that a man's religion was his own business and not a subject for dictation, *i.e.* a policy of true toleration. John was Deputy Governor of the state and also founded the city of Newport, RI - population now about 40,000. Three of the four remaining brothers emigrated to Rhode Island.

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REAL FARMERS

Evolution is continuous. The original practice whereby the feudal lords cultivated their land using serfs and/or forced labour gradually gave way to the idea of 'letting' the land for a fixed or 'firm' cash rental. Such holders became known as 'fermors', later varied to 'farmers'. Tenant farmers are thus the true farmers!

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The Bare Idea

When revolutionaries succeed they often copy many aspects of the regimes they supersede - probably they know no other. The Bolsheviks copied the Czar's secret police and the use of Siberia as a dump for awkward opponents. The Church of England adopted from the Roman Church the idea that everyone had to have the same religion. The Nonconformists also accepted the theory. The New Englanders saw to it that all members of the community attended the Sabbath meeting and there was thus a full audience. On one occasion a Quaker marched into the full meeting-house of Cambridge, Mass, carrying a large empty bottle in each hand. Dashing these to the floor, he shouted at the pastor 'Thus will the Lord break you in pieces.' The Quakers in their founding fervour were regarded in the 17th century much as many do the Communists of today; bad weather, bad crops, the bad conduct of the young and anything untoward was blamed on them. The Quakers in their turn did some surprising things. There was a bright Sabbath morning at Newbury Mass, when a demure and comely young Quakeress entered the full meeting-house and, in her birthday suit, walked slowly up the aisle. At her trial she explained her object as 'to show the people the nakedness of their rulers.' The logic somehow escapes us.

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Western Barkises

East Anglian influence on New England was considerable and, in turn, New England's influence on the rest of the U.S. was similarly material. A minor example was the prairie schooner, the covered wagon, whereby the West was opened up and made a world power. Many consider that the covered wagon was a copy of the East Anglian common carrier's cart. This was the vehicle that in the last century, driven by men like Barkis in *DAVID COPPERFIELD* provided a cheap but rugged conveyance for passengers and goods between villages.

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TO OUR MILLIONAIRE READERS

(others, perhaps, will pass this message to their millionaire friends). The Americans do not have many historic buildings but they compensate by showing great pride in those they do have. For example, a Rockefeller restored the colonial capital of Virginia, Williamsburg, to its character in 1760-70 spending over £20,000,000 in so doing. What a chance for another millionaire to deal with Framlingham in a similar manner! From our town's long history a date would have to be decided upon. Why not Danforth's time, say 1630? Everyone could wear the dress of the time, not unbecoming. Visitors would come in their thousands and probably a Publicity Committee would arrange the usual attractions. Stocks on Market Hill with cheesecake (journalists' term for easy-on-the-eye femininity - there's plenty of local talent) or alternatively a little more seriously with local Aunt Sallys (Blyth RDC by rota?), bad eggs one groat each or two new pence. Incidentally, Suffolk people are used to making one pound do the work of twenty in the outer world; consequently we could probably do the job for a trifling one million. Offers gratefully received.

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Great Pretain

To the Greeks and earlier Romans our island was Pretania, derived, it is thought, from a Celtic word meaning *painted* (our blue - woad - suits were famous). *Pict* ('Picts and Scots') is therefore a Latin translation of this. Belgic tribes inhabited both sides of the Channel and when Julius Caesar was reconnoitring preparatory to his landing in Britain he heard of an insignificant tribe across from Dover, called Britanni. It seems probable that Julius thought he was correcting the record when he altered the name of the whole nation and island to Britanni and Britannia.

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CHILDREN'S SONGS

Browsing through the Log Book at Easton School written in the spidery hand of schoolmarm Miss Annie Monk is a list of the songs sung by the children for the visit of the Duchess of Hamilton on 18 March 1878: 'The Rippling Ocean', 'The Harvest Song', 'Foot Traveller', 'The Spring', 'The Bee and the Dove', 'The Cow', 'My Doll Rose', 'Cows and Horses'. What memories 'Cows and Horses' brings back! All our children learnt it and will, no doubt, teach it to their children, too, in due course. The other titles ring no bell for me but, no doubt, readers of *FRAM* know them all.

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(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

Place names are one of the means whereby historians trace the course of infiltrations and invasions. Teutonic or Saxon settlement is particularly traced by 'ingas' names *i.e.* names with the suffix 'ing' (derived from *inga*, 'the people of'). Examples are Framlingham, Badingham, Dennington, Sweffling, Huntingfield.

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NEW MEMBERS WANTED!

Invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society.

The Pulham
Pig

During the '14-18 War a small airship (though larger than a blimp) was often over this district and being based at Pulham near Harleston was known as 'The Pulham Pig' until some-one was fined for giving away military secrets *i.e.* its base. Thereafter it became 'The British Queen'. Mr. Lanman recalls that one Sunday morning it dipped over Framlingham and an occupant spotted the large sign 'ANTIQUES' on his father's shop at the corner Castle Street/Church Street. When back at base the officers immediately set out by car and knocked Mr. Lanman up, asking to see the antiques. Mr. Lanman, senior, indicated that it was against his principles to do business on a Sunday. The men did however, return to the shop the first thing the next day.

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Larning 'em

Most parents at some time or other have a sneaking doubt whether children should ever have been invented. Apart from the theory that one should be allowed to throw the first one away as simply experimental, the question boils down as to how to train the little horrors. When they are young they can be walloped and stood in the corner, but after, say, ten it is rather different. Various solutions have been developed by individual nations, tribes and classes. There are even those who consider that parents are not the best ones to bring up their children. Many locally must have known one method of training the young though it is not peculiar to this district. A farm whether rented or freehold may comprise the laboriously accumulated only capital of a family. Only too easily that could be dissipated by lack of skill or character. In order therefore, to safeguard the family assets the training is sometimes much extended. As children, the young would not have received pocket-money but would have been given a calf or piglet to tend and rear, the eventual proceeds of sale being theirs and also their lesson in economics. As the children grew up they would have been allocated jobs on the farm, school homework being disposed of as quickly as possible or even ignored. Thus when they left school they simply extended their work on the farm. Pay? Only the minimum pocket-money though every member of the family probably figures in the farm accounts for tax purposes. Suitably approved wives might reluctantly be allowed to join the family circle, a cottage or spare farmhouse being allocated plus an account at the local shop, payment through farm accounts, pocket-money continuing (but not for the wife). These general arrangements would continue until the head of the family dies or one or more children twist his tail for a bigger share. Thus the patriarch (or matriarch) rules and the 'boys' may be 60 or more years old.

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The Good, Old and
Smelly Days

Writing of Norman times, J. Mainwaring in his *BRITISH SOCIAL HISTORY* says: 'The hall of the castle was on the 1st or 2nd floor. Sanitation was by means of chutes opening directly into the moat. Heating was by means of a wood fire burning on a central hearth. The smoke from the fire was allowed to find its own way out of the windows or through concealed flues in the roof. The result must have been that the living quarters permanently smelt of burning wood, which may well have served to lessen the offence of sewage in the moat. For it must be remembered that a comparatively large number of people lived in these castles ... In an age in which bathing was not popular it will be appreciated that the smell of a castle could be detected some distance away. Yet the Normans were not uncultured people. The nuisance of foul odour arising from the big houses was one that persisted for centuries and was commented upon by travellers even in Tudor times nearly 500 years later.'

(Note: Some of these details can be observed at Orford Castle. - Ed.)

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Holidays for Bees

A memory from Badingham was of a bee-keeping parson who, at the turn of the century, used to put two hives, with their bees, one each side of the back wheel of his cycle. He pedalled to Dunwich Heath and set the hives up there for the weeks that the heather was in bloom.

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Please Plant
Trees

The oak is regarded as the typical English tree but there are in fact more elms. Nevertheless the oak is thoroughly involved in our folklore, history and economy. For example, many of the oaks which line our older roads date from the time when they were deliberately planted to provide timber for wooden warships like Nelson's VICTORY. 4,000 oaks were necessary to build one such ship. For many reasons oaks are being reduced in numbers and many of us would hope that replacements can be planted. It depends on YOU!

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