

# Essex Journal

SPRING 2006

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A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



**R. MILLER CHRISTY**

**A TOAD-EATER AND USURER**

**THE PURITAN HARLACKENDEN FAMILY**

**PLESHEY COLLEGE**

**THE APPRENTICES AND THE CLERGYMEN**

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# ESSEX JOURNAL

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The 'ESSEX JOURNAL' is now published by and is under the management of an Editorial Board consisting of representatives of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, the Friends of Historic Essex, the Essex Record Office (on behalf of the Essex County Council) and the Hon. Editor. It was recognised that the statutory duties of the County Council preclude the Record Office from sharing in the financial commitments of the consortium.

The Chairman is Mr. Adrian Corder-Birch M.I.C.M., F.Inst.L.Ex., one of the Congress representatives, the Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Marie Wolfe and the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Geraldine Willden.

The annual subscription of £10.00 should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. G. Willden, 11 Milligans Close, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8QD (Tel: 01245 358807/email: geraldine.willden@essexcc.gov.uk).

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Cover illustration: Holy Trinity church, Pleshey – see p.12 (*Courtesy of M. J. Cuddeford, Esq.*).

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## Notes to contributors

Contributions and correspondence will be welcome and should be sent to the Editor. He does not guarantee that material will be published. He would be grateful if all material for the next issue could be with him not later than the end of August 2006. Contributors are requested to limit their articles to some 2,500/3,000 words (other than by prior agreement with the Hon. Editor, who would welcome an occasional longer article on a suitable topic). Illustrations should, if possible, be camera-ready.

# Editorial

The Government has aimed a further body-blow at adult educational studies in its new White Paper on further education. Colleges are in effect being instructed to find a 'new economic mission' and to centre their activities on the acquisition of vocational skills by under-25's, whose courses are to be made free of charge, whilst state subsidies will be cut from the alleged present figures of 73% to 50% by 2010. The shortfall will have to be paid by students or their employers, which means that the cost of these courses, already greatly increased by the loss of financial support from the universities, will soar yet further. Those who know in the colleges fear that such further increases will kill voluntary classes and cause evening study centres to shut down. In *The Times* of 29 March William Tyler, the former Principal of the City Literary Institute, whom many of us know for his lecture courses throughout the county, wrote:

(this) marks another significant milestone along the path of the total abandonment of the adult education sector. Education is something that all governments should be committed to, not only for children or the under 25's, or only for utilitarian purposes.

In my 'editorial' in the last issue I commented on the unfavourable effect that the universities' cutbacks were having on local history studies. This new blow cannot but make things worse. But the effect will be much wider. Many of us have achieved such skills as we possess in information technology entirely through these courses; are all those who have a need for these skills in today's world (which means everybody) and who left school before the 1980's to be deprived of the opportunity of gaining them, except at the cost of private tuition. Language studies likewise: all know how bad the English are at learning foreign languages, and it should be a part of the Government's role to encourage us to learn them, not to set roadblocks in the way.

The WEA will in all probability be among those hardest hit by this Governmental change of policy. But the WEA was the creation of the earnest fathers of the Labour Party, like R.H. Tawney, in the days when it had a sense of vocation to bring learning and culture before the whole community. Under Blair the party has utterly renounced all this idealism.

★ ★ ★

Following the much regretted death of our hon. Treasurer, Walter Bowyer, in November it has fallen to us to have a long hard look at the *Journal's* finances.

We are losing money. That was no surprise. But the figures have made it clear to us, and to our active sponsors, the Friends of Historic Essex and the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, that something must be done. We cannot look in present circumstances to our third sponsor, the Essex Record Office, for any positive support: as all our readers will know only too well, these years of financial stringency have left the County Council with precious little money to meet its commitments, and that its discretionary financial support for the county's heritage is perforce by no means near the top of its obligations.

The first thought of any publication in our present plight must be to consider raising prices, particularly since we have not increased the annual subscription since the early 1990s, despite increases in postal costs and so much else. But it seems to us that our present subscription base is too narrow for that to be likely to be a realistic proposition.

The next thought of any sensible organisation (as well as of many that have little claim to sense) is to sack the management and hope to find better. Speaking for myself as hon. editor, I have been doing this job for the last sixteen years and have enjoyed it: but I guess that a younger editor with new ideas would do better and I would readily pass it on.

I have little doubt that a new team with new ideas would by vigorous promotion find ways which have eluded us to interest those many in the county who care for Essex local history to become subscribers. Quite often we meet with those who ought to know of us but who have in fact never heard of the *Journal*. We have tried to promote it through local history societies: very many subscribe, but whether these copies are seen only by few members, or whether they are seen, as it were, by too many, who are thereby discouraged from buying their own copy, we never know. We have much the same doubt about the copies taken by Essex libraries. It would be nice if more schools subscribed, but they are of course hardly less strapped for cash than is the County Council.

We have good friends in some county charitable trusts, who have given us some much-appreciated financial support. Were there others minded to give us a four-figure sum that would of course in a sense be our salvation, but whether such a secure income would be really to our long-term benefit is a deal more questionable. But we have no right to expect such a sugar-daddy, and I suspect that if one came our way we ought to commend him rather to the *Victoria County History*, which equally needs help, is fighting hard through its Friends for it, and probably as between the two of us is the more valuable servant of Essex history.

Indeed do we deserve to survive, unless we can do better? This is for others to say. We claim, and feel, we are filling the gap between the annual *Transactions* of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History and *Essex Countryside*. But we have the Newsletters of the Essex Society, of the Friends of Historic Essex, the Essex Society for Family History, of the Essex Congress and of several of the more active local history societies within the county, all in some measure covering the same ground and catering for much the same market. Did we not exist, perhaps they would do it the better by receiving a wider range of article from their members.

There is, of course, another possible course of action. We have until now, of course not without careful thought on our own part and the ready encouragement of our sponsors, consciously taken the course of producing a periodical which has, we trust, some modest claims to elegance of format and presentation. This has necessarily made it more expensive than the increasingly available alternative of desk-top publishing, the style which has been the life-blood of the society newsletters I have noted above, and of so many others. We could, with a new hon. Editor who possessed greater skills in information technology than I can pretend to, ourselves go some way down that course without prejudice to the quality of our content, and produce a somewhat cheaper journal. If this were thought preferable I should readily hand over to such an editor.

We, and our two active sponsors, will be looking at all these alternatives in the next few months. But also, necessarily I fear, to the other possible alternative of closure, at the end of this year or next. **We shall not, of course, entertain the possibility of immediate closure in view of our obligations to those who have subscribed for 2006.** We may have to 'go gentle into that good night' in the company of our predecessor, the *Essex Review*, and of course of periodicals in their day greater than either, like *Punch* and *Horizon*. We shall welcome readers' views. Ladies and Gentlemen, the floor is yours.

★ ★ ★

ESSEX HISTORY FAIR

BRAINTREE

SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2006

### Ruffian Wood

Not an obvious name for a new Essex woodland! But it is a 30 acre site north of Kelvedon which is being planted with oaks and other hardwood trees as the Essex memorial to the Battle of Trafalgar as part of the celebration of its 200th anniversary. Woods named after the 'hearts of oak' which fought there are being planted in 33 of the counties of England, encouraged by the Woodland Trust, and this is the Essex contribution.

But why 'Ruffian'? The ship being commemorated by the Essex wood is the famous *Bellerophon*, fifth in the line led by Collingwood and badly damaged in the battle, where her commander, Capt. John Cooke, was killed. By the time of Trafalgar she was an old ship with 20 years of service behind her, including the battles of the 'Glorious First of June' and of the Nile, and her name will always be even better remembered as the vessel

which took Napoleon captive as he surrendered himself at Rochefort in 1815. But the name was always too much of a mouthful for her sailors, and to them she was always the 'Bally Ruffian' – hence the name.

A worthy memory? Certainly so. But why not the *Téméraire*: even more famous, and commanded at Trafalgar by an Essex man, Sir Eliab Harvey?

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the Clacton Local History Society for their new *Clacton Chronicle*: it had been outstanding among our local history society periodicals, but then suffered an eclipse. Now it is out again in an impressive special issue recounting Clacton's 1939/45 war: the first English town to be bombed, and then its life, all but sealed off by Defence Regulations but lovingly

recorded by the *V.C.H.* team who worked under Shirley Durgan.

And the Society will be hosting the Essex Congress Annual General Meeting on Saturday 6 May: we hope for a good attendance.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to Fiona Cowell, who has lately been awarded a Ph.D. by U.E.A. for her study of 'Richard Woods (1715/16 - 1793): Surveyor, Improver and Master of the Pleasure Garden'. It has chiefly been her work which has added the name of this Essex man to the list of important 18th. cent. garden designers and improvers.

She and her husband are now proposing to sell Hatfield Priory, which, along with the garden originally designed by Woods, they have done so much to restore over the last twenty years.

## Obituaries

### Walter Bowyer (1921-2005)

Walter Bowyer, hon. Treasurer of *Essex Journal*, died in hospital on Tuesday, 11 October 2005. He moved from Norwich to Walthamstow shortly after retirement in 1988. He promptly joined the Walthamstow Historical Society and in 1991 was elected hon. Treasurer serving in this capacity until 1994 and again from 1997 to 2002. During his second period in office he collaborated with Philip Plummer (hon. Secretary) to publish *A Brief History of Courtenay Warner & the Warner Estate*.

Walter was persuaded to extend his undoubted administrative talents to the work of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress and was elected hon. Treasurer in 1992. He held this position until 2003 gaining the distinction as being the longest serving treasurer of Congress. He also simultaneously held office as hon. Treasurer of the Editorial Board of *Essex Journal* and continued in this role until his death. He remained committed to the affairs of *Journal* until the last – even undertaking transactions from his hospital bed!

Walter's interests were many and varied. His primary passion involved the study of costume. He was a staunch

supporter of both the Costume Society and the Textile Society, holding office in both as hon. Treasurer and hon. Membership Secretary respectively. It was a particularly personal pleasure that he was able to combine both his love of textiles, abiding interest in the Arts & Crafts Movement and fascination with his newly adopted town that Walter became an active member of the Friends of the William Morris Gallery. Established in 1988 to support and encourage the work of the Gallery it was typical of Walter's generosity, particularly with his time, that he served on the committee making his customary tangible contribution – no more so than latterly when he assumed the role of hon. Membership Secretary.

Walter was a man of intellect, boundless energy, deep commitment and with an insatiable love of life. He was above all a very dear friend who will be greatly missed.

H. Martin Stuchfield

### Norah Dane (1904-2006)

In last year's Spring issue there was a photograph of Miss Norah Dane at the special party thrown for her 100th birthday at the nursing home where she happily spent the last few years of her long life. We now have to note her death on 21 March 2006 at the wonderful age of 101, with her mental faculties unimpaired right to the end.

As I then said, she was undoubtedly our oldest local historian. She was the daughter of Alderman F.H. Dane, the second Mayor of Ilford: she trained as a teacher and served in schools in Ilford and Barking for many years. In 1953 she became a member of the Barking and District Historical Society, was its hon. Secretary from 1965 to 1990 and thereafter hon. Vice-President. She was a notably efficient and methodical secretary, and circumstances obliged her during several years of

this long stint also to bear the responsibility of programme planning. She was also an active member of the Essex Branch of the Historical Association, as I well remember acting as a very thorough and painstaking auditor, and a very early member of the Friends of Historic Essex. In her hundredth year we were happy to welcome her at Ingatestone Hall for the Friends' 50th anniversary celebrations. When she could not join with us in its activities, she always wanted to know how 'things were getting on'.

She loved her old county and its history, and all those bodies which are trying to serve it. Living so long and happily to the end, one cannot express conventional 'regrets' at her passing, but many of us will remember her with affection and greatly miss her absence.

# The Friends of Essex Churches

The Friends are another important part of the network of voluntary groups serving the county – and not excluding that part which now comes within Greater London. It has now been serving the county for all of 25 years. Most of us probably now its best for its support of the annual September Bike Ride: in future to be known as **Ride and Stride** in honour of those who use other – though preferably also eco-friendly – means of locomotion. In 2005 this alone raised £104,000, a little less than the £123,000 raised in 2004: even so, a very good figure seeing that the chosen day, 10 Sept., was appallingly wet. Volunteers from one church alone (it would be invidious to name which) raised some £4000. The Friends also have two organised church study tours each year, usually by car but sometimes by coach, so that visitors can acquaint themselves better with the architecture and other special features of a group of interesting churches in one locality (for further details see p.32).

In 2005 they gave in all some £216,500 towards churches in the county; mainly Anglican but some Methodist and United Reformed, the sums ranging from £500 to £15,000, almost all of it for repair projects. These included, for example, £1000 for asbestos removal at Doddinghurst, £4000 for buttress and roof repairs to St. Peter's-on-the-Wall, Bradwell and £10,000 for underpinning Little Wigborough.

What has been particularly welcome in the last five years has been another source of funds beyond donations and the various local and county-wide voluntary efforts. This is from the Waste Recycling Group Ltd. under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. This amounted to £61,000 out of the total 2005 income, and £337,000 over the whole period. It is good to know that at least a little of the money raised under such Government schemes is being put to such good use, and that this is being achieved without incurring administrative costs, since the Friends are of course an entirely voluntary group.

## The Maldon and Essex Elections 1695 (extracted from the Autobiography of Sir John Bramston)

I am now entered into my eighty-fifth year of age, having been present at two elections for members of Parliament, that at Maldon of the 7th of this instant November, the other for the county on the 12th of the same November. At Maldon were candidates Irby Mountague, a Colonel, a stranger to our county, but brother to Charles Mountague, who served in the last Parliament for this burrough; and by that means has gotten to himself great offices and much wealth; and by fighting some, and bribing and corrupting others, now set up his brother to advance himself, if he can, as much. There stood also Sir Eliab Harvey, who was the other burgess last Parliament, brought in them by myself and son and our interest; and my nephew, Dr. George Bramston, which last had not thought of standing until Mr. Charles Mountague, being now Chancellor of the Exchequer, was courted to serve for Westminster, and was there elected, with Sir Stephen Fox, but upon Mr. Mountague's declaring and assuring Sir Eliab Harvey that, notwithstanding his election at Westminster, yet he would, if chosen, serve for Maldon, this we could not believe; but Sir Eliab, from him, assuring us and the town too that he had so assured him, we giving too much credulity, gave Sir Eliab assurance we could not oppose either Mr. Mountague or him. Now Mr. Mountague had been at Maldon, and treated very high, and invited the bailiffs etc. to Lees, my Lord of Manchester's (who also was at Maldon) and thereby had gained the majority of electors; so that we thought not fit to oppose him, and were too far engaged to Sir Eliab to set up one against him. But at length we had some little hint that Mountague would set up his brother; and George Bramston went to him, who did not deny it, and would have had George to give his interest that time to his brother, and promised at next election not to oppose, but let George be chosen; which George

refused, and declared he would stand, and sent down and treated the freemen. He lost it by a great many, all our votes going double, and some of Mountague's. In the management of this affair we are to charge ourselves with folly, for trusting and too soon engaging for Sir Eliab. We have also to lay to Sir Eliab's charge underhand and double dealing, by engaging with Mr. Mountague as he did to visit each other, to spend at each other's house some beer, tho' to eat apart. It is too tedious to set down particulars; but this short note shall serve for a longer.

At the county elections were candidates Sir Charles Barington, set up by gentlemen, Sir Francis Masham and Mr. Francis Mildmay, set up by themselves, the Lord of Manchester and the Lord Fitzwalter. Sir Charles was alone, because Mr. Bullock (though he had said if the gentlemen set him up that he would stand) refused when sent unto by the gentlemen. In polling, the Sheriff would have polled without oath, intending by that slight (under pretence of despatch) to get in the Quakers, who were come in great numbers, being invited thereunto by Sir Francis Masham. And great and long debates we had, and could not stir the Sheriffs, the Lords also urging for it, as did also Mr. Charles Mountague, who came with my Lord of Manchester, and stickled for the Quakers, though he be no freeholder in the county. The Sheriffs resolved to poll them: we protested against them. At last Sir Charles had 2,037; Sir Francis, 1,825; Mr. Mildmay 1,716. There were about 70 Quakers that gave for Masham and Mildmay; but their votes were set apart and not suffered to be cast up as pollers, by all the gentlemen present.

(from *The Autobiography of Sir John Bramston*, Camden Soc. 1845. pp. 390/2: spelling modernised)

# News from the Essex Archive Users Forum

The Essex Archive Users Forum, representing the major organisations concerned with history in Essex, met for their regular meeting with representatives of the County Council at the Essex Record Office on 21 February.

We were able to offer congratulations on the award to the County Council of the highest level of 'mark' for the quality of its services under the Government's Continuous Performance Appraisal process. Particularly relevant and gratifying was the specific award of this level of marking to the Council's Cultural Services, which, of course, include the Record Office.

The meeting heard with some scepticism of the Government's new process of Local Area Agreements for local authorities, which seem likely to place a less favourable focus on cultural services. We were assured that every effort will be made to secure a fair place at the table for these services in Essex. In order to achieve this at may prove necessary for E.R.O. and other related services to place more emphasis on joint projects with other services. The Forum understood the need, but expressed concern that the core service of E.R.O. – to serve the needs of researchers – should not suffer as a result of any imposed change of focus.

With the completion of the work on the ground floor of E.R.O., the expectation of increased income from hiring fees have been met and exceeded. It is hoped that this will obviate the need for further cuts in the Record Office's budget. While welcoming this, the Forum were concerned that many societies and organisations related to Essex history had now been priced out of meeting in the building. The E.C.C. representatives acknowledged this and hoped that, should the income remain consistently buoyant, it might be possible to review charges to such bodies in years to come. Sustained

income might also make possible further development to the premises, opening a second doorway into the Record Office and improving the current limited refreshment facilities, a subject of widespread concern among users.

The Open Day at E.R.O. held in connection with the recent B.B.C. television series 'Who do you think you are?' produced more than 750 visitors, many of them keen to register as E.R.O. users. E.R.O. staff had taken part in a series of four afternoon broadcasts on B.B.C. Essex and the station's website now contains considerable detail on E.R.O. and its services. More programmes in conjunction with E.R.O. are planned.

Martin Astell of the Essex Sound and Video Archive at E.R.O. was able to bring us abreast of the work of his unit, which is focused at the moment on a one-year project, 'The development of modern Essex' which will interview thirty carefully selected people to learn, through their experience, of the development of personal and family life, health, welfare, leisure and migration in Essex since the end of the War. Also being planned is a CD compilation looking at Essex dialect, the first of a projected series, and a pamphlet on Vaughan Williams' folk-song collecting in Essex. The Archive is a growing collection to which, over the past twelve months, over 300 new recordings have been added.

The next meeting of the Forum will be in June, when we shall begin to receive the first of a series of regular reports from Richard Harris on work and developments within the Record Office.

Vic Gray  
Chairman  
The Essex Archive Users Forum.

## R. Miller Christy, Essex Naturalist and Antiquary – Part II

By W. Raymond Powell

The life and work of Robert Miller Christy (1861-1928), is being published in *Essex Journal* in four parts. Part I (vol. 40, No. 2, Autumn 2005) describes his early life, at home in Chignal St. James (Essex), his schooldays at Bootham, York (1874-7), and his months in Brighton (1878-9).

After leaving 'miserable Brighton', Bob Christy, as he was then known, spent eight months at home. He continued to record his natural history observations, which appear in the elaborate index to his Diaries. Occasionally he made excursions beyond Essex.

To Mr Rivers Nurseries at Sawbridgeworth [Herts.] (locally 'Sabstead') ... Saw a *Wellingtonia Gigantea*, said to be the first brought to England, but it is no great size. Saw a house out of which was this year gathered over 900 doz. Peaches for the London market. Saw a glasshouse said to be the first attempted in England, built by Mr Rivers 40 years ago: a small square enclosed by a tall beech hedge, with a glass roof (25 October 1879).

Bob Christy was busy even on Christmas day, when he dissected a *Robin's* gizzard (25 December 1879). His wide interests appear in many entries, sometimes in a single day. *Caddisworms* at the bottom of the brook near Pengy [in Chignal]; shot a *Jay* that had acorns in its gizzard; found 2 *Stockdoves* eggs in an oak tree and saw large *Trout* in the river at Porters [in Boreham] (23 March 1880). Returning two days later he shot the same *Trout*. It weighed 2lb 10oz and was 19½ ins. long; it was covered with fungal disease (25 March 1880). On other occasions Bob saw an *Owl* and a *Fox* come tumbling out of the same hole in a hollow willow tree at Rollestons in Writtle (24 February 1880); and collected birds' bones and feathers from guano fertiliser (31 March 1880).

Especially notable is Bob's first reference to the Essex Field Club, of which he became a leading member.

To Epping intending to go to the Essex Naturalists' Club, but the others decided not to go ... so we took the train



Fig. 1. Bardfield Saling church (*Gentleman's Magazine* 1811).

through Epping to Theydon Bois & spent a mostly beastly day through Epping Forest to Waltham Abbey along ... dusty roads crowded with ... drunk Cockneys. Found *Wood Sorrell* out in plenty, caught an early *Thorn Moth*, saw a *Green Woodpecker*, & heard a number of *Chiffchaffs*. Coming back saw the Epping Hunt, *Deer* & all ... a curious mob ... 80 or 100 (29 March 1880).<sup>1</sup>

Although Bob failed to attend that meeting of the club, he became a founder member, and in the same year contributed the first of many articles to its journal.

During these months at home Bob Christy visited at least 32 churches, usually attended by his friend Henry Corder. Most of these excursions were in mid-Essex: on 17 October 1879 they visited, among other villages, Little (Bardfield) Saling church, with its round tower (*see fig. 1 above*). On their longest outing he and Corder called first at Broomfield: church much restored, round tower, 6 new bells, brass of lady dated 1613, font (sketched). Then to Great Waltham church (Roman brick in tower); Little Leighs church; Great Leighs church (Norman door). Finally, the two friends 'lay out at night meteor-gazing' (21 October 1879). One day's 'church hunting' took in Great Dunmow, Great and Little Easton, Tilty and the remains of the abbey, all described, with sketches of special features (18 March 1880). Near Little Easton church was 'a small round building, said to have been built by Lord Maynard to smoke bacon.' On another day Bob viewed Hayrons farm in High Easter 'once a moated manor';<sup>2</sup> the churches of High Easter; Great Canfield; High, Aythorp,

Leaden and Margaret Roding (26 February 1880). At Canfield Mount, the site of a Norman castle: 'the keep is now terraced and planted with trees, as is the vallum which is surrounded by a moated enclosure of about 3 acres. The river Roding forms part of the moat.' In High Roding street 'a small brick lock-up about 5 ft. square, much restored.' In the road by Margaret Roding church 'part of a pair of stocks dated 1839. The Rev. H. Kingdom came & we talked much.'

The history of Bob Christy's own parish naturally attracted his attention. He described the church, (*see fig. 2*) adding a sketch of the rood-loft stair.<sup>3</sup> At Chignal Hall he observed a carved beam over the front door, dated 1552. On the other side of the Hall was a wood carving inscribed '1686 IP'. This was once a Petre family residence (1 December 1879).<sup>4</sup>

From 'Old Ruffle', Bob heard about the perambulation of the parish during the incumbency of (John G.) Milne.<sup>5</sup> Andrew Marriage, farmer at Little Baddow, told Bob 'that the woods there are full of places where valleys have been dammed up as fishponds for the monastery of Grass which stood at the top of Grace's walk.' (26 October 1879).<sup>6</sup>

A long diary entry reports on Bob's first meeting with Frederic Chancellor, one of the diocesan surveyors, already a prominent figure in the county.<sup>7</sup>

Who seems by a piece of great though very unusual fortune to be a man well suited to his position, as he seems to have studied largely and taken a great interest in the architecture of churches. He had drawers without



end full of different parts of the various churches on which he has been engaged (19 December 1879).

Chancellor allowed Christy to make a tracing of the Norman fresco he was then restoring in Great Canfield church.<sup>8</sup> He said that fragments of old stained glass often remained in churches, but always the outside of the pattern, the centre having been poked through in Cromwell's time.

On a 'capital excursion' Bob drove past Boreham Park (*Deer* under chestnut trees) to Maldon, where he joined his uncle Fell Christy's steam yacht (25 September 1879). They sailed up the river Blackwater to 'a small creek leading out of Salcot Creek to Smith's farm ... [where] there was a few years ago a place for unshoeing Welsh bullocks that used to come across country.'

### Saffron Walden

From 2 April 1880 to 8 April 1882 Bob Christy was working as a clerk in Gibson's (now Barclay's), a Quaker bank at Saffron Walden. He had already visited Saffron Walden to attend the Friends' quarterly meeting, viewing excavation in George Gibson's field: (many Saxon skeletons)<sup>9</sup> and the town maze 'thought to be Roman or British, but recut since,' (14 October 1879). He lodged initially near the bank with 'Mr Lagden of Battle Ditch, High Street' (2 April 1880). Bob once referred to his 'slavery and bondage' at Saffron Walden (15 September 1881), but he seems to have been happier there than at Brighton. Within the town he was able to range freely in the splendid garden of George S. Gibson, the bank manager,<sup>10</sup> and that of Lewis Fry, another Quaker (17 and 26 April 1880, and often). Other frequent resorts were the neighbouring Audley End park, with its many birds (6 April 1880 et seq.), and Lindsell Hall, the home of Bob's Christy relatives, about 8 miles SE of the town (11, 13 July 1880, 15 January 1881 et seq.; cf. *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886)). In Pounce Hall wood on the eastern fringe of the town, Bob found *Oxlips* and *Primroses* (6, 22 April 1881), and once 'put a *Pheasant* off her nest with 17 eggs' (29 April 1881). To Debden Park, 6 m. south of Saffron Walden, he made 'a capital expedition' (27 April 1880), 'put up a *Wild Duck* from the lake' and helped a *Robin* hatch from its shell' (8 May 1881).

While at Saffron Walden Bob went three times to Cambridge, for sight seeing (20 March 1881; 14 November 1881) and on one occasion to rub the brass of Sir Roger de Trumpington (1269) in Trumpington church (27 July 1881). He paid his first visit to the fens, via Ely and then Soham, where 'the roads ... were nearly all grass lanes, but the cottages better than in Essex, mostly new.' (10 April 1881). At Wicken Fen 'the villages have common right to dig peat or cut sedge.' Bob noticed two engines to pump water from the fen into the river Cam. Having missed his train back from Cambridge, he caught the night mail, reaching Saffron Walden at 2 a.m., after walking about 34 miles.

Another walk over the Cambridgeshire border took him to Linton, where in the corner of the churchyard he found 'a picturesque little well ... used by the villagers, & a shepherd's crook is kept to get the buckets up' (28 August 1881). Two months' earlier he had driven to Hildersham, along with George Gibson, to look for wild flowers (22 June 1881). This is less remarkable than it seems at first, for Gibson, besides being his bank manager, was a leading authority on the local flora.<sup>11</sup>

As before, Bob's Diaries often mention birds. He rises at 6 a.m. to view a *Moorhen's* nest; hears *Turtle Doves*; finds two *Stockdoves'* nests; sees *Spotted Flycatchers* and a *Cole Tit's* nest; in the evening he observes a colony of *Sandmartens* near Audley End (19 May 1880). 'The other day at Lindsell ... one of the boys knew *Swifts* as 'Tommy Devils.' (13 July 1880). Bob experiments 'with Waterton's method of putting a *Sparrow* into corrosive liquid before skinning - feathers not harmed.' (28 December 1880). He considers the effects of cold weather on birds; in Audley End park *Tits* abound: *Great, Cole, Marsh* and *Blue*; he observes *Bullfinches, Skylarks, Royston Crows,* and *Jackdaws,* then walks through the snow via Wenden and Littlebury to Great Chesterford (23 January 1881). He sees four *Owls* mobbing a cat (25 February 1881).

One evening Bob ascends the ruins of Saffron Walden castle and finds *Molluscs* in abundance (18 March 1881). At Littlebury the old man who winds the church clock shows him more than 12 *Peacock* and *Tortoiseshell* butterflies (20 March 1881). On his second visit to Wicken Fen Bob takes a butterfly net (29 May 1881). He observes a *Bumble Bee* visiting 114 flowers, including 46 of *Small Wild Thyme* (16 September 1881). In Audley End park he opens a *Mole's* nest (12 March 1882). In Monks Hall wood at Saffron Walden, he finds many *Oxlips* and reports on them at length (Ibid.).

In his first week at Saffron Walden Bob Christy called on Joseph Travis, the bird-stuffer [taxidermist], 'good trader, interested in natural history' and had a long talk with him (9 April 1880. For Travis see *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886), p.269). During the following year Bob often visited him. One evening 'Travis told me ... that the *Great Spotted Woodpecker* was always called "French Magpie", by keepers and others. He said he would have in 50 *Kingfishers* during the winter (1 July 1880). 'Travis had a *Guillemot* and a *Razor-bill* killed near Stansted, also a *Whimbrel* and a *White House Sparrow* from Clavering. He showed me a *Deer's* head from Capt. Byng's, which he had been stuffing,' (8 September 1881). 'Travis gave me a *Kestrel* which had almost a whole *Mouse* in its gizzard' (31 January 1881). Travis accompanied Bob one evening 'to an old garden between the Town and the Park ... Found the nest of three young *Blackbirds* ... cut out a *Spotted Woodpecker's* nest which Travis found in an old damson tree' (14 June 1881).

On 13 June 1881 Bob Christy noted in his Diary: 'Up to this date I have kept every letter on natural history ever received ... hundreds or even thousands. Now have started to weed them out.' Since he had been studying natural history for only six years this shows his consuming interest in the subject and his prodigious energy. No such letters have survived.

Soon after arriving in Saffron Walden Bob Christy walked over to the Roos to meet Joseph Clarke F.S.A. and see his collection of books and other items relating to local history: 'I hope to be better acquainted with these things some day.' (25 April 1880).<sup>12</sup> Clarke told him that the greatest destruction of brasses in Saffron Walden church was during its restoration c.1802, when some of his ancestors' were moved. He thinks they exist still among the Audley End collection.

During the next two years Bob did, indeed, learn more about antiquities. Even before meeting Clarke he had rubbed the brasses in Saffron Walden church and saw the parish register, which 'has a note on the fly-leaf of vol. 3 recording Charles II's visit, Sunday 11 Oct. 1668.' (21 April 1880). On the day before he finally left

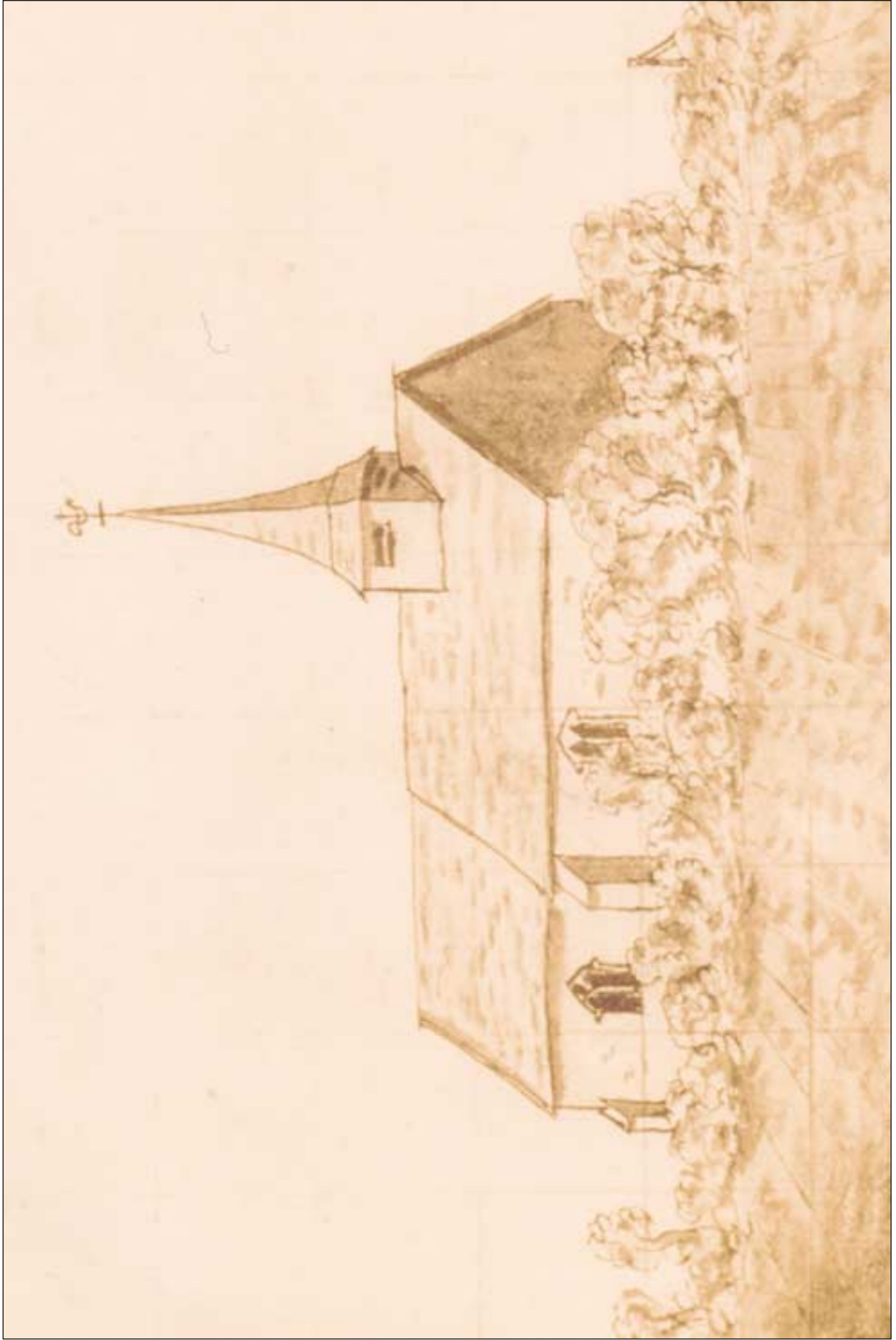


Fig 2. Chignal St. James church (courtesy of the author).

Walden Bob visited four churches (7 April 1882). The lost brasses from Heydon were said to be depicted in the British Museum's Cole MSS. One of them had been thrown away after a bellringer stubbed his toe on it. Great Chishall, Little Chishall and Langley churches are also described in Bob's Diary. Langley was dilapidated; it had the Royal Arms in the east window.<sup>13</sup> Most of the churches visited between 1880 and 1882 were in Essex, around Saffron Walden. Farther south were those of Elsenham, Lindsell, Great Bardfield, Danbury and Stanford Rivers. Including the few in Cambridgeshire, Bob visited over 30 churches in this period.

At Widdington the rector, James C.L. Court 'a most enlightened parson,' told Bob about the church, which had been restored in 1874 and given a new tower. The old one had fallen down in 1771, after which the end of the nave had been blocked up by a red brick wall surmounted by a dove-cote steeple (31 August 1880).<sup>14</sup> Ashdon church had six bells, all of different dates. Outside, against a buttress, was the bottom of an old font, which until Mr Swete came, was turned upside down as a door stop (23 June 1880).<sup>15</sup> Bob rubbed the brasses at Great Chesterford: 1742, 1642 and two older. To reach one of them he had to pile three forms one on top of each other (22 July 1880).<sup>16</sup> At Rickling, where he was guided round the church by a blind man, Bob rubbed some ancient figures on the stones of the south door to the chancel (21 July 1881). At Hempstead he saw the ruins of the tower which had suddenly collapsed; the remains of Dr Harvey's museum in the church had survived. Repairs would cost about £3,000 (12 February 1882).<sup>17</sup>

Other antiquities noted include the fragment of a Dane's skin from Hadstock church, preserved in Saffron Walden museum (13 May 1880).<sup>18</sup> Newport, visited one evening, is fully described in Bob's Diary (17 June 1880). He mentions an inn with a fine brick chimney, another inn near the station dated 1694, and 'Nell Gwynne's house,' dated 1692. A house in the main street has under a window a relief depicting four figures: two old men or angels playing harps, a crowned king and a child. At Wimbish is a notice on the church door summoning the court baron of George Stacey Gibson's manor of Wimbish Hall (29 July 1880). In an Old Curiosity shop at Great Sampford, Bob buys a man-trap for 5s. (15 April 1881). At Thaxted are the trade signs of a chimney sweep and a shearing-smith. Reed Cottage, built more than 40 years ago by Jabez Gibson, has kitchen paving brought from Saffron Walden church, and contains the matrices of brasses now in Audley End house (22 March 1882).

While at Saffron Walden, Bob Christy was allowed about fourteen days annual holiday. In November 1880 he spent four days at Newcastle with Hugh Richardson, an old school friend (7–10 November). On the 8th they visited the Northumbrian lakes and the Roman wall. Next day Bob went round Newcastle Natural History Museum: 'some of John Hancock's birds, & some figures by Bewick,'<sup>19</sup> viewed the Roman remains in the Black Gate museum, and rubbed a Flemish brass (1429) in All Saints' church.<sup>20</sup> The 10th, 'another great day for me' was spent at Ushaw Roman Catholic College, Durham. Its museum housed the Waterton Collection of Birds (mostly from South America). In the library were 30,000 books. That evening Bob went to York to stay with friends and visit Strensall Common, Askham Bog and the Minster. After two days at home he then returned to Saffron Walden (15–19 November 1880).

In 1881 Bob Christy spent much of his annual holiday in York, at the British Association's Jubilee A.G.M., which his Diary reported at length (30 August–7 September). The meeting was attended by 'almost every great scientist except Darwin and Gwyn Jeffreys.'<sup>21</sup> Sir John Lubbock (later Lord Avebury) presided, attracting an audience of 2,254 to his inaugural address. Among other lecturers were Gen. Pitt-Rivers and Sir William Thomson, later Lord Kelvin.<sup>22</sup> Besides attending the formal lectures, sectional meetings, a lunch and a dinner, Bob found time for sightseeing. One afternoon, with others, he took a boat and rowed up the river to the waterworks (2 September). On 3 September they hired a cab with horses 'and took our brothers ... with E.T.S.' to Langwith, four miles east of York. E.T.S. was no doubt Ernest Thompson Seton (1860–1946), later a distinguished naturalist, and writer under the pen-name Seton-Thompson. His friendship with Bob Christy is discussed below. That evening Bob 'saw the Rev. W.C. Hey's collection of shells at the archdeacon's.'

On 5 September Bob caught an early train to Stamford Bridge, then walked north to Buttercrambe, (*Wild Ducks, Teal, Kestrels*), on to Sandburn Woods, '& our beloved Strensall.' Next day he went over the Glassworks and Terry's Confectionery Works. During the BA meeting electric light was supplied by the brush system. Bob found it efficient out of doors, but not inside the hall (8 September). He spent his last day in Yorkshire, after the meeting, on an excursion by train to Thirsk, and then a long walk east, up to Whitestone Cliff in the Hambleton Hills, thence to Old Byland, where he sketched a curious carving in the porch door, and finally south to Byland Abbey to view the remains of the abbey. (9 September).<sup>23</sup>

On his way home from York Bob called at Buckhurst Hill, where he was 'satisfied with Mr. Cole and the headquarters of the Essex Field Club.' (10 September 1881).<sup>24</sup> Before returning to Saffron Walden he attended the Friends Quarterly Meeting at Colchester (13 September) and visited Pleshey (where 'George Philpott sells ale & beer at 4d. a pot') and sketched a stone inscribed 'Ricardus Rex ij.' (15 September)<sup>25</sup>

On 26 September Bob Christy, after observing the movements of bees, listened to the 'doleful muffled peal' of Saffron Walden's church bells for President Garfield of the U.S.A., whose funeral took place on that day.<sup>26</sup> In the following month he reported a fire at Thaxted in which 23 cottages were destroyed. This happened during a hurricane, when a spark from a blacksmith's forge spread along the Debden road [Park Street] towards the church (14 October 1881).

Early in 1882 Bob spent about a week with his friends at Saddlescombe in Sussex; calling at West Blatchington to see a stuffed *Hoopoe*; riding with the South Down hunt; and viewing a Fine Art Exhibition at Lewes (21–28 February 1882). On his way to Sussex, having obtained a ticket from his M.P., he spent some time in the gallery of the House of Commons, listening to Ministers and Irish members (20 February).

Having left Saffron Walden in April 1882, Bob Christy spent two months at home. His interest in natural history appears in almost every page of his Diary. In May he finds the eggs of *Greenfinches* and *Chaffinches*, the nests of *Wrynecks* and *Blue Tits*; sees a *Green Woodpecker*; gathers *Arums* (1 May 1882); inspects the Natural History Museum at South Kensington ('beyond praise' 9 May); and spends a day in north Kent, viewing the hop

gardens and fruit trees (11 May). Next month he finds several birds' nests and their eggs, notes the first *Skipper* butterfly, and observes the movements of *Bees* (20 June 1882). A week later he spends a 'famous day' at Wicken Fen where *Swallow Tail* butterflies are out; and he finds the nests of *Short Eared Owls* and *Kestrels* (24 June).

In April and May 1882 Bob Christy visited twelve Essex churches. Five of them, in the Billericay area, were seen in a single day (4 May)<sup>27</sup> and five during an expedition from Forest Gate, in the south-west of the county. (11, 12 May).<sup>28</sup> The others were Birchanger (20 April) in the north-west, and Pleshey, north of Chignal (2 May). When these 12 churches are added to those previously noted, it will be seen that before his 22nd birthday Bob had visited, and usually described in his Diary, over 75 Essex churches.

Bob viewed the excavations at Loughton camp (13 June 1882),<sup>29</sup> and at the Parsonage, Little Saling, noted an old fire-back bricked up behind a modern fireplace (23 June). He attended the official opening of Epping Forest by Queen Victoria (6 May).

### St. Moritz

On 27 June 1882 Bob Christy left London for Switzerland, via Dover and Calais, then by night train to Bâle. One of his fellow passengers was the 'dry and comic' Mr. Dean, who said that peasants came to view their train at the stations because it carried 'Les Anglais, who are bursting with money, and gold studs in their sleeves.' Bob spent the next morning in Bâle before travelling to Zürich along the Rhine valley. (28 June). He continued by train to Coire (29 June), by diligence over the Julier Pass, then in horse-drawn carriages to Thusis and St. Moritz (29, 30 June).

Bob Christy stayed in St. Moritz until 5 September, at first in the hotel Engadinn Kuln, which had electric light powered by waterfalls (30 June, 2 July) and later in the Villa Montplaisir (6 July). He often walked to neighbouring villages, including Pontresina to the south-east, (4, 10 July, 21 August), and Maloja to the south (14 July). A longer excursion took him south-south-east to the top of the Bernina Pass, (25 July), and another to the Alp Gross (8,000 ft.) above St. Moritz (28 August).

On his way home Bob travelled along the Rhine and Rhone valleys, diverting south to Zermatt, had a fine view of the Matterhorn, then took the train from Visp to Geneva (5-17 September). During two days in Geneva, he noted the jewellers shops, tobacconists, wood carvers, and mementoes of Calvin and Rousseau (17-19 September). He passed through Lausanne to Lucerne (20-23 September), where he took a couple of boat trips before continuing to England (28-9 September). After a day in London he reached home on 1 October 1882.

During his Swiss holiday Bob Christy's natural-history interests predominated. On his outward journey he noted the Rhine valley Vineyards (28 June). Between Coire and St. Moritz he saw his first *Alpine Rhododendron* and *Azaleas* (30 June). In the forest near St. Moritz he caught a *Missel Thrush*, and picked 101 flowers of *Primula Farinosa* (7 July). He saw eight *Great Spotted Woodpeckers* among the pines above the village (12 July). He observed a *Bumble Bee* making 33 visits to a *Geranium Sylvaticum* (26 July). Near the tops of the Alp Gross he saw three *Ptarmigans* with white wings but rock-coloured bodies (28 August).

On his return journey Bob was delighted with the garden of the hotel Via Mala at Thusis, which with its fruit trees 'looked like Paradise.' (6 September). At Lucerne the Stauffers Museum of Alpine Birds and Animals contained *Flamingoes*, *Lynxes*, *Vultures*, *Stoats* and *Weasels*. (27 September).

Among the few antiquities noted by Bob on the Continent are the cathedrals of Bâle (28 June) and Geneva (18 September), the 'fine feudal castle' at Chillon (21 September), and the 'Lion of Lucerne,' carved out of rock by Thorvaldsen. (24 September). At the summit of the alpine pass near St. Moritz were two Roman tombstones five feet high, erected under Augustus, who was thought to have built the road (30 June). On two occasions Bob visited the ruined village of Surly near St. Moritz. (31 July, 30 September).

After a few weeks at home, Bob Christy spent a further six months at Saffron Walden, apparently on holiday (14 November 1882 to 5 May, and 18 May to 5 July 1883), broken by twelve days in Brighton (6-17 May 1883). At Saffron Walden Joseph Clarke tells him that *Ringdoves* are now more common than before. He thinks that they came with the cold winter of 1860, and that *Blackbirds*, *Thrushes*, *Sparrows* and *Greenfinches* have increased enormously (8 January 1883). At Bishop's Stortford Edward Taylor showed Bob a case of *Weasels* and some cases of birds, in which he noticed a *Bittern*, a *Common Buzzard*, a pair of *Partridges*, and a *Red Throated Dove* (26 March). Bob often picked *Primulaceae*, and once employed 'a most reliable youth to gather *Oxlips*.' (23 April See also 7, 25, 28 April). He spent two days tramping round north Essex 'to discover the boundary between *Elatior* and *Vulgaris*, (*Oxlips* and *Primroses*. 30 April-1 May). Near his home Bob measured several old *Oaks* (2 June 1883). The largest had a girth of 19½ft. at about 1yd. from the ground.

Bob Christy, along with Joseph Clarke, rubbed the inscriptions on Saffron Walden's church bells (17 November 1882). In Stambourne church Bob noted heraldic signs (1 May 1883).<sup>30</sup> Joseph Travis, the 'bird-stuffer' had *Waxwings*, *Stoats*, and a *Short Eared Owl* (17, 27, 31 January 1883), also a *Parrot Crossbill*, one of many shot locally forty years ago when they were so numerous (19 February). After a cold snap he had in 20 *Bramblings*, a *Stonechat*, and two kinds of *Common Bunting* (21 March). William Cornell, farm bailiff at Lindsell Hall, said that he had shot a *Golden Oriole*, now stuffed and in a shop (29 May). The last Bob had heard of in Essex was killed on 26 May 1850 at Leyton.<sup>31</sup> At a bird-stuffer in Dunmow Bob saw many local birds, including *Pied Flycatchers*, *Snow Buntings*, *Hawfinches*, *Ring Ouzels*, *Yellow Wagtails*, a *Black Bullfinch*, and a *Common Whitethroat* (29 May 1883).

### Acknowledgements

The Acknowledgements made in Part I of this article apply also to Part II. This article has been put onto computer disk by Helen Coghill and has been read in proof by my wife Avril. Their continuing help is much appreciated.

### References

- 1 The Essex Staghouads: *V.C.H. Essex*, ii, p.584.
- 2 For Hayrons see: Morant, *Essex*, ii, p.456; *R.C.H.M. Essex*, ii, p.128.
- 3 Cf. *R.C.H.M., Essex*, ii, p.44.
- 4 *Ibid.* p.46.
- 5 J.G. Milne was rector up to 1863: *White Dir. Essex* (1863), p.451; *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886).

- 6 'The monastery of Grass' must refer to the free chapel of Graces in Little Baddow: *E.A.T.* n.s. xvi. p.106. Newcourt, *Repert.* p.27. Such dams are not likely to have been connected with the chapel.
- 7 For Frederic Chancellor (1825-1918) see *E.A.T.* n.s. xv. p.85; *Essex Review* xxvii. p.102.
- 8 *R.C.H.M. Essex*, ii. p.91 and plate f.p.93.
- 9 For the Saxon skeletons: 'Essays and Articles 1877-80,' part III, p.95.
- 10 For this garden see *Paper Landscaped*, ed. Twigs Way, (2005), p.54.
- 11 For Gibson's *Flora of Essex* (1862) see S.T. Jermyn, *Flora of Essex* (1974), p.1, p.17, p.225.
- 12 For Joseph Clarke (1902-95): *Essex Bibl. Suppl.* (1987), p.62. For the Roos: *P. Essex*, p.539.
- 13 Langley church was restored in 1885. The Royal Arms were of the late 17th-century Stuarts: *R.C.H.M. Essex*, i. 165-6.
- 14 See also G.M. Benton, 'Widdington Church,' *E.A.T.* n.s. xix. p.22.
- 15 Henry B. Swete was rector of Ashdon 1877-90: A. Green, *Ashdon* (1989), p.163.
- 16 Cf. W. Lack, H.M. Stuchfield and P. Whittemore, *The Monumental Brasses of Essex* (2003), p.136.
- 17 Hempstead tower had collapsed on 28 January 1882: M. Christy, *Durrants' Handbook to Essex* (1887); cf. Pevsner, *Essex* (1965 edn.). See *Durant's Handbook for Essex*, p.111.
- 18 For Thomas Bewick (1753-1828): *Oxford D.N.B.* For John Hancock: *Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales*, ed. J.H.F. Brabner (c. 1896), v.9.
- 20 For the Black Gate Museum see *Northumberland*, ed. J.E. Morris (Methuen Little Guide, 1916), p.254.
- 21 For J. Gwyn Jeffreys (1809-85), conchologist see *Oxford D.N.B.* He was a vice-president of the British Association.
- 22 For John Lubbock (1824-1913), Augustus Pitt-Rivers (1824-1900) and William Thomson (1843-1909), see *Oxford D.N.B.*
- 23 Byland Abbey was a township in Coxwold ancient parish. In 1881 it became part of a new civil parish of Byland with Wass: F.A. Youngs *Admin. Areas of England*, ii (1991), p.524. For the Cistercian abbey of Byland: D. Knowles and R.N. Hadcock *Medieval Religious Houses of England and Wales* (1953), p.106.
- 24 William Cole (1844-1922) was the principal founder and for 42 years secretary of the Essex Field Club: see *V.C.H. Essex Bibliog.* (1959), p.75.
- 25 See Miller Christy, 'On a relic of King Richard II at Pleshey,' *Essex Review* ix (1900), p.169.
- 26 James Garfield, president of U.S.A. 1880-1, was gravely wounded by an assassin on 2 July 1881 and died of his wounds 19 Sept.
- 27 Great Burstead, Little Burstead, Laindon, Langdon Hills and Dunton.
- 28 East Ham, Ilford Hospital, Little Ilford, Barking, West Ham.
- 29 For this prehistoric earthwork: *R.C.H.M. Essex*, ii. p.165; *V.C.H. Essex* i. p.277; *V.C.H. Essex Bibl.* (1959), p.246.
- 30 Cf. *R.C.H.M. Essex*, i. p.272.
- 31 For other cases see M. Christy, *Birds of Essex*, pp.101-2. For Cornell: *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886).



*Reproduction of an early photograph of Pleshey church before its reconstruction by Chancellor in 1868 (courtesy of M.J. Cuddeford, Esq.).*

# An Inventory at Pleshey College

By Christopher Page

An English poet once described how 'throughout this world, walls stand, broken and covered with frost: the old work of giants lies idle'. More than a thousand years later we may still sense the vividness of his images. Britain is strewn with the remains of colleges and monasteries, scarcely a stone left standing. How strange it is, therefore, that we say that something is 'written in stone', when we wish to say that it is fixed and unchangeable. Perhaps it would be better to say that something unchangeable is 'written in parchment', for the monasteries and colleges that have fallen into ruin are often associated with records and registers that have survived the years intact.

The archives of King's College Cambridge house just such a record. It is an inventory of the goods in the College of Pleshey, in Essex, made on 10 January 1527/8. This was when the 'King's business' of his divorce had just commenced and when none of those concerned would have had the slightest inkling of the religious turmoil which was to come, and which at Pleshey would culminate in the dissolution of religious colleges under Edward VI in 1549. The College was founded in 1394 by Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of Edward III, Duke of Gloucester and, in right of his wife, the heiress of the Bohuns, earl of Essex. Thomas had rebuilt Pleshey Castle to be his home, and intended the College to possess a staff of nine chaplains, two clerks and two choristers. Visit Pleshey today and you will not find much sign that these priests and choristers ever ministered or sang: the only faint indication is that the much-rebuilt church has an anomalous and uncharacteristically imposing central tower (*see front cover*).

This is where the inventory can reveal so much: the centuries roll back as the parchment scroll, crinkled with age, unravels to its full length of about a yard and a half. The investigators began in the library, and the inventory of books they produced is almost ghostly, enabling us to scan the shelves of a library long departed into oblivion (there are eighty-five books listed, and only two of them are known to survive). The officials then worked through the chests of various smaller chambers, the brewhouse, storeroom and bakery. The books are listed according to the main item they contained – not

unusually different 'books' were bound together, the church vestments were noted with special attention to the fabric, colour and ornament, and even a cracked pot in the kitchen is noted. There is always something poignant about the possessions of the dead, and something pitiless about an inventory of them: we do not welcome such reminders that human comforts and aspirations can be reduced to a list of miscellaneous objects.

We can hear the voice of the founder, Thomas of Woodstock, in the statutes of the College, confirmed by the Bishop of London, Robert Braybrook, and the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's. They have been preserved in the Public Record Office (though they went astray in the move from Chancery Lane to Kew). Here he is giving orders for the liturgical year, seeking the special favour of the Holy Trinity, to whom, with medieval England's greatest saint, St Thomas Becket, the college was dedicated:

Further I will and appoint that the Master and Warden and the rest of the chaplain and clerks keep the feast of the Holy Trinity as a principal double feast. Likewise that they keep the feast of St Thomas Becket in Christmastide as a greater double feast and the feast of this Translation as a principal double.

The Statutes give very detailed instructions about vestments, with special emphasis on the rules for liturgical colours.

I wish, constitute and ordain that on Christmas Day, on Easter Day, on the day of the Holy Trinity, on the day of the Translation of St Thomas the Martyr, on the day of All Saints and on the day of the Feast of the Dedication the priests and clerks use the best and most festive vestments whatever colour they be. On the Feast of the Epiphany let them wear starred vestments, if there are any, whatever colour they be, if not, let them use the best and most festive vestments as above.

The inventory of the goods of Pleshey College reveals that the colours required by the founder were still employed more than a century after the Statutes were



Fig. 1. Detail from the Inventory (by courtesy of Kings' College, Cambridge).



given, and at one time, perhaps, starred vestments (and hangings) were indeed used at Epiphany. The inventory lists 'three coppis of bawdkynnes wt lambes, sterred, red collors, olde' and there are two hangings 'wt golden sterris and lambis of red bawdekyns'.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the inventory is the list of books. Pleshey had a good library, but not a vast one. We may be sure that the 85 books listed contained more (sometimes much more) than the titles in the inventory suggest. Of the two books known to survive, one, a 14th cent. copy of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, also contains some letters by Hildegard of Bingen which the inventory does not mention. Let us glance at some of these books. The inventory lists a *Polychronicon*, which must be the chronicle of that name by Ranulph Higden, a Benedictine monk of St Werburgh's in Chester. This amazing book, running from Creation to the 14th. century, reminds us that the monks of the middle ages were historians down to the last fibre of their being. The monks knew, perhaps better than anyone else, that the world had begun at a fixed moment and would come to a close when the last trump blew. The Christian time of the Middle Ages was narrative: it advanced under the guiding hand of Providence towards a specific end. The monks looked back, as Ranulph did, over their shoulders to the Creation and to Adam, and it seemed to them that mankind's long progression to Doomsday surely could not last much longer.

It is no wonder that the *Polychronicon* appears in the library list at Pleshey, for it is an immense encyclopedia. Divided into seven books ('after the example of the Creator, who made the world in seven days') it begins with a gazetteer of the world: the dimensions of the globe, the boundaries of the continents, the geographical position of Paradise, Assyria, Judaea, England, Ireland and much more. The distinction between what we should see as the natural and the supernatural is constantly dissolving. Listen to Higden on the wonders of Ireland:

There is, in Ireland, an isle where the bodies of men do not putrefy. There is also, in Ulster, an isle Divided into two parts. One of them regularly receives visitations from angels. The other is an abode of devils. There is also a well in Ulster which, if a man wash in it, prevents him from ever becoming old. Another produces rain whenever it is touched, and the rain does not cease until a priest, who must be a virgin, casts holy water onto it together with the milk of a cow that is entirely of one colour.

Another entry in the Pleshey booklist simply says 'de componendi sermones' The arts of composing and delivering sermons were obviously of great importance to any college of priests: my guess is that the Pleshey book was the 14th cent. treatise *de modo componendi sermones* by Thomas Waleys. Here is another extraordinary book: it contains a long section on what might be called performance, for the preachers of the Middle Ages regarded the preaching art as a performative one in which the cleric found himself, in effect, in competition with minstrels. Waleys tells of a young priest who was so impressed by a sermon delivered by a superior that he asked for a copy of the text. When he delivered the sermon himself, though, the effect was not quite the same and he complained to

the older man. 'Ah' the superior said 'I lent you my fiddle, but you do not have the bow with which I play'. Like any performer, the preacher of sermons had to practice, and Waleys gives advice on how this should be done – in the process shedding new light on the famous preaching of St Francis to the birds.

A new preacher, before he sets out to preach for the first time, and before he ever appears in public, should hide himself away in some secret place away from the sight of men, where he need have no fear that anyone should laugh at him. There let him preach to the trees and to the stones. Let him there in the countryside study how he moves his body and try out the gestures and moves that he intends to use before his congregation.

Singers were usually given much the same sort of instructions as preachers: they should stand discreetly with no undue motion. We see them in medieval pictures, arranged shoulder to shoulder before the lectern, sometimes with a choirboy or two barely able to see above their heads. The Pleshey inventory mentions a footstool for the children to raise them up, and this is only one of the many ways in which it makes the past easier for us to understand.

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The illustrations are by courtesy of the Librarian of Kings' College, Cambridge and M.J. Cuddeford, Esq.

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Have many of the students of the Domesday record of Colchester noted that in 1086 one of the possessors of land in the town was Tescho (whom Morris transliterated as Tesco), who 'possesses 2 houses and 20 acres of land and he owes customary dues to the king and never pays' (ref B3: 106a). Is it possible that the lately-announced further examination of monopoly practices by the big supermarkets by the Office of Fair Trading will light on this default by the biggest fish they seem to want to catch?

★ ★ ★

It is good to know that in one respect, at least, the great work of Brian and Diana Creasey at the Gardens of Easton Lodge has gained some protection. A Gardens Preservation Trust has been set up, which will progressively take over the responsibilities which they have undertaken for so many years. The smooth process of this take-over has been much helped by the offer of a 25 year lease by Land Securities, which now owns the estate, including much of the gardens. With this enhanced security of tenure grants can be sought and planning can responsibly go ahead.

Other threats, notably the second runway at Stansted, are still with them, but though this would be damaging and most unwelcome, it would not be utterly destructive. A body of Friends of the Gardens has also been set up: details from the Membership Secretary, The Friends of the Gardens of Easton Lodge, Warwick House, Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow CM6 2BB.



# A Toad-Eater and Usurer from Lambourne Thomas Walker (1664-1748) of Bishops Hall

By Richard Morris, OBE

## City Merchants

The villages and hamlets of south-west Essex have for many centuries been chosen by merchants and other professions in the City of London, as the location for their 'country' homes, where they could pursue their leisure time activities in a rural setting and still be within easy reach of their City offices and houses. The ownership of a substantial mansion with its own park, formed an essential part of this county setting. The parish of Lambourne, adjoining that of Chigwell, was one such village. Here by the beginning of the eighteenth century the Walker family had become established.

Wright described Lambourne as being 'wholly within the forest and agreeably diversified with hill and dale, from various situations presenting distant interesting prospects.....the distance from London fourteen miles'.<sup>1</sup> Shepes Hall was a small manor in the parish which became known as Bishops Hall. The manor originated in an estate held by the Bishop of Norwich. In October 1536 the bishop's manor was conveyed to the chancellor, Sir Thomas Audley and he transferred it in 1538 to William Hale. It appears to have passed to the Stoner family of Loughton in 1606. The total extent of the manor was about 100 acres.

Late in the seventeenth century the manor came into the possession of Edmund Colvill, salter of Maidstone, Kent. He died in 1675, and in 1676 his widow, Katherine, sold Bishops Hall to William Walker, citizen and ironmonger of London.<sup>2</sup> The Walker family were active members of the Ironmongers Company, one of the oldest livery companies of the City of London, and the family provided at least two Masters of the Company. Some members of the Company, possibly including the Walkers, went on to become successful merchants trading in particular with Turkey.<sup>3</sup>

William Walker married first, Mary (maiden name not known) by whom he had two sons and two daughters: Thomas (d.1748), Robert (d.1724), Emma and Deborah. William's second marriage, in December 1686, was to Ursula Gunston, by whom he had a son and a daughter, Peter and Mary.

The west gallery in St Mary and All Saints Church at Lambourne was built in 1704-5 at the expense of William Walker of Bishop's Hall. It is supported on moulded columns and is ornamented with foliage carving incorporating Walker's monogram (*see Fig.1*). Walker's will requested that he be buried in the church, but although his burial is recorded in the parish registers, no grave has been identified. William Walker died in 1708.

William was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Walker.<sup>4</sup> In 1714 Thomas was appointed a Commissioner of Customs, which he exchanged in 1732 for appointment as Surveyor General of His Majesty's Land Revenue, which did not disqualify him from sitting in the House of Commons. He remained Surveyor General until his death in 1748, and began his parliamentary career at the age of 69. He sat as a government nominee successively for the West Country

seats of West Looe (1733-4), Plympton (1735-41) and Helston (1741-7), voting consistently with the ministry. He made his only known speech in 1733, when as an ex-commissioner of customs he defended the then commissioners against aspersions on them by the Opposition.<sup>5</sup>

## Clifford Street

Walker appears to have lived at Bishops Hall until 1738, and he retained ownership throughout his life, but he also had a house in London at Clifford Street, off Bond Street, where he probably spent most of his time, and where he formed a substantial collection of pictures. Whitley<sup>6</sup> relates that 'Vertue, after visiting the gallery of Mr Walker, the Commissioner and Receiver of Crown Lands, remarks: ..."This Gent. has very well chosen pictures, such as was recommended to him by the Virtuosi Club, called Vandyck's Club or the Club of St Luke". [Horace] Walpole... after seeing Mr Walker's pictures, said it was evident that his advisers understood what they professed.' The pictures included twelve marine paintings by the two Willems Van de Velde, father and son, which Horace Walpole described as 'the best chosen collection of these masters, assembled at great prices by the late Mr Walker'.<sup>7</sup> Walpole described Willem Van de Velde, the younger, as 'the greatest man that has appeared in this branch of painting'. Two of the pictures in the Walker collection are now in the possession of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.<sup>8</sup>



Fig. 1. Bench-end illustrating Walker's monogram.

Among the many other pictures in the collection were Sir Anthony Van Dyck's portrait of Venetia, Lady Digby, painted in c.1633-4, and which may now be seen in the National Portrait Gallery, and Sir Godfrey Kneller's portrait of Edward Russell, first Earl of Orford, now in the collection of the National Maritime Museum. In a letter to Sir David Dalrymple, written in September 1790, Horace Walpole commented that 'Mr Walker had a small whole-length of Sir Kenelm's wife Venetia, the same as the large one at Windsor, and it was excellently finished and believed to be painted by Vandyck himself. I never saw another small one that I had reason to think done by him'.<sup>9</sup>

### **Peter Monamy and Thomas Walker**

In *A Description of the Villa of Mr Horace Walpole ..... at Strawberry-Hill*, 1784, there is an intriguing entry, which reads: 'On the Staircase. Monamy the painter shewing a sea-piece to Mr Thomas Walker, a collector of pictures; small life: the figures by Hogarth, the sea-piece by Monamy. A present from Richard Bull, Esq.' From a comment made by R.B.Beckett, in *Hogarth*, (1949) it appears that this entry was added to the description after 1772, along with several other additions. In 1842 the painting was bought by the Earl of Derby, and is recorded as exhibited to the public in 1867 and 1888. However, neither its date of execution, nor its attribution to Hogarth, is straightforward, and the situation is further confused by the existence of a second version, which appeared on the market in 1902, when it was auctioned by Christie's in London, and subsequently sold to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1926. This second version was exhibited several times in the 20th century as also by Hogarth. The picture (*at Fig.2 opposite*) depicts Mr Walker, on the left, contemplating a luminous sea-piece which is placed, in a frame, on an easel which occupies the entire right half of the canvas. Between the framed sea-piece and Walker stands Monamy, gesturing towards it. There are two more small sea-pieces, both very representative of Monamy's oeuvre, hanging on the wall in the background.

Since about 1981 the consensus opinion of several art historians seems to have veered towards a re-attribution of the Strawberry Hill version to Gawen Hamilton, and away from William Hogarth. This is in spite of its explicit attribution to Hogarth by its owner in 1784, none other than Horace Walpole himself. Nevertheless, the re-attribution is convincing, since the figures of both Walker and Monamy show a remarkably strong resemblance to two figures (Rysbrack and Kent) in a very well-known painting by Hamilton called *A Conversation of Virtuosi*, and there are other similarities with Hamilton's known work. Hamilton died in 1737, and Hilda Finberg pointed out in *The Walpole Society*, 1917-1918, that the composition of Hamilton's conversation piece can be precisely dated to late 1734. This suggests a date for the Walker/Monamy portrayals in the piece from Strawberry Hill of about the same time, or perhaps slightly earlier.

Because of the manner in which the two figures are juxtaposed, 19th and 20th century art historians have tended to take it for granted that Thomas Walker was Monamy's patron. However, William Segulier's valuation in 1830 of Walker's collection, comprising over 90 paintings, includes not a single canvas by Peter Monamy. In fact, it is quite clear that Walker's collection contained no works of any kind by any native English painter, except one of Charles II by William

Dobson,<sup>10</sup> and consisted entirely of pictures by Dutch, Italian, Flemish and French artists, as well as by the highly regarded imported masters, Kneller, Van Dyck and van de Velde. It is notable that Walpole titles the picture: 'Monamy the painter shewing a sea-piece to Mr Thomas Walker', and the possibility has to be entertained that Mr Walker in fact failed to buy any of Monamy's paintings.<sup>11</sup>

### **The Inheritance**

Walker died on 22 October 1748, aged 84. Henry Pelham, in a letter to his brother, the Duke of Newcastle, on the 1st November 1748, reported that 'Tom Walker is at last departed, he died most immensely rich, most people say £300,000, I believe not much less'.<sup>12</sup> In a letter to Sir Horace Mann, dated 24 October 1748, Horace Walpole comments that 'Old Tom Walker is dead and has left vast wealth and good places, but I have not heard where either is to go'.<sup>13</sup> In a note to the letter Walker is described as 'a kind of toad-eater to Sir Robert Walpole and Lord Godolphin, a great frequenter of Newmarket, and a notorious usurer'.<sup>14</sup>

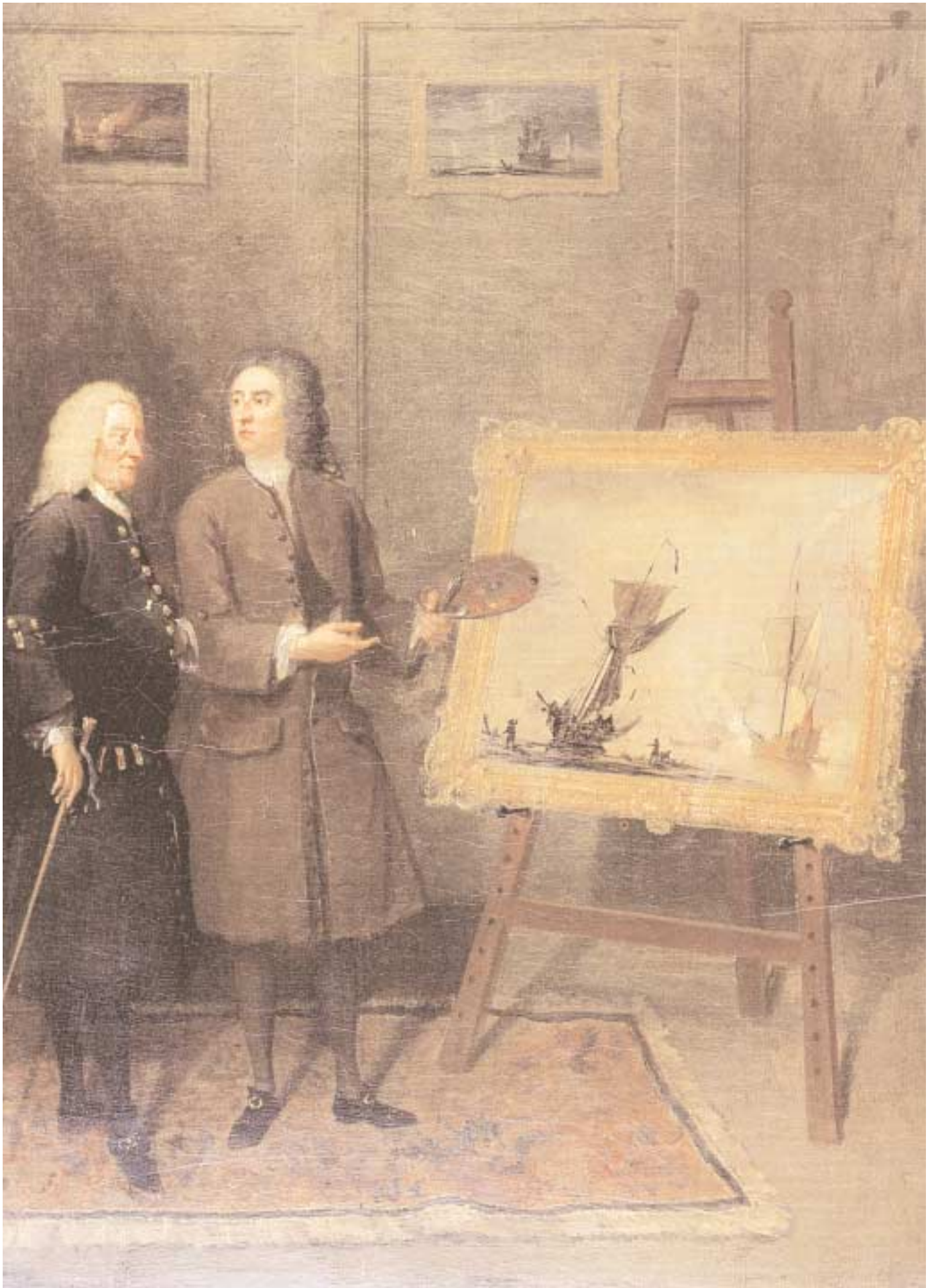
Walker had never married and he left his collection of pictures at Clifford Street to his nephew Stephen Skynner (the younger) of Walthamstow. Skynner died in 1764 and left the pictures to his daughter Emma, who in 1750 had married William Harvey (1714-63) of Rolls Park, Chigwell. As a result the collection came to Rolls Park, where it remained until the death, in 1830, of Emma and William's son, Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, who had commanded the *Temeraire* at Trafalgar. The collection was then divided among the Admiral's six daughters, albeit after some acrimonious correspondence between them and Eliab's executor, John Bodle, as to whom should receive which pictures. Some of the pictures remain with descendants, but many of them have been sold at the major auction houses over the last century.

At the time of the Admiral's death a valuation was made by William Segulier of all the pictures at Rolls Park, excluding the marvellous collection of family portraits.<sup>15</sup> The valuation lists almost 90 pictures and it is thought that with the possible exception of three or four pictures they all came from the Thomas Walker collection. This is important as to date no inventory or valuation has been found of Walker's collection at the time of his death in 1748, only references to specific pictures.

### **Bishops Hall**

The original manor house of Bishops Hall, Lambourne, was no doubt that which in 1606 was described as Bishops Motte, and was then 'wasted and overgrown'. The second Bishops Hall was built  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile west of the first, probably by William Walker or his son Thomas.<sup>16</sup>

Thomas Walker left all his estates in Essex, Surrey and Suffolk to his nephew Stephen Skynner of Walthamstow, and Walker's will provided that after Skynner's death the estates should pass to Skynner's three daughters and their heirs. In 1772 a private Act of Parliament was passed for dividing the estates.<sup>17</sup> Bishops Hall was included in Lot C of the subsequent partition and became the property of Mary, wife of Sir Thomas Aubrey, daughter of Sir James Colebrooke, by Mary, eldest daughter of Stephen Skynner. The house had several further owners until in 1818 W.J. Lockwood took a lease on Bishops Hall. The Lockwood family had first settled in Lambourne in 1735 when Richard Lockwood, an eminent Turkey merchant, purchased Dews Hall.



*Fig.2. 'Monamy the Painter, showing a sea-piece to his Patron, Mr. Thomas Walker' (1731)  
Artist: originally attributed to William Hogarth but now thought to possibly be Gawen Hamilton.*

Several generations of Lockwoods lived at Dews Hall, before it was demolished in c.1841.

Bishops Hall subsequently became the seat of the Lockwood family and gave its name to their estate in the nineteenth century. In 1883 Amelius R M Lockwood inherited the house and manor. He was Conservative MP for Epping for many years and achieved distinction as chairman of the Kitchen Committee of the House of Commons. He became 1st Baron Lambourne in 1917 and Lord Lieutenant of Essex in 1919. He died in 1928.<sup>18</sup>

The house was much enlarged by Lord Lambourne in about 1900 (*see Fig.3 below*) but after the break-up of the estate in 1929 the house was demolished in 1936<sup>19</sup>, and the present Bishops Hall, the third of the name, was built in the grounds about 150 yards to the south-east of the old house. This is a two-storey gabled building, partly half timbered. Various features from the earlier house are incorporated, including the carved stone Lockwood arms on the south front, and the seventeenth century Dutch panelling in the library.<sup>20</sup>

### The Old Park, Wimbledon

In 1738 Thomas Walker bought the Old Park estate at Wimbledon for £6,000. The purchase included Warren House (later called Cannizaro House), its barn, stables and outhouses, along with the gardener's cottage and fishpond, and also Westside House. The estate enclosed just over 300 acres of poor quality land, probably once part of Wimbledon Common.<sup>21</sup> Why Walker decided to purchase this estate so late in his life is difficult to explain. He still had his house and estate at Lambourne, but perhaps he had friends living somewhere near Wimbledon and wished to join them in an area where ownership of a property had become 'desirable'.

On his death Walker left the Old Park estate to his nephew Stephen Skynner of Walthamstow, as he had

done with his estates in Essex. This however passed to a different daughter, Deborah, who married Thomas Grosvenor.

### The Enigma dies with Walker

Thomas Walker was buried in the churchyard on the south side at St Mary's, Wimbledon. The inscription on the north side of the tomb reads:

'Thomas Walker, Esq., died xxii October MDCCXLVIII, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.'

On the south side is inscribed:

'On the accession of his late majesty K. Geo. 1st he was put in Commission of the Customs, in which he continued until the year 1732, when he was appointed Surveyor General of his Majesty's Land Revenue, which office he held to his death, and discharged both these trusts with integrity. He was an intimate friend of Sir Robert Walpole, and his portrait was introduced in a picture at Strawberry Hill'.

On the east end is a carved sun in glory.<sup>22</sup> The west end shows the arms of Thomas Walker: *arms argent, on a chevron sable, three half moons argent, between three balls sable*.

The reference on the south side of the tomb to the picture at Strawberry Hill is intriguing. Dr Hawtin has expressed the view that this inscription was added some time after the tomb was initially erected.<sup>23</sup> If R.B.Beckett's comment, noted above, is correct, this would have to be some time between 1772 and 1784, at least 24 years after Thomas Walker's death, and possibly as long as 36 years later. The reason for this extremely curious lapidary insertion remains tantalizingly obscure.

Immediately adjoining Walker's tomb is the tomb of his great-great nephew Field Marshal Thomas



Fig.3. 'Monamy the Painter, showing a sea-piece to his Patron, Mr. Thomas Walker' (1731)  
Artist: originally attributed to William Hogarth but now thought to possibly be Gawen Hamilton.

Grosvenor (1764-1851), descended from Deborah Skynner.

We can possibly overlook Thomas Walker's reputation as a 'toad-eater and usurer', in the light of his interest in painting and the collection of pictures that he formed. It is somewhat ironic that the collection resided in London during Walker's lifetime, but came to Chigwell, only two miles from his Essex home, after the death of his nephew Stephen Skynner. The pictures remained at Rolls Park for almost a century before being disbursed among members of the Harvey family. Many of the pictures are now on display in museums and galleries in England and around the world.

Abbreviations: ERO - Essex Record Office  
NLW - National Library of Wales  
BL - British Library

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- 7 Walpole, H, *Anecdotes of Painting in England*, ii, pp.139-141 (1826).
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- 9 Horace Walpole's Correspondence, edited by W S Lewis, vol 15, pp.204-5 (1937).
- 10 Remarkably this picture was originally owned by the great Dr William Harvey (1578-1657), but appears to have been sold by that family. It later returned to them, since Thomas Walker left his collection of pictures to his nephew Stephen Skynner, whose daughter, Emma, married William Harvey (1714-1763).
- 11 I am indebted to Charles Harrison-Wallace, the Monamy art historian, for his guidance on the link with Walker.
- 12 BL, Add Mss 32717, f245-6.
- 13 Horace Walpole's Correspondence, Edited by W S Lewis, vol 19, 511 (1937).
- 14 The note is shown in the edition of *The Correspondence of Horace Walpole* edited by W S Lewis.
- 15 NLW, Aston Hall Deeds, No. 4507.
- 16 William Walker was resident in the parish (cf. ERO, D/P 181/8/1).
- 17 ERO, D/DLo T14.
- 18 *Victoria County History, Essex*, iv, p.77
- 19 For the building demolished in 1936 see ERO *Sale Cat.* A1046 (includes photo). For contents of the great house in 1929 see ERO *Sale Cat.* A623.
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Illustrations by courtesy of the author.

# The Puritan Heritage of the Harlackenden Family of Earls Colne

By Daphne Pearson Ph.D.

The duration of the 'Great Migration' to the Massachusetts Bay Colony was short. It began in 1620, with the departure of the *Mayflower*, continued through the decade of the 1630s and ended when the Civil War began and puritans took the decision to remain in England and take up arms. In Essex the Harlackenden family seems to have been at the centre of a group of godly laymen and preachers, some of whom emigrated to experience an experiment in religious life in New England while others remained with the hope of establishing a new order in England.

Richard Harlackenden, son of Roger Harlackenden who had purchased Colne Priory from Edward de Vere, became very much the father-figure of the extended Harlackenden family in his generation. As inheritor of Colne Priory on which the estates in Earls Colne were centred he seems to have been a natural leader. His account book, with comments on family and neighbours, still survives; his younger brother, Thomas, was a loyal henchman. In support of a new religious order four members of the family were to emigrate to New England in the 1630s while Richard's son, also named Richard, and Thomas's son, William, fought under Cromwell in the English Civil War. Marriages allied them and their extended families in a religious network that extended into East Anglia and as far north as Yorkshire.

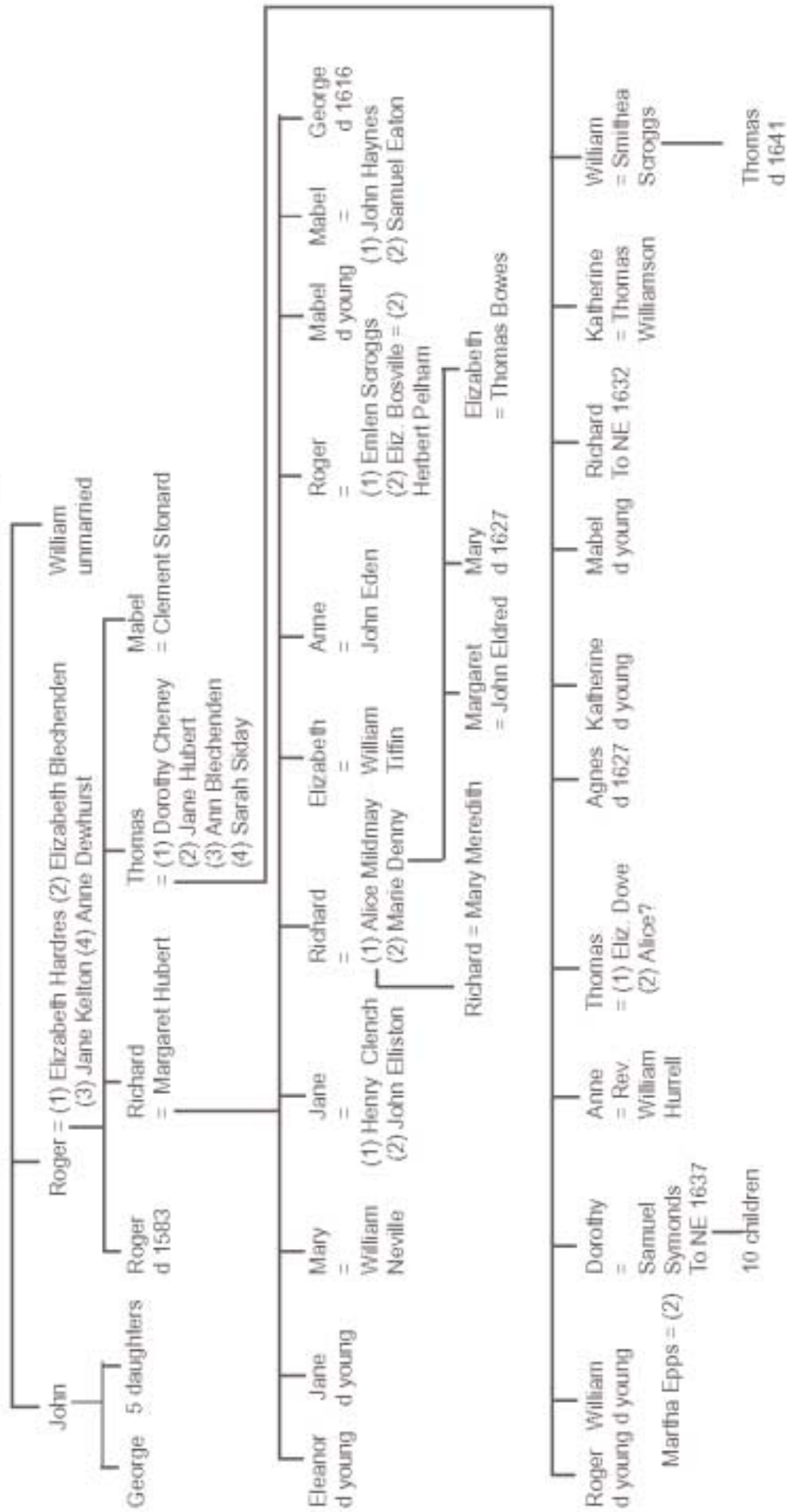
Because both Richard and Thomas Harlackenden were so prolific and the names Richard and Roger occur throughout the family, identifying information appertaining to the correct names is complicated (*see genealogical table on p.20*). Each brother had eleven children. Richard had eight daughters and three sons including Roger and Mabel who emigrated to New England in 1635. Thomas had five sons and

six daughters, but two of the sons died young, leaving another Thomas, Richard and William. It was this Richard who became a physician and went to New England in 1632, although he returned to Earls Colne after a few years. His sister, Dorothy, married Samuel Symmonds, a cursitor in Chancery, and travelled to Massachusetts Bay in 1637. William became a Justice of the Peace and Commissary-General to the earl of Manchester in 1644. His cousin Richard was appointed sheriff of Essex and was also commissioned in Cromwell's army. William and Richard's younger brother, Roger, had a further bond beyond that of blood in that they married sisters, although Roger's wife died soon after marriage and it was a new wife who accompanied him to New England.<sup>1</sup>

Richard I, son of Roger, was born 12 July 1568,<sup>2</sup> and died in 1631. He and Thomas began their university education at Magdalene College, Cambridge, migrating in 1588 to Emmanuel, Sir Walter Mildmay's 1584 Protestant foundation. Although not specifically anti-clerical it was considered puritan and the Master from its inception to 1622 was Laurence Chaderton, one of the 'translators' of the King James Bible and one of the only four puritans among the forty-eight.<sup>3</sup> There was thus a strong puritan influence on the younger generation of Harlackendens that was to become apparent during the seventeenth century. The Harlackendens had a family history of Protestant sympathy. Roger's advocacy of John Stockbridge as vicar against the pluralist William Adams in Earls Colne, given the benefice by the Oxford family, was typical of their opinions. Education at Cambridge was followed by instruction at Gray's Inn for both Richard and Thomas.

In 1592 Richard married Margaret Hubert, daughter of Edward Hubert. He, like Richard's father, was of the

### HARLACKENDEN FAMILY OF ESSEX GENEALOGY



puritan persuasion, and the marriage cemented neighbourly relations between godly people. Margaret outlived her husband by three years but a few months after her husband's death she was considered a lunatic. This may have been the onset of dementia, perhaps accelerated by the loss of her husband. The Harlackenden family prospered under Richard's stewardship. Following the death of Richard I in 1631 a probate inventory of his goods and chattels indicates the style in which the family lived. The entrance hall was large enough to contain four tables, two of them with forms; furniture in the parlour, which was carpeted, included a pair of virginals. The dining room was also carpeted and could seat eighteen; there seem to have been eight bedrooms, all furnished with bedsteads, plus servants' chambers and garrets. Household linen was valued at £65, an enormous sum, and Richard's own linen at £40. The stock included thirty-four cows and eight bullocks, worth a total of £33 (half that of the household linen) horses, hogs and pigs, while the household had stocks of hay, corn and cheese, 20 acres of hops worth £400, wood, coal, bricks and timber, one coach and various farm carts and implements. Finally, debtors owed him more than £1,200. However, the families were large, so it may be that the possibility of a more prosperous life in New England for a younger son was one of the motives for the emigration of Roger, as Richard II, the heir, received the bulk of Harlackenden property under the English system of primogeniture.

Richard I had ensured that both his surviving sons received legal training at Gray's Inn. Richard II married his first wife, Alicia Mildmay, on 10 May 1630, a year before his father's death. His only son, Richard III, was born on 19 July 1631 but his mother died the same day, just one month before her father-in-law on 24 August. The two deaths, coming so close together, and followed by the unfortunate illness of Richard's mother, must have tested the faith of the immediate family. Richard II remained a widower for three years and then married Mary Denny, tenth child of Sir Edward of Bishop's Stortford, about a year after his father died. The godly preacher Samuel Rogers took up a position as chaplain to the Denny family in 1635, probably through the influence of Richard Harlackenden following his second marriage and by the patronage of Samuel's father, Daniel Rogers who was preacher at Wethersfield and a friend of the Harlackenden family. Samuel was not happy in his position and a further thorn in his side was the local vicar, Richard Butler, who was a conformist cleric and who appears to have instigated specific arguments against non-conformism in Samuel's presence. Richard Harlackenden seems to have attempted to pour oil on troubled waters and Samuel Rogers, like Ralph Josselin, held him in great respect and a source of spiritual comfort: he described a visit to Earls Colne as one in which 'the very ayre breathed life into me.'<sup>4</sup> Samuel Rogers's appointment to the Denny household was followed by another to Lady Mary Vere, whom he found much more to his taste.<sup>5</sup> She was the widow of Edward de Vere's cousin, Horace Vere, and both she and her husband were known for their puritan views.

Dr Richard Harlackenden, son of Thomas and grandson of the original Roger, was the first of the family to sail to America on the *Griffin* in 1632 and among the first settlers of Cambridge, Mass.<sup>6</sup> Not a great deal is known about him but he does not appear to have

married: he had returned to England by the time of the Civil War as he served as a physician in the Parliamentary army. A grant of land was made to a Richard Harlackenden in the 1630s, but whether this was Dr Richard or his cousin is unclear. It is probable that the emigrating group on the *Griffin* was led by Rev. Thomas Hooker of Chelmsford fame and that most of them came from that neighbourhood. Another emigrant on the same ship was John Haynes, who became Governor first of Massachusetts and then of Connecticut. Haynes was to marry Mabel Harlackenden, sister of Roger, as his second wife. It is possible that the two were acquainted before emigration and that Mabel made the voyage in anticipation of marriage with Haynes who was already a widower. Of Haynes's sons with his first wife, the elder, Robert, fought with the Royalists in the Civil War, but the younger, Hezekiah, was a major in the Parliamentary army. Hezekiah's son, John, forged further ties with the Harlackendens in that generation by marrying Mary, daughter of Thomas Bowes and Elizabeth Harlackenden in 1682.

In 1627 Thomas Shepard became lecturer at Earls Colne and well acquainted with the Harlackendens, particularly with young Roger, who later supported him financially when Shepard was on the run from pursuivants following the wreck of the first ship on which he attempted emigration to the New World.<sup>7</sup> Just prior to this Shepard had been chaplain to Sir Richard Darley in Buttercrambe, Yorkshire and as Roger's second wife was to be Elizabeth Bosville, daughter of another Yorkshireman, Godfrey Bosville, it is quite possible that they met.<sup>8</sup> Roger, with his eighteen-year-old new wife whom he married on 4 June 1635 and the Shepard family emigrated on the *Defence* in July that year. Also among the passengers was the French family from Halstead. Elizabeth French was originally a Symmes and her sister, Sarah, also accompanied them. The Symmes family were related to the Scroggs of whom both Roger's first wife and William's wife had been members.<sup>9</sup> Ann Wood, a relative of the French family, is shown as a servant to Roger Harlackenden, as are the Cooke brothers, George and Joseph, but in the latter case this was probably to evade government agents. James and Abigail Fitch, also of Earls Colne, who married in April 1635 and took with them John Fitch, aged 14, James's step-brother, were other passengers on the *Defence*.

The English branch of the Harlackendens continued with their godly way of life. In 1652 Richard's only son by his first wife, Richard III, was married at the age of twenty-one to Mary Meredith aged seventeen. In his notebook his father notes that Richard had been a suitor to her for more than a year before they married and had prayed and consulted godly ministers and friends about the match before it was made. She was the only daughter of Christopher Meredith, who had been a stationer in St Paul's Churchyard with estates in Kempsey, Worcestershire and was part of the godly circle, publishing books by puritan clergymen. From Ralph Josselin's *Diary* it is apparent that there was considerable visiting between the Harlackenden and Meredith families.

In New England Roger Harlackenden was commissioned as lieutenant-colonel in the Middlesex regiment on 13 December 1636. He was appointed a magistrate and assistant to governor Henry Vane. In this

capacity he served on the inquiry into Anne Hutchinson and was one of a group investigating the foundation of what was to become Harvard University. Roger died of smallpox on 17 November 1638, aged only twenty-seven and his young widow then married Herbert Pelham, a man from the same area of East Anglia who had emigrated following the death of his first wife, Jemima Waldegrave of Bures. Elizabeth had two daughters with Roger, and a further family, including a son named Edward, with Herbert Pelham. Penelope Pelham, a daughter by Herbert's first wife, married Josiah Winslow, governor of Plymouth Colony and his sister, another Penelope, was the wife of Richard Bellingham, governor of Massachusetts Bay.

In New England many of those emigrants who made a new life there led distinguished careers and some, such as John Haynes and his family with Mabel Harlackenden, have descendants in the United States today. Roger Harlackenden, had he not died so prematurely, would undoubtedly have become one of the new leaders. Dorothy Harlackenden died young but her widower, who was elected assistant governor of Massachusetts Bay, married Martha Epps, widow of another emigrant. In the Old World the Harlackendens and Hezekiah Haynes were among those who fought on the Parliamentary side in the hope of a new form of government. A later Colne emigrant, Thomas Prentice, whose emigration was funded by wedding gifts amounting to £56 made by collection among the guests, took ship in 1648 with his wife and baby daughter and completely re-invented himself as so many were to do in succeeding years, excelling himself in the Militia.<sup>10</sup>

In England and in New England the little group of godly people from the Colne area continued to support preachers on both sides of the Atlantic.

#### References

- 1 Much of the evidence for this generation of Harlackendens comes from entries in the diaries of Ralph Josselin and Samuel Rogers, together with entries from the first Richard's account book. Josselin's diary can be particularly opaque when referring to the Harlackenden family as he did not need to clarify to himself exactly which member he meant. Because of the repetition of names the various Richards will be identified by numbers: Richard I, Richard II, and Richard III are in the direct line from the first Roger and each inherited Colne Priory; Roger II was a brother of Richard II. Dr Richard was the son of Thomas.
- 2 E.R.O., Harlackenden Account Book 1631-58. D/DPr 629, 1653.
- 3 Nicholson, A., *Power and Glory: Jacobean England and the making of the King James Bible* London, 2003.
- 4 Shipps, K. and Webster, T. (eds) *The Diary of Samuel Rogers 1634-1638*, Church of England Record Society, 2004, pp.xxx-xxxiv.
- 5 Rogers's Diary, pp.xxxviii-xxxix.
- 6 Jameson, J.F., (ed.) *Original Narratives of Early American History*, American Historical Association, p.33.
- 7 *God's Plot: The Paradoxes of Puritan Piety Being the Autobiography and Journal of Thomas Shepard*, University of Massachusetts, 1972.
- 8 Sir Richard Darley seems to have been part of a godly circle around Lady Mary Vere as both employed John Wallis as chaplain in their households. These appointments were usually made by personal recommendation. The Harlackendens were likely to have been part of this circle.
- 9 They were sisters, daughters of Penelope and Edward Scroggs. Emlen was Roger's first wife and William's wife was Smithea Scroggs (named after her mother's family, the Smythes).
- 10 'Notes on the Indian Wars in New England' in *New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register*, vol.15, 1861, pp.261-65.

## The Apprentices and the Clergyman: An episode in the history of steam ploughing

By Chris Thompson

Although it was well known to older generations of Chelmsford people, no one alive now will remember the iron foundry that was once situated in New London Road opposite the old Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, and which was later converted into a roller-skating rink. This once housed the firm of Coleman and Morton which, certainly in the latter half of the 19th. century, vied with its rival Eddingtons of New St. for first place among the town's manufacturers of agricultural machinery. The New London Road works was originally founded by Frederick Greenwood, but in 1848 Richard Coleman took a 21-year lease of the premises. Coleman's began their business at a time when, following on the construction of the great network of railways, great changes in farming technology were foreseen. Steam on the railways inevitably led to thoughts of the wide use of steam power on the farm, and it was to this great market for high Victorian farming that Coleman and others looked. For reasons beyond the scope of this article this hardly came about: even so Coleman prospered well enough to be employing about 200 men by 1860.

Notable among these foreseen changes was that of steam ploughing: here there were many pioneers and innovators, among them Darby of Pleshey, but despite continuous efforts throughout the steam age, a fully



*Light travelling anchor of steam plough.*





*Yarrow-Hilditch Steam Plough.*

reliable and economic pattern of mechanised ploughing had to await the coming of the internal combustion engine, which could be fitted to small farm tractors. The major drawback to the use of steam traction engines for ploughing was the great weight of the engines and ancillary equipment entailed, their cost and their inability to access all the fields in which a farmer might want to employ them. It could not pull the plough simply, as a horse did. Thus by the 1860's the method usually adopted in steam ploughing was the cable or rope system, whereby a steam engine would be stationed at one side of a field and a heavy anchor or windlass at the other, with a double-action plough being drawn from the one to the other, both engine and windlass moving sporadically down the length of the field until the job was completed. One drawback to this system was that it was not easy to keep the windlass where it had been put, especially when the big plough was being pulled towards it. Indeed, it would often jump out of the ground under the strain, thereby causing serious accidents.

It was then that two very young inventors appeared on the scene: Alfred Yarrow, an 18-year-old apprentice with the naval engineering firm of Ravenhills, and his 17-year-old friend James Hilditch, a trainee silk mercer. Both of these very bright young men had considered the problem of windlass stability, and had come up with a possible solution which Hilditch presented in the form of a paper entitled 'Steam Cultivation' which he read to the Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Society in 1861. Basically the solution lay in the use of two inter-connected sets of lightweight single-acting ploughs operating in unison with a small travelling drum or

anchor. Each set of ploughs was carried within a wheeled frame; one set operating from the middle of the field to the engine, the other operating from the opposite side of the field, where the travelling drum was stationed, to the middle of the field. Thus one set of ploughs would be in action making its furrows and approaching the engine, whilst at the same time, and by using the light travelling drum, pulling the other unused set back in position to start its series of furrows in turn. Because the strain on the light travelling anchor-drum when pulling the single-action plough backwards, and with no load imposed upon it, was a mere trifle when compared with the strain involved under the old system of hauling a heavy plough, the windlass could be dispensed with.

After the Yarrow-Hilditch system had been patented and fully described in the technical press, Yarrow received a visitor at his mother's London home. This was an elderly gentleman from Chelmsford whom the Yarrow family described as 'a dear kind old man - a clergyman on Sundays and an engineer during the rest of the week'. It was Richard Coleman, who wished to take up the lads' patent and to manufacture the ploughs. His proposition was accepted and their production was taken up with some success. Yarrow and Hilditch spent long hours in the Essex countryside demonstrating their machinery to farmers and between them earned some £600 in royalties from their invention: then not a trifling sum. Yarrow was, with Ravenhills' consent, based at Coleman's London office and impressed the old man so well that he was offered a partnership in the business: an offer that he did not take up. Coleman himself did quite well too. By 1865 he was able to buy the freehold of the

New London Road works, but he died the following year. He was succeeded by his son, who went into partnership with A.G.E.Morton to form the firm of Coleman and Morton. This firm continued to have years of relative prosperity, but like other comparable firms could not survive the long years of the agricultural depression, when even modest technological improvements were beyond the resources of most arable farmers.

Alfred Yarrow, however, went on to greater things. He founded the great shipbuilding firm which bore his name and became famous for its construction of so many of the destroyers, torpedo boats and

other specialised speedy craft which were required by the Royal Navy in the two world wars. He cannot have regretted his decision not to take a partnership in the modest Chelmsford firm of agricultural engineers.

#### **Illustrations:**

By courtesy of the author.

#### **Authorities:**

*Alfred Yarrow: his Life and Work* by Eleanor Barnes (Lady Yarrow). London. 1923.

## **Book Reviews**

**THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND: LONDON 5: EAST.** By Bridget Cherry, Charles O'Brien and Nikolaus Pevsner. *Buildings of England/Yale University Press*. 2005. 863 pp. ill.

With the publication of *London 5* Bridget Cherry and her team have completed the revision of the two London volumes in Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* series, in which London (except the Cities of London and Westminster) first appeared in 1952. This volume covers what was once 'London over the borders': those former parts of the traditional county of Essex taken into Greater London in 1965, with the addition of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which in fact takes up just over half the 'gazetteer' section (330 out of 650 pages). It covers the bulk of the 'E' postal districts, the borough of Hackney falling into *London 4: North*.

As in the past for volumes of the series the team have produced an encyclopaedia covering the history of settlement and development in the area, with gazetteer sections for each London borough. These provide a short administrative history, details of the principal buildings and suggested perambulations which take in significant buildings in one or more localities.

Nine essays form an introduction to the volume, covering archaeology and early history, period overviews from the mid 17th. cent. to the post-war period, the renewal of Docklands from post-war decline through redevelopment in the last two decades of the 20th cent. and changes affecting the remainder of the region from the mid 1960's. These provide a thorough introduction to the region, with surprising snippets of knowledge for newcomers – a personal favourite appears in the archaeology chapter detailing significant finds. Among the early Bronze Age votive objects deposited in watery places was 'the Dagenham Idol' – a pinewood figure dating from c.2250-2140 BC, recovered from the marshes near the Ford factory.

The introductory chapters also provide snapshots of losses and survivals. The battle to save St. Katherine by the Tower in the face of dock construction in 1825 failed, but at least ensured the survival of the 14th. cent. stalls now at the St. Katherine Foundation's buildings at Ratcliffe. New discoveries have elevated the status of some buildings that have survived. Bromley Hall, an early example of the use of brick in domestic houses, long suffered from neglect. It is now believed that it might have formed part of an entrance range to a courtyard house and dates from around 1490. It is a rare survival of larger residential houses in

the area – many fell before the spread of development, though it is surprising just how recently some of them were lost. Gidea Hall, a magnificent Tudor house and home of Sir Antony Cooke (d.1576) lasted until 1930, and the Old Chaplaincy at Hornchurch, dating from the 14th. cent., was demolished in 1970. Perhaps it is appropriate that a doughty champion in the fight to save period structures, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, took up residence in the region in 1981, in the last surviving 18th. cent. building in Spital Square.

Places of worship are well catered for – the volume ranges from priories, through the glories of the Hawksmoor churches in the East End to the mosques which have recently made their architectural mark. The suburban developments of the 19th. and early 20th. centuries are well covered and the period between the wars looks at cinemas, housing estates and factories.

The gazetteer and perambulators are the foundations of the book and provide concise descriptions of notable buildings and routes which make in the best of old and new. Inevitably there are small omissions – for Walthamstow village the grim inscription over the Vestry House Museum door – 'if any should not work, let him not eat', as carved by Samuel Crowther on construction in 1730 is included in the text, but Squire's Almshouses are only mentioned and dated; sadly the dedication 'for the widows of decayed tradesmen' beneath the central pediment is not mentioned. The reviewer also looked to see if the theory, extant some twenty-five years ago or so, that Winns (the present William Morris Gallery) was all constructed at the same time. The rather curious layout of the cellars hints at the re-use of an earlier structure, and the text notes that the moated site had surrounded earlier houses.

Overall, however, the scope and scholarship that has gone into *London 5* make it an essential book for anyone living in the area, or wishing to explore it. The splendid colour photographs do especial justice to a range of recent buildings – the Cascades on the Isle of Dogs (flats), the Blue House, Garnier Street, the Big Blue Canada Square and the cocoon-like footbridge at Plashet School. And not only an essential read, but an essential companion to future walks, and at getting on for 900 pages well worth its considerable weight in the shoulder-bag.

David Mander

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTH ESSEX.

By Nigel Brown and Roger Massey-Ryan. *Essex County Council*. 2004. ISBN 1 85281 245 1. 76 pp. many ill. £9.99 (paperback).

This book is a brief, copiously illustrated, history of south Essex as revealed by archaeological work during the past 100 years. The area covered is that part of Essex south of a line from the Crouch estuary to Walthamstow, and therefore includes the recently-designated development area known as 'Thames Gateway South Essex'. We are taken from the Stone Ages to the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, with the two neatly brought together in a final photograph of the Neolithic submerged forest at Purfleet. The text is clear without condescension and does not hesitate to use the techniques of archaeology. I like the way, for instance, that it uses the concept of pottery development, so important to archaeologists for dating purposes. The coloured illustrations include many excellent photographs and artists' reconstructions as well as examples of the archaeological material. The archaeological examples chosen are those of greatest significance and, individually, may be well known to readers of this *Journal*, but for many of us the book provides an opportunity, in concise form, to appreciate the importance throughout antiquity of the whole of south Essex, from London to the sea.

It has been produced as part of a project called 'the Finest Prospect in all England', a title taken from Arthur Young's description of the view from the top of Langdon Hills: a view which, in one sweep from the dome of St. Paul's to Southend Pier is still breathtaking. With the unexpressed concern for what the Thames Gateway development might bring, the project aims to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the history of south Essex. This book can go a long way towards achieving that aim. At the end of their text the authors express their confidence that the challenge of achieving both the conservation and enhancement of the internationally important natural and historic environment, and the provision of much-needed new development, can be met. Let us hope so.

*The Archaeology of South Essex* is an excellent introduction to its subject and is a book to be thoroughly recommended, especially to young people, the concerned citizen and to your local councillor.

John Webb.

★ ★ ★

**A HISTORY OF WITHAM.** By Janet Gyford. *the author*. 2005. ISBN 0 946434 04 2. 214pp., copiously illustrated, bibliography, index. £10.99 from bookshops or £12.99 by post from: Janet Gyford, Blanford, Chalks Road, Witham, Essex, CM8 2BT (cheques only payable to 'Janet Gyford') or The Highway Bookshop, 118 Newland Street, Witham, Essex, CM8 1BA (cheques to 'Highway Bookshop', can also take some credit and debit cards).

This is a comprehensive local history of the small Essex town of Witham written for the general reader. It is a model of its kind, put together in a most accessible and engaging style. Although no footnotes are provided, the light touch disguises considerable research. The arguments are clear and straightforward and there is a good section on further reading and an index.

An unusual and highly effective addition is a group of three detailed town walks around Witham. As well as many black-and-white images in the text, there is also a 20-page colour section including photographs, maps, documents, paintings and much more. The value provided is exceptional.

Chapters 1 and 2, carrying Witham's story from prehistory to the Stuarts, are relatively thin compared to the later sections of the book. Nevertheless, enough evidence is adduced, in the form of an Iron-Age hillfort, a Saxon minster church, royal estate, burh, and early market, to suggest that Witham was a 'central place' of some significance. It seems most probable that the settlement at Chipping Hill (chipping = market) had pre-conquest urban functions and status, although its exact nature cannot be reconstructed. Later, Witham was granted to the Knights Templar (later passing to the Hospitallers) who also developed their large agricultural centre at Cressing. In the early 1200s the Knights laid out urban plots for a new town, Witham's 'Newland Street', along the London Road into East Anglia. Economic activity, and eventually Witham's market, shifted from the old centre at Chipping Hill to Newland Street which has remained the primary settlement ever since. Chapter 1 concludes with a discussion of everyday life in the Middle Ages, containing plenty of fascinating details about the local impact of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the Black Death, and the cloth industry. Miscellaneous activities of the inhabitants have also been culled from sets of 15th-century court rolls. The author has perhaps omitted to exploit medieval and early modern taxation records as extensively as they warrant, as these could have been used to show how the town's fortunes fluctuated over time compared to its peer group. Comparison of the 1327 and 1524-5 lay subsidies, for example, reveals that Witham's early success was probably not sustained into the sixteenth century. Such shifts in the pattern of regional urban wealth may explain some of the economic and employment challenges encountered by the town's population in later centuries. However, such aspects of Witham's history in the period 1500-1700 have already been covered by the same author at much greater length in an earlier publication, *Witham 1500-1700: Making a Living* (1996). The reader in search of deeper analysis should progress to that publication and the companion volume *Public Spirit: Dissent in Witham and Essex 1500-1700* (1999).

Chapters 3 to 7, covering the period from 1700 to 1945, are more detailed and contain many fascinating historical vignettes about Witham people. For example, Gyford recounts the excitement generated in 1868 by a touring Australian Cricket team, all aborigines, who according to a local newspaper were 'humourous, somewhat artful, and likely to deceive the batsman'. The match was followed by a display of 'native sports', such as boomerang throwing, which were attended by crowds of 4,000 to 5,000 people. Long-term influences upon the town's development are also given due prominence, such how local industries and services were affected by the town's position astride the London Road and later by the arrival of the main line railway in 1843. Gyford also shows how eighteenth-century Witham was one of a number of Essex towns that developed an increasingly genteel image, reinventing itself with balls and assemblies, small boarding schools, and professional practitioners in medicine and law, and culminating in the founding of a spa. These developments also affected

the architecture of the town. Nonetheless, Chapter 3 reveals that behind this façade of wealth and success a large proportion of Witham's population was desperately poor, a situation perhaps exacerbated by the long-term decline of the local cloth and spinning industry. Continuing a theme the author demonstrates how poverty had a tremendous impact upon the built environment, as the local poor lived in hundreds of inadequate and insanitary cottages, tenements and yards. A very good account is given of the squalid conditions and low expectations of life in Witham in the nineteenth century, and the remedial actions gradually undertaken by the Board of Health (from 1852) and later Witham U.D.C. (from 1895). Chapter 7 gives further information on the long struggle to improve local housing, with the final transformations of housing stock delayed until the 1930s.

There is so much packed into the book that it is difficult to select more than a few items for final record. Gyford pays due attention to the massive expansion of Crittall's factory in 1925 as the most important event in inter-war Witham. In several places excellent accounts are given of the development of public services and utilities, covering everything from sewerage and the water supply to telephones, gas, electricity, and street lighting. Highly entertaining passages note the growing impact of traffic along Newland Street and the police attempts to control it. The history of housing at Witham underwent a further twist after World War Two when local councillors' ideas for expansion coincided with the Greater London Plan of 1944 which envisaged such communities as appropriate sites for 'overspill' housing and industry. As Gyford states, that would be the story for another book, but it is one that this reviewer hopes she can be encouraged to write. Her work is gradually making Witham one of the most thoroughly investigated small towns in Essex, and this book is highly recommended to student and general reader alike.

Chris Thornton

★ ★ ★

**ESSEX MACHINE BREAKERS: the story of the 1830 riots.** By Jill Chambers. *The Author*. Letchworth. 2004 ISBN 1 90304 903 2. 482pp. ill. £17.90.

This book is the seventh in a series of county books examining the period of the Captain Swing riots that commenced in 1830. It starts with a general overview of the Swing Riots chronicling the events of 1830 and 1831 in England.

The main body of the book is split into five parts. Part 1 examines the riots by transcribing newspaper reports interspersed with quarter session depositions and Home Office papers from 4 November 1830 through to 19 February 1831. Protest incidents are interspersed with other criminal activity ranging from thefts and assaults through to a murder.

Part 2 examines the trials in much the same way as part 1. This is split into Special Session of Gaol Delivery of December and the Quarter Sessions from January 1831 to March 1832. Again protest cases are interspersed with criminal cases.

Part 3 is subtitled, 'After the Trials,' but actually examines the assizes at Chelmsford for the period March 1831 to March 1832. Again this section has trials of Swing protesters interspersed with criminal cases such as theft. There are also references to the ships used

to transport convicts from England to Australia, together with letters to the Colonial Secretary from officials in Australia.

Part 4 will be of great interest to family historians as it provides extensive biographical notes on every Essex man indicted for protest offences, together with disposal. It includes clemency petitions against conviction, detail on conduct of transportees, physical descriptions of the men, detail on families, marriage, death, children etc. It also provides data on previous convictions. The information in this section has been meticulously researched and provides us with a veritable database on Essex Swing protesters. The material is organised alphabetically as follows: Ablett to Fuller; Gage to Mills and Neal to Wright.

The final part of the book comprises seven appendices of source material: viz Home Office Correspondence and papers; indictments and depositions at the ERO; claims for rewards; dieting of Essex prisoners; special constables; the voyage to Australia; and papers in the case against James Ewen.

I was rather surprised, on reading the bibliography, to note that only two Essex books were cited, both covering only the north-west corner of Essex. Whilst these books provide an excellent commentary on this part of the county, they are hardly representative of the whole.<sup>1</sup> The excellent work on Essex rural protest by Arthur Brown, Steve Hussey, Laura Swash, and Ted Woodgate has been totally overlooked.<sup>2</sup>

This book comprises transcribed primary source material, which will be useful to local history students studying rural protest during the period of Swing. The extensive information on the rioters will be of special interest to family historians as stated above. However, it does little to improve our understanding of the root causes of Swing in Essex, and adds little to the overall debate.

1 J Cooper, *Well Ordered Town: a story of Saffron Walden, Essex, 1792 to 1862* and J Cooper *History Walks in Clavering*

2 A.F.J. Brown, *Meagre Harvest*; S. Hussey and L. Swash, *Horrid Lights*; E. Woodgate, *A Motive of Private Malice combined with General Malice*, Essex Journal; vol.32; no.1 1997.

Michael Holland

★ ★ ★

**COTTIS OF EPPING: the Story of an Essex foundry.** By Chris Johnson. *The author*. 2005. ISBN 0 954 944 2 0 8. £5.00 from the author at 37 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3L.

Although Essex was, historically speaking, a predominantly agricultural county, industry and manufacturing have long been of considerable importance. From 1800 onwards not only did industry overwhelm much of Thameside but other smaller manufacturers emerged to serve the local farming community, and the most enterprising of them to serve wider markets too.

The first such iron foundry already existed in Colchester by 1803. The second was established by William Bentall in Goldhanger in 1808. Thereafter foundries were set up in Earls Colne, two in Chelmsford, in Maldon, Coggeshall, Hornchurch and elsewhere. Although Miller Christy in the *V.C.H.* (vol.ii, 1907) and John Booker in *Essex and the Industrial Revolution* (E.R.O. 1974) have provided good general accounts of the industry in Essex, there are few histories of individual foundries.

Chris Johnson has now stepped in to fill this gap in respect of Epping. The Archimedean Ironworks, which was an extremely significant feature of the town until its final closure in 1982, was established in 1854 by William Cottis (1809-94) and his son Crispus (1837-1917) from the Maldon area, where William had worked his way up from labourer to Superintendent at Joseph Warren's foundry at Heybridge.

His other two sons William and Reuben joined him at Epping, where at first they concentrated on the manufacture and repair of agricultural machinery in limited premises on the east side of the High Street. Later they took over a much larger site on the other side, where they greatly increased their range of products. In due course this included fenders, railings, bedsteads, cutlery, lamps, lawnmowers, their own make of bicycle etc. They provided electrical components for London theatres, replacements bolts for the Menai Bridge, gates for the old Mansion House and many other items sold at home and abroad.

Employees increased from just the family in the early days to over 100 by 1900. Hours were long and conditions far from good, but it was a significant employer in the town. Successive generations of the Cottis family played a leading role in the local community, from William snr. who funded the building of the Baptist Church, his son Crispus who was Chairman of the Urban District Council in 1902, through to Crispus Robert (1905-77), the last head of the foundry, who was active in the Methodist Church and other aspects of town life.

The Cottis family and its business was a pillar of the community in Epping for over a century, and Chris Johnson has produced an excellent and well-illustrated book which tells their story. It is a book which should be read by anyone interested in Epping or in the industrial history of Essex. Perhaps some who read it will be inspired to write the history of other comparable establishments. Essex history will be greatly enhanced if they do.

Stan Newens

★ ★ ★

**THE HISTORY OF HIGHAMS PARK and HALE END.** By Mary L. Dunhill. *Phillimore*. 2005. ISBN 1 86077 333 8. 168 pp. ill. £15.99.

Highams Park and Hale End is a community on the boundary of Chingford, Walthamstow and Woodford, now in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, but which is based on a remote forest hamlet of a few cottages. Although there was an estate known as Highams, the area is essentially a development of the late 19th and early 20th centuries: hence a decade ago there were still many people alive who could remember the transformation of the locality from this hamlet into suburbia. The author has taken full advantage of these memories and has produced an oral account based on personal interviews.

This has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are in the vivid picture it presents of the thought, life and activity in housing, schools and shopping from the First World War through to the present day, and of the individual responses of the residents. On the other hand it entails some duplication. More regrettable than this, however, we have no more than minimum comment on the main industry (Halex), and limited discussion of the life of the local churches.

A chapter is indeed devoted to Halex, but it is primarily concerned with personal and social responses to the industry. Despite these reservations, the book is a valuable contribution to the history of the area and of the personalities who were instrumental in this development.

John E. Boyes

★ ★ ★

**PAPER LANDSCAPES: Archive-based studies on Historic Gardens and Landscapes in Essex.** Dr Twigs Way (editor). *Essex Gardens Trust*. 2005. 62pp. many ill. £6.50.

The work of the Essex Gardens Trust has made a most valuable contribution to our knowledge of the county over the last decade. It has told us much about gardens which still exist for us to enjoy, not least of course, about their history and at Cressing Temple and many other places, has contributed towards their re-creation.

This new book of seven essays by different members of the Trust, delightfully and helpfully illustrated, introduces us to gardens most of which no longer exist, at least in their old form. William Coys of Stubbers is firmly on record as a leading 17th cent gardener: Robert Adams' essay valuably consolidates our knowledge of his achievements. Other essays tell us about lost or truncated gardens such as Skreens at Roxwell, Hassobury, Moor Hall Harlow, and old picture postcards are called on to illustrate Valentines at Ilford and the Clock House at Upminster.

Altogether another valuable addition to our knowledge of our county by the Gardens Trust.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

**SMUGGLING IN ESSEX.** by Graham Smith. *Countryside Books*. 2005. ISBN 1 85306 917 5. 256 pp. ill. £9.99.

Graham Smith is a retired officer of Customs & Excise: he has lived in Essex for 40 years and has written books on the history of smuggling in several other parts of England. His knowledge of the present day aspects of smuggling, as well as of its history, shines out from this book.

As we know, smuggling was an industry characteristic of the Essex marshlands – so well adapted by their geography for it. It had its overplayed elements of romance but, from its earliest times, it attracted violence and became intermixed with other unlovely businesses like the press-gang and that of wrecking (or at least of profiting from the proceeds of wreck). Shore riders, the Preventive Waterguard, revenue cutters and the Coastguard all tried with only partial success to limit the movement of smuggled goods. This connection with wider elements of crime has continued and flourishes to this day with ever greater sophistication, as shown in the Setty and the Rettendon murders.

All the way round the coast from the Thames to the Stour evidence not of smuggling itself but of the efforts to prevent it are to be found: for example the four waterguard cottages at Goldhanger, to seek to control this haunt of notorious smugglers. Graham Smith's book shows us one aspect of – particularly but not exclusively – 18th and early 19th cent. Essex life whose romance is far outweighed by its sordidness

M.B.

## OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED OR NOTED

(These may or may not be the subjects of later reviews)

**THE EARLY ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY and LATER SAXON SETTLEMENT AT SPRINGFIELD LYONS.** (East Anglian Archaeology No.111). *Essex County Council*. 2005 ISBN 1 85281 244 3. 212pp. 118 figs.

**THE CISTERCIAN ABBEY OF ST. MARY, STRATFORD LANGTHORNE.** by Bruno Barber, Steve Chew, Tony Dyson and Bill White. *MoLAS (Monograph Series 18)*. 2004 £18.95.

**THE DAGENHAM MURDER: the Brutal Killing of PC George Clark, 1846.** by Linda Rhodes, Lee Shelden & Kathryn Abnett. *London Borough of Barking and Dagenham*. 2005 ISBN 0 900325 37 2. 332 pp. 6 col. 80 black-and-white ill. (Postal sales £1.48 extra, from Barking Central Library, Unit 53, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre, Barking IG11 8DQ).

**FOLKLORE OF ESSEX.** by Sylvia Kent. *Tempus*. 2005 ISBN 0 7524 3677 5. 192p. many ill. £14.99.

**ESSEX SUMFING' ELSE: a Cornucopia of Estuary English.** by Steve Cransher. *Countryside Books, Newbury, Berks*. 2005 ISBN 1 85306 950 5. 65pp. many cartoons and other ill. £4.99.

**BILLERICAY: a Pictorial History.** by Roger Green. *Phillimore*. 2005 ISBN 1 86077 340 0. ill. £19.99.

**SOUTH BENFLEET: a History.** by Robert Hallmann. *Phillimore*. 2005 ISBN 1 86077 359 1. ill. £15.99.

**WHAT HAPPENED WHEN.** by Tim Taylor and the Time Team. *Channel 4 Books*. 2006 ISBN 1 905 02609 9. 320pp. many ill. £20.00.

**PAGLESHAM NATIVES.** by Rosemary and Mark Roberts. To be published summer 2006 From the authors on 01255 822310 or email: roberts.stosyth@tesco.net: profits from sale go towards the restoration of the west window of Paglesham church).

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**SCHOOL PARTY VISITS** are similarly available outside normal opening hours. Visits generally last from 10.00am-2.30pm and cost £3 per head (£75 minimum).

Programme of other events: details from the Estate Office.

HALL LANE, INGATESTONE, ESSEX CM4 9NR

Telephone: 01277 353010 Fax: 01245 248979

## Forthcoming Events Further Studies

### UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Department of History, Centre for Local History

([www.essex.ac.uk/history/local\\_history](http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/local_history))

#### (a) Certificate in Local History.

This is a one-year, 30 session part-time course which studies the local history of Essex and concentrates on the most important developments in the region 1600-1950, the most significant sources and archives for local and regional history, and how to plan, execute and write up a piece of original research. It draws on the teaching resources of the University Local History Centre and the Essex Record Office. The classes are mainly taught in the evening, but there are also several Saturday day-schools and a Summer school.

#### (b) M. A./Diploma in Local and Regional History.

The History Department runs M. A. and Diploma schemes in Local and Regional History. These concentrate on the history

of Essex and Suffolk but also explore some of the wider issues surrounding the subject. Schemes comprise taught modules, a Summer School, and a dissertation, and can be taken full-time in one year or part-time in two, or by credit accumulation over 3-5 years. Much of the teaching is done in the evening.

For further details contact the Graduate Secretary, History Dept., University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ (Tel: 01206 872302) or e-mail [gsechist@essex.ac.uk](mailto:gsechist@essex.ac.uk) or look at the History Dept. website (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/>).

There will be an **Open Evening** on Wed. 24 May at Essex University, Wivenhoe Park (Room 5NW.3.1) for those interested in the above from 6.30-8.00p.m.

#### Opportunities for Future Study at University Level

Both the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia have substantial continuing education programmes covering the same

range of of subject areas as the Open Studies programme. Their courses are run at a large number of venues, many of which may be accessible to students formerly studying with the University of Essex. They also offer a range of general and subject-specific Certificates and Diplomas which may offer routes to continue an interest in a particular topic. The University of Cambridge also runs a range of weekend residential courses at Madingley Hall.

Both institutions would be pleased to send information on their programmes and details can be found on their websites.

#### University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education  
Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge CB3 8AQ  
Tel: 01954 280280 [www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk)

#### University of East Anglia

Continuing Education  
University of East Anglia  
Norwich NR4 7TJ  
Tel: 01603 593266 [www.uea.ac.uk/contedu](http://www.uea.ac.uk/contedu)

#### WEA - ESSEX (Eastern Branch)

**WEA Summer School Week of Study** - to be held Mon. 10 - Wed. 12 July at the Wilson Marriage Centre, Barrack St., Colchester. Classes 10.00am -3.30pm. Topics:

*East Anglian Railways* with Adrian Wright.

*Essex Pioneers* with Dr. Rosemary Williams and Dr. Jane Pearson.

*Wildflowers in their Habitat* - with Terri Tarpey.

*William Morris* with Dr. Robert Brownell.

Application form from Mrs. C.T. Voysey, La Coupee, Nounsley Rd., Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford CM3 2NQ (Tel: 01245 382595/ e-mail [cvoysey@onetel.com](mailto:cvoysey@onetel.com))

Fee £42.00 (concs. £40.00) (supplementary fee of £4 for the railways course).

#### Chelmsford Branch:

**Study Day:** Great Baddow Community Centre. Sat. 3 June. 11.00am - 3.30pm.

*Plotlands: The Londoner's Rural Retreat* with Deanna Walker.

Fee £8.50 per person: book with Mrs. J. Black, 23 Highfield Rd., Chelmsford CM1 2NF.

#### CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL.

Events will include:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Sat. 13 May. | Chapter House: 11.00am. <i>Chelmsford's Past Illustrated</i> . The town from the 18th cent onwards seen through the eyes of artists in the Museum collection, by Anne Lutyens-Humphrey. Tickets: £6.00. |
| Sun. 14 May  | Cathedral: 9.00pm. <i>Echoes of Essex</i> . Music by Essex composers. Tickets: £12.00.  |
| Mon. 15 May  | RHS Hyde Hall, 2.30pm. <i>Ancient Gardens</i> by Brent Elliott. Tickets: £6.00.   |
| Fri. 19 May  | Chapter House: 12 noon. Ottakar's Literary Lunch with speakers including Bettany Hughes (TV historian) and Graham Smith (author: <i>Smuggling in Essex</i> ). Tickets £25 inc. lunch.                   |

#### ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT.

The Tenth Annual Essex Place-names Seminar will be held in Maldon on Sat. 18 Nov. at 2.00pm. The guest lecturer will be Mr. Edward Martin of the Suffolk Archaeological Service, who will speak on *The making of the East Anglian Landscape: field-systems and their social context* and there will be talks by Local Recorders. Tickets £5.00 (payable to E.S.A.H.) from the Project Coordinator, 27 Torbryan, Ingatestone CM4 9JZ - please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

#### ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

(Wharf Rd., Chelmsford unless otherwise indicated).

#### 2005 Programme

Sat. 13 May **History Day** - for details see p.33.

For other events consult the Record Office (Tel: 01245 244644): booking is usually necessary. They will include:

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wed. 24 May          | Walking Chelmsford with Walker. |
| Thurs./Fri. 1/2 June | Children's Event.               |
| Thurs. 8 June        | Family History.                 |

#### CRESSING TEMPLE

Cressing Temple is open to the public from 10.00am. to 4.30pm. (last entrance 3.30pm) on weekdays and Sundays from April to October. Opening on Saturdays is restricted in view of private events. The great medieval Wheat and Barley Barns, the Walled Garden, the Wheelwright's Shop, the Old Forge, the Granary and the Visitors' Centre are open to visitors. Group bookings, specialist tours and school visits are always welcome (Tel: 01376 584903 for details; e-mail: [cressing.temple@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cressing.temple@essexcc.gov.uk); [www.cressingtemple.org.uk](http://www.cressingtemple.org.uk))

#### Talks and Day Schools:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Tues. 2 May   | <i>Letting Loose: an Introduction to Archery</i> by the Braintree bowman. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.   |
| Sun. 4 June   | <i>Plant, Myth, Magic and Medicine</i> by June Crisfield Chapman. 2.30pm. No need to book. £3.50/£2.50   |
| Tues. 6 June  | <i>Medieval Gardens</i> with E.C.C. horticulturist. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.   |
| Tues. 4 July  | <i>Tudor Gardens</i> with E.C.C. horticulturist. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.  |
| Wed. 26 July  | <i>Farm Buildings</i> by Philip Atkins (sponsored by Essex Historic Buildings Group). Everyone welcome in the Court Hall. 7.30pm. (enquiries tel: 01245 361408). |
| Sat. 29 July  | Day School on <i>Historic Buildings in Towns</i> . Cost £18.00, plus lunch £6.00 (enquiries tel: 01245 361408 or 01371 830416).                                  |
| Tues. 1 Aug.  | <i>Stuart Gardens</i> with E.C.C. horticulturist. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.   |
| Tues. 5 Sept. | <i>An Introduction to Ancient Art</i> by Mike Simmons. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.  |
| Tues. 3 Oct.  | <i>Reading the Timbers</i> with Elphin and Brenda Watkin. 7.30 - 9.00pm. No need to book. £4.00/£3.00.   |

#### Essex County Council Historic Buildings and Conservation Seminars:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Thurs. 12 May  | <i>Basic Maintenance of Historic Buildings</i> : 9.00am - 4.30pm. (cost £40.00 to include lunch).    |
| Thurs. 22 June | <i>Technical Details of Historic Buildings</i> : 9.00 am. - 4.30 pm. (cost £60.00 to include lunch). |
| Thurs. 27 July | <i>Lime and how it is used</i> : 9.00am - 4.30pm. (cost £60.00 to include lunch).                    |
| Wed. 16 Aug.   | <i>Dating Historic Buildings</i> : 9.00am - 4.30pm. (cost £60.00 to include lunch).                  |
| Thurs. 7 Sept. | <i>A Day on Timber</i> : 9.00am - 4.30pm. (cost £60.00 to include lunch).                            |

Corporate or team building days and hands-on courses in traditional building skills may also be arranged.

For details or bookings please contact Katie Seabright (Tel: 01245 437672).

#### School Holiday Activities

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Mon. 29 May -       | Half-term activities for Children: £3.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking unnecessary.                                 |
| Fri. 2 June         | Childrens' Archaeological Dig: sessions 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.30pm. £7.50 per child. Booking essential (tel: 01376 584903/584453). |
| Tuesdays in August  | Childrens' Historical Activity days: 10.00am-3.00pm. £3.50 per person. No need to book.  |
| Thursdays in August | Half-term activities for Children: 10.00am-2.00pm. No need to book.  |
| Mon. 23 Oct.-       |  |
| Fri. 27 Oct.        |  |

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# THE ESSEX HISTORY FAIR

## BRAINTREE

### SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2006

## Museums and Places to Visit

### Colchester Museums

#### CASTLE MUSEUM

High Street Colchester  
Tel: 01206 282939

Open Monday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm (last entry 4.30pm). Admission £4.00 adults, £2.80 concessions, family tickets available at cheaper rates.

Largest Norman Keep in Europe, superb Roman displays, hands-on activities and daily tours of the Roman vaults, castle roof and Norman chapel. Saxon, Medieval and prison displays. Many special attractions and events for children.

#### HOLLYTREES.

High Street, Colchester  
Tel: 01206 282940

Opening hours are the same as the Castle Museum. Admission free, but charges are made for some activities. Hollytrees' museum shows how the lives of Colchester people, including the past inhabitants of Hollytrees House, have changed over the last 300 years. Discover how technology has transformed our domestic lives and play with Victorian toys. There will also be a doll's house of Hollytrees showing the furniture and building as it was in 1881.

#### NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

All Saints Church, High Street, Colchester  
Tel: 01206 282941

An interesting perspective on the local natural environment from the Ice Age up to today. Admission free. Same opening hours as Castle Museum.

#### TYMPERLEYS CLOCK MUSEUM

Trinity Street, Colchester  
Tel: 01206 282943

A fine collection of Colchester-made clocks displayed in this restored late 15th century house. Admission free. Same opening hours as Castle Museum, but closed on Sundays.

#### BRAINTREE DISTRICT MUSEUM

Manor Street, Braintree  
Tel: 01376 325266

Open Mon-Sat. 10.00am-5.00pm. Enquire for Bank Holiday opening hours. Admission £1.00 (50p concessions) to residents in Braintree District; £2.00 (£1.00 concessions) to those outside.

#### THE VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM

Vestry Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9NH  
Tel: (020) 8509 1917

This is the Community History Museum of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, only a few minutes' walk from Walthamstow shopping centre and set in the former workhouse, built c. 1730. It contains the Local History Library and the Archive for the Borough.

It is open Monday-Friday 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.30pm Saturdays 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm. Could those wishing to consult the Archive please make a prior appointment by telephone.

### Southend Museums

#### CENTRAL MUSEUM

Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6EW  
Tel: 01702 215131

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm. Entry free.

An Edwardian building housing displays of archaeology, natural history, social history and local history, telling the story of man in his changing environment within the south-east Essex area. The 'Discovery Centre' will include four sections: historic photographs of south-east Essex through a computer base, a video microscope for coins and natural history and topic tables for schools.

Southend Planetarium is situated on the first floor of the Central Museum. Shows from Wednesday to Saturday, at 11.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm. Please telephone for bookings and further details. This is the only Planetarium in south-east England outside London.

#### PRITTLEWELL PRIORY MUSEUM

Priory Park, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea  
Tel: 01702 342878

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm. Entry free.

The remains of a 12th century Priory with later additions. It now houses displays of natural history, medieval religious life and a nationally important display of the history of radio and television. Adequate car-parking within the grounds.

#### CHELMSFORD & ESSEX MUSEUM and ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM

Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ  
Tel: 01245 615100. Fax: 01245 262428

For times of admission etc. please see inside front cover.

#### THURROCK MUSEUM SERVICE

Central Complex, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX  
Tel: 01375 385484

Open Monday to Saturday (Bank Holidays excepted) 9.00am-5.00pm. Admission free.

#### SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JL  
Tel: 01799 510333

The Museum is open on Mondays-Saturdays from 10.00am-4.30pm, and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.30-4.30pm. Cost of admission £1.00: discount tickets (retired etc.) 50p: children (18 and under) free.

#### COALHOUSE FORT

Coalhouse Fort at East Tilbury is owned by Thurrock Unitary Council but leased to the Coalhouse Fort Project, whose members carry out maintenance work and open it for guided tours to the public. It was constructed between 1861 and 1874 as part of the renewal of coastal defences undertaken by Palmerston. It is situated in pleasant landscape alongside the Thames, with a car park and toilets close by.

The Fort is closed in Winter but will be open again to the public on Easter Monday 17 April and thereafter on the last Sunday in each month to 26 September and on Bank Holiday Mondays (plus occasional special events) from 11.00am to 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm). Normal open day

admission charges are adults (16-59) £3; senior citizens £2. Children under 16 are admitted free *but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.*

Contact point for parties desiring to visit etc.: Ken Levy (Tel: 01375 677764).

### THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

Thomas Plume's Library, Market Hill, Maldon (registered charity no 310661) is a remarkable example of an endowed public library, founded by Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester, in 1704. It contains about 7,000 books, the considerable majority of them brought together by him, on the upper floor of the disused church of St. Peter's and represents the library held by a scholar of his day. The Trustees and the Friends of the Library make it their business to maintain the collection and, so far as possible, replace the relatively few which the ravages of time and of borrowers have caused to be lost from the original lists.

It is open free for visits and reading from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10.00 am till noon on Saturdays. It may be opened at other times by previous agreement with the Librarian. For reasons of safety there are not permitted to be more than about eight people together on the library floor at one time.

## County Historical and similar Societies

### ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

#### 2006 Programme

- Fri. 19 May Morant Lecture. *Development of Railways in Essex* by Adrian Wright. 7.30pm. Cttee. Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.
- Sat. 17 June Annual General Meeting (2.00p.m.): Great Leighs Village Hall, followed by a talk by Anne Haward: Round Tower Churches. (cost £5.00 to include tea).
- Sat. 22 July Afternoon (2.30p.m.) visit to Panfield Hall and Panfield church. Meet at Panfield Hall (cost £5.00 to include tea).
- Wed. 23 Aug. Evening (7.00pm.) visit to Hylands House, Chelmsford with conducted tour by Nick Wickenden. (cost £6.00 to include light refreshments).
- Sat. 23 Sept. Afternoon (1.30pm) visit to Edwin's Hall and Woodham Ferrers church. Meet at Edwin's Hall. Numbers limited. (cost £5.00 to include tea).
- Sun. 15 Oct. Morant Lunch at The Bear, Stock. 12.30 for 1.00pm. After-dinner speaker Lord Petre. Cost £21.00. Bookings with payment by 23 Sept.

For further information please contact the hon. Membership Secretary (Miss Ann Turner, 1 Robin Close, Great Bentley CO7 8QH) or the hon. Excursions Secretary (Mrs. Pat Ryan, 60 Maldon Road, Danbury, CM3 4QL - Tel: 01245 222237).

### THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX

- Sat. 8 July **Annual General Meeting** at Feering Community Centre, near Kelvedon. 2.30pm.

For details of membership please see back page.

### THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

Annual minimum membership subscription: £15 individual, £25 family. Holds annual September Bike Ride in aid of Essex Churches, and other events. Hon. Membership Secretary: Keith Gardner, Pink Cottage, Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1RT (Tel: 01708 688576/ email: keith.gardner@care4free.net).

**Study Days** for 2006 will be on Wed. 3 May, meeting at 11.00am (please note time) at Mistley church, with visits to churches in Tendring Hundred (cost £7.50 members, £10.00 non-members) and on Sat. 30 Sept., visiting churches in Southend borough (visits by coach: cost and further details still to be confirmed). Lunches not included.

Wed. 11 Oct. Autumn Fair: 10.00am-2.00pm at Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding. Details from Mrs Marion Scantlebury, Parvilles, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 7AT (Tel: 01279 731228).

### ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY

#### 2006 Programme - Chelmsford

Meetings are held monthly (except in August) at the

**UPMINSTER WINDMILL** will be open for guided tours in 2006 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on the following days: May 6, 7, 13 & 14, June 3, 4, 17 & 18, July 1, 2, 15 & 16, Aug. 5, 6, 19 & 20, Sept. 2, 3, 16 & 17, Oct. 7 & 8.

**UPMINSTER TITHE BARN, AGRICULTURAL & FOLK MUSEUM** will be open from 10.30am to 5.30pm on the following days: May 1, 6, 7 & 29, June 3, 4 & 18, July 1, 2, 22 & 23, Aug. 5, 6, 12 & 13, Sept. 2, 3, 13 & 14, Oct. 1, 7 & 8.

Both these are owned by the London Borough of Havering but are opened under their authority by the Hornchurch & District Historical Society. Entry to both is free.

The Barn was built of oak about 1470, near to Upminster Hall (now a golf clubhouse). It is full of agricultural and domestic items all cleaned and maintained by members of the Society.

The Windmill was built in 1802/3 and is a smock mill with boarding, brick roundel and fantail fitted to the cap. The interior workings remain intact since it was last operational in 1935. Guides give visitors a thorough conducted tour lasting 45 minutes explaining how it worked.

Members of the Society are willing also to open both to Society and school and other parties by mutual agreement at other times. Please enquire of P. Butler (Tel. and Fax.: 01708 447535).

Essex Record Office, Wharf Rd., Chelmsford. Parking nearby. Research Room and bookstall opens from 10.30am. Computer Group meets at 10.30am. Tutorials 12.30pm. Main meeting at 2.30pm., with a short break for tea, for which donations invited.

- Sat. 20 May *Illegitimacy* by Dr. Ruth Paley.
- Sat. 17 June *Dating Old Photographs* by Jean Debney.
- Sat. 15 July *The Villages of East London* by Peter Lawrence.
- Sat. 16 Sept. Annual General Meeting and *Victorian Ancestors* by George Smith (2.00pm)
- Sat. 21 Oct. *A Nest of Hornecks - Dr. Johnson's London* by Moira Bonnington.
- Sat. 18 Nov. A talk by Roger Errington (ONS Adoptions Branch).
- Sat. 16 Dec. *The Courtauld Dynasty* by David Possee.

In addition to the meetings at Chelmsford the North-West Essex Branch holds monthly meetings at Bell Cottage, South Rd., Saffron Walden at 8.00pm on the second Thursday of the month. The North-East Essex Branch holds meetings at the Cardinal Vaughan Hall, Priory St., Colchester on the first Saturday of the month at 2.15pm (doors open 2.00pm). The South-East Essex Branch meets at The Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea on the first Saturday of the month at 2.45pm (doors open 2.00pm). The West Essex Branch holds meetings at St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre, Market Street, Old Harlow normally on the first Saturday of the month at 2.30pm.

For further information please contact the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ann Church (Tel: 01206 863857).

### HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

#### Essex Branch 2006 Programme

- Sat. 13 May **Centenary Celebration** (see opposite page).
- Fri. 23 June Evening visit to Secret Bunker, Mistley, Manningtree (7.00pm) (parking free: buffet supper available if booked in advance).
- Sat. 9 Sept. Annual General Meeting (7.30pm) followed by speaker to be announced.
- Sat. 16 Sept. Visit to 2 Tilbury Forts (all day).
- Sat. 7 Oct. *The Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest* (illus.) by Prof. David Bates.
- Sat. 4 Nov. *Queen Henrietta Maria* by Prof. Barry Coward (President of the Historical Association).
- Sat. 2 Dec. *Liberal Landslide 1906: Recovery and Triumph 1895-1906* by Prof. Chris Wrigley.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, and will commence at 2.30pm. Could those attending all meetings in the Committee Room please arrange to arrive at the Atrium 15 mins. early for security reasons.

Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed: a £2.00 donation is requested.

Enquiries to the hon. Sec. Mrs. Barbara Windsor, 11 Butlers Close, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 7BE. Contact point for visits: Marguerite Fuke, 165 Wood St., Chelmsford CM2 8BJ (Tel: 01245 358255)

**ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2006 Programme**

- Tues. 2 May *The Cloth Industry in Essex in the 15th and 16th centuries* by Jennifer Ward.  
Tues. 6 June *Colchester: is it really Britain's oldest Town?* by Andrew Phillips.  
Tues. 5 Sept. *Late Medieval Armour* by Emma Phillips.  
Tues. 3 Oct. *World War II Defences of Essex* by Fred Nash.  
Tues. 7 Nov. *The Agricultural Depression of mid-Essex c.1870-1901* by Neil Whiffen.  
Tues. 5 Dec. *Essex and the Peasants' Revolt* by Herbert Eiden.

The Society meets at 10.30am in the Lecture Theatre of the Essex Record Office. The meetings are open and free to all but a charge of 50p. is made for tea/coffee and biscuits.

**ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS  
2006 Programme**

- Sat. 6 May **Annual General Meeting** at Clacton-on-Sea. 10.00 for 10.30am.  
Sat. 11 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** at Saffron Walden.

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Pauline Dalton, Roseleigh, Epping Rd., Epping CM16 5HW. (Tel: 01992 812725/ email: pmd2@ukonline.co.uk) or the hon. Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Wendy Hibbitt, 2 Green Close, Writtle CM1 3DX (Tel: 01245 421653/ email: wendyhibbitt@hotmail.com).

**ESSEX GARDENS TRUST**

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Lance Lepper (Tel: 01245 400284) or the hon. Membership Secretary, Vanessa Stopford (Tel: 0208 674 1416 - Email: v.stopford@ukonline.co.uk).

**THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY  
2006 Programme**

- Sat. 20 May **Annual General Meeting** followed by talk by Andrew Scott. United Reformed Church Hall, Maldon. 7.30pm.  
Sat./Sun 9/10 Sept. **Heritage Open Days** Sat. 10.00am-12 noon and 2.00pm.-4.00 pm.: Sun. 2.00pm.-4.00pm.

The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library (reg. Charity no. 1098311) was formed in 1987 to support and assist the Trustees of the Library in all aspects of the preservation and conservation of books and accessions to the Library. Enquiries about membership should go to the hon. Membership Secretary, Mrs. Mary Wells, 34 Beeligh Rd., Maldon CM9 5QH (Tel. 01621 841057).

**WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP  
2006 Programme**

- Mon. 8 May Rudge Memorial Lecture: *The London Temple of Mithras 50 years on* an illustrated talk by John Shepherd, University of London (8.00pm at the Assembly Hall, Woodford County High School).  
Mon. 12 June *Under London's Streets* an illustrated talk by Denis Smith, Birkbeck College.  
Mon. 11 Sept. *How the other half lived: the People of south-east Essex in Early Saxon Times* an illustrated talk by Trevor Ennis.

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, at 7.45pm in the Sixth Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green. For further details please telephone: 020 8989 9294.

# CELEBRATION OF HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY and HISTORY IN ESSEX

**ESSEX RECORD OFFICE  
SATURDAY 13 MAY 2006**

**9.45am – 4.30pm**

**Day of Lectures** arranged jointly by the Historical Association,  
the Centre for Local History at Essex University and the Essex Record Office

**A Roman Circus at Colchester** – Philip Crummy

**Walthamstow 1851-1901** – Richard Wall

**John Vine (1808-87) – a disabled Colchester Artist** – Jane Pearson

**Survival of the Aristocracy in England** – Prof. John Beckett

Book (£4.00, payable to *University of Essex* inc. tea/coffee) with  
Andrew Phillips, Local History Centre, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park,  
Colchester CO4 7SQ

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