

# Essex Journal

AUTUMN 2004

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A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



**AUGUSTINE COURTAULD**

**THE COLLAPSE OF THE OXFORD ESTATE**

**GOLDEN GIRLS**

**ESSEX PLACENAMES**

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# ESSEX JOURNAL

AUTUMN 2004  
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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, Mr. W. H. Bowyer.

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Cover illustration: Lt. Augustine Courtauld, R.N.V.R. (*Courtesy of Christopher Courtauld*).

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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 December 2004. 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

John Peel - the disc jockey, not the hero-figure of the way of life threatened by our government - is quoted in *The Times* as saying that he makes an 80 mile-long detour on his way between London and his Suffolk home to avoid Essex. This was, it was claimed, his only recourse to ensure that he was not pushed into the ditches by BMW drivers on Essex roads. We all know the ancient tradition that Essex byroads are as winding as they are because Essex labourers insisted on working with their bottoms to the sun, and a look at any of the south Essex Ordnance Survey maps would lend credibility, if not positive support, to that tradition. But it is probably not the circuitousness of Essex lanes - or even the inexplicable frequency of 90 degree turns on roads in the Dengie peninsula - that John Peel had chiefly in mind.

The logic was, one must assume, that 'Essex girls' have 'Essex men' and that these are the characteristic owners and/or drivers of BMW's. No doubt this is based on the detailed and careful research for which our newspapers are renowned. If so, it is interesting. A generation ago one could, not with certainty but with rather dreary predictability, predict from certain cars what their owners would be like: it seemed particularly true of Volvo's. These Volvo-owners, and their successors in title, have now almost certainly gone on to 4-by-4's or perhaps to Japanese cars and Mercedes.

Essex drivers had on the other hand, at least according to John Peel, a continuing loyalty to BMW's. Though I have made no statistical survey, I should have doubted it. At the risk of a digression, one wonders how it comes to be that such a high proportion of our drivers need a 4-by-4 to surmount the

rough condition of the terrain they cover. There is much legitimate criticism to be made of the state of maintenance of the Essex third class roads and byways, but I hardly think that those who cavil at the quality of these road surfaces find them so bad that they have no option but to use their own money to buy vehicles that would prove their point. Perhaps they are well content to use their employer's money, or their tax allowances, to uphold their argument, but that is not quite the same thing.

Be that as it may, Essex drivers show a wonderful and continuing faithfulness to those German makes of car that *Which* is now coming to say no longer uphold those high standards which were set by the earlier generation of their engineers and their workforces. And it is this continuing loyalty, in their smaller, though nippy, cars, which causes John Peel such anxiety - and concern for his continuing no-claim bonus - that he fears for his skin, and shows a blameworthy lack of ecological concern, in making his lengthy detours through Suffolk.

Tell me another. As Dot Bedenham shows in her article on page 54, any stick is good enough to flog the old and tired 'Essex Girl' joke and its kin for just another limping few feet further.

★ ★ ★

We learn from the Press that that that valuable body, the planning panel of the unelected East of England Regional Assembly, has lately nodded through the Government's grotesque requirement for a further 478,000 houses, which they had made known earlier. John Reynolds, the Chairman of the panel and a Conservative member of the

Cambridgeshire County Council, is reported as saying:

'We have approved this because we want to ensure there are homes for the people expected to move to the area and to cater for the growth there is likely to be through industry and commerce over the next 20 years.'

The Panel had just enough guts to reject a new and further demand from John Prescott for a yet further 18,000 in the broadly Stansted area.

Of this total 123,400 are for Essex and the two Essex unitary authorities, 18,500 (the largest number) for Thurrock, 17,100 for Colchester and 14,000 for Chelmsford. No district will escape unscathed or nearly so. It is said that they hope that 60 % will be able to be built on brownfield sites already used for housing, but we know how illusory such hopes have often been in the past. Even so, 40% would have to be built on undeveloped greenfield sites.

The problems all this development will create will be horrendous - think of the need for water, the infrastructure of highways and the like, and the increase of traffic. And what is the need for it in Essex and elsewhere in the south-east, when in so much of the country houses and infrastructure are being allowed to rot.

The Essex County Council is firm enough, albeit very foolish, in cutting necessary services and reducing its support for others - see what is said about the VCH on p. 39. If only it would withdraw its support for the 'East of England Regional Assembly' and its 'planning panel' and refuse to have dealings except direct with Whitehall departments - perhaps better still decline to have dealings with them either!

## Obituary Edward Erith (1907-2004)

The historian who in the 1950s wrote the history of Chigwell has died at the age of 96 years. Edward Erith was a member of the well known local family of builders merchants, but he left the firm to pursue a career as a genealogist and historian.

He joined the Society of Genealogists in 1935, having become interested in the history of Chigwell, where he lived. After the war, in which he served in the Royal Artillery, he joined the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford.

The manuscript of his history of Chigwell is contained in two volumes, together with a further two volumes of detailed source notes. His scholarship was of the highest order, and this was reflected when the editorial committee of the Victoria County History for Essex asked him to contribute the section on Chigwell, for the Ongar Hundred volume, published in 1956.

Edward Erith's attention to detail and analytical powers were demonstrated in the *Essex Review* in April 1948 in his paper: 'The Strip System of Cultivation in Buckhurst Hill in the Thirteenth Century', in which he

was able to add to William Waller's topographical history of Loughton, half a century earlier. Erith's first of several contributions to the *Essex Review* was in 1946, when he drew attention to the omission, in volume II of the VCH, of the record of an Essex County Cricket Club in 1790.

Erith was a Vice-President of Woodford Historical Society, who in 1950 published his invaluable study of local government in a residential parish: 'Woodford, Essex, 1600-1836'. This was followed in 1954 by the history of the Scott family of Woolston Hall, which was published in the *Essex Review*.

Edward Erith was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Much of his work on the history of south-west Essex remains in the archives of the Essex Record Office and locally in Essex County Libraries.

Before the war Erith had taken part in many motor races and rallies in his bull-nose Morris, and later on in life his other interests included travel, golf and the wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy.

Richard Morris

# Essex Archive Users' Forum

The genesis of this group was explained in the last issue of the *Journal* (at p.3) as a means whereby all the main users of the Record Office could, through their representatives in the Essex Congress, E.S.F.H., F.H.E. and other bodies, exchange views with office-bearers and officials of the County Council with a view to resolving so far as possible the problems caused by the economies which Government policies have obliged the Council to make.

The group has now met twice with representatives of the County Council. At its second meeting on 2 July a range of topics was discussed. The Council is currently reviewing the services it offers in relation to those London boroughs formerly part of the administrative county and where the Record Office still holds and makes accessible records as a historical legacy. Discussions with neighbouring authorities are at present under way to look at options for the future. Some of these options might help to resolve what the Council sees as an anomaly, of funding being used to support the history these other local authority areas, and at the same time might provide alternative means of accessing these archives. A consultation phase for users and other interested parties is promised for later in the year.

Simultaneously the Council is looking at ways of making better use of land (and, it is hoped, increasing income from) those parts of the ground floor of the

Record Office building in Wharf Road, where this might be feasible, and has commissioned a report. The Archive Service Points established at Saffron Walden, Harwich and Loughton will be among the topics for discussion at future meetings of the Forum.

Richard Harris, the Archive Services Manager, noted that some 49% of the collections in the Record Office (judged by volume) have now been catalogued, a figure which compares very favourably with a 27% average across East Anglia. Together the six archivists working in the ERO hope during the year to complete some 30 days of cataloguing. Records for cataloguing should include the Great Eastern Railway Society, Warley Hospital, the Eastern National buses, the West Essex Area Education Office and aliens' registration records from World War I, as well as many more parish registers and records. It is hoped shortly to recommence the publication of lists of newly-acquired records which were a popular and important part of the *Update* Newsletter. [We welcome the Record Office's recent resumption of their publication - Hon. Ed.].

Although the Forum's remit is principally archive services, Cllr. Lucas spoke on parallel efforts to reduce costs within the Archaeology Service. These will take the form of discussions with the District Councils on, *inter alia*, the provision of advice on archaeological aspects of some 22,000 planning applications a year.

## Essex Village of the Year 2004 Sponsored by Calor

**Winner**  
Runner-up  
Highly Commended

**Kelvedon**  
Theydon Bois  
Galleywood and Aldham

## Essex Best-Kept Village 2004 Sponsored by Calor

### Class 1 (Petre Trophy)

*Winner:* Galleywood  
*Runner-up:* Coggeshall

### Class 5 (Braybrooke Trophy)

*Winner:* Little Bentley  
*Runner-up:* Little Braxted

### Class 2 (Whitmore Trophy)

*Winner:* Theydon Bois  
*Runner-up:* Great Bentley

### Class 3 (Andrew Lewis Trophy)

*Winner:* Langham  
*Runner-up:* Clavering

### Class 4 (Ruggles-Brise Trophy)

*Winner:* Aldham  
*Runner-up:* Manningtree

### Merit Awards

Belchamp Otten	Ingatstone
Belchamp St Paul	Kelvedon
Blackmore	Little Hallingbury
Great Maplestead	Stanway
Great Waltham	Wickham St Paul
Hempstead	Widdington

**Best New Entry**  
Barnston

# Essex Best-Kept Churchyard Competition 2004

## Sponsored by Lodge & Sons (Builders) Limited

Winner  
Runner-up

St. Mary and St. Christopher, Panfield  
St. Mary the Virgin, Fryerning

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## Essex County Council: statement on the future of the Victoria County History

The aim of the Essex Victoria County History is to create a comprehensive history of the county that is made available to the public through libraries, the Essex Record Office and other outlets. It is also recognised as an important tool for a wide range of Heritage professionals. The Essex VCH is part of a nation-wide project that provides a major contribution to education and lifelong learning across the country.

The Essex VCH is a partnership between Essex County Council, the Universities of Essex and London and the VCH staff team. This partnership is committed to the future development of the VCH in recognition of its role in promoting a sense of belonging to and understanding of Essex.

The tripartite agreement that underpins this partnership is due for renewal in May 2005. In anticipation of this the partners have been meeting to discuss the nature of the agreement beyond 2005. Since the current agreement was established in 2000 a number of changes have occurred that need to be taken into account in these discussions. The changes include the financial pressure on the County Council. This pressure results from the changing nature of central government funding for local government and the commitment of the County Council to maintain a low council tax for Essex residents. The consequence is that the Essex County Council will need to review the level of its investment in the VCH beyond May 2005.

In anticipation of this change the VCH is working closely with the VCH staff and the other partners to explore new ways of working and new avenues of funding. These changes will build on recent changes within the VCH which have included consideration of how the work can be made more accessible through on-line publications and more popular publishing

formats, education and outreach projects and working with volunteers. The partners will also take into account the changing role of the VCH editor, which now combines research expertise with management of a wider programme of activity working with a team of professionals and volunteers.

All partners are committed to working together in the coming months to address the future needs of the VCH. New partners and new opportunities are already being pursued so that a wider group of people can be involved in and benefit from the valuable work of the Essex VCH.

Essex County Council  
18 May 2004

EDITOR'S NOTE. Since this dated press handout it has been made clear by the County Council that there will be only, at best, a substantially reduced grant available from them for the VCH when the present agreement runs out next year. Essex University likewise will be quite unable to increase its assistance. As Lord Petre has written to VCH financial supporters:

'The grant from the ECC that contributes the greater part of the funding of VCH Essex is about to be cut severely. In the longer term we hope to identify new sources of sponsorship by re-aligning the way in which VCH Essex operates. In the short term, however, we need your help to prevent the cut in ECC funding from seriously curtailing the work on Vol. XI. Failure to complete that volume will place the whole of VCH Essex's work and reputation in jeopardy. Experience has shown, elsewhere in the country, that when work stops there has never been a revival. That is the seriousness of our present situation.'

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## Essex Book Awards

Since the publication of the last *Essex Journal* the County Libraries Service and the Friends of Historic Essex have agreed, for practical and personal reasons, that the next of the Book Awards should be deferred for one year, so that it will cover all Essex books published in the calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005. Hence nothing about the event will have been seen in county libraries this year.

Entries will start being invited in the spring of next year, judging will take place at the end of 2005 and the beginning of 2006 and the Awards should themselves be made in the spring of 2006.

We are now looking for further sponsorship, and would appreciate any offers of help. We hope to get in touch with all publishers of books about Essex or Essex people, both societies and commercial bodies, known to us - but the hon Editor of the *Journal* - see title page for address etc. - or Michelle Smith of the Libraries Service, Goldlay Gardens, Chelmsford, would be very happy to note information about books published, or expected to be published, in the three years in question, so that information about them can be stored and that there is no risk of their being overlooked when the detailed work is put in hand in the latter part of next year.

# August Courtauld (1904-59)

By Christopher Courtauld

Because he hated any sort of fuss my father would never have approved of anything being written about him, but nevertheless I hope that an exception may be made for this short article which I have been asked to write in this his centenary year. More can be read in Nicholas Wollaston's fine biography *The Man on the Ice Cap*, my mother's *August and Rab*<sup>2</sup> (he was always called August - short for Augustine) and his own autobiographical memoir *Man the Ropes*<sup>3</sup>.

He was a very unusual man. An idealist who followed his star all his life: explorer, sailor, navigator, climber, countryman, his life was full of adventure. On the title page of *Man the Ropes* he quoted Masfield's words:

The power of man is as his hopes.  
In darkest night, the cocks are crowing.  
With the sea roaring and the wind blowing;  
Adventure. Man the ropes.

These words, expressing his spirit of adventure, were hung up in the base hut in Greenland of his best-known expedition, the British Arctic Air-Route Expedition (1930-1).

The son of Samuel Augustine Courtauld and Edith Anne (née Lister), he was born at their home Little Bradfords in Bocking on 26 August 1904.

'We were awful children', he wrote. 'There was the time I covered Betty [his sister]'s hair with plasticine to turn her into a monk, and then when I could not get the plasticine off, took her hair off too, with scissors. There was also the time when the neighbours opposite were astonished by the sight of Betty being lowered out of an upper window. I had been given a crane for a birthday present and was trying it out.'

During World War I the family moved from Bocking to The Howe at Halstead, where among the first things he did was to make a harbour on the pond for his model destroyer and then to make a chart of the pond, which was framed and hung up in the school room.

He was keen on ships and the sea from an early age, so it was no surprise that at the end of his time at prep school and in the last year of WWI he should apply for the Navy. 'As the Board was to take place soon after term began, I did not go back to school - unfortunately, as I heard from the headmaster later, for they could have given me some helpful tips.'<sup>3</sup> Nicholas Wollaston brings out what this experience of his application must have meant to him. 'The news of naval warfare and his own love of ships, as much as his reluctance to follow his father in the family business, drew him to a life at sea. It was something quite novel among the Courtaulds; it was his own intense desire; and it was a failure. Years



Fig 1. Augustine Courtauld with his huskies on a Polar expedition.



*Fig 2. John Rymill, Gino Watkins, A. C., Freddy Chapman (as shown, left to right) on a sledge during their expedition together.*

later he could dismiss it as 'the episode of entering for the Navy' without saying how deeply it must have hurt. The disappointment was painful and enduring.<sup>11</sup> 'Since I knew quite a bit about the Navy', he wrote<sup>3</sup>, 'and the name and armament of every ship in it, as well as all the lighthouses round the coast of Britain, I was not unduly worried.' However the subject of the essay he was set, 'The Public School System', filled him with horror and his mind went blank. Though his interview seemed to go all right, a few weeks later a note came from the Admiralty that their lordships had no use for his services.

So instead of the Navy he was sent to Charterhouse, where his father had been. This he survived rather than enjoyed, being independently-minded and something of a rebel. 'Charterhouse had, of course, been a monastery before the Reformation', he wrote<sup>3</sup>. 'To all intents and purposes it still was.' He remembered speaking to the headmaster only twice, once when he went to be beaten ('so that I could go and shoot against Marlborough instead of being kept in') and once when he went to say goodbye. 'The masters were, of course, our natural enemies...' One morning 'I was late for early school after a great rush and was called up by my form master. 'I don't think you have washed this morning' said he. I looked at him and replied 'No sir! And I don't think you have shaved'. In order to get out of cricket he took up shooting; he got into the shooting eight, helped his house win the shooting cup and won a competition at Bisley.

After school (and, with a couple of friends, a celebratory bicycle tour of the Highlands) came Cambridge: he went up to Trinity in 1923 and read engineering and geography. The freedom of university

life was a marvellous contrast to the restrictions of school and as well as a busy schedule of lectures he managed to make time for (among other things) riding, beagling, wildfowling and sailing. A visit to Arctic Finland gave him a taste for travel and back in Cambridge came a significant meeting, which was to lead on to great things. After taking his degree in 1926 'I decided I must go to the Arctic... Eventually I discovered a tower in St John's College surmounted by James Wordie. He had been with Shackleton in the Antarctic, where their ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed in the ice.'<sup>13</sup>

Wordie invited him to join his expedition to East Greenland, the main purpose of which was to take gravity readings at a place where this had been done a century before and also to survey some of the partly unexplored coast. He was entranced by the beauty of the Arctic. 'One day the sea died down and we found ourselves in the pack-ice. Great white floes floated on every side, with the sea gently lapping the blue edges. Far to the west was the lovely Alpine skyline of East Greenland.'<sup>13</sup> And, after landing and carrying out the gravity observations, 'We went up the great Franz Josef Fjord to its head, passing the splendid Devil's Castle and the wonderful stratified cliffs which line this inlet. They look like a great wedge of chocolate and cream cake.'

Next came a very different sort of exploration: an expedition to the Sahara. In the spring of 1927 he joined the brothers Francis and Peter Rodd to explore and map the mountain oasis of Air, where the former had travelled five years earlier. They went by ship to Lagos,



rail to Kano and road to Katsina where they acquired camels and stores and recruited camel men and others for the caravan with which they were to cross the desert to Air. 'In camp', wrote Nicholas Wollaston, 'August acted as foil to the brilliant brothers' and he quoted Francis Rodd's remembrance: 'He kept everyone amused and devoted to himself by his unending fund of incongruities and idiosyncracies.'<sup>1</sup>

Conditions were certainly tough in the searing heat, but they did what they set out to do. Over the following months they explored and mapped new country, climbed the mountains, observed and copied or photographed ancient rock drawings and inscriptions, collected specimens, recorded meteorological readings, took astronomical observations to fix the positions of the geographical features, including the water holes, enjoyed living and travelling with the Tuareg and eventually, after being prevented from heading north to the Mediterranean, turned west for the river Niger. When they reached it a motor boat to Timbuktu, a river steamer to Dakar and a cargo boat to Liverpool brought them home early in 1928, where they were congratulated by the President of the Royal Geographical Society for their achievements.

His love of sailing led him in early 1929 to team up in a sailing partnership with his friend Frank Carr who had an old Bristol Channel pilot cutter, *Cariad*. They sailed from the east coast down Channel and up the Irish Sea to the west coast of Scotland, where my father had invited my mother (suitably chaperoned) to join them for a fortnight among the western isles, at the end of which, as he was seeing her off, he asked her to marry him - but was refused.

Very shortly afterwards he set off on a second expedition to Greenland, again with James Wordie. Their object was to climb the unscaled Petermann Peak, thought to be some 14,000 ft and the highest mountain in the Arctic. They had seen it in the distance on the previous Greenland expedition, but it was then too far away to reach in the time available. They had the same ship and the same captain this time, but it was a bad ice year and they remained stuck fast in the pack for several weeks, during which they had the dangerous experience of the ship being lifted up (the stern one day, the bows the next, and then the entire ship), tilted and struck from below by the ice. When they finally broke free there was only a short season left.

As before they went up to the head of Franz Josef Fjord where they landed and Wordie with five others set out for the climb, carrying on their backs their tents and all their gear and food for twelve days. After five days hard going, often in the clouds, they had their first clear sight of their mountain objective, but it was still a long way off, beyond a great glacier. After several more days strenuous climbing they reached the ridge leading up to the summit late one afternoon with the weather deteriorating. But there was no time to wait for it to improve; it was now or never. Wordie with two others made the final ascent of ice and rock to the top, leaving my father with 'Bunny' Fuchs on the ledge some fifty feet below, where, in spite of the freezing conditions and the screeching gale, he managed to get the primus going to melt some ice and boil the water so as to record the altitude. This turned out to be 9,650 feet, much less than had been thought but still, they reckoned, the highest in the Arctic.

After his return to this country he met up with Gino Watkins, who 'seemed a virile and forceful fellow'.

He too had a love of the Arctic and was now planning an expedition to investigate an arctic air route across the Atlantic, the British Arctic Air-Route Expedition, 1930-1. With the expansion of air travel the possibility had opened up of an air route to North America, the quickest route being via stops in Iceland and Greenland. But no one knew what the weather was like over the Greenland ice cap, particularly in winter. The purpose of this expedition was to go and find out.

Gino Watkins recruited his team of young men; they were fourteen in all, of whom my father was the only one to have been to Greenland before. They set up their base on the east Greenland coast near Angmagssalik and the station to observe and record the weather some 140 miles inland at an altitude of over 8,000 feet up on the ice cap.

Jimmy Scott (another member of the expedition) wrote in his foreword to *Man the Ropes* that August 'had travelled in from the coast with a party which was to stock the weather station adequately for two men to stay there. Atrocious weather had so slowed down the journey that most of the food intended for the station was eaten on the way there. It looked as if the place would have to be closed down and the series of observations broken. 'I worked out,' Courtauld writes, 'that ... I could last out alone for five months. As I had frostbite in my toes, I had no wish to make the journey back. So I decided to stay on my own and keep the station going.' A touch of frostbite is an original reason for choosing a winter of solitary confinement in a place where anything might happen since no one had ever seen it at that season before.'

All others of the party tried to argue against the idea of one man staying at the ice cap station on his own through the winter. But my father was adamant. It would be a shame to abandon the station now after all the efforts they had expended; he would stay and keep the weather observations going. In fact he was to survive for five months (December - May), completely alone and cut off from all communication (the radio having been abandoned on the way up from the coast in order to save weight). While he could he went out every four hours to read the meteorological instruments, but the small tent (10 ft diameter inner, with an outer tent over it) gradually became buried by drifting snow (in the end leaving only the tip of the ventilator pipe above the snow) and for the last six weeks he was completely snowed in.

The tent walls bulged in under the weight of the snow, hoar frost hung down in icicles, almost all his supplies of food and fuel were exhausted, ice formed in his sleeping bag, he was lying in the dark - but nevertheless he had faith in his ultimate rescue. He wrote afterwards about 'the curious growing feeling of security that came to me as time passed. Many doubts presented themselves to me at the start, and for a while they grew in number and in weight. But, as each month passed without relief, I felt more and more certain of its arrival. By the time I was snowed in I had no doubts on the matter, which was a great comfort to my mind. I will not attempt any explanation of this, but leave it as a fact, which was very clear to me during that time, that while powerless to help myself, some outer Force was in action on my side, and that I was not fated to leave my bones on the Greenland Ice Cap.'<sup>4</sup>

The timing of his eventual rescue was extraordinary. 'On 5 May, exactly five months since I was left there, and on the day I had told Gino the rations would run out, the primus gave its last gasp. Very soon there was a noise like

a football match overhead. They had come!<sup>13</sup> The first rescue party had been unable to find the station, the weather being dreadful and the line of flags buried in the snow, and had had to return to the base empty handed. Now the second party (Gino Watkins, Freddy Chapman and John Rymill) in better weather had been able to locate the station by accurate astro navigation. They shouted down the ventilator pipe to establish that he was still alive: 'Are you all right?' 'Yes, thank God you've come, I'm perfectly fit.' 'Thank God!'. Then they dug away the snow, cut open the top of the tent, jumped down into it and pulled him out. To their relief he seemed astonishingly unaffected by his ordeal: after so long in the dark he needed the darkest snow-goggles and with his legs in a weakened condition he rode on a sledge, but he very quickly recovered. Travelling fast in good conditions they were back at the base in five days.

The news of his rescue was of course the occasion of immense relief and rejoicing, not least to my mother (they were by now engaged). Though he initially, and understandably, said that he had now had enough of sledging, ice caps and boat journeys, and though he would dearly love to have headed for home (where his fiancée was waiting) in the summer like other members of the expedition, such was the force of Gino Watkins' personality that he next undertook something just as hazardous, if not more so. He was asked by Gino to go with him and one other companion on a prodigious open boat journey in two 18 ft whaleboats (eventually just one) with outboard motors (of only 3 horse-power) for 600 miles down an unmapped, almost uninhabited coast of rock and ice, round the southern tip of Greenland to the west coast. It was late in the season, rain and gales held them up, the engines kept breaking down, the boats were damaged on the rocks and leaked, all their gear got soaked, there was the constant danger from ice, but they managed to overcome all difficulties, privations and near disasters and eventually got round to the west coast as planned.

His rescue from being buried under the snow had been seized on by the press and he was appalled to discover that he had become famous. Coming from a Huguenot family whose puritan blood ran in his veins he scorned all frivolity and fuss and detested any form of publicity. However on returning home he was proud to receive the Polar Medal from King George V. 'When my turn came the King seemed very interested in how I had been rescued. The man behind me told me afterwards that I had contradicted the King by saying that 'I had not been rescued. I was never lost'.

While he was alone at the ice cap station he had spent time designing the ideal sailing boat and when he got home he started searching. He found her (a 50 ft yawl, gaff rigged on both masts, built in 1912), almost exactly as he had envisaged, at Burnham-on-Crouch. As he and my mother were about to get married he renamed her *Duet* and together they sailed in her, racing successfully and cruising extensively.

Something else on which my mother accompanied him was his last expedition to Greenland (1935), the aim of which was to tackle the unclimbed mountains which Gino Watkins had seen in the distance in 1930. Contrary to all the conventional wisdom my father decided it would be good for the married men to bring their wives with them ('everybody said it was bound to be an appalling failure') - but it proved a great success. The men of his climbing party (containing two who had been on Everest) after manhauling their sledges about a

hundred miles achieved the first ascent of the Watkins Mountains, as they had by then been called. They proved at 12,250 feet to be much higher than Petermann Peak and the highest in the Arctic.

Before World War II he joined an organisation which later became known as SOE and in the summer of 1939 he was asked by Naval Intelligence to take *Duet* up the Norwegian coast from Bergen north to Trondheim, to gather all the information he could about harbours, lengths of quays, sites of factories etc. He was a brilliant navigator at sea and their return across the North Sea to the Shetland Islands provided a remarkable example. As they were leaving the Norwegian coast a thick fog came down, giving him only one short glimpse of a misty sun before it was blotted out. The fog persisted but next day, still in thick visibility, he brought *Duet* right into Lerwick harbour, an astonishing achievement.

Later that year on the outbreak of World War II he was summoned to work in Intelligence at the Admiralty, where at the time of Dunkirk his frustration and longing to be at sea led him as a Lieutenant in the RNVR to change to Coastal Forces, which he served with his usual gallantry and dash in the Channel and the North Sea in small MTBs, MGBs and MLs, and later in larger ships in Atlantic convoys. One incident illustrates his somewhat independent attitude to authority. 'After the Admiral had put up a notice closing the port and saying that no vessels were to leave harbour, my boat was seen going out at full speed. When I was asked by the Commanding Officer of the base why I had done this, I replied, 'Well, sir, I have a strict rule in my life, that I never read notices.' The officer commanding a ship expects to get his orders by signal from his Admiral.'<sup>13</sup>

Born and brought up in Essex, where his family had lived for generations, he was a true man of Essex. He took a leading part in a number of charitable causes locally; sat as a JP on the local bench; was Chairman of the Essex Association of Boys' Clubs; for ten years he was a member of the Essex County Council and in 1953 served as High Sheriff of the county. He was a countryman who loved his native county, and equally the seas round its coast and beyond, exploring them in his boat *Duet*, never happier than when under sail.

He concluded his farewell speech at his last meeting of Essex County Council, after ten years service, as follows: 'And what a County! There is no doubt that it is the best county in Britain. If you want a piece of land ploughed, where will you find a better ploughman? If you want to build a boat, where will you find a better builder or a better man to sail her? If you want to have a piece of lovely material made, where will you find better weavers than in Essex? Have we not at Chelmsford three of the foremost industries of the country? One started by a man who began life as a midshipman in the Crimean War and who, after a distinguished career in the Army, settled down here to perfect the dynamo, the machine which took electricity out of the experimental stage of stroking the cat, to the practical uses which we know today. Then there was the invention of wireless telegraphy which, made by an Italian, was entirely developed by Essex men who founded here the firm of world renown. The third is the famous firm of ball bearing makers. Where our Spitfires would have been without them we shudder to think.

'Luckily we 'keep ourselves to ourselves'. If we didn't, Hitler might have heard about us and then nothing might have been left of Chelmsford or the hall in which we sit. In conclusion, here are the words of Chesterton:



*Fig 3. Augustine Courtauld found in the Ice Cap. (photo from Illustrated London News 6 July 1931).*

'Smile at us, pay us, pass us;  
But do not quite forget  
We are the people of England  
And we have not spoken yet.'

He loved poetry and literature and after the war he was able to fulfil a long term interest, putting together an anthology of accounts of man's exploration of arctic and antarctic regions. With the help of a young researcher from Oxford, he produced *From the Ends of the Earth*, a

fascinating collection of polar writings ranging from Homer and a 1st century BC Greek writing on Thule, through to the explorers of his own day.

In his late 40s he was cruelly affected by multiple sclerosis and increasingly disabled. This was bound to be particularly frustrating for such a man of action; also extremely painful for his family and friends was to see the change in him. When the terrible illness overcame him he was still a comparatively young man: he faced it with all the courage with which he had faced the Arctic

loneliness, the Atlantic during the war and all else that had been thrown at him during his short life. The great exploits of his life were never referred to, and it was only by dipping into forgotten drawers that one gleaned from newspaper cuttings of his courageous months alone in Greenland.

He died when only 54 and was buried at sea from the Lifeboat he had given (in memory of his mother) to the Walton and Frinton Station.

Some of my five siblings contribute a few of their memories:

★ ★ ★

I feel that the heritage he left me derived from those months he spent alone, where the convictions of his life led to an unimpeachable integrity.

For my part I remember a dinner party at home, when my father had invited his friends the Wordies over from Cambridge, and his twinkling smile delighting in the chance incongruity of James Wordie describing how one of his finest wine glasses had been shattered while a friend was demonstrating to him some evidence of scientific fact, and Wordie recounting the tale and imitating his friend's gestures, achieved the same result with one of my father's treasured port glasses, spilling his port! He remained not in the least upset but simply and imperturbably amused.

In 1943 during my first term at boarding school he came to visit me. He was in the RNVR and had sailed back from America where he had spent part of his leave. He came with the most beautiful dress which he had bought in New York - probably the first child's article of clothing he had ever chosen. In those days of clothes rationing it was of course the most marvellous present for a little girl and I can see it to this day.

On another occasion when he came down to my school I told him how bad at spelling I was. He replied, 'Read as much as you can and it will improve'. I am not sure if the spelling did get much better but he started me on a course for which I shall always be grateful.

Sailing in *Duet* up river to Burnham-on-Crouch, the anchorage jam packed with boats (both on their moorings and under way): how could we possibly get through, going at this speed, with all this sail set and at this angle of heel? Quietly saying 'I'll show you how we do it', he then gave an immaculate demonstration of cool judgement, decisiveness and helmsmanship, luffing up where appropriate and carrying our way, turning this way and that, threading us through the fleet, missing the other boats (sometimes it seemed by inches) and making it all look so easy.

In a stiff breeze charging into Cartagena's enormous harbour, Daddy commanding from the cockpit, every possible sail set (no thought of using the engine) past fleets of warships and furiously dipping our white ensign in salute - I think I was also in charge of flags that year. My memory says that we sailed straight up to our mooring, turned up into the wind, dropped everything at once with a huge clatter and there we were.

Being becalmed in the early morning some miles off Palma, and J. [my brother] and I (having been found guilty of mutiny - I don't recall what crime we had committed, but no doubt it was heinous) being ordered into the dinghy, a rope attached to the bow and being



Fig 4. Augustine Courtauld as High Sheriff of Essex.

made to row/tow *Duet* into port. It took a long time, the sun was well up by the time we got anywhere near and it was extremely hot work!

As a child the fact that we had a very remarkable father was something of which we were completely unaware. I think we thought all fathers were like him! It was only later in life we realised what a privilege it had been. He was just such an amazing example to try to live up to. Whether it was his powers of seamanship, or his ability to take the calculated risk, his total integrity, his steadfastness in the face of adversity, his judgement, his humour... his life was the very embodiment of Kipling's poem 'If'. At the time we thought this quite normal, but now I for one find his model very hard to follow, but wonderful to have known. In spite of his being a tough and rather unyielding individual he was a gentle and loving father, and all his children remember him with the greatest pride.

### Illustrations

By courtesy of the author.

### References

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# Essex Placenames containing the Anglo-Saxon element 'Til': an alternative etymology

By Anthony W. Fox, M.D.

Tilbury is one of the best authenticated Anglo-Saxon placenames in Essex, being mentioned by Bede c.730 in the form *Tilaburg*. There are now two riverside parishes, East and West Tilbury, in the southwest corner of Barstable Hundred, on what used to be the great Thameside marshes (TQ 67 78). This is the southern extremity of Essex. In contrast, the placename appears near the Stour, at Tilbury-juxta-Clare, in Hinckford Hundred (TL 76 40); Clare itself is in Suffolk. The two other examples define the other dimension of the county: Tillingham is on the North Sea coast (Dengie Hundred; TM 00 04), while Tilty is 6¼ miles from the Hertfordshire border (Dunmow Hundred; TL 60 26). These comprise the four most disparate places in Essex that are supposed to share a common, Anglo-Saxon, placename etymology.

Reaney<sup>1</sup> ascribes this placename to a Saxon person called *Til(l)a*, presumably the occupant of a burh. Among many spellings that he collected for the Thameside parishes are *Tilaburg*, *Tillaburg*, *Tilaburh*, *Tileburh*, *Tillabyri*, *Tillebere*, and *Tellabir*. These spellings are evidently not always phonetically equivalent, e.g., some spellings end with a consonant and others with a vowel. However, while the pronunciation of this placename has changed, it is likely that this has been with less diversity than the various, unstandardized spellings. The Domesday form for Tilbury, *Tiliberia*, is very similar to that for Tilbury-juxta-Clare, *Tiliberium*. Domesday *Tillingham* is unchanged today, although Reaney collected earlier forms including *Tillingaham*, *Tillingeham*, and *Tilingham*, with occasional later spellings such as *Thillingeham*. At Tilty, Domesday has *Tileteiam*, and Reaney again refers us to Tilbury.

Given that this placename exists at the four ends of the county, could it refer to something more generic than a Saxon personal name?

Morant<sup>2</sup> offered a little-noticed alternative, relating the Thameside placename to *tigele*, the Old English word for a tile; burh can easily be appended to that. In his typical eighteenth century editorial style, Morant surmised that: 'Probably, [this was] because there was anciently a town or fortification, one of the first tiled in this island; or a strong place, which served for retreat to the country people, in case of invasions.' One suspects that he may have been distracted by the Elizabethan fort, and had not considered whether the Thames shore would have been an attractive place of invasion; retreating inland might have been more logical. In any case *tigele* seems very close to the latin *tegulum*, a tile, and the verb *tegere*, to cover.

Morant liked 'tilled or cultivated land' at Tilty, and a 'tilling', or husbandry, at Tillingham. He did not venture an opinion on Tilbury-juxta-Clare, except to mention its similarity to East and West Tilbury.<sup>2</sup>

Dubious as it sounds, there may be grains of truth among Morant's hypotheses. There are several Essex placenames containing *Til-* which are easily referable to tile- and brickmaking:<sup>1</sup> Tilegate Green in High Laver existed in the 13th century, Tilebarn on Wallasea Island was renamed in the sixteenth century (formerly it was

Derwyns), Tillwicks in Earls Colne was the property of Peter de Tilewic in 1254, referring directly to a 'tile wick', and Tilkey in Great Coggeshall is *Tylkell* in 1566, probably a contraction of *tile-kelne*. Tyler's Wood (Halstead) and Tyler's (Thaxted) are probably named for Henry Tyler of 1401 and Abraham Tylere of 1429, respectively. There are also several Essex placenames referring to tiled buildings (e.g., Tylde Hall, at Ramsden Crays, 1412). Tylney House (Wansted) was named for the Earls holding that title in 1777. Importantly, however, none of these placenames has an Anglo-Saxon origin, and none is a basis for extrapolation to eighth century Tilbury.

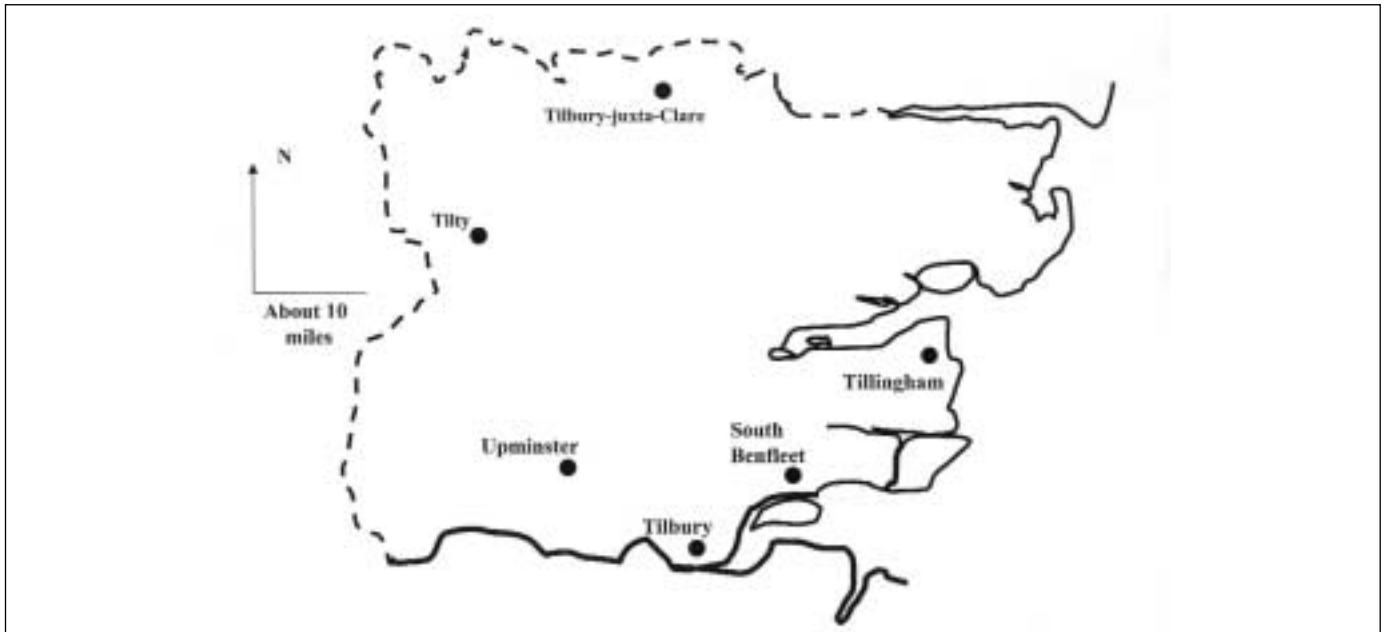
Anglo-Saxon charters give us only two examples of putative brick- or tile-making. These are both *Tigelhyrste*, one at South Benfleet and the other at Upminster. Both are now Tyler's.<sup>3</sup> If taken at face value, then a major chronological problem arises. An 11th century (or earlier) brick- or tile-making industry in Essex would represent either an extraordinary survival of this Roman technology, or its improbably early renaissance.<sup>4</sup>

At Upminster, the earliest use of *Tigelhyrste* is a charter of 1060-1062. The site is close to the well-documented Roman road running between London and Chelmsford, which is mentioned in the same charter. In the 19th century, the local geology was indeed suitable for brick-making. However, the charter is known only from a 12th century copy. If the placename is a corruption, then we can explain the anachronism. The same could be true at South Benfleet, which is much less well documented.<sup>4</sup>

Back at the Thames, the Tilbury churches indeed contain Roman *teguli*. Large quantities of ceramics, of several eras, have also been collected from the Tilbury foreshore, some of which form the Benton Collection at Southend Museum. It has been noted how the quantities of these ceramics seem disproportionately large in comparison to the size of the observable, contemporaneous settlements. Tilbury has always been a place of ferry landings, and transshipment. Perhaps, Morant knew about this. Even though Defoe & Co. found there the raw materials for a brick and tile making business in the 19th century,<sup>5</sup> could this really be a place of commerce for ceramics, or a place of manufacture? We are still lacking the letter *g* in any early form of the placename, and this will not serve as a generic explanation for the other places.

At Tilbury-juxta-Clare, there are at least two possible brick-making sites. One is close to the parish church, whose tower is a fine mediaeval example of this craft.<sup>6</sup> Bricks can also be made at Tillingham. But the problem is that this is also true for about 75% of all Essex parishes!<sup>4</sup> For both Tillingham and Tilty, neither of the earliest forms of the placenames, *Tilingham* and *Tileteiam*, contain such a letter *g*, as would be required for *tigele* to be the etymology. At Tilty, for once, there is no known brick-making site.<sup>4</sup>

The rectilinear field boundaries at Tillingham suggest settlement that was either middle Saxon, or even earlier because the road to the Roman seafort at Othona cuts



diagonally across this pattern.<sup>7</sup> Reaney gives us 'the settlement of the people of Tilla' and refers us back to Tilbury. Both are maritime places, suggesting easy communications between them. But, there is a problem: Tillingham is close to Bradwell and Bede suggests that Ythancaestir (Othona) was the mother church of Chad's establishment at Tilbury. Reaney is suggesting that the migration of Tilla's people was in the opposite direction, because the *-ingham* form is typically later for a Saxon kindred than when the placename is a single hill or burh.<sup>8</sup>

Another place to look is Tilburg in Brabant, near the border between present-day Belgium and The Netherlands.<sup>9</sup> This is one of the few placenames in mainland Europe with a close resemblance in Essex.<sup>10</sup> Tilburg has a strong tradition of sheep-rearing, and Ost Tilburg has a castle; it sounds familiar! The earliest reference is a charter of 709, i.e., nearly contemporaneous with Bede. In this charter the placename is given as *Tilliburgis*. Burgis is the plural form of 'burgus', for which one translation is 'a place to live in a new land'. In this case, this refers to a collection of settlements scattered about the confluence of four small rivers (named Riel Leij, Poppel Leij, Voorste Stroom, and Donge). A map of 1659 uses the form *Tilbergh*, and an additional last syllable has also been recorded *Tilberghe* ('Til-bear-geh).

In Brabant, *Til* means a lowland. Among the confluence of these rivers, Tilburg is located in a valley that has a complicated shape, and, although quite shallow, is nonetheless conspicuous in a country which lacks mountains. In Old Germanic, *til* also appears as the adjective *tilja*, having a connotation of good or suitable, as does *zil* ('tsil') in Old High German. The word *til* relates to modern Dutch *del*, *dal* or *daal*, all of which mean lowland or valley; these correspond with the modern English *dell* and *dale*, and the modern German *-thal* or *-tal*.

All four of the Anglo-Saxon Essex examples support an interpretation for the use of the word *til* as a lowland. Tillingham is at the sea, Tilbury is on a tidal estuary, Tilbury-juxta-Clare is in the Stour valley, and the Chelmer receives a substantial tributary at Tilty, some 130 feet lower than Thaxted. Furthermore, two of our examples, Tillingham and the Barstable Tilbury, are on

landscapes suggesting settlement during an era when the English language had not evolved very far from its Germanic ancestor. It would seem that Bede is using the suffix *-burg* in exactly the same way as it was being used in Brabant: the Thameside Tilbury was a missionary place, 'a place to live in a new land', from the viewpoint of the well-established community at Bradwell, whose church still stands.

Our modern word *till* in its agricultural sense, would be consonant with the notion of a lowland suitable for ploughing, thus providing Morant with his grain of truth for Tillingham and Tilty. However, in its geological sense, in spite of capability to describe riverside mixtures of sands and gravels, the word *till* seems only to have been used since 1842, according to Webster's Dictionary.

In summary, the geographically disparate distribution of the Anglo-Saxon placename *til-* in Essex suggests that we must consider a generic etymology. Tilla's people, supposedly migrating from Tilbury to Tillingham, were headed in the opposite direction to that reported by Bede. There are no convincing Anglo-Saxon examples of Essex placenames related to brick- or tile-making, which would, in any case, create a serious chronological problem. None of the earliest forms of *til-* contain a letter *g*. The element *Til* could identify low-lying settlements, even in the low countries, and our Essex examples match geographically. At the Thames, the latter is further favoured by Bede's accurate use of the suffix *-burg*, which does not mean *burh*.

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- 3 Hart C. *The Early Charters of Essex*. (Leicester, 1957) 1: 30
- 4 Ryan P. *Brick in Essex- The Clayworking Craftsmen and Gazetteer of Sites*. (Chelmsford, 1999), pp.10-11, 158-159, 170-171, and 172-173.
- 5 I am grateful to Tony Benton for pointing this out; he shares an ancestor with the man who formed the ceramics collection from the foreshore.
- 6 Ryan P. *op cit*, p.170; Ryan P. *Brick in Essex - from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation*. (Chelmsford, 1996), pp.73, 114; Pevsner N. *The Buildings of England: Essex*. Second edition. (London, 1965), p.391.

(concluded on p. 61)

# The Collapse of the Oxford Estate

By Daphne Pearson, Ph.D.

*This year marks the 400th anniversary of the death of the seventeenth earl of Oxford. He died on 24 June 1604 and was buried in the parish church of St. Augustine in Hackney on 6 July.<sup>1</sup> No monument to him survives.*

There is an entry in Machyn's diary for August, 1562, which records the journey of Edward de Vere, seventeenth earl of Oxford, from his ancestral seat at Castle Hedingham into London. He rode at the head of seven-score liveried retainers, mounted on horses draped in black, in mourning for the recently buried sixteenth earl.<sup>2</sup> It was a swaggering demonstration of aristocratic supremacy and feudal power; thrilling indeed for the new young earl, now at the age of twelve the holder of the second most ancient earldom in England. He rode to Sir William Cecil's house in the Strand and it is unlikely that he was seen very much again in Essex, if at all, until his majority. His East Anglian estates were placed in wardship and granted to Sir Robert Dudley, later earl of Leicester, for the nine years of Oxford's minority. They were overseen by the Court of Wards and Liveries whose Master was Sir William Cecil, later to be ennobled as Baron Burghley and become Oxford's father-in-law. From that day in 1562 the earl's life centred on London and, later, the court, but this symbolic departure of the earl from his estates also signalled the beginning of a change in the life of the local community. Over the following forty years the bonds of the local society with a great aristocratic household were to break, and be re-formed into links with a number of landlords rather than one, dependent more on the law of the land than the law of the local manor.

Although it is always difficult to estimate the income of an Elizabethan nobleman, Oxford's annual income at majority is likely to have been around £3,500, calculated from rents, court fines or fees and individual sales of such assets as trees. However, some of his inherited estates were in lease for twenty-one years to allow payment of the sixteenth earl's debts, some were granted for their support to the same earl's three brothers and some provided income for his widow. Oxford was left with insufficient for his needs: he had been a high spender even as a youth, his debts were escalating and he had need of liquidity. The earl soon realised that the way to achieve capital sums was to sell a piece of land or an estate, although every sale reduced his income. Sales began in earnest in 1575 when his Continental trip was imminent and became the way of life on which his reputation is based. As land ownership was a necessary qualification for any gentleman with aspirations to become a Member of Parliament or to receive any government post there would have been no lack of buyers for Oxford's estates which are likely to have been quickly snapped up, often at bargain prices.

Oxford owned estates in sixteen counties and in London, and almost all were eventually to be sold, but the seat of the earldom was Castle Hedingham (*see Amyce's map reproduced on pp. 50/1*) and it was around this village in the north-east of Essex that the largest number of estates was set. Hedingham itself had originally been divided into three manors but by

Oxford's time they had been consolidated into one. Three parks, Castle, Great and New, surrounded the castle, conveniently placed for family journeys to Oxford estates in Suffolk or Cambridgeshire, one being kept exclusively for deer. There was a market which had been established by royal charter,<sup>3</sup> although this was declining by mid-century, possibly challenged by the concomitant rise of neighbouring Halstead<sup>4</sup> and probably not supported, after 1562, by any large consumption of a noble household in the castle.

Earls Colne had no castle, but it was a parish consisting of two manors, Earls Colne and Colne Priory, with one large medieval woodland, Chalkney Wood, in the north. The manor of Colne Priory was centred originally on the house known as Hall Place, but this had become derelict some twenty years before the seventeenth earl inherited.<sup>5</sup> Their new manor house was built near the site of the old, dissolved, priory, and was known as Colne House or Colne Priory. Israel Amyce's map of the village, made for Harlackenden in 1598, includes a drawing of the house.<sup>6</sup> At that date it appears to have been a timber-framed building with a large, one-story hall and two two-story cross wings. There was a garden or courtyard, ponds and outbuildings, an orchard and a dovecote - altogether a very pleasant place. Apparently some repairs were needed to make it fully habitable (the Oxford family probably remained at Hedingham during the sixteenth earl's illness) and these were carried out on instructions from the Court of Wards during the autumn of 1563. The two manors together comprised 3,020 acres of assorted types of land. So much is known about Elizabethan Earls Colne that individual houses and occupiers may be identified.<sup>7</sup>

Oxford's financial transactions were complex as he often mortgaged estates before selling them, the sale taking place by default when he could not repay the sum borrowed. While debts to the crown, tradesmen and family did not attract interest, loans on land, or mortgages, were contemplated with horror by Elizabethans, mainly because the rate of interest was ten per cent, the return on land investment being only five or six per cent. The Essex Record Office and the Earls Colne records on the Internet provide a rich repository of records appertaining to the earl and through these many of his financial transactions may be followed.<sup>8</sup>

A detail in many of the Essex transactions was a warranty by Oxford against himself, his own heirs and the heirs of his father.<sup>9</sup> Whilst Meekings notes that a warranty was usually general (*contra omnes homines*), these warranties were specific in that they were made against named individuals rather than all men.<sup>10</sup> The number of warranties given implies not only that many of the Essex estates had a dubious title, but also that purchasers were unsure about the rights and actions of the Oxford heirs. As events turned out, it was not the claims of the fifteenth and sixteenth earls' descendants, but the crown's pursuit of its debts, that affected these claimants. The written record of a right to a piece of land was becoming more important as the century progressed and land changed hands and there were to be a number of lawsuits resulting from titles that were unclear, disputed or missing. Oxford himself sued his own officers for the return of various records.

Under feudal tenure all land belonged to the sovereign and could be used to reward followers. The sixteenth earl was a tenant-in-chief,<sup>11</sup> holding land from the crown, and a manorial extent, or survey, was compiled on his death, as part of the *inquisitio post mortem*.<sup>12</sup> These lands, held in fee simple, were freehold and could be bequeathed at will, although a licence to alienate, with concomitant fee, was required before sale, or a pardon of alienation if the sale had taken place before permission was sought.<sup>13</sup> Thus they descended, except where specifically indicated otherwise, to Oxford. The tenure of dissolved monastic land granted to noblemen, as Colne Priory had been to the fifteenth earl, was by knight service, allowing the crown the right of wardship of a minor heir, under which it could be sold as revenue for the crown. However, Oxford and his sister, Lady Mary, remained royal wards and one-third of the new earl's lands, those in East Anglia, were granted to Sir Robert Dudley (earl of Leicester from 1564) for the nine years of Oxford's minority. Once he reached the age of twenty-one Oxford had to undergo the arcane procedure of suing his livery before he could regain the income from his own estates. This included a series of fines totalling just over £3,306 allied to a system of penal bonds in case the fines were unpaid. He was the victim of this feudal survival, that was, perhaps, an early attempt at inheritance tax. Against this, Lord Burghley did make attempts to temper the wind to the shorn lamb. The fines were payable by instalments over ten years and Burghley himself gave Oxford £3,000 as a wedding gift with his daughter which he probably intended to be used as investment in land and the resultant revenue reserved for payment of the crown debt. The possession of a large capital sum was too enticing to Oxford to be spent on investment and it sank without trace, probably into his continental travel expenses in 1575-76.

Between 1575 and 1592 Oxford made at least 64 transactions over land. Apart from the very small sales, almost every mortgage or sale involved some complication: some transactions are so complex that they are almost impossible to follow but two individual examples will indicate the general problems. Battishall (or Battles Hall) had been part of the estates allowed to Aubrey Vere, brother of the sixteenth earl, for his support, so Oxford owned only the reversion, that is, he would inherit the estate on Aubrey's death which took place in 1579. Nevertheless, although he did not yet own it, he used Battishall to raise money. In 1574 he made a lease to William Byrd, to take place after the death of Aubrey and then in 1577 he mortgaged Battishall to Charles Arundel, thus obtaining a further capital sum.<sup>14</sup> Meanwhile, a man named Anthony Luther, who had a lease of the timber in Colne Park, wanted to purchase Byrd's lease. Although Byrd agreed verbally, he changed his mind and transferred the lease to his brother, John, thus renegeing on the original agreement. Luther successfully took William Byrd to law but Byrd complained of a packed jury and agreed with Luther to arbitration.<sup>15</sup> The same year, Oxford, acting unilaterally as was his right as owner of the reversion, sold Battishall to John Byrd for £620.<sup>16</sup> As this was a *fait accompli* it frustrated the outcome of arbitration which was now irrelevant.

The estate of Sherrifs, leased to Edward Baynham, was probably mortgaged to Richard Bowser before 1575, perhaps as guarantee of a debt of £240 to Bowser that appears in a schedule of Oxford's debts made in

anticipation of his Continental travel.<sup>17</sup> Bowser then bought the estate in 1584 for the very low sum of £180, probably because the debt remained unpaid.<sup>18</sup> However, following the deaths of both Bowser and Oxford, John Bowser, Richard's son, tried to collect a debt of £800 which he said had been owed by the earl to his father. As the debt involved a penal bond made by Oxford to Richard Bowser which was forfeit because the conditions it safeguarded had not been fulfilled, it appears that this was connected with the mortgage.<sup>19</sup> It is probable that young Bowser had to wait for Oxford's death as he could not sue a nobleman for debt except under special circumstances.<sup>20</sup> Bowser assigned his rights in the debt to a Lawrence Caldwell for collection, probably accepting a proportion of the sum. Caldwell would have bought the debt and risked being able to actually collect from the earl's widow. He did this by obtaining a writ of extent (a distraint on land or goods of a debtor) and issuing a proclamation to advertise what he had done. The document threatened action including arrest (of persons unnamed) and seizure of the earl's goods, if any could be found. It is not surprising that Oxford's widow (his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham) found it expedient to keep many of her own possessions at Kirby Hall near Castle Hedingham, the home of John Vere, one of Oxford's cousins.

Another Caldwell, Anthony, became involved in the very complex transactions over Jepcracke in the parish of Purleigh in Essex. In 1579 Peter Whetcombe paid £10 for the surrender to him of a 1574 lease made by Oxford to Robert Petre of a piece of woodland known as The Howe within Jepcracke, illustrating that Oxford would sell leases even of land within an estate and for quite small sums of money.<sup>21</sup> Two years later Oxford mortgaged the entire estate to John Mabbe, a London goldsmith.<sup>22</sup> Mabbe is noted as one of Oxford's creditors for some £95 in a the 1575 schedule of debts. To finance this further advance of £400 Mabbe took up £140 from a man named Edward Styles. At the same time Oxford had a recognizance of 2,000 marks (£1,332) also secured on this property with the money-lender, Thomas Skinner. In 1586 Oxford sold Jepcracke to Miles Sandys, brother of the Archbishop of York: no consideration is noted. The same year Sandys sold the manor house on to Anthony Caldwell and rented him the surrounding land. Styles then called in his recognizance from Mabbe, and when it was unpaid, he took out a writ of extent on Jepcracke. From a complaint made by Caldwell in 1591 in the court of Chancery it appears that Thomas Skinner had also extended some of Jepcracke land to recoup Oxford's unpaid debt to him, although it was also subject to a writ of extent for payment of Oxford's crown debt.<sup>23</sup> This legal tangle drove Caldwell to enter a Bill of Complaint and request a discharge from paying rent to Sandys. The result, as so often in these actions, is unknown.

Under the terms of the sixteenth earl's will some estates, mostly in Essex, were left in lease for twenty-one years towards payment of his debts. Oxford seems to have been very unclear in his mind over the position of these encumbered estates as illustrated in a letter to his father-in-law. While on his travels in 1576 he asked Burghley to look into the estates, 'which my sister being paid, and the time expired, I take is to come into my hands'<sup>24</sup> whereas it is apparent from the terms of the will that the time had not expired as the lease was for twenty-one years. Ten of the nominated estates were actually freed of encumbrance by 1580, three years



before the leases were legally up, possibly through the death of the lessee. This was a fortunate circumstance for the earl, as it coincided with his hour of greatest need. Four were, in effect, part of the same large estate, that of Great Canfield, bought by John Wiseman.<sup>25</sup> Wivenhoe, which also encompassed some of the other smaller lands, was free in 1584 and was bought by Roger Townshend.<sup>26</sup> 1580 saw the sale to Israel Amyce and William Tiffin of Wakes Colne<sup>27</sup> and 1584 the sale of Lamarsh to Christiana Turner.<sup>28</sup>

The complications of mortgages, writs of extent and lawsuits over Colne Priory require a dedicated article to investigate. The end result was that Roger Harlackenden and his son, Richard, owned the entire village of Earls Colne, purchased in three transactions - the Park, the manor of Earls Colne and the manor of Colne Priory - over the six years between 1584 and 1592. In spite of protracted lawsuits between the descendants of both principals, Colne Priory remained in the Harlackenden family for more than 200 years.

Non-payment of the fines, and the dawning realization by Burghley and the crown that the earl would have no resources left from which his debts could be re-couped *post mortem*, pushed the crown, via the Court of Wards, into issuing writs of extent.<sup>29</sup> However, there was a difficulty as by the end of the decade of the 1580s, when the policy was initiated, most of Oxford's lands were owned by others. In 1584, when the land purchasers saw which way the wind was blowing, they collaborated in making an offer to take on the crown debt, pay it off themselves and so avoid writs of extent.<sup>30</sup> This was a partial success, but because the crown debt had not been settled within the time allowed, Oxford's penal bonds of £7,000 were triggered. The purchasers were alarmed that these were likely to be added to their payments of the original debt. Attempts at writs of extent on a number of Oxford's previously-owned Essex estates were made although not all were successful, possibly because they were mortgaged.<sup>31</sup> When Oxford had sued his livery the crown had required guarantees in addition to its own punitive bonds - possibly because through Burghley it was aware of Oxford's financial plight - and Sir William Waldegrave and Lord D'Arcy had agreed sureties to the crown. So that these guarantors should be insured against their sureties being called in Oxford had himself agreed recognizances with them in the sum of £6,000 each. Although all but £800 of the original fines had been now paid by others, Oxford himself had contributed nothing and it was probably for this reason that the Waldegrave and D'Arcy guarantees were now forfeit.

Various purchasers, hearing rumours of this and fearing that these further debts would be added to the original ones, complained in alarm to the Court of Wards. They explained that their own farmers or tenants, who held leases often made before the land was sold, had not contributed to the debt payment and they asked permission to extend these lands themselves.<sup>32</sup> Their hope was that in this way all the debts, including even the Waldegrave and D'Arcy bonds, would be settled. The sub-text of the letter was that unless permission to extend the tenants' lands were granted the latter bonds would remain unpaid. There were more than rumbles of alarm in other counties and in 1590 Sir Christopher Yelverton and others complained of the imposition of these bonds and explained about the hardship that they were suffering.<sup>33</sup> This was not the only action at law resulting from the earl's debts and it is

apparent that quite ordinary people across the country were being seriously affected. Again, no decisions in these actions are known and whether all the debts were finally settled is not entirely clear. Morant has a report that Francis Trentham, Oxford's second wife's brother, paid £10,000 to clear them, but he gives no reference for this, although it is quite possible that he saw evidence now lost.

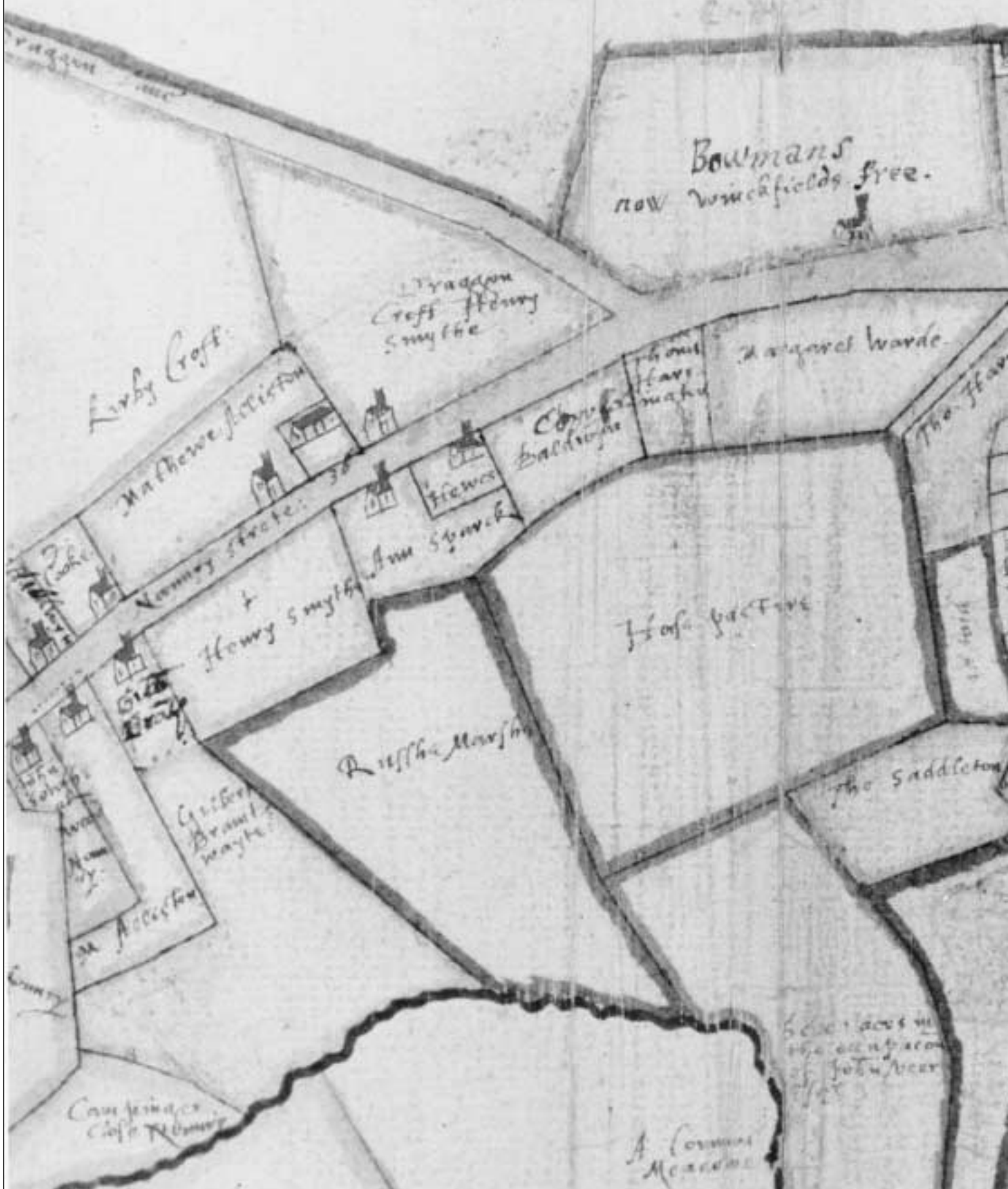
In the late 1580s, as part of the complex transactions over Colne Priory, the Queen seems to have granted first a mortgage of £500 on Castle Hedingham and then a £4,000 mortgage on Castle Hedingham and Colne Priory.<sup>34</sup> It is likely that this latter remained until the sale of Colne Priory in 1592. Castle Hedingham was then first mortgaged and then sold to Lord Burghley for the support of Oxford's three surviving daughters, Elizabeth, Bridget and Susan.<sup>35</sup> The Oxford family no longer owned the seat of the earldom, although Elizabeth Trentham re-purchased it for her son, the eighteenth earl, in 1610.<sup>36</sup>

The components of the sales throughout England are astonishing in number; some eighty-six thousand acres of assorted land, one hundred and thirty-one dovecotes, fifty-three barns, seventy-eight mills, sixty-four manors, four castles, almost three and a half thousand messuages, tofts and cottages, and nearly £300 in rents, together with assorted fisheries, advowsons, rectories and rights, and these are just for the alienations for which full details survive.

It is difficult to make a judgment of the sum the earl received in total, because of the lack of some records and the problems of interpretation of others. It is probably safe to say that he received at least £40,000, an enormous sum for the period. Against this he had mortgages of around £22,000, reducing his capital gain by more than fifty per cent. The most profitable sale of all was that of Castle Camps in Cambridgeshire and the associated estates in 1584, for which Oxford received £13,400, one third of the total sum of the alienations. This seems strange when compared with the sale of Castle Hedingham, seat of the earldom, but the true figure achieved on this estate is unknown and the large mortgages have to be taken into account. However, Roger Harlackenden, paying a total of less than £4,000 for the two manors, the park and the lordship of Earls Colne, the entire village in fact, must be deemed to have purchased at a bargain price.<sup>37</sup>

Apart from the acreage, the earl alienated rights. As well as corn, hay, capons and fisheries, which in Essex could have included oyster beds, Oxford sold off free warren which meant rabbits, hares and game, and, with the Essex estate of Lamarsh, the less usual two pounds weight of cumin, five pounds of pepper and forty red roses.<sup>38</sup> This sale included as a perquisite the goods and chattels of felons and fugitives and the strange *deodand*, any chattel causing the death of a person and thus being forfeit for pious use.<sup>39</sup> In addition to food, as Mertes has discussed, a peer could rely on supplying his households with tallow for candles, rushes for floors (there are several Oxford land transactions that include marshland), wool, hides and skins.<sup>40</sup> Naturally, as Oxford's estates were sold these benefits declined until by 1592 he received nothing in kind. Whereas he could have expected to provision his households with food and fuel from his various estates, it is likely that he had eventually to buy all of these goods with cash, thus further exhausting his money supply.

Castle Park





By 1604, the year the earl died, he was living in Hackney. His only connection with the county of his birth seems to have been his trusteeship of the grammar school at Earls Colne and the retention of the small parcel of land known as Mills and the barn called Coppins in Earls Colne.<sup>41</sup> He died on 24 June and was buried at St Augustine's church in Hackney on 6 July. No heralds attended his funeral, probably because the ceremony was deliberately kept very quiet in case creditors dunned his widow for unpaid debts. In her will Elizabeth Trentham requested the erection of a simple table-top tomb to commemorate both of them but this no longer survives. By contrast, the memorial to Roger Harlackenden, the true beneficiary of Henry VIII's grant of Colne Priory to the 15th earl of Oxford, and his four wives in the church at Earls Colne may still be seen there today.

### Illustration

Amyce's map of Castle Hedingham (see pp.50/1) reproduced by courtesy of the E.R.O. – ref: D/DMh M1)

### References

- This church was re-built in 1795, though the medieval tower still stands. It was re-dedicated to St John the Baptist in 1660, and is now known as St-John-at-Hackney.
- Nichols, J. G. (ed.), *Diary of Henry Machyn from AD1550 - AD1563*, Camden Society, old series, xlii, 1848, p.290.
- Morant, P., *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex*, 2 vols, London, 1763-68, ii, p.298. The market, held on Mondays, was established 'on or before the reign of King John, ... but now out of use.'
- Ibid*, ii, p.258, Morant says that the market dated from the thirteenth century. Almost at once, Hugh, the fourth earl, (1210-1263) objected to it as competing with Hedingham. According to Morant, sometime early in Elizabeth's reign the market moved to the centre of the town. This indicates that it was thriving.
- Smith, B., 'Elizabethan Earls Colne, Part I', *Essex Journal*, ix, 1974, p.87.
- E.R.O., D/DSm Pl.
- Smith, B., 'Elizabethan Earls Colne, Part I', *Essex Journal*, ix, 1974, pp.82-85.
- These may be found at [www.http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/documents](http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/documents)
- For example, the sales of Crustwich, Bentfield Bury and Dodinghurst. This warranty (a guarantee to defend the title at law) was common to the majority of the sales. The warranties may also have been against heirs of the fifteenth earl; as both the fifteenth and sixteenth earls were named John this is unclear. However, a case can be made for the warranties being against the heirs of the fifteenth earl because he had eight children, all of whom married and at least seven of whom produced children themselves.
- Meekings, C.A.F., *Abstract of Surrey Feet of Fines 1509-1588*, Surrey Record Society, xlv, xlvi, xix, 1946, p.xi.
- Sometimes known as tenant *in capite*.
- E.R.O., D/DU 62/75A, survey of Essex estates, 1562.
- This fee was one-third of the declared annual value.
- E.R.O., D/DM/T56, bundle of records including renunciation of rights dated 1594 in a lease dated 12 March 1574. The mortgage to Arundel is P.R.O., C25(2) 129/1658.
- E.R.O., D/Dfa/T9, 1580, decision of the arbitrators in the form of a proclamation that the original 1574 lease was lawful.
- E.R.O., D/DM/T56, 1580, bundle of records including sale of Battishall to John Byrd.
- E.R.O., D/DRg 22/5, schedule of debts 30 January 1575.
- P.R.O., CP25(2) 135/1694(24), Richard Bowser, the manor of Sheriffs.
- E.R.O., D/DSx 475, proclamation of a writ of extent on the goods and chattels of the late earl of Oxford, 15 November 1605.
- A Judith Ruswell did obtain permission from the Queen to sue Oxford for a debt owed to her tailor husband P.R.O., C2Eliz.R8/29/2, 15 May 1598.
- E.R.O., D/DAy/T2/245, indenture of surrender of lease, 12 February 1580.
- P.R.O., C66/1214, m. 30.
- This evidence is contained in a Complaint by Anthony Caldwell (P.R.O., C2Eliz/C7/30/1, 8 May 1591).
- Hatfield, Cecil Papers, 8/12, Oxford to Lord Burghley, 3 January 1576. In the schedule of debts attached to the indenture of entail (E.R.O., D/DRg 2/25), the earl was in arrears with Lady Mary's legacy.
- P.R.O., C66/1194, mm. 15-16, 1 March 1580, licence to alienate Gt. Canfield to John Wiseman.
- P.R.O., CP25(2)/132/1693(51), foot of fine, Roger Townshend, manors of Wivenhoe, Battleswick and Gt. Bentley.
- P.R.O., C66/1197, m. 22, 1 March, 1580, licence to alienate Wakes Colne to Israel Amyce and William Tiffin.
- P.R.O., C66/1267, m. 10, licence to alienate Crepping Hall and Lamarsh to Christiana Turner, widow, 29 October, 1584.
- B.L., Lansdowne 68, f. 24, certificate of the earl of Oxford's debts, 1 July 1591.
- B.L., Lansdowne 77, f. 198, the humble petition of the purchasers touching the debts of the earl of Oxford, 1594. See also B.L., Lansdowne 42, ff. 97-8, Oxford to Lord Burghley, 30 October 1584.
- B.L., Lansdowne 68, f. 24, certificate of the earl of Oxford's debts, 1 July 1591.
- B.L., Lansdowne 77/80, undated.
- P.R.O., C2/Eliz/T6/48, 5 November 1590.
- P.R.O., CP25(2)133/1707 (45), 1586 and P.R.O., CP25(2)134/1709(5), 1587.
- P.R.O., CP25(2)135/1723(74), 1591.
- E.R.O., D/DRg 2/39, Private Act of Parliament for sale of assets to re-purchase Castle Hedingham, 1610.
- It is not surprising that, in the long lawsuit with Oxford (P.R.O., C24/275, piece 77), Harlackenden's purchase was referred to as 'Robin Hood's Pennyworth' This was a description of something sold for half its true worth (Brewer, E.C., *The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, London, 1870 (1978), p.1063).
- P.R.O., C66/1267, m.10, 29 October, 1584, sale of Lamarsh and Crepping Hall to Christian Turner, widow. The flowers were unlikely to have been for decoration; they were probably used in the preparation of rose-water.
- Ibid*.
- Mertes, K., *The English Noble Household 1250-1600*, Oxford, 1988, p.117.
- P.R.O., C142/286/165, *inquisitio post mortem*, September 1604.

### Sale of Essex Estates 1575-92

Date	Estate	Purchaser/Mortgagee
1575	Manor of Steeple and Mayland	John Gaywood
1577	<b>Battishall</b>	<b>Charles Arundel</b>
1579	Bowers Gifford	H. Beeston, G. Crome
	Langdon Hills	Sir Thomas Mildmay
	<b>Land at Maldon and Woodham Mortimer</b>	<b>William Twydie</b>
	<b>Park and lands at Stansted Mountfitchett</b>	<b>Edward Hubert</b>
	Salt marsh at Rainham, Wennington and Aveley	William Ayloff
	<b>Land at Dodinghurst</b>	<b>Richard Stonley</b>
	Manor of Mountnessing	Sir William Petre
	Land at Mundon and Purley	Thomas Wylson
	Manor of Maldon	William Twydie

<b>Date</b>	<b>Estate</b>	<b>Purchaser/Mortgagee</b>
1580	Manor of Crustwiche Manor of Bentfield Bury Manor of Dodinghurst Land at Bumpstead Hall Manor of Fingrith Hall Manor of Battishall Land in Stowes Marie and 15 other parishes Manor of Gubbions Manor of Great Canfield Land at Wakes Colne <b>Land at Waltons and Netherhall</b>	George Knightley Edward Hubert Richard Stonley William Stubbing Richard Branthwaite John Byrd Richard Brooke & Nicholas Lambert Edward Lawrence John Wiseman Israel Amyce and William Tiffin <b>George and Mary Golding</b>
1581	Land at Jepcracke <b>Land at Jepcracke</b> Land at Waltons and Netherhall Manor of Earls Fee Land at Flaunderswick	Robert Petre <b>John Mabbe</b> George and Mary Golding Humphrey and Robert Dreywood William Lewyn, Anthony Luther, Thomas Gooche
1582	Tilbury Park Rents at Tendring Hall and Garnons Land at Yeldham and other parishes Land at Belchamp Otton, Foxearth and Liston	Thomas Gent William Drury Edward Glascocke John Mayer
1583	Land at Henny and Lamarsh Manors of Tilbury, Nortofts and Skathes Land at Stansted Mountfitchett Knight's fees in Salcott Virley and 15 other parishes Colne Park Manor of Easton Hall Manor of Yeldham Hall	Robert Pynder Israel Amyce John Sowthall Peter Palmer  Roger Harlackenden John and Michael Gardner, Anthony Watson Robert and Edward Plombe
1584	Rent arising from Bentfield Bury Manor of Moores Manor of Vaux Manors of Wivenhoe, Battleswick & Great Bentley Manor of Hayes in Stow Maries Manor of Sheriffs Manor of Over Manor of Earls Colne Manors of Lamarsh and Crepping Hall Manor of Downham Manors of Barwicks and Scotneys Land at Sible Hedingham and Gosfield	John Lyly Peter Palmer Israel Amyce Roger Townsend Thomas Wyllowes and John Pratt Richard Bowser John Mabbe Roger Harlackenden Christian Turner Henry Atslowe William Bigge Nicholas Bleake
1585	Land at Sible Hedingham and other parishes Manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse Bowcher's rents in Sible Hedingham	Hugh Towse and Richard Siday Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester John Jegon
1586	Jepcracke	Miles Sandys
1587	<b>Manor of Castle Hedingham</b>	<b>Queen Elizabeth I</b>
1588	<b>Manor of Castle Hedingham and 4 others</b> <b>Manor of Castle Hedingham and 2 others</b>	<b>Lord Burghley</b> <b>Queen Elizabeth I</b>
1592	Manor of Great Bentley Land at Messing Rectory of Belchamp Walter Manor of Colne Priory Manor of Ingeldsthorpe Manor of Barwick Hall	Henry Smith, John Glascocke George Maxey Francis Trentham and Ralph Snead Richard Harlackenden Thomas Albery, John Hewett Jerome Weston
Date uncertain ?1568	Grays and Peppers	George Finch



*Fig 1. The Golden Girls came from the old Chelmsford Congregational Church congregation – see above.*

## Golden Girls : Essex Girls

By Dot Bedenham

What would you have got if you had invited a society beauty, a lecturer in philosophy and an army nursing sister round to tea in 1902? The answer is a roomful of Essex girls - and not a Ford Escort in sight!

As Keeper of Social History in Essex's county town I have to keep up with the 'Essex Girl' phenomenon in my work. I purchased an 'Essex Girl joke book' at the height of the fashion in the early nineties, hoping that it would show future generations what one particular generation of girls had suffered during that time. I suppose that it came as no surprise to find that the phrase had become a 21st century accepted norm, courtesy of the Oxford English Dictionary. Those of us who know Essex well will always protest at the unfair description of our young people. Those 'frivolous' Essex girls at the Colchester and Chelmsford County High Schools have consistently taken their schools close to the top the national polls with their A Level and GCSE results. My own daughter, an Essex girl born and bred, and student of Moulsham High, suffered the blight of the 'Essex Girl' scourge in her first year at university in Exeter. It didn't help that she shared a room with a sweet girl from Loughton - two Essex girls in one room proved too much for many boyish wits. Both returned to Essex with honours.

For some time my own research has centred on the earlier products of Essex education: proto-Essex Girls whose white lace-up boots and big curls took them one hundred years ago all the way to Newnham College, Cambridge, the University of Wales, the Royal Academy of Music, and to the front line in South Africa. These girls never did share afternoon tea with a society beauty, as far as I know. What they did share was space in an article written by John Ockelford Thompson for

*The Girls Realm Magazine* in 1901<sup>i</sup>. The second in a series of articles called 'Girls that the Counties are Proud of', he chose an approach which was radically different from that of W.H. Jones who covered the county of Norfolk. John deliberately chose to write the body of his article about girls who were still living and, in most cases, still young enough to be described as Essex 'girls'.

Although Thompson chose to begin his article with two ladies from high-born families in the shape of Frances Evelyn, Countess of Warwick (the society beauty and so much else), and Ella du Cane, daughter of Sir Charles and Lady du Cane, who was a well-known water-colour artist, he spent much of the article describing the educational achievements and subsequent careers of several girls who had started life without the 'silver spoon', (although all of them were undoubtedly from middle-class backgrounds). Seven of the girls were born and bred in Chelmsford and it is on these girls that my research has so far concentrated.

The girls made an interesting group - three scholars, two musicians and two nurses. All had been brought up in the Congregational faith, although not all pursued it in later life. Some of them would already have known Thompson, living in the same town and moving in similar circles. He was already sympathetic to the women's cause, and in 1911 would preside over a meeting in Chelmsford in favour of female suffrage<sup>ii</sup>. This empathy was apparent in his description of the Chelmsford musicians, Gertrude and Edith Byford. Gertrude, the elder he described as 'a brilliant pianist and violincellist', whilst Edith was 'a very skilful executant on the violin'<sup>iii</sup>. The sisters had received their early training from their father, Charles, a music teacher and at one time leader of the Chelmsford Musical

Society Orchestra. The girls assured their reporter that they were not made to study, but:

As quite tiny children they used to sing through whole overtures (which they heard their father's pupils playing), accompanying themselves on imaginary violins consisting of rulers and long pens. Miss Edith Byford had a small violin given to her on her sixth birthday, and although they were not expected to work at all seriously for a long time, Mr Byford used to give them both occasional lessons on the violin and piano respectively, which they would look forward to as special treats.<sup>4</sup>

The training obviously paid dividends as both girls were accepted into the Royal Academy of Music at the age of sixteen, Gertrude in 1889 and Edith two years later. By this time they had plenty of experience of performing in public, both in Chelmsford and the surrounding towns. In the time they spent at the Academy they were, according to Thompson, 'very fortunate at the RAM examinations, and also in gaining the kindest interest in their careers from many of the leading professors'<sup>5</sup>. What he neglected to say was that Edith had been one of the shining lights at the Academy, winning in consecutive years two of the annual prizes much sought-after by the students<sup>6</sup>. By 1896 she had been appointed a sub-professor at the Academy and in 1901 was awarded an Associateship. The latter was 'an honour independent of all examinations, and is awarded only to past students who highly distinguish themselves in their profession'<sup>7</sup>. Eight other former students gained this distinction at the same time, including W.H. Reed who by this date was already an established composer. This information, uncovered from the student's records at the Royal Academy of Music, makes Thompson's

description of Edith as 'a very skilful executant of the violin' somewhat understated. In spite of such recognition from the Academy, so far my research has uncovered nothing more about her career than that she returned to Chelmsford to teach music in partnership with her sister and that they occasionally played in public in the county town. The girl that the *Essex Chronicle* had once described as 'destined to be a star in the musical world'<sup>8</sup> married Arthur Reed in 1912 at the age of thirty-eight and disappeared from local records. That is, until a sad entry just three years later when she was recorded as a mourner at her sister's funeral. Gertrude's life was cut dramatically short in September 1915 when she fell whilst descending Mount Snowdon<sup>9</sup>. Gertrude was not the only Chelmsford girl recorded in the article whose life ended in tragedy.

The *Essex Chronicle* had, over several years, plotted the academic progress of two of the Bodkin girls from New London Road in Chelmsford. From the day that Nellie Bodkin had distinguished herself at the age of fifteen by obtaining more distinctions in her Cambridge Local Examinations than any other student in the country<sup>10</sup>, she and her older sister, Maud, had been feted in the *Chronicle* headlines. This newspaper reported their successes at the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth where both girls graduated with first-class degrees, Nellie in mathematics and Maud in philosophy. Thompson described them as Chelmsford girls who had 'brought credit to their town and county by their diligence and success in their studies'<sup>11</sup>. When *The Girls Realm* article was published in 1902, Maud was back at Aberystwyth after holding a year-long lectureship in philosophy at Bedford College. Nellie had completed two years at Newnham College, Cambridge where 'she had taken the first place in the Senior Optimes in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos'. The *Newnham*



Fig.2. Gertrude Byford.



Fig.3. Edith Byford.



Fig. 4. Maud Bodkin.

*Alumni* has no record of Nellie returning to Cambridge following this success. Her marriage to William Gay Clarke in 1909 was recorded in the *Chronicle* but after that date, like Edith Byford, she disappears from local records.

Both of the Bodkin sisters lived into their nineties. Maud's life is well documented as a collection of her papers can be found in the Bodleian Library<sup>12</sup>. Although few of the papers are of a personal nature, the story of her life can nevertheless be glimpsed through them. After obtaining an M.A. in psychology from the University of Wales in 1902, she moved to Cambridge where she taught psychology and philosophy to trainee teachers at Homerton College. Her growing interest in the subject led her to take a year's sabbatical in America to study methods of teaching educational psychology. In 1914, however, troubled by ill-health but empowered by 'an income exceeding my individual requirements'<sup>13</sup>, she took very early retirement at the age of forty to devote herself to further study. She became interested in the study of psychoanalysis and, to further this interest, attended a group of seminars for lay students held by Dr Carl Jung in the twenties.<sup>14</sup> Jung's hypothesis that certain poems stir within the reader's mind unconscious forces, or archetypes which exist in the psyche as a result of the experiences, not of the person himself, but of his ancestors, was the starting point of Maud's first book. *Archetypal Patterns in Poetry* was published by the Oxford University Press in 1934 at her own expense. Sadly, it did not attract the attention that it merited at the time. However, Edgar Stanley Hyman in his work about literary criticism *The Armed Vision*, published in 1948, devoted a chapter to Maud Bodkin and her reputation began to grow. *Archetypal Patterns in Poetry* was republished as a paperback in 1963 and reprinted a further four times. A review, printed on the back of the 1974 copy, and written by Frank Kermode for the *Sunday Times*, described the book as 'a classic of



Fig. 5. Nellie Bodkin.

twentieth century criticism and the parent of more famous but inferior books'. Maud produced two further books between 1934 and her death in 1967 as well as a number of articles. *Studies in Type Images*, published in 1951, included fragments of autobiography, memories of her early religious upbringing in the Congregational church in Chelmsford. In her funeral address given at the Free Church in Welwyn Garden City, the Reverend F.D. McConnell spoke of Maud as 'a woman of massive intellectual power, but also 'as one to be loved, a very kind and gracious woman'<sup>15</sup>. Forgotten in the town of her birth, her books still inspire academics across the globe<sup>16</sup>, a truly 'golden girl'.

The nursing profession attracted a number of young Chelmsford women into its ranks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but it was the Pertwee sisters who attracted John Ockelford Thompson's attention.

In another noble direction for the benefit of their fellow creatures are two Chelmsford girls...exercising their talents and their Christian influences. These are Mr Pertwee's eldest and second daughters, the Misses Ellen Myra Pertwee and Mary Beatrice Pertwee. Both have been out nursing in South Africa. The eldest has been in that far-distant country, doing mission nursing for nine years, and during the past two years the mission has devoted a great deal of its energy to our soldiers and the Boer refugees. Miss Mary Beatrice Pertwee has just returned from South Africa where she acted as army nursing sister for two years.<sup>171</sup>

Both girls had trained as midwives. When Ellen arrived in Cape Town in 1892, she was one of the first foreign midwives to register under new South African laws, her qualifications being approved in July 1892.<sup>18</sup> She was based at a Nurse's Home in Cape Town run by the South Africa General Mission. Although she



described herself as a missionary, her day-to-day work was more that of a district nurse<sup>19</sup>. During a period of leave in Chelmsford in 1897, she was interviewed by a reporter from the *Chronicle*. She described herself as the superintendent of the station in Cape Town and spoke of her work as rather unique, 'much of it carried out among the black population'<sup>20</sup>.

By 1900 Ellen's younger sister, Mary Beatrice, was also in South Africa. She had qualified as a midwife in 1898 and went to that country as an army nursing sister. Her arrival at No. 5 General Hospital, Woodstock, Cape Town, is recorded in an official report dated 3 March 1900. In August 1901, she is listed on the staff of No. 21 General Hospital at Deelfontein.<sup>21</sup> In 1902 she was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal for her service during the Boer War<sup>22</sup>. No record has been found for the award of a medal for her sister, Ellen.

By the end of 1901 both girls were back in Chelmsford, their return to the London Road Chapel being noted in the membership records in December of that year<sup>23</sup>. Ellen addressed a 'United Zenana Mission' in the London Road Schoolroom at this time and was described by a *Chronicle* reporter who was present as 'a former missionary'<sup>24</sup>. Nothing further is known of her life. In 1908, Mary married Charles Melville Young.

Ellen Pash, the final girl, was the daughter of Joseph Brittain Pash, Chelmsford engineer and founder of the Essex Industrial School for Destitute Boys. Ellen became an external student at the University of London in 1894 and studied at Westfield College, University College and the University of Wales at Bangor. In his article, Thompson chose to advertise the excellent science teaching available at the laboratories of the Essex County Council that had inspired Ellen to work for a degree. As his article was being written, Ellen gained her B.Sc from London<sup>25</sup>. She continued to study, registering

at Bangor in the summer of 1903.<sup>26</sup> She died shortly afterwards. Waking one morning and finding that her visiting mother appeared to have died in the night, she rushed out of her Bangor lodgings in great distress and killed herself. In her obituary in the *Essex Chronicle* she was described as 'a lady of great intellectual attainments, well known and deservedly respected. Examining the reasons for her untimely death, the reporter proffered the opinion that:

Probably she had worked only too assiduously, and overstudy combined with her anxiety about the health of her mother, is doubtless at the foundation of her premature much-lamented death.<sup>27</sup>

It would be ironic if Ellen's obituary in the *Chronicle* had been written by Thompson. The article in the *Girl's Realm* most obviously respects the rights of Essex girls to receive an education equal to that available for Essex boys. Ellen's sad obituary could have been used to strengthen the claims of contemporary commentators who claimed that women who chose to study, to defy their true natures and attempt to compete with men instead of serve them, faced the dire consequences of mental breakdown or even sterility.

Ellen's fate, like that of Gertrude Byford, was well documented. She died before she had the opportunity to pursue a career. But would she have taken that opportunity? As my research stands at present, Maud Bodkin and Ellen Pertwee were the exceptions in this group of seven. Maud had sufficient inherited income to have survived without her lecturer's salary but chose to continue lecturing for a dozen years and at a later date take up a new profession as a writer. At least three of the seven girls married and because they took on relatively common married names, they have become difficult to trace. Such diligent students would surely not



Fig. 6. Ellen Myra Pertwee.



Fig. 7. May Beatrice Pertwee.



Fig.8. Ellen Pash.

have abandoned their intellectual pursuits entirely? But did they on marriage accept the view long-held by the majority that a woman's place was in the home, supporting a husband and rearing children? Did these women find that in spite of their learning, it was still a man's world and that competition was fierce?

Whatever is uncovered about these seven Essex girls in the future, it is already apparent that the following joke taken from the *Essex Girls Joke Book* could never apply to them:

Q What's the difference between Essex and Mars?  
A There might be intelligent life on Mars.<sup>28</sup>

### Acknowledgments

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### Illustrations

All illustrations are by courtesy of the author.

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# The Countess of Huntingdon's Connection Chapel, Fordham, Essex: an Obsession

By Pat Lewis

A number of my forebears came from Fordham, near Colchester, c.1800, and during my researches, like many other family historians, I became sidetracked and very interested in the history of All Saints Church, Fordham (but that is another story) and also in the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection Chapel in Plummers Lane, Fordham. From various sources I realised that my Fordham ancestors were literate and I wondered where they had been to school. There was a dame school in the village and in the early days the Connection had run a day school. I decided to pursue this line of enquiry and found out where and when but, up to now, have been unable to find any school records. I still don't know the answer but, no matter, I was hooked.

The chapel, a Grade II listed building, stands at the end of a short tree-lined drive and is cement rendered over weather boarding. It has sash windows, a tiled roof and a gabled porch. Inside there was a herringbone floor of thin bricks, a gallery and some painted box pews. At the time of the Religious Census of 1851 the Fordham Chapel was the Connection's only place of worship in Essex.

The chapel was redundant when I first saw it in 1981 but the interior was still intact. The pews, collection boxes, hat pegs, tablets on the walls and hymn numbers from the last service were displayed. There was a superb collection of large leather-bound Bibles stacked on the pew seats. I looked around, took a few photographs, but far too few, and left, not realising that the entire contents were to be removed before I saw the chapel again.

The Family History Society decided to record the monumental inscriptions and, when I went along to help, I was astonished at the difference. The whole contents had been removed, including two tablets from the walls. I had a photograph of the table to the

Revd. J. Harris, a minister who died in 1845, but unfortunately had no record of the other, a 1914-18 war memorial. After several years I have found and photographed both of them. The interior fittings of the chapel, the painted wood now stripped, form the interior fittings of the Oliver Twist public house, Golden Noble Hill, Colchester. The Revd. J. Harris has been reinterred from inside the chapel to the graveyard. The first owners of the redundant chapel, now a dwelling house, marked his grave with a wooden cross. The graveyard still belongs to the Connection, the last burial being in 1978.

In the first register of the chapel, dated 1790-1804 (PRO RG 4/799, available at E.R.O.), places mentioned include Aldham, West Bergholt, Mount Bures, Chappel, Wakes Colne, Fordham, Little Horkesley, Langham, Stanway and Wormingford. People were prepared to walk considerable distances to the services. If you are a family historian with 'lost' ancestors, spread your net in every increasing circles and cover all denominations.

In the 18th century the chapel had connections with Charles Onley, Rector of Fordham and Squire of Stisted Hall, Essex, and Thomas Twining, of the famous tea family, who was his curate at All Saints, Fordham.

In the 19th and 20th centuries the chapel finances suffered during the various agricultural depressions and there is a connection with Joseph Arch and the Agricultural Trade Union.

There was a small chapel associated with the Connection in Ford Street, Aldham, but as yet, no records have been discovered.

The Society has a record of monumental inscriptions and I have been privileged to study all the existing records and from them am preparing the local study to which the family history of my own family has led me.

## Enclosing the Liberty of Havering

By the late Stuart Mason, M.D.

Over the hundred years from 1750 the English landscape was changed by the parliamentary enclosure of two and a half million acres of common-fields and two million acres of commons, heaths and waste land. This had little effect on Essex, most of which had been enclosed for centuries<sup>1</sup>. However, there were several Essex enclosures in the early 19th century. The Act of Enclosure for the Liberty of Havering was passed in 1811 and the enclosure of some 1100 acres completed in 1814. The process was first described by Harold Smith in his *History of Havering* (1925): he had access to the minute books. Curiously, Julia Ogbourne praised the benefits to agriculture that resulted from this enclosure in her *History of Essex* which was published in 1814, before any effect could be observed.

This present note enlarges on some aspects of the enclosure and resultant maps. Among many documents it draws on the Heaton archives in the Essex Record

Office because John Heaton, who bought the Bedfords estate in 1771 was actively engaged in the enclosure.

The commons and waste land of the Liberty of Havering were under the jurisdiction of the Liberty's own Court of Quarter Sessions. In the 18th century the Court dealt with mundane matters. A man was fined for 'swearing ten profane oaths' and there were repeated fines levied on men selling hogs on the sabbath, 'contrary to the Protestant religion and a great nuisance to the inhabitants'. In 1800 the Court listed six landowners who had enclosed land without waiting for the Court's permission. These included Bamber Gascoyne with land at Rush Green and Humphrey Repton in Hare Street who published, before and after enclosure, pictures of his garden in 1816. John Heaton was more law-abiding, accepting the Court's refusal of his request for enclosure in 1804 and again in May 1809. However, at the latter session the Court discussed the

whole matter of enclosures and decided that 'It will be of great advantage to the tenants and inhabitants of the Manor that the waste land be enclosed and that Mr Sterry make enquiries at the Land Revenue Office and obtain the utmost information relative to such enclosure'. Wasey Sterry, a Romford solicitor, was clerk to the justices of the Liberty Court as well as being the local coroner and initial promotor of the abortive Romford canal scheme.

Sterry worked fast for in the spring of 1810 a printed draft Bill of Enclosure was before parliament<sup>3</sup>. The Bill nominated A.P. Driver and Thomas Thorpe as Commissioners for the enclosure, Edward Driver as surveyor, and James Trumper as umpire in case of disputes. The Drivers were partners in the long established family firm of London surveyors who were also Crown agents for Hainault Forest. The other two men were also surveyors, Thorpe from Bedfordshire and Trumper from Harefield, Middlesex.

The draft Bill was for the enclosure of the Liberty of Havering's wards of Havering, Harold Wood, Collier Row and Noak Hill. It was successfully opposed by Richard Benyon of Gidea Hall who wrote on 10 May 1810 to the Land Commissioners of the Treasury objecting to the 'Bill now depending before the House of Commons for the enclosing of lands at the North end of the Liberty'<sup>3</sup> because it disregarded the rights of tenants. So the draft Bill was withdrawn, Heaton noting on his copy 'We consider that the Bill shall pass into a Law subject to such alterations as the House of Parliament thinks fit.'

A new Bill was introduced and received the royal assent on 15 June 1811.<sup>4</sup> This Act of Enclosure was for the 'enclosure of lands in the parishes of Hornchurch, Romford and Havering.' The title does not mention the wards of the Liberty, but they are listed in the text. The Commissioners appointed were A.P. Driver and Trumper. As surveyor, Edward Driver was joined by Henry Crawter of Cheshunt who did many surveys in Essex. The significant change was in the appointment as umpire of John Loxley, gentleman of South Weald, who was Richard Benyon's agent.

The 1810 Bill was withdrawn at the cost of the land owners concerned. Richard Neave of Dagnams wrote to John Heaton in January 1812 giving an account of the expenses incurred by 'the first Bill in Parliament which are not allowed by the Act which is passed.' The sum of £563-8-4 had to be raised for 'the business of procuring an Act of Parliament for enclosure of the Commons' and paid to the solicitor (presumably Wasey Sterry). After much correspondence in the Heaton archives the sum was apportioned among the land owners and raised.<sup>3</sup>

The 1811 Act laid down that the Commissioners report their meetings in the *Chelmsford Chronicle* and that the final settlement be accompanied by relevant maps. The Commissioners appointed the ubiquitous Sterry as their clerk and had their first meeting in Romford in August 1811. They asked for claimants for compensation and received 125 claims. Then they found that the northern boundary of the Liberty was ill-defined and perambulated the area in November. With so many people concerned it is no surprise that the enclosure took two years to complete.

The Act obliged the Commissioners to improve the roads within the Liberty by designating a number of routes as public carriage roads. These roads had to be properly surfaced and made 40ft wide. On 12 June 1812 an initial list of these roads was published.<sup>5</sup> Thirteen

public carriage roads were described, being improvements of old ways. The notice ends with 'We have ascertained the same by marks and bounds and have caused a map to be prepared.' As copies of this map were available from Mr Sterry, it must have been printed. Its possible identification needs some cartographic speculation.

Most local maps were made for a reason. For many years there had been no reason to map the Liberty, until this commissioned map was announced. Associated with the enclosure documents in the Heaton archives is a printed undated map<sup>6</sup> with the ambiguous title of 'The Liberty of Havering taken from a map of the County of Essex by John Chapman, 1774.' The county map by Chapman and Andre was, of course, published in 1777. But Richard Gough, the 18th century topographer, stated that the sheet maps of the county were completed by Chapman in 1774; the key map was added before publication. So the 'taken from' indicates an unknown hand copying from the Chapman and Andre map some time after publication. The map names the wards of the Liberty and shows clearly all the roads and lanes, omitting other details. Admittedly it does not indicate which roads were designated as public carriage ones, but the Commissioners had only listed their incomplete proposals. On completion of the enclosure there were 20 public carriage roads and 13 'private' roads of 20 ft width. It seems likely that the map was made in 1812 for the Commissioners.

The Heaton archives also have a manuscript sketch map of a farm on the Bedfords estate with a list of crops grown, starting with the year 1814. The map was drawn on the back of half a copy of the printed Liberty map, suggesting that two copies of the map were not needed by Heaton when the enclosure had been completed. The Liberty map was made for local distribution. Apart from Heaton's copy, the copy in the Essex Record Office's collection of printed maps came from Edward Sage, a solicitor and resident of Romford in the late 19th century.

The final enclosure document on 1814 was accompanied by two maps<sup>7</sup>, both dated 1814, one showing the north division of the Liberty, the other the south division. The boundary separating the two was the main London to Chelmsford road. Both maps note that the survey was by order of the Commissioners for Enclosure. The names of land owners are written across the properties they owned and each parcel of land is numbered to key in with the written award.

In view of these definitive maps it is difficult to understand why another pair of maps<sup>8</sup> were made as 'Plans of the allotments . . . as set out under an Act of Enclosure.' These anonymous maps show only the major roads and the land abutting them, many parcels of which are numbered. There is no indication of the designated public carriage roads as such.

As Crown agents the Driver family continued its interest in the area. In 1828 it sold the Crown manor of Havering-atte-Bower with its Lordship and the tolls of Romford market. Henry Crawter, being no relation of the Drivers, had his own interests during the enclosure proceedings. He kept Heaton informed of the lands that the Commissioners were going to sell to pay for the cost of the enclosure and made a neat map of the parish of Hornchurch in 1812<sup>9</sup>. On this he styled himself as one of the surveyors of the 'Romford, Hornchurch and Havering Inclosure.' Something initiated by the officers of the Liberty was transmuted to the three parishes

concerned. As a final thought, Crawter could have made the map of the Liberty while mapping Hornchurch.

The epilogue was a pair of maps<sup>10</sup> made by Duncan McCallum in 1832 'from the Survey made by order of the Commissioners for Enclosure in 1814.' These are uncoloured and plain copies with only some parcels of land numbered. Probably the passage of time had changed tenancies and the maps were an update ordered by the Land Commissioners.

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- 8 Generally speaking, placenames reflecting Anglo-Saxon kindreds contain the element -ing, e.g., the Rodings. Placename endings in -ing and -ingham, per Reaney (v.s. and others), are usually thought to be later than those indicating the same kin at a single geographical feature, such as a burh or a hill. Thus, a recent suggestion, thought plausible by the English Placename Society, is that *Wōkydon* (Wocca's hill), now Ockendon, could be a progenitor of Woking (Surrey) and Wokingham (Berkshire), as this kindred migrated up The Thames over a century or two.
- 9 I am grateful to Dr. Ronald Peeters of the Tilburg City Museum Service, The Netherlands, for much of the information in this paragraph. Relevant websites are: <http://rhc.tilburg.nl/receptie/akte709-text.htm>, and, therefrom, [...receptie/akte709-beeld.htm](http://rhc.tilburg.nl/receptie/akte709-beeld.htm), [...receptie/histbg/chapter01.htm](http://rhc.tilburg.nl/receptie/histbg/chapter01.htm), and [...receptie/histbg/chapter02.htm](http://rhc.tilburg.nl/receptie/histbg/chapter02.htm).
- 10 Eppingen, in Baden-Wurttemberg (now southwestern Germany) is another.

Michael Holland has asked me to advise all interested readers, following his article on Captain Swing in the last issue, that spam problems have obliged him to change the dedicated e-mail address for pertinent material on 'swing'-related events to FCHSwingProject@aol.com

★ ★ ★

What a welcome change from the reach-me-down quality of nearly all newly-built churches it is to see a new church of some architectural standing and interest, built on a substantial site with the church hall to one side of it and the priest's house on the other. It was truly a delight to see the new Roman Catholic church of St. Therese of Lisieux at Stansted, a building of much merit which does

credit to the Diocese of Brentwood and to James Boutwood, its architect, as well as repay the no doubt not inconsiderable sum which its building must have cost

★ ★ ★

So in a recent competition to choose a flower to represent each county the poppy has been chosen for Essex. Not a bad choice, though the poppy will for ever be so associated with the battlefields of World War I that no other association can ever be very meaningful. And, one must ask, why when north Norfolk is for ever Poppyland, and the oxlip grows, at least in my part of Essex, in even greater profusion than the poppy, did the choice not go in the reverse direction?

★ ★ ★

Essex is one of the first four counties to be included in Phillimore's new venture of putting all the Domesday Book on to CD-ROMs. This is by the use of the new Alecto translation and introductions. Each county volume is available at a cost of £49.99 (inc.VAT). Details from Carolyn Oliver, Phillimore & Co. Ltd. Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 2BG. (tel. 01243 787636; fax. 01243 787639; e-mail Carolyn.Oliver@phillimore.co.uk.)

★ ★ ★

We congratulate two of our local history stalwarts, John Boyes and Bob Henrys on their imminent 90th birthdays.

From *Pilgrimage of Grace* by A.S. Cripps (see following page)

## ESSEX

From her deep-sucking lips of deep-stain'd clay  
 Red bubbles blows she on a summer's day  
 Roses how light and sweet.  
 From out her heavy head of dense brown mould  
 Shoot Samson-locks of airy fiery gold  
 Was ever grown such wheat?

O Rose of Sharon, corn of wheat that fell  
 In fruitful grave, for thee I now forego  
 These tithes and garthsof hers! Not here so well  
 Aneath my deep-thatched roofs, red roses blow  
 Not here so tall the yellow ears upstand  
 From my dark furrow'd land.  
 Yet they are wheat and roses, and I make  
 Their sunset colours welcome for her sake.

# Your Contributors

**Dot Bedenham** was born in Birmingham. She studied for a degree in Modern History at Goldsmiths College, London, followed by a Postgraduates Teachers Certificate, and taught in primary schools in Essex before the birth of her two children. She started working at Chelmsford Museum in 1985, where she is now Keeper of Social and Local History. It was while studying for a Local History Certificate with the University of Essex that she began to uncover the history of Chelmsford's forgotten girls.

The **Rev. Christopher Courtauld** is the second of Augustine Courtauld's six children (the eldest of his four sons). He grew up in Essex, was ordained in 1960 and served in Oldham (curate of the parish church), Cambridge (chaplain of Trinity College) and London (chaplain of the London Hospital (now the Royal London) and then Vicar of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge until retirement).

**Tony Fox's** interest in the history of Essex, and especially that of Upminster and Cranham, was sparked

by a primary schoolteacher when he was seven years of age. He progressed from Oglethorpe Primary School (Cranham) via the then Hornchurch Grammar School to the (now) Royal London Hospital, and is both a medical and scientific (pharmacology) doctor. He now lives in California. Try your search engine, using the terms 'Cranham History', for one of his collaborative projects.

**Daphne Pearson, Ph.D.**, of the University of Sheffield, has been undertaking post-graduate work on the life and estate management of Edward de Vere (17th Earl of Oxford) since she was awarded the Emmison Studentship by the Friends of Historic Essex in 1995. She now lives in Gloucestershire. Her biographical study of the earl is due to be published by Ashgate early in 2005 (ISBN 0 7546 5988 X) provisionally at £45. Her book shows the collapse of his once-large estate till at the time of his death his personal annual income had fallen to £20, emphasising the dire effects which initially wardship, and later his own personality and the social effects of his high position, had on his family estate.

## Book Reviews

**THE DUST DIARIES.** by Owen Sheers. *Faber & Faber*. 2004 ISBN 0-571-21016-3. 310pp. ill. £16.99 (hardback).

For us in Essex one of the shortcomings of this book is that it pays no attention to those years which its subject, Arthur Shearly Cripps, clergyman, missionary and poet, spent in Essex. They had no outward importance: (unusually) two short tenures of the same unimportant living, that of Ford End, on the A130 between Great Waltham and Great Dunmow, from 1895 to 1900 and again from 1925 to 1928. Some of his early poems from his first ministry there and the years immediately following, several of them on Essex, were published in the *Essex Review* (see preceding page). But, not unlikely the greatest contributor our predecessor journal has ever published, his obituary was a bald statement of his dates of birth and death.

Even so, it was not his few Essex years that give him the claim to be remembered. Nor his poetry, though he was a not inconsiderable poet with a large output in very much the style of his day and the subject of serious critical studies in what became his homeland. Adrian Hastings in his authoritative *History of the Church in England in the 20th cent.* notes him as one of the most significant figures in the church's missionary work in the century now just finished, and the current writer knows from those who work for the church in the troubled country of Zimbabwe that he remains well remembered there.

His upbringing could hardly have been more conventionally Victorian. He was born on 10 June 1869, seventh of eight children of a successful Tunbridge Wells solicitor and Registrar and High Bailiff of the court there. He was educated at Charterhouse and Trinity, Oxford, where he read history. He was an able sportsman, running and rowing for his college and gaining a half-blue from the University for

boxing. He gained a creditable degree and won University poetry prizes against other literary figures of standing.

After ordination he first served as curate of a Sussex village. In 1895 he took the college living of Ford End: a very natural career move for a coming young priest. His contacts, though, were not those best fitted for a man filled with worldly ambition. In Essex his closest clergyman friend was the Rev. Hon. Hugh Adderley, a charismatic high churchman who had lately founded the Society of Divine Compassion, a Franciscan order which laboured (but with few, though eminent, recruits) for many years in principally the parish of S.Philip's Plaistow. He, Adderley and other like-minded 'extremists' spent their sparse spare time exploring the Essex countryside. Cripps, with more time than his colleagues for it, jogged or ran everywhere. When he had business in Chelmsford he wore the running kit of the day and ran all the way there and back: likewise on parish visiting, at which he was assiduous. He built the daughter church of The Good Shepherd, Little Green (now a private house). During his short incumbency he gained a great reputation for his zeal and, above all, his running.

But Ford End could not be a long stay for such a man. Perhaps he considered joining the S.D.C., with which he had such contacts. Instead he made the other natural choice, the mission field. He chose the territory of the British South Africa Company and went to that part which became Southern Rhodesia and now Zimbabwe. On his way there he met, and became a lifelong friend of, Frank Weston, later to be Bishop of Zanzibar and the hero and inspiration of the Anglo-Catholic movement in its great days in the 1920's. On the boat he was nostalgic for Essex, and wrote poetry, both religious and inspired by Essex which he had just left. He fell in love with the African people and their country, and was more and more hurt by the British colonists' treatment of their

rights in the land which was their home and the source of their livelihood.

He took advantage of his rights as a 'settler' to buy an estate cheaply, but to provide a centre for his mission of Maronda Mashanu 'the Five Wounds' at Wreningham, near Enkeldoorn; a home where his Africans would be able to live freely under their own pattern of life. He built a church in native style there and used it as the centre from which he carried out his missionary work, saying mass, preaching the Gospel, teaching and ministering to those who needed his his basic medical and other skills. He did not hesitate to use his contacts at home to publish tracts and letters criticising the regime. Inevitably his little base became a place where the discontented felt at home and which the colonial administration, the many British and Afrikaner settlers and the church establishment, saw as a refuge for criminals, and, even worse, rebels. At heart he became more and more an African. One of his wiser bishops, urged by the colonial Governor to discipline him, said 'I know a bit about saints, and the chief thing is not to meddle with them' and went off to share a missionary visit with him. Not all were as relaxed: Cripps had many tussles with his bishops and in his later years designated himself an 'independent missionary priest'.

Tired of these struggles and wanting to strengthen his home base, he came back to Ford End for three years. A few of the older villagers still remember him: he lived a spartan life in a small room in the vicarage whilst the rest was home for his African friends. He still had vigour enough to live in much his old style: but England was no longer his home and he yearned to spend his remaining years and to die with his friends in what had become his homeland; he lived on to 1952, frail and blind, cared for by his African friends and with increasing despair at the failure of the British, despite their many turns of policy in African affairs, to make any real effort to right the wrongs he felt they had done to the African people.

Sheers is related to Cripps, and numerous letters from Cripps were held by his family: but there was no lively family tradition about him, and it was only within the last decade that Sheers had started investigating the life of his great-great uncle. He became ever more engrossed in this work, visiting widely, and his travels and enquiries produced some interesting surprises.

There were rumours of an illegitimate child, and he found that Cripps, in his curacy, had fallen in love with, hoped to marry, and too quickly for the ethics of the day fathered a child on, the daughter of a farmer of his parish. A man, and particularly a clergyman, who can do this is no fit husband for my daughter, thought the farmer, who indignantly bundled Cripps out of his house and refused to allow them to meet. Cripps had the good fortune to be able to make a quick getaway to Ford End, and the girl was almost as quickly married off to another suitor (Cripps surprisingly coming back to take the ceremony). He only once and briefly saw his daughter, then aged seven or so, on a short furlough in England. Yet more interesting and valuable are the fruits of Sheers' meetings in Zimbabwe with those who knew, or had memories to pass on, about Cripps: the few surviving clergy, white and African, who had befriended him in his old age, those whom he had brought to belief in Christ, those who were influenced by his political beliefs - not least one of Mugabe's most brutal and notorious henchmen who did not shrink from using a travesty of Cripps' teaching to justify his treatment of his fellows.

But Sheers is a poet, and poets writing prose seldom tell a clear story. He evokes the Zimbabwe countryside with brilliant skill. His episodic and allusive style makes for interesting reading and deserves admiration. But the reader who wishes to understand more about the man's life has an exacting task in bringing together sections which offer no beginning, middle or end: he yearns for more meat and rather less of the rococo decoration. Even so, and despite these defects (if defects they are), it is a fine book, well worth the reading.

Michael Beale

★ ★ ★

**THE VERDERERS AND COURTS OF WALTHAM FOREST - 1250-2000.** by Richard Morris. *Loughton & Dist. Historical Society*. 2004 ISBN 0954 231 46 5. 207pp. ill. £14.95 plus £1.50 post.

In the London boroughs of metropolitan Essex the Forest, described by Lord Eversley in 1910 as 'so remarkable for woodland charm and scenic beauty', is symbolic of their historic and geographic links with the county. Of course, that reference was to Epping Forest, all that by then remained of a vastly larger afforested area, which was not quite the same thing as woodland. That Epping Forest remains to justify Lord Eversley's comment is due to those, like him, who led the struggle for its preservation and to the verderers who over many centuries have been responsible for its proper management, the protection of royal interests and public rights. Richard Morris' brilliant book is a readable account of their historic and contemporary roles and a study of impeccable scholarship.

The Forest - let us call it that - has attracted a considerable corpus of literary tributes. These embrace wide and numerous aspects of this ancient forest, sometimes of variable quality, which is perhaps inevitable for such a popular subject. Richard Morris' ranks among the best. Until now we have had to rely largely on the works of W.R. Fisher and of William Addison for an authoritative and comprehensive account of the Forest and, in particular, of the roles of the Verderers. Both of these authors were closely involved with the preservation and the management of the Forest, as Richard Morris, who has been a Verderer since 1998, now is.

John Manwood of Blackmore, in his *Treatise of the Forest Laws* (1598) says that the Verderers were to be 'esquires or gentlemen of good account, ability and living, wise and discreet men and well learned in the laws of the Forest'. Few could have measured up to that, but the formula does at least tell us of the importance and status attached to this responsible office. Richard Morris reinforces this and illuminates the various activities of the Verderers in general, and of conspicuous individuals among them. His account ranges over the earliest concepts of the medieval forest in their legal, social and political aspects. In doing so he describes the components of the judicial and managerial systems by which the afforested areas were administered. The formal descriptions of these often complicated arrangements are accommodated within an attractive chronological narrative.

In the text we meet with royalty of course, but also with many other engaging Forest personalities. Among them are names familiar to Essex historians such as

Stonnard, Gascoyne, Fanshawe, Buxton and Addison, and some others whose attention to their official duties left much to be desired.

Those who are familiar with the author's other published work know that he writes with clarity and a compelling logical presentation of what, without his academic and literary skills, would be difficult material or burdened with tedious detail.

In these days of discs and tapes, the physical attributes of books are even more important. This one is, within the limits imposed by its remarkably reasonable price, excellently produced. Nicely bound, and

with good quality paper, a clear typeface, useful appendices, a comprehensive index and a generous range of good illustrations, including some in colour, it is a very desirable volume. Certainly the devotees of Essex history, especially those with an interest in the Forest, will be glad to have it on their shelves.

Richard Morris has earned his place among those who have made notable contributions to this much-loved icon of Essex history and topography.

Kenneth Neale

## Brief Notes

**ILFORD HOSPITAL of St. Mary & St. Thomas of Canterbury: an outline history.** by Herbert Hope Lockwood. ISBN 0-9516483-4-9. 15pp. £5.00 (plus £1 postage) available from Miss Barbara Hills, Peel House, 8 Eastwood Rd, Ilford, IG3 8XB (cheques to be made out to 'Ilford Hospital Chapel Appeal Fund').

Bert Lockwood has brought out a valuable summary of the complex history of Ilford Hospital Chapel, supported by a ground plan and extremely interesting illustrations of the chapel at different stages of its history. The chapel is such a powerful reminder of the old history of Ilford that it has a great claim on our support. One way in which we can do that is to buy this little book: but it is also an excellent addition to our knowledge.

★ ★ ★

**VICTORIAN HAMLET: Howe Street, Great Waltham. 1837-1901.** Printed and published by Alan Maddock (Woodmans Cottage, Howe St). 2004. ISBN 0-9547644-0-4. 118pp. £10.99 from the author.

Alan Maddock has produced a very well-presented and illustrated account of his hamlet, its inhabitants and its life through the reign of Queen Victoria based on all the range of tithe and O.S. maps, census details and other available sources.

★ ★ ★

**KEIR HARDIE IN WEST HAM: a Constituency with a Past.** by W. Raymond Powell: introduction by Stan Newens. *Socialist History Soc.: Occasional Paper no. 19.* 2004 ISBN 0 9537742 6 0. 37pp. Price £2.50.

Ray Powell's study of Keir Hardie's introduction to the West Ham constituency, leading up to his short tenure of the seat as the first specifically Labour M.P. from 1892 to 1895, which appeared in vol. 33 of the *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History*, is now published separately by the Socialist History Soc. as an occasional paper with a valuable short introduction by Stan Newens. Quite apart from its national importance as showing the birth-throes of what looks like being the natural governing party for Britain in the 21st cent., it is a good account of the cut-and-thrust pattern of local politics of the day - educational certainly, but hardly inspiring.

**THE FRENCH FAMILY OF EAST ANGLIA'S STORY.** by Judith S. Campbell. *Serendipity.* 2004 ISBN 1 84394 068 X. £9.95.

This is a study by Judith Campbell of the Felixstowe Family History Society of the successive generations of the French family, which is likely to be of interest to other family historians. Originally and now again Suffolk-based, in the early 19th. century they were active in Chelmsford as licensees of the 'Ship' inn and operators of a horse-drawn coach service from Bishopsgate to Chelmsford. Later members of the family lived in the developing suburbs of Leytonstone and Woodford.

★ ★ ★

**EXCAVATIONS AT THE GREAT HOLTS FARM BOREHAM 1992-4.** by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. *Essex County Council.* 2004. 240pp. with many line drawings and photographs of the site. £21.50 from Phil McMichael at the Field Archaeology Unit, Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree CM7 3YQ. Tel.01376 553934, e-mail: phil.mcmichael@essexcc.gov.uk.

★ ★ ★

**ACCOMODATING BROCOLLI IN THE CEMETARY.** by Vivian Cook. *Profile.* ISBN 1-86197-623-2. 151pp. £9.99.

The writer has just left Essex University after 26 years to become Professor of Applied Linguistics at Newcastle University, so perhaps his amusing book on how - and how not - to spell English is somewhat inspired by his dealings at the University. It does for spelling very much what Lynne Truss' book *Eats Shoots & Leaves* did for punctuation, and deserves a comparable success.

★ ★ ★

**A COUNTRY MEMOIR.** by Allan Lewis. *Lavers Local History Group.*

Some years ago Angela Busch wrote a lovely record of farm workers' life in the Lavers before the war, which deservedly won a prize at the Essex Book Awards. The lively and distinctive characters she recorded there now re-appear in this short memoir. It is available from Patrick Streeter at Waterman's Cottage, Matching Green. (Tel: 01279 731308/e-mail: pststreeter@aol.com).



# Lifelong Learning

## 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.

30 weeks, 2 Saturday Schools and Summer School: details from the Graduate Secretary, Local History Centre, Dept. of History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ. (Tel: 01206.872302).

### (b) Learning Partnership:

#### (i) Part-time Courses winter/spring 2004/5

The following is a selective list of the many courses, at numerous locations, offered by the University, whose remit covers most of the admin. County of Essex and part of south Suffolk. It is geared to students of history and archaeology, and omits courses which started in September or early October. Fuller details, including fees, of all these courses, whether or not included in this list, are available from University of Essex, Learning Partnerships, (address as above – Tel: 01206.872446 – Fax: 01206.874870 – Email: [osp@essex.ac.uk](mailto:osp@essex.ac.uk); Web: [www.essex.ac.uk/LPS](http://www.essex.ac.uk/LPS)).

*The Archaeology of Saxon and Medieval Britain* (UNV 04212) with Julian Ayre. 12 meetings at Constable Building, Univ. of Essex, commencing Thurs. 13 Jan. at 7.00 pm.

*Practical Archaeology* (UNV 0432) with Howard Brooks. 5 meetings at Constable Building, commencing Thurs. 12 May at 7.00pm.

*Prehistoric and Roman Essex* (CHL 0422) with James Kemble. 10 meetings at St. Peter's College, Fox Cres., Chelmsford, commencing Mon. 10 Jan. at 7.30pm. Apply Chelmsford Adult Community College (Tel: 01245 263013).

*North and South: the American Civil War 1861-5* (UNV 04213) with Mark Felton. 10 meetings at Constable Building, commencing Wed. 12 Jan. at 1.00pm.

*Trail of Tears: a History of Native North America* (UNV 04214) with Mark Felton. 10 meetings at Constable Building, commencing Wed. 12 Jan. at 7.30pm.

*Deviancy: controlling Sexuality in early modern Europe* (UNV 0425) with David Borg-Muscat. 10 meetings at Constable Building, commencing Mon. 28 Feb. at 7.00pm.

*Victorian Visions: the impact of Darwinian Theory on Victorian Society* (UNV 04280 with Wendy Gagen. 10 meetings at Constable Building, commencing Tues. 11 Jan. at 1.00pm.

#### (ii) Friday Features

These are whole-day courses at the Constable Building on a particular topic. Meet for coffee at 10.00am: the course starts at 10.30am. and finishes at 4.00pm.

8 Oct. *Manners, Modes and Movement: the Tudors*. (UN DS 0401) A day at the Tudor Court with Jackie Marshall-Ward.

19 Nov. *The Department Store and Society* (UN DS 0402) The department stores of Victorian and Edwardian London with Susan Lomax.

26 Nov. *People and Piety in Norwich* (UN DS 0403) Medieval people and their religion: the Friars and Julian of Norwich with Cate Gunn.

11 Feb. *Nelson and his Times* (UN DS 04201) with Peter Ward.

4 Mar. *The Change of the Light Brigade* (UN DS 04202) with Julian Whybra.

#### (iii) Day School

At the Constable Building. Sat. 30 Oct. commencing at 10.15am for 10.45am: closing at 4.30pm. The subjects will be:

*Custer's Last Stand v. Wounded Knee: two events that changed a nation* with Mark Felton.

*The Shakespeare Conspiracy* with Julian Whybra.

*English Visionaries: Blake, Palmer and Spencer* with Vivien Heffernan.

*Gloriana's Glass: the Elizabethan Garden* with Caroline Holmes.

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE BOARD OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Though continuing education in most of the administrative county now comes under the aegis of the University of Essex, the north-west is still looked after from Cambridge, and courses in centres in that part of the county are provided by the Board. There is also a very wide range of residential courses, weekend and some longer, offered by the famous further education centre of Madingley Hall. Details of all these are available from the Board of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, Cambridge CB3 5AQ (Tel: 01954 210636).

## CRESSING TEMPLE

### Essex County Council Courses in Traditional Building Skills

#### Study days etc.

These are characteristically hands-on two-day practical courses in the skills in question, with a lecture on the second afternoon (2.00 - 4.30pm) which may be attended separately at a cost of £50.

11/12 Nov. 2004 *Leadwork* (course £150).

27/28 Jan. 2005 *Lime Plaster, Room Mouldings and Pargetting* (course £170).

17/18 Feb. *Repair and Conservation of Historic Joinery* (course £150).

10 March *Brick Arches: repair and conservation* (one day: cost £85).

11 March *Brick Arches: Tour* (one day: cost £85).

22/24 March *Stone Repairs* (three days: cost £205: no lecture)

6/8 April *Straw Bale Building* (three days: cost £205: no lecture).

Fuller details and application from Pauline Hudspith, Historic Buildings & Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1QH. (Tel: 01245 258353 – Fax: 01245 258353 – Email: [pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk)).

# Essex Museums

## 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.

## 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.

### 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. 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 Sunday 27 March, on the last Sunday in each month from April to September and on Bank Holidays from 11.00am to 5.00pm (last entries 4.00pm) and on some other special occasions. Admission £2.50: over 60's £2.00. Under 16's free, but must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please ring 01375 844203. Parties of 20 or more can be accommodated at other times by prior arrangement with Mr. Brian Burton (Tel: 01708 853053).

### 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.

#### Special Events and Exhibitions 2004/5

4 Sept. - 31 Oct. *Margery Allingham 1904-66.*  
6 Nov. - 6 Feb. *Unnaturally Natural - Derek Frampton unmasked.*  
18 Dec. *Creative Christmas Crafts (for children)*

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

#### Special Exhibition

20 Nov. - 27 Feb. *All Creatures Small.*

### 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.

## County Historical and similar Societies

### THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX

Thurs. 23 Oct. Talk by David Mander (Borough Archivist for Hackney) *Archive Services for the London Boroughs.* Havering Borough Library, The Market Place, Romford. 7.30 for 8.00pm.

For details of membership please see back page.

### ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS 2004/5 Programme

Sat. 7 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** at the Greyfriars Adult Education College, **Colchester** (opposite bus station: parking £3 off East Hill).

Sat. 14 May **Annual General Meeting** at St Margaret's Hall, Barking. 10.00 for 10.30am. (Further details later).

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Mrs Glynis Morris, 56 Armond Road, Witham. CM8 2HA. (Tel: 01376 516315/ e-mail: essexahc@btopenworld.com).

## THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY 2004/5 Programme

- Sat. 13 Nov. Social Evening with 'Saxology', St. Mary's Church, Maldon. 7.30pm. £7.50 per head.  
Sat. 27 Nov. **Plume Lecture:** Claire Tomalin on *Samuel Pepys*. Maldon United Reformed Church. 7.30pm. Admission Free.

2005

- Sat. 21 May **Annual General Meeting** (details later).

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, Dr. Ken Aberdour, 9 Riverside Maltings, Bridge St., Coggeshall CO8 1NP.

## THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

Study Days will be 2 May and Sat. 1 Oct. 2005. Further details still to be arranged.

The cost is £5 each; further details from Mrs Marion Scantlebury, Parvilles, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 7AT (Tel: 01279 731228).

## ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2004 Programme

- Tues. 2 Nov. *Essex Soldiers: Essex Sources: the much-maligned Essex Soldier: What has he done and how do we find out about him?* by Ian Hook (Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum).  
Tues. 7 Dec. *Death on the Nile: funerary practice and custom in ancient Egypt* by Miriam Stead.

2005

- Tues. 4 Jan. *Witchcraft in Essex* by Mark Curteis.  
Tues. 1 Feb. *The Honeypot Killers* by Marion Hill.  
Tues. 1 March *The Great Baddow Oral History Project* by Alan Buckcroyd.  
Tues. 5 April *Verderers and Courts of Epping Forest* by Richard Morris.  
Tues. 3 May *The Archaeology of Jordan* by Miriam Stead.

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 GARDENS TRUST 2004/5 Programme

- Thurs. 11 Nov. Evening Lecture: *The Making of a Garden*. Crix, Hatfield Peverel. 7.15 for 7.30pm.

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).

## ESSEX HISTORIC BUILDINGS GROUP 2004 Programme

- Fri. 26 Nov. *Wall Paintings: Recent Research* by Muriel Carrick.

All meetings (except where otherwise indicated above) are at 7.30 for 8.00pm on Fridays in the first floor Conference Room at Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford.

For further information on the Group and its activities please contact the hon. Secretary, Alan Bayford (Tel: 01245 256102).

## HERTS & ESSEX ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

Meetings will take place on Fri. 12 Nov. and subsequently on 10 Dec., 14 Jan., 8 Feb., 11 March, 15 April and 13 May. All meetings are at 8.00pm and take place in the Roding Valley High School, Brook Road, off Alderton Hill, Loughton. For further information please contact Mrs. Ruth Wilcock (24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood CM14 5ES - Tel: 01277 219598).

## ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY 2004/5 Programme - Chelmsford

Meetings are held monthly on a Saturday (except in August) at Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford. Free parking nearby. Library opens from 10.45am. Bookstall opens later, IGI and other microfiche available. Computer Group meets at 11.00am. Main meeting at 2.30pm., with a short break for tea, for which there is a charge of 30p.

- Sat. 16 Oct *Essex Guilds and Guildhalls* by Anne Padfield.  
Sat. 20 Nov *The Swing Riots* by Jill Chambers.  
Sat. 18 Dec *Visions of Essex: Film from the Archive* by Martin Astell.

2005

- Sat. 15 Jan. *Leave no Stone Unturned* by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett.  
Sat. 19 Feb. Maps and Directories Day: Joint Event with the Guild of One-Name Studies  
Sat. 19 March *Monumental Brasses* by H. Martin Stuchfield, F.S.A. (to be announced).  
Sat. 16 April *Ice Houses and the Ice Trade* by Ron Martin.  
Sat. 21 May *Life as a British Soldier 1750-1920* by Ken Divall.  
Sat. 18 June *Dr. Williams' Library* by Alan Rushton.

In addition to the meetings at Chelmsford the North-West Essex Branch holds monthly meetings at Saffron Walden Library 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 2004/5 Programme

- Sat. 2 Oct. *The Essex Sound and Video Archive (with examples from the ERO Archive)* by Martin Astell. **Please Note: at Essex Record Office, Wharf Road.**  
Sat. 6 Nov. *Napoleon in Caricature* (illustrated) by Prof. Harry Dickinson, Edinburgh Univ., President of the Historical Assn.  
Sat. 4 Dec. *The Fall of Singapore* by Prof. Carl Bridge, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Kings Coll., London.  
2005  
Sat. 15 Jan. Members' Meeting.  
Sat. 5 Feb. *Heretics, Witches and the Law in Continental Europe* by Dr. Herbert Eiden, V.C.H., Essex Univ.  
Sat. 5 March *Life in Renaissance Florence* (illustrated) by Stephen Gilbert.  
Fri. 8 April *The Persecution of Roman Catholics in the reign of Elizabeth I* by Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood. **Please Note: 7.30pm (arrive 7.15pm).**

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 donation is requested.

Enquiries to the hon. Sec. Mrs. Barbara Windsor, 11 Butlers Close, Broomfield, Chelmsford, CM1 7BE.

## ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY 2005 Programme

2005

- Sat. 12 March Lecture: *Essex Church Brasses* by H. Martin Stuchfield, F.S.A.  
Fri. 6 May Morant Lecture: *East Saxon Christians and Pagans: the Prittlewell Discoveries* by Martin Welch, Institute of Archaeology.  
Sat. 11 June Annual General Meeting: Market Hall, Horndon-on-the-Hill, followed by a talk by Anne Padfield.

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).

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