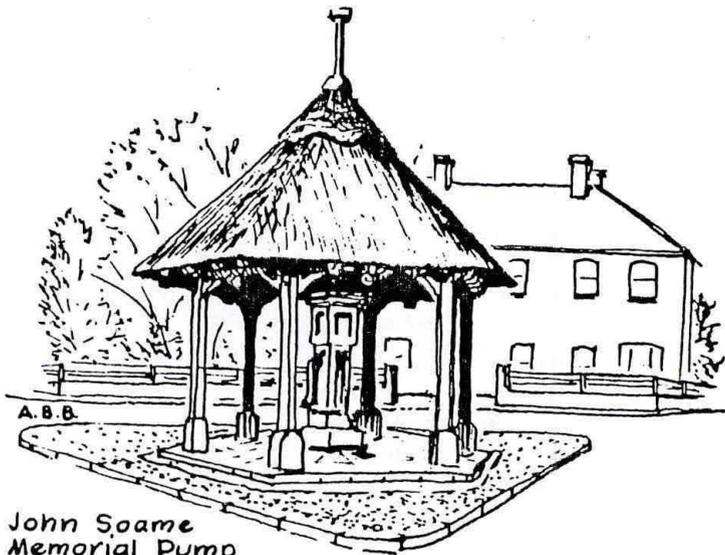


Gillian BARWICK
83 Cassin Rd

Aylsham Local History Society



John Soame
Memorial Pump
Aylsham

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN

Canon J. Vyse
Tel: Aylsham 732128

SECRETARY

Mrs. J. Nolan
Tel: Aylsham 732226

EDITOR

T. Mollard, Flint Cottage, Calthorpe Rd. Erpingham
Tel: Cromer 761638

By the time that this issue appears, our visit to Gressenhall Rural Life Museum will already have taken place, but members are reminded that our second outing will be on Sunday, 27th. July and will be a visit to Mannington Hall to see the grounds and to enjoy a conducted tour of the Hall. The cost will be £1 for members and £2 for non-members.

Own transport is required, but starting from the Market Place at 1.40 pm to assist those with no transport.

Please let Miss K. Mosse know by July 10th, together with your remittance. [6 Millgate, Aylsham Tel: 735258]

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Number 4

Editors should not get excited - a calm and placid role is theirs, however, your editor must admit to a quickening of the pulse with this issue of the Journal & Newsletter. Why? because this issue contains the greatest number of contributions from members since publication began. The editor is greatly indebted to Jill Sheringham and Ben Rust for their excellent articles, and to Robin Rush for his letter and information on Aylsham watch and clockmakers. These are the very things that were hoped for when publication began. To Ron Peabody, who has never failed to provide something for each issue, the editor is always grateful.

Confident that there must be even more similar material waiting to be received, the editor has been thoroughly profligate and squeezed everything into this issue - saving nothing for the future. As a final bonus, our cover illustration for this issue is supplied by Anthony Butler of the Red Lion Gallery. Mr. Butler has kindly supplied enough illustrations for this and the next five covers, and the editor gratefully acknowledges what must surely enhance this and the next five issues.

ADVANCE NOTICE! The AGM of the society will take place on Wednesday 1st. October at 7.15 in the Parish Room. It is hoped to form two new workshop groups, one on Oral History under the leadership of Mary Elsey, and possibly, one to study the Mill. More details at the Annual General Meeting.

CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS OF AYLSHAM

13 Pound Lane, Aylsham. NR11 6DR. Telephone 733653

Dear Sir,

Being a member of the Aylsham Local History Society, I am researching watch and clock makers of Aylsham between 1700 - 1930. This does not seem to be widely known amongst members, although my intentions were clearly stated at the Inaugural meeting.

I would like to appeal through your Newsletter and Journal that if any members come across any items connected with horology, would they pass the relevant information on to me.

I enclose a copy of all known watch and clock makers who had a business in Aylsham, the most famous, and not because he was the earliest, was John Christian. Aylsham has a long case clock made by John Christian, this clock was given to the town by Dr. Sapwell.

I came across this article in the Norwich Local History Library:-

LOST on Wednesday 28th. December, between Oldton and Aylsham, a yellow metal watch with an outside gold case, maker's name, John Christian, watchmaker, Aylsham, No. 6004. Whoever brings it to me, Mr. John Christian, watchmaker of Aylsham, shall receive a guinea reward. 2-1-1769.

Another well known fact is that Norfolk had amongst its population some of the finest watchmakers in England, equal only to London. The reason for this is the Huguenot immigration of the 16-17th. century. These people settled in London and Norwich; they were very skilled and industrious.

Yours faithfully

Robin B. Rush

1	John Christian	1750-88
2.	Joseph Bowles	1752-55
3.	Samuel Davy	1753-1820
4.	Robert Davy	1770
5.	John Frary	1790
6.	Mark Read	1800
7.	Mathew Read	1800-22
8.	Charles Rice Wade	1822
9.	Thomas Connold	1822-69
10.	William Barber	1830-36
11.	John Fitt	1835-65
12.	George Silence	1836-45
13.	Lazarus	1836
14.	George Mileham	1839
15.	James Mack	1839
16.	Thomas Fox	1869
17.	Charles Frederick Wade	1883
18.	William Reeves	1892
19.	Last Whittaker	1896
20.	Sidney D.Bone	1896
21.	E.T.Stoner	1900
22.	William Thomas Cooper	1929

What a pity it is that so few Norfolk people have their lifetime occupation inscribed on their headstones in the churchyards. It is surprising that in a county of no stone they could even afford a headstone, and it must have taken a large proportion of their wage to pay regularly into a Burial Fund.

Colby & Banningham W.I. are working on its ninth local churchyard; each one is plotted and mapped, and every stone numbered, drawn and read. The results are sent to the incumbent and the Norfolk Record Office, and people tracing their ancestor find the details helpful.

If people escaped an early death, they often survived into their 80's. They always knew their age. Children died, and there must be very many without commemorative stones. William Moore of Felmingham, died 1840 "also 8 children". Between 1878 and 1884 five children of the Becks of Felmingham died - "Mable Mary aged 3 months, Richard John 3 months, Robert Frederick 1 year 8 months, Evangeline Amelia 5 years 5 months, Ambrose Frederick 2 years".

At Erpingham, Alice and William Lubbock's children died - Mary in 1711 aged 6 years, Hannah in 1713 aged 10 years, Alice in 1717 aged 6 years. The father, William, died aged 43, and Alice, his relict, married James Wiggett, and their son, John, also died aged 3 years in 1717. At Colby, the Ropers, Mary died 1787 aged 1 year, Wm. Swann 1790 aged 9 months, Wm. Swann 1793 aged 2 years 1 month.

Of well over 1000 gravestones recorded, the following are the few which state the trade or profession of the deceased:

Robert Mack, a respectable farmer, died 1837 aged 84 [Banningham]. William Press of Hanworth "who lived fifty six years in the parish, an honest, industrious, liberal farmer, his sudden death occasioned by a fall from his horse" 1786. Richard Roper, yeoman of Colby, died

in 1726 in the xxxvii year of his age. The servants were remembered. Matthew Slapp " 40 years in the service of Wm. Doughty"[Hanworth]. James Pearson " 66 years in the family of Lady Suffield" [Colby]. Mary Ann Slaughter "the esteemed and faithful servant of Constance, Marchioness of Lothian" [Ingworth]. James Woollorton (?) "coachman for 57 years to Mrs.Morden" [Suffield]. Eliz. Dixon died aged 88 "for many years in the service of the Rev.Richd. Parkerson"[Suffield].

The death's head, coffins, skeletons and skulls are not to modern taste, but the fat-cheeked, cheerful cherubs some with trumpets, are a delight. Some of the verses are repeated in different churchyards.

*"Affliction sore long time I bore
physicians were in vain
till God did please to give me ease
and freed me from all pain."*

*"A pale consumption gave the fatal blow
the stroke was certain tho the effect was slow
in wasting pains, death saw me sad oppres'd
pity'd my sighs, and kindly gave me rest"*

*"We all must dye without a doubt
your glass is running, mine is out
as I am now, so must you be
therefore prepare to follow me"*

The Clerks gave long and faithful service, and lived long. James Pearson died 1810 aged 80 [Suffield]. James Stearman died 1854 aged 90, clerk for 39 years [Erpingham]. George Eastoe for 50 years, and John Pearson for 48 years, both at Colby. Thomas Dyke. 19 years [Tuttington]. William Moy, Felmingham, was schoolmaster and clerk. Benjamin Brettingham Bowles "for 40 years overseer and 20 years churchwarden" [Tuttington]. William Eldon, 10 years churchwarden [Banningham].

Sixteen incumbents are buried in the eight churchyards, and more have memorials in the churches. Rev. George Coleby and family lived at Colby. John Postle B.A. was 34 years rector of Felmingham. Maurice Kaufmann M.A., was 30 years rector of Ingworth and vicar of Calthorpe, Henry Hamont Lubbock, rector of Hanworth with Gunton for 26 years, Arthur Rice Gwyn M.A.Oxon, was 23 years at Suffield. The Rev. Henry Bryant AM. died 1799 aged 76 at Colby, and Nunn Robert Pretzman Kemp was Erpingham's curate for 10 years.

Harry Littlewood, surgeon [Ingworth]. John Coleby, surgeon [Erpingham]. John Dyball, veterinary surgeon [Felmingham]. Edmond Slingsby Long, a magistrate, [Erpingham]. J.C.Rash, advocate solicitor and notary public in Singapore [Felmingham]. Roger Harrison and James Bessey, merchants of Ludham and Yarmouth [Felmingham]. John Pice [Ingworth] a miller who lived in the family of Parmeters upwards of 30 years. Two blacksmiths from Felmingham, Robert Allison and John Dennis (for 54 years). Robert Bacon, for 30 years collector of Customs at the port of Clay [Erpingham]. William Brown, stone mason, [Erpingham]. Thomas Harmer, gamekeeper [Suffield].

Fifty men from the eight villages were killed in the First World War from many different regiments including the 10th. Australian Light Horse. [Suffield]. 'E' Company 26th.Cyclist Bn. Norfolk Regt. [Colby] and the Canadian Infantry [Ingworth]. Sixteen men were killed in the Second World War, often in the Far East.

The oldest gravestone belongs to Elizabeth Talman of Felmingham, wife of Dr. Harcourt and sister of William Talman Esq., who died "October ye 18, 1728 aged 78 years" Her brother William died "November ye 22nd. 1719 aged 68 years" (born in 1650 and 1651).

The country churchyards are places of peace. The beauty of the old headstones, leaning at all angles, often covered with moss and ivy and the bright yellow, black and white patterns of the lichens, the trees, the wildlife, and the flowers all provide endless interest.

Each time I walk through the park gates, I recall the days of the Blickling Golf Club. The first tee was to the left of the gates, just round the clump of trees, and 150 yards further on brought you to the first green, which was in a shallow bowl and therefore invisible from the tee. I remember playing with my uncle for the first time. We both drove to the first green, and afterwards could not find his ball anywhere, until we looked in the hole!

The course was laid out between the lake and the watch tower, and to play on it was a delight to all golfers. Short turf fairways with bracken on either side and trees made hazards instead of bunkers. The park was home for a herd of deer which helped to keep the fairways short, and sometimes caused hazards on the greens! A truly beautiful setting for a golf club which was enjoyed by members and so many visitors in the summer.

There were nine holes on the course. The course was looked after by a part time greenkeeper and professional. During the summer an additional person was employed to collect green fees from visitors; 2300 visitors were recorded in 1935, each paying two shillings per round, or three shillings and sixpence per day,

The Clubhouse is still standing. It is the last cottage on the right before entering the park. During the early thirties there were plans to completely refurbish the clubhouse, and add an additional room, however these plans did not reach fruition.

It is difficult to date the formation of the club. The captain, Mr. J. T. Spurrell, when giving his report to members at the AGM in February 1933 stated that he had been a member for 48 years, so the club dates

back as far as 1885. There are no records prior to 1912, but it is interesting to note a reference to the AGM of 1907, when lady members were accepted;

"The wife and family of a member paying an annual subscription of one guinea, may use the links without payment, until they wish to take part in competitions, when they must become members"

During World War 1, troops were using the park, and there is a reference to the South Wales Mounted Brigade whose officers were allowed free use of the clubhouse and course. However, because of the numbers of horses the greens were reduced to seven, and all were protected by wire fencing. During this period, and well into the twenties, the financial state of the club became precarious, and members were asked annually to make additional donations to keep the club going. It was not until 1923 that real efforts were made to attract more members, and not until 1926 that the time of the AGM was changed from 10.30 am. to the evening.

In order to attract more members the clubhouse and state of the course were improved, also more monthly competitions were arranged for members, and the secretary was asked to arrange matches with other clubs. By 1931 matches were being played against Mid-Norfolk, Eaton, Fakenham and Blakeney and Mundesley, and there were club competitions for:-

Lothian Medal
Savill only Challenge Cup
Hoffman Cup
Gilbert Cup

and other competitions. In 1930 the Gidney Challenge Bowl was won outright (wins in three successive years) by Mr. J.F. Bond and the Gilbert Cup was given as a replacement trophy by Brigadier General Gilbert. By 1938 the club was flourishing, and there were plans for an extension to the clubhouse and suggestions that

sand bunkers should be built on the course. An agreement was made with Lord Lothian, President of the club, which gave the club the following conditions, but which had no legal standing:-

1. The club could use the park for a nine hole course, but could not build bunkers on it.
2. The club could use the club house, and build an extension to it.
3. Membership shall not exceed 120
4. No alterations to the course shall be made without permission.
5. One third of the visitors' fees to be paid to Lord Lothian.
6. The agreement can be terminated by either side, with three months notice.

World War 2 intervened before any of these plans could be put into practice. Early in 1940 a number of members resigned, and the membership dropped to 42. The club continued to function, and was used by members of the Services.

Then in 1942 part of the park was ploughed up on instructions of the War Agricultural Committee. Permission was given by the Estate Office to construct 3 - 4 temporary holes south of the lake. In July 1942 plans to plough a further 25 acres were notified by the War Agricultural Committee. The club had no alternative other than to dismiss its employees, but Mr. Hannant, the professional, was retained on a temporary basis at 10/- per week.

Finally at the AGM in February 1943 arrangements were made to store club equipment, and it was agreed that 1942 subscriptions should be returned to members.

It was not until March 1952 that a meeting of the club was convened in an attempt to re-instate the course, but nothing came of this. The land was still under cultivation, and the new landlord, the National Trust, and its tenant farmers were unwilling to give up the land.

On May 3rd. 1957, a further meeting of members and other interested people was convened. With the agreement of the National Trust, Mr. Matthew Mitchell had offered to allow a nine hole course to be constructed on park land to the west of the old course and adjacent to the Watch Tower. The course was constructed very quickly by members, and play started on May 20th. 1957. The whole area was pasture, and therefore play was possible, the greens were interesting!

For four years the course gave much pleasure to many people. Unfortunately cows and golf do not mix. There was always a clash between cutting the fairways and rough, and allowing to remain as feed for the animals. Wire was necessary round each green, and the cows delighted in padding round and round the wire with inevitable results! Much work was done by many members, not least Mr. Mitchell, but sadly in 1961 the decision was taken to close the club.

In the early 1970's the National Trust considered plans for a new course, but nothing came of this.

The club still owns a number of trophies, and has a small sum of money in the bank. A meeting is to be held shortly to decide on the future of these assets and other club records.

AYLSHAM THEATRE

In the previous issue, Ron Peabody's extract from the 'Starling memoirs' introduced us to the early days of the theatre in Aylsham. Since then a further batch of theatre playbills has come to the editor's notice, prompting another look at those early years. Dr. Sapwell takes us all the way back to 1729 recording visits to Aylsham of the Norwich Company of Comedians. This company had its home at the White Swan in Norwich, and certainly made tours to the surrounding towns, including Aylsham.

The White Swan was a famous coaching Inn, and housed the company until the theatre was built in Theatre St. in 1757. The White Swan was demolished as recently as 1961, and a good account of the building can be read in 'Norfolk Archaeology' Vol.39. If ever you use Bethel St. car park and leave your car opposite the west door of St. Peter Mancroft, it will be just about in the middle of what was the old playhouse.

T.L.G. Burley in his 'Playhouses and players of East Anglia' refers us back to 1757 for the earliest records of the company visiting Aylsham, and also records that William Scraggs was there in 1786 where he enjoyed the distinguished support of none less than Humphrey Repton. Scraggs has been described as one of the most enterprising touring managers in the east of England, and in 1792 he joined forces with David Fisher and helped to start that great enterprise in which generations of the Fisher family toured the smaller towns of Norfolk and Suffolk, building, and performing in, their own theatres. In all, thirteen theatres were built, but the theatre in Aylsham pre-dates these. The playbill illustrated in our previous issue advertises a production of the 'Fisher & Scraggs' company for July 22nd 1809, and the original of this is preserved in the Aylsham town archives.

The latest batch of playbills covers a later period and advertises plays and performances not only at the theatre but also in the Assembly rooms at the Black Boys Inn, at the Dog Inn and also at the Town Hall. There are

Theatre, Aylsham.

LAST NIGHT BUT TWO.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

R. MARSHAM, ESQ.

AND

MRS. MARSHAM,

OF STRATTON STRAWLESS HALL.

On Tuesday Evening, 13th Dec., 1836.

The Performance will commence with the Farce Comedy of

LOVE, LAW AND Physic.

Dr. Camphor.... Mr. RANDOLPH—Captain Danvers.... Mr. MANN
Pleasible.... Mr. SOMERVILLE—Lobbe Long.... Mr. BALDIE—Andrew.... Mr. ATKINS
John Brown.... Mr. MELVIN—Walter.... Mr. PLUMB—Coachman.... Mr. MINNS
Mrs. Hilary.... Mrs. BALDIE—Laura.... Mrs. LOVEGROVE—Mary.... Mrs. COPPIN

After which the very admired farce of The

Mayor of Garratt.

Sir Jacob Jollep.... Mr. BALDIE—Major Sturgess.... Mr. SOMERVILLE
Jerry Sneak, (with the Song of Robinson Crusoe), Mr. ATKINS—Grippe Head Tap.... Mr. RANDOLPH
Kraus.... Mr. MANN—Lieut.... Mr. MELVIN—Roger.... Mr. MINNS—Sally.... Mr. WRIGHT
Matthew Mary.... Mr. PLUMB—Citizens, &c.
Mrs. Sneak.... Mrs. BALDIE—Mrs. Brain.... Mrs. LOVEGROVE

HORNPIPE, in character of "Will Watch, the Bold Smuggler," MR. MANN.

The whole to conclude with a laughable Farce, entitled The

ILLUSTRIOUS STRANGER; Or, Married & Buried!

Aboulsfar, King of Bramah.... Mr. SOMERVILLE—Prince Assa.... Mr. MELVIN
Alibajon.... Mr. BALDIE—Gimbo.... Mr. MANN—High Priest.... Mr. RANDOLPH
Benjamin Bowbell.... Mr. ATKINS—Oberon.... Mr. MINNS
Ira, the Princess.... Mrs. BALDIE—Fatima.... Mrs. LOVEGROVE

DUET—"No! no! no! Mr. Gimbo, no!" Mrs. LOVEGROVE and Mr. MANN.
SONG—"Dickey Dolus," Mr. MANN. SONG—"Love and Folly," Mrs. LOVEGROVE.
BOWBELL'S LAMENT, Mr. ATKINS. CHORUS—"This Union the Gods have Ordained."
DUET—"Welcome, Illustrious Stranger." FINALE—"Thus free from all Sorrow."

Nights of Performing:—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

* * * Doors open at five o'clock and begin promptly at half past five.

Boxes 5s. 6d. Pit to 2s. Gallery 1s.—Half price at half past eight. Doors to 6d. Pit 1s. Gallery 6d.

Good Fires constantly kept.

♣ Schools and Children under Twelve years of Age admitted at half-price.
Tickets to be had of Mr. WILSON, Star Tavern; and of Mr. ATKINS, at Mr. Rendell's, Hungate House,
where places for the Boxes may be taken.

CRANFIELD, PRINTER, AYLSHAM, & ORFORD HILL NORWICH.

five of particular interest which cover a short period of five to six weeks during November and December 1836. Performances were thrice weekly, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Doors opened at 6 pm. and the performance started promptly at 6.30 pm. Tickets were not cheap, Boxes were 2/6d, Pit 1/6d, gallery 1/-. The only concessions were that after 8.30 one could get in at half price, and schools and children under twelve could be admitted at half price all the time.

Tickets were obtainable from various addresses, possibly at the houses where individual members of the company were lodging. They could be had from Mr. Barney's in Hungate St., Mrs. Broughton's in Red Lion St. also at Mr. Hopkins, the tailor, in Red Lion St. Mr. Randell's in Hungate St. from Mr. Wilson at the Star tavern and from Mr. Silence. Each production contained one performance as a benefit for individual members of the cast, and over the whole tour it seems that each member received a benefit performance.

The first production on the 6th. November was for the benefit of Mrs. Coppin and Mr. F. Melvin and contained two items - "Simpson & Co" by John Poole, a fashionable comedy first produced at Drury Lane in 1823, and "Meg Murnoch, or the mountain hag" described as a romantic drama. Between the two items individual members of the cast sang various songs, so it was a full evening's entertainment.

The next production on December 8th. was something quite different. It was presented - 'by the desire and under the patronage of the Most Noble Grand, Vice Grand, Past Grand, Officers and Brethren of the Royal Clarence Independant and Philanthropic Union Lodge of Oddfellows, Aylsham. It was also a benefit for the actor, Mr. Randolph, and Brother Somerville (one of the Oddfellows?). The performance began with the representation of the interior of an Independant Oddfellows Lodge, complete with regalia, medals, dresses, etc. etc. in which "God save the King" "An Oddfellow's craft song", "Bold Robin Hood" and the

THEATRE, AYLSHAM.

"Tis not in mortals to command success,
But we'll do more--endeavour to deserve it."

Mrs. Coppin & Mr. F. Melvin

Respectfully announces their **BENEFIT** for Tuesday Evening next.

Mrs. COPPIN returns her sincere acknowledgements to her friends for favours hitherto so liberally bestowed, and begs to assure them, in conjunction with Mr. MELVIN, that no exertion shall be wanting on their part to merit his continuance.

On Tuesday Evening, November 6th, 1838.

Will be performed the Sublimable Comedy of

Simpson & Co

Mr. Peter Simpson Mr. RANDOLPH—Mr. Bromley Mr. SOMERVILLE
Mr. Foster Mr. MANN—William Mr. MINNS
Mrs. Simpson .. Mrs. BALDIE—Mrs. Fitzalan .. Mrs. ATKINS—Mrs. Bromley .. Mrs. LOVEGROVE
Madame La Trappe Mrs. COPPIN

IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING THE FOLLOWING SONGS :

- "The Shannon and Choptaque," Mr. MANN.
- "The Sailor King," Mr. MELVIN.
- "My Arab Steed," Mrs. LOVEGROVE
- "The Queer Little Man," Mr. ATKINS

Sailor's Hornpipe in character, Mr Mann

To conclude with a new Romantic Drama entitled

MEG MURNOCH

Or, the *MOUNTAIN HAG.*

Walter, Lord of Finlagan Mr. SOMERVILLE—Lord Fitzarion Mr. MELVIN
Duncan Greave Mr. RANDOLPH—Murdyn, a treacherous domestic Mr. BALDIE
Vich Iver, Captain of Banditti Mr. MANN—Evan Dho, a Robber Chief Mr. MINNS
Lord Malcolm Master ATKINS—Audron Mr. ATKINS—Duffan Mr. PLUMB
Meg Murnoch, the Mountain Hag, Mrs. BALDIE—Lady Fitzarion Mrs. COPPIN
Lady Bertha Mrs. LOVEGROVE—Ardalind, daughter to Duffan, Mrs. RANDOLPH

INCIDENTS :

Hunters Carousing—Sudden appearance and **PROPHECY OF THE MOUNTAIN HAG.** Pursuit and Warning of Meg Murnoch—Duffan's suspicion.

Fitzarion's Determination and departure.

THE CLEN OF LORIN. Meeting of Fitzarion and Meg. Fitzarion in danger, is saved by Meg!

DEATH OF VICH IVER in Walter for the destruction of Lord Malcolm. Vich Iver aided by the bewitchery of the Mountain Hag.

SECOND SWORD COMBAT between Vich Iver and the Mountain Hag.—Captors of Meg, who accuses Walter of the Murder of Malcolm.—Interesting denouement.

GRAND TABLEAU I

closing song and chorus of the Lodge "Now let a joyful strain" was sung by the brethren. After this it was straight into the melodrama "Dream at Sea" by J.B.Buckstone. This had first appeared in November 1835 at the Adelphi only twelve months previously. The evening concluded with the farce by John Poole " Deaf as a post", and on this occasion it was arranged for the performance to end by 11 o'clock.

The third production on December 10th 1836 was under the patronage of the Ladies of Aylsham and was for the benefit of Mr. & Mrs.Baldie. This began with a domestic drama written by a Mr.Bird of Yoxford, called "Smuggler's daughter". This had at least twelve different scenes described in such great detail on the playbill that the whole plot is revealed, but despite the great detail I am still intrigued by the first scene:-

Scene 1 Landscape, the barber's lovemaking in latin...!!

This was followed by "Day after the wedding" by Marie Therese Kemble which had first appeared in 1808 at Covent Garden, and to give real value for money, the evening ended with a farce by Samuel Beazley called "The Lottery ticket". Between the items there were also songs and dances by members of the cast. The fourth playbill is for 13th.December 1836 under the patronage of R.Marsham Esq. and Mrs.Marsham of Stratton Strawless Hall and there was presented the petite comedy "Love, law and physic" after which was to be seen the farce by Samuel Foote, "Mayor of Garratt" which had first appeared at the Haymarket as long ago as 1763. The evening concluded with a novelty - a musical farce by James Kenney and W.Mill-ingen with music by Nathan called the "Illustrious stranger". This contained many solos and duets such as the intriguing 'No, No, No, Mr.Gimbo no.'

The final playbill is for December 15th. advertised as under the patronage of the Rev.S.Pitman of Oulton Hall for the benefit of Mr.Mann and Mrs. Lovegrove. It was a three act opera called "Rob Roy, or auld lang syne". This was, in fact, "Rob Roy Macgregor" by J.Pocock which had

first appeared at Covent Garden in 1818 and enjoyed frequent revivals until its last performance at Sadlers Wells in 1879. Mr.Mann and Mrs. Lovegrove were the two who had been singing 'No, No, No, Mr.Gimbo no' two nights previously. This performance, too, ended as usual with a 'laughable farce' called "Turning the tables" (author unknown).

These five playbills are probably incomplete for the whole period, and do not show the full range of the company's talents. Nevertheless it is a pretty impressive catalogue. In this short period they could put on dramas, melodramas, farces, musical farces and even an opera. In addition, each member could contribute songs and dances between stage performances. They may even have had their own speciality acts. Mr.Mann certainly had; he was obviously very good at the hornpipe. His act is listed in all five playbills, three times as dancing a 'sailor's hornpipe in character', once as ' a hornpipe in the character of Will Watch, the bold smuggler' and finally, and this must surely have been his 'piece de resistance' dancing a 'hornpipe in fetters' and there is a woodcut in the playbill to illustrate it. Unfortunately, because there was not enough room to fit the illustration in the right way up it was inserted sideways, still, after dancing the hornpipe in fetters that was probably how he felt. I wonder what he did for an encore?

C.U.E.M.B. Lectures.

A series of six lectures has been arranged for the Winter season on "Georgian Norfolk". These will be held as usual on Wednesday nights, provisionally on the following dates - October 8th, October 29th, November 19th, February 11th, March 4th, & March 25th. More information should be available at the AGM.

Theatre, Aylsham.

LAST NIGHT BUT ONE.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

The REV. S. PITMAN,

OULTON HALL,

FOR THE BENEFIT OF

Mr. MANN & Mrs. LOVEGROVE.

Who beg to inform the Ladies, Gentlemen, and Inhabitants of Aylsham and its Vicinity that their BENEFIT is fixed for **Thursday Evening, December 15th, 1836**, on which occasion they solicit their kind interest and support.

The Performance will commence with the Opera, in Three Acts, of

ROB ROY; Or, AULD LONG SYNE.

Sir Frederic Vernon . . . Mr. MELVIN—Francis Obaldistone . . . Mr. MANN—Owen . . . Mr. ATKINS
Rashleigh Obaldistone . . . Mr. RANDOLPH—Dougal . . . Mr. MANN
Captain Thornton . . . Mr. F. MELVIN—Rob Roy Macgregor . . . Mr. ROMERVILLE
Duffie Nichol Jarvis . . Mr. BALDIE—Major Gallbraith . . Mr. ATKINS—Saunders . . Mr. WRIGHT
Diana Vernon . . Mrs. LOVEGROVE—Mattie . . Mrs. COPPIN—Mather . . Mrs. RANDOLPH
Hallea Macgregor . . . Mrs. BALDIE

Opening Chorus—"Soon the Sun will Gang to Rest," by the Company.

Song—"My Love is like the Red Red Rose," Mr. Mann.

Song—"Ah! it would it were," Mrs. Lovegrove

Duet—"Though you leave me now in Sorrow," Mr. Mann and Mrs. Lovegrove.

Song—"The Banners of Blue," Mrs. Lovegrove.

Song and Chorus—"Auld Lang Syne," Mr. Mann and Company.

The Lament, by the Company.

Chorus and Dance—"Roy's Wife," by the Company.

Song—"Wild White Rose," Mr. Mann.

Duet—"Forlorn and Broken Hearted," Mr. Mann and Mrs. Lovegrove.

Finale—"Pardon, now, the Bold Outlaw," by the Company.

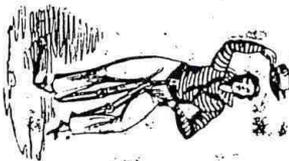
SONG, "THE DEATH OF NELSON," MR. MANN.

SONG, MR. ATKINS.

The Celebrated Garland Dance, by the Company.

MR. MANN.

BY



FETTERS.

Hornpipe in

The whole to conclude with a laughable Farce, entitled The

TURNING THE TABLES.

Old Keiths . . . Mr. RANDOLPH—Edgar de Courcy . . . Mr. MANN
Jeremiah Bumps . . . Mr. ROMERVILLE—Tom Thornton . . . Mr. MELVIN
Jack Humphries, alias General Jacko . . . Mr. ATKINS
Miss Knibbs . . Mrs. LOVEGROVE—Mrs. Humphries . . Mrs. BALDIE—Patty Larkin . . Mrs. ATKINS

Nights of Performing:—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

*. Doors open at Six o'clock and begin promptly at half-past.

Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. ed. Gallery 1s. Half price at half-past eight. Doors to 6d. Pit 1s. Gallery 6d.

Good Fires constantly kept.

→ Schools and Children under Twelve years of Age admitted at half-price.

Tickets to be had of Mr. Mann, at Mr. Darney's, Hungate Street, and of Mrs. Lovegrove, Mrs. Broughton's Red Lion Street.

CRANFIELD, PRINTER, ORFORD HILL, NORWICH.

The part the river Bure plays in the life of our town may seem small these days but, of course, historically it has had a major role. Since the disastrous flood of August 1912 it is no longer possible for sizable boats to sail right up to the Mill pool as they had done by using the specially built Aylsham Navigation.

What it was like when Aylsham was a river port will, I hope, be shown from the following extracts from the Starling Memoirs:

"... Our Town Hall had just been finished. I may say I saw the Marquis of Lothian lay the stone (1856), but I was very young at that time. I was with my mother at the window over-looking. Now at this time, and five years after, until the railway came (1880) everything had to come into the town by water - all salt stuff, all groceries, all corn stuff, heavy draperies, and everything we needed in the heavy way, but the light draperies used to come by rail to Norwich and by Carriers cart and so did the bright Sheffield goods. Goods from Glasgow and Falkirk by Steamer, from Newcastle and Hull by steamer; from London by the big London steamer and from Spalding, Wisbech and round that way by steamer. From Lynn, Birmingham, Wolverhampton by rail to Yarmouth and then transferred to the wherries to bring them by water to Aylsham. This had all to be done by the second week in November. You will wonder why. It was that the frosts we had at this time were so severe that oft-times the river was not opened again until the second or third week in March, so had to provide from second week in November to third week in March..."

"... I have forgotten the coal. Well all these big sheds and house on the staithe and the Mills belonging to Messrs. Bullock, Messrs. Copeman, The Steam Mills, Maidstone, Margetson and others were completely filled with coal for the winter..."

"... I will tell you now about our wherrymen and their two days holiday, the 29th and 30th May. We had at this time about 2 dozen wherries sailing on the Bure from Aylsham to Yarmouth and return, and these two days were looked upon by these men as the two days of the year. They were the only holiday they had. They used to come up two or three days before, and get their wherries all ready for return, and then on the 29th come out in all their glory - nice white duck trousers, blue cloth waistcoat and coat with bright golden buttons blue cloth cap with patent peak, and a lot of smart fellows they were. And didn't they enjoy themselves..." There were others in the town who used the river for their recreation - "... The Aylsham & Buxton Boating Club was formed in 1871. The forming of the club was in this way. I had to go down to Dr. Morton's one morning for a slight ailment, and he said "you are just the young fellow I want to see. You are fond of the water and so am I. I've been wondering if we could get up a Boating Club for the town and district, as we have a nice clean little river. Now you talk this over with your young friends in the town and I will do the same with my friends and if we get on will have a Meeting." Well, we were very successful. All were delighted, and we had a meeting at the "Red Lion" Hotel when we selected our officers...

It was decided to have a Regatta each month at Aylsham in the evenings in May, June, July, and August, and a large one at Buxton Lamas in September to finish the season, which were duly carried out, and all through it was a great success. The people of Aylsham came in great numbers to the monthly meetings and it seemed quite a nice little change for them. Sometime we had the band down, but not always..."

I wonder how Aylsham would have developed if "The Great Rainfall" of 26th August 1912 had not happened ?

The river Bure might still be playing an important part in our economy - the Broads boats could make their way up to the Mill pool, which in turn may have prevented the closure of the Aylsham North railway station..... I wonder ?

BOOK REVIEW

A Journey into Ancestry, by Rae Collins (Alan Sutton
1984 £4.95)

If you are interested in tracing your family tree, or even in reading how someone else set about doing this [and all in a Norfolk setting] then this is the book for you!

Mrs. Rae Collins writes in an engaging and lively way about how, from her home in the South West, she set out to trace her Clarke ancestry in Norfolk. This detective hunt is wholly absorbing and serves as a general guide to the amateur genealogist, The second half of the book puts her discoveries into historical context, the account of the lives of specific ancestors highlighting sources which supply background information.

For us in Aylsham there is the added delight of reading about a local family - with relatives in North Walsham, Skeyton, Brampton and Cley. The Aylsham grocer Samuel Clarke, who lived in 'Paradise' in the 18th. century, is a relative, and his daughter, Ruth, married John Wickes, a tanner in Blickling, whose descendant, William Wickes, bought the Belt estate in the early 19th. century.

There are delightful illustrations by Anton Bantock and photographs of later Clarke relatives, both of which add to the enjoyment of a 'good read'.

JN

The editor would welcome book reviews of any titles of local interest which you feel would interest other members of the Society. The County Library purchases virtually every book with a Norfolk connection so whatever is reviewed should be obtainable from the library at least.

From time to time we will produce a list of all titles added to library stock, so that you may keep abreast of what becomes available. Only authors and titles will be listed, as all other details can be obtained from the library catalogue. It should be possible to obtain virtually all these titles through Aylsham library, but occasional titles may only be obtainable as reference material in the Local History Library in Norwich:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| ATKIN, Malcolm. | Life on a medieval street. |
| BROOKS, Peter | A Sheringham album |
| BURROUGHS Peggy | Pub walks in Norfolk |
| FIELD, Moira | The lamplit stage: The Fisher Theatre
circuit 1792 - 1844 |
| GARROD, Trevor | East Anglia by rail |
| GAUTLETT, S | Where to watch birds in Norfolk |
| HAYES, Derek R. | His Majesty's late ship The Invincible
. . . wrecked off Happisburgh . . .
17th. March 1801. |
| KENNETT David. | Discovering walks in Norfolk. |
| LUMMIS Trevor. | Occupation and Society: The East
Anglian Fishermen 1880 - 1914 |
| MANN, J.D. | Great Eastern Railways; a pictorial
collection. |
| MORTLOCK, D.P. & | Popular guide to Norfolk Churches: |
| ROBERTS, C. | Vol.3 - West & S.W. Norfolk. |
| POOLEY, Graham | Eleven hundred years: South Creake. |
| PRIESTLEY Ursula. | Shops and shopkeeping in Norwich
1660 - 1730 |
| READING Eric. | A Mundesley Album. |
| SAMPSON Ashley | Beach formation and change (compiled
for Sheringham Local Studies Group) |
| STOREY Edward | Spirit of the Fens. |
| TOOLEY Beryl | John Knowlitt |
| YAXLEY Philip | Memories of Old Wymondham |
| ZAMOYSKA Betka | The Burston rebellion |

AYLSHAM, a market and union town, in South Erping-
ham Hundred, East Norfolk, lighted with gas, 125½ miles
from London, and 12 north of Norwich station, contained,
in 1851, 2,741 inhabitants. The area of the parish is 4,311
acres. The annual value of assessed property, in 1846, was
£9,191 2s. 6d. It stands on the banks of the river Bure,
which is navigable hence to Yarmouth. The chief employ-
ment of the inhabitants is agriculture. The market is held
on the Tuesday for corn. Fairs are held yearly on March
23 and last Tuesday in September, and a hiring for servants
on the first Tuesday in October. A Free school was founded
here, in 1517, by Robert Jannys, mayor of Norwich in that
year, now conducted upon the National system. Here is an
Infant school, on the same system. One of the county Bride-
wells was formerly in this town, but is now converted into
dwelling-houses. Petty Sessions are held every Tuesday, at
the Black Boy hotel, Mr. Frederick Roe, clerk to magis-
trates. A Savings' bank was established in 1818, and is
open from 12 to 1 every Monday; here is also a Literary
institution. A short distance from the town is a mineral
spring. The church of St. Michael was built by John of
Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the court of whose duchy was
once held in this town. The font is enriched with bas-reliefs
of the four emblems of the Evangelists, the instruments of
the passion, and the arms of Gaunt, with other armorial
insignia. The screens were painted with saints, martyrs,

Gunting George, esq
Parker Mrs
Parmeter Robert W. esq
Parmeter Samuel, esq
Poulton Rev. William, Post Office st
Rackham Rev. Robert, M.A
Rackham Mrs
Repton William, esq
Robins Mr. William
Scott William H. esq. Norwich road
Seaman Miss, White Hart street
Bacon Miss
Bond Mrs
Brown Miss
Bulwer Miss
Colby Miss
Cook Thomas, esq. Busbey place
Cook William B. esq
Copeman George, esq
Copeman Thomas, esq
Gottson Mrs
Guntion Miss

and confessors, in 1507, principally at the cost of Thomas
Wymer, who, on his monument, is represented in a winding
sheet. Here is a monument to the memory of Richard
Howard, sheriff of Norwich, who, in 1488, built the church
porch. The east window, which has lately been retraced
is decorated with stained glass, representing the four most
favored disciples of our blessed Lord, with other devices
and armorial bearings of the late Earl of Buckingham and
heir of Blickling, the present Bishop of Norwich, the Dean
and Chapter of Norwich and Canterbury, the present vicar,
&c., &c. A stained side window is dedicated to the memory
of eight former vicars; another contains some beautiful
specimens of old glass, recently inserted at the expense of
the vicar, containing the armorial bearings of his family,
and of the lay proprietor of the parish, Mr. Pitman, of
Oulton, together with those of the Dowager Lady Suffolk,
&c. In a recess in the churchyard, in a piece of lawn, en-
closed with iron rails, planted with roses, heart's-ease, and
other flowers, is the grave of Humphrey Repton, the cele-
brated landscape gardener, who died March 24th, 1818.
The church has ten bells, a large and lofty steeple, clock
and organ. The living is a vicarage, value £583, in the gift
of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, who hold the rectorial
tithes, which are leased by the Rev. S. Pitman for
£550 per annum. The Baptists, Wesleyans, and Primitive
Methodists have each a chapel.

Shaw Mrs., Market place
Shaw Miss
Taylor Miss
Walpole Rev. Seaman, White Hart st
Walpole Miss
Warnes John, esq. Bolwick hall
White Mrs. Blickling road
Wicks Mrs. Millgate
Woodhouse Mrs. Blickling road
Yates Rev. Edmund Telfer, M.A. [vicar]
Young Miss, Millgate

TRADERS.

Abbs William, baker
 Allen Henry Francis, stone & marble mason
 Bane William, chemist & druggist
 Bartram William, builder
 Bird Stephen, bricklayer
 Bowers Robert, carpenter
 Breese James, tailor & draper
 Brown William, beer retailer
 Burke Jane (Miss), ladies' boarding school
 Burrell George E. builder & auctioneer

Clarke George, 'Star'
 Clements Charles & Son, printers, book-sellers, & stationers, Market pl
 Clover John, baker & confectioner, & agent to General Hall-
 storm insurance company
 Clover John, farmer
 Colk John, farmer
 Connold Thomas, watchmaker
 Copeman George & Thomas, bankers, Norwich road
 Cory Thomas, shopkeeper
 Craft Henry, machine maker, Cawston road
 Cullley Benjamin, bricklayer
 Dale Robert, hairdresser, Market place
 Davison James, miller, Cawston road
 Easton Robert, baker, White Hart street
 Ebdon James, 'Dog inn', Norwich road
 Edwards John, china dealer, Red Lion street
 Eggs William, drover & farmer, Cawston road
 Eiden Eleanor (Mrs.), milliner
 Elden Thomas, boot & shoe maker, Red Lion street
 Elvin Robert, plumber & glazier, White Hart street
 England Mary (Miss), grocer & draper, Red Lion street
 Feek Dick, 'New inn', Red Lion street
 Fit James, 'Anchor', Millgate
 Fit John, watchmaker, Red Lion street
 Flaxman John, tailor, Market place
 Foxall Thomas, shoemaker, Cawston road
 Frankland James, harness maker, Red Lion street
 Freeman & Austen, ironmongers, oil & color men, Market pl

Burrell William, tailor & bootmaker
 Burton John, blacksmith
 Butler William, blacksmith
 Case James L. farmer, Millgate
 Cattie John, shoemaker
 Chapman John, butcher & farmer
 Chapman John, 'Red Lion inn', Red Lion street
 Clark James, farmer
 Clark John S. carrier, Cawston road
 Clark Richard, farmer
 Clark Samuel, farmer

Freeman John, stone & marble mason, Millgate
 Frostick Daniel, farmer
 Gardiner William Drake, miller, Cawston road
 Glistler William, carpenter
 Goodwin Mary (Mrs.), farmer
 Gotterson Thomas, carpenter, Red Lion street
 Greengrass George, 'Swan inn', Post Office street
 Griffin John C. grocer & draper, Market place
 Grinson John, carpenter, Cawston road
 Haddon James, glover, White Hart street
 Hall John, shopkeeper, Cawston road
 Hatcher Jane (Mrs.), dressmaker, Red Lion street
 Howes Robert, veterinary surgeon, Post Office street
 Ingate Lewis, coach builder
 Johnson John, shoemaker, Post office street
 Jones Edward, superintendent of police, Cromer road
 Larke John, cabinet maker, Cromer road
 Laxen Henry, saddler & harness maker, Market place
 Lemon Benjamin, saddler & harness maker, Red Lion street
 Mann Robert Charles, surgeon, Post Office street
 Margison Robert, carrier to Norwich, Red Lion street
 Miller Thomas, shoemaker, White Hart street
 Miller William, butcher
 Morton Richard K. surgeon, Market place
 Moy John, beer retailer, Cawston road
 Moy Robert, hawker
 Neal Elijah, baker
 Nicholls John, beer retailer, Millgate street

Sands James, butcher, Red Lion street
 Sands John, butcher, Post Office street
 Scott George, grocer & draper, Market place
 Sexton Joseph, baker, Post Office street
 Skidmore Mary (Mrs.), shopkeeper, Market place
 Smart William, brewer, Post Office street
 Smith Frederick P. surgeon, Market place
 Smith Richard, farmer & horse dealer
 Smith Zephaniah, hairdresser
 Soame George, coal merchant
 Soame John, surveyor, White Hart street
 Spanton Jas. *Black Boy's hotel & posting house*, Market pl
 Starling William, basket maker, Red Lion street
 Stearnan Frederick, tailor, Post Office street
 Stearnan James, gardener, Cawston road
 Sutton John, tailor, Red Lion street
 Symonds John, chemist & druggist, Market place
 Tatten George, blacksmith, White Hart street
 Thirtle Robert, shoemaker, Red Lion street
 Tipple George, farmer, Millgate street
 Tuck George, shoemaker
 Ulp John, *Cross Keys*, Red Lion street
 Ulp Richard, tailor & draper
 Wade Charles R. watchmaker, Market place
 Warren Thomas, tea dealer, Millgate street
 Watson James V. basket maker
 Whitley George, baker
 Woodburn James, millwright & engineer, Cawston road
 Wright William, boys' boarding & day school, Commercial rd

Registrar of Births & Deaths & Relieving Officer, John Wright, Marshan, Buxton
Excise Officer, Thomas Williams
 PLACES OF WORSHIP:—
St. Michael's Church, Rev. Edmd. Teltter Yates, M.A. vicar
Baptist Chapel, ministers various
Wesleyan Chapel, ministers various
Primitive Methodist Chapel, ministers various
 POSTING HOUSES:—Black Boy's hotel & the Dog inn
 PUBLIC SCHOOLS:—
National (for boys & girls), James France, master; Miss Sarah Dennington, mistress
National Infant, Miss Sarah Dennington, mistress

Nicholls John, gardener
 Ostick Robert, shoemaker, White Hart street
 Page William, draper & grocer, Red Lion street
 Parmeter & Bullock, millers, millsters, corn & coal merchants, Millgate
 Parmeter Robert, solicitor & clerk of the peace for the county of Norfolk, & agent to Atlas fire & life office
 Pert David, plumber, glazier & painter, Red Lion street
 Pert Leonard H. plumber & glazier, Post Office street
 Pike Robert, blacksmith, Red Lion street
 Platten Edward, coffee shop
 Plumby Charles, baker & shopkeeper, Cawston road
 Poll Henry, beer retailer, White Hart street
 Powell Benjamin, grocer & draper, Market place
 Pratt Robert, plumber & glazier
 Pratt William, baker, Red Lion street
 Priest Henry F. shopkeeper, Market place
 Puncher William, *Unitcorn*, Post Office street
 Purdy James, carrier
 Purdy James, clog maker, Red Lion street
 Repton & Scott, solicitors, also clerks to the commissioners for income & property tax
 Roe Frederick, clerk to magistrates, Market place
 Rust Robert, *Bull*, Red Lion street
 Rust Robert, shoemaker, & registrar of marriages, & agent to the Star fire office

POST OFFICE.—Miss Mary Nobbs, postmistress. Post Office Orders are granted & paid. Letters arrive at 4 past 7 a.m. by Cromer mail from Norwich; dispatched at 25 min. past 5 p.m. Box closes at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 5 p.m., but letters may be posted until $\frac{1}{4}$ to 6 p.m. by the payment of an extra penny
 BANKERS.—Messrs. George & Thomas Copeman; draw upon Hankey & Co. London
Savings' Bank, Mr. James Harrod, secretary
 INSURANCE AGENTS:—
General Hailstone, John Clover
Norwich Equitable, Thomas Connold
Norwich Union, George & Thos. Copeman & John Griffin
 Star, Robert Rust

Norwich Diocesan School, Rev. William Poulton, head master

CONVEYANCES TO NORWICH:—

Cromer mail leaves the Black Boy's hotel at 6 even. & returns the following morning from the Star inn, Norwich, at 8

Holt coach, *Friendship*, daily, except sunday, leaves the Dog inn for Norwich at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 9 morn. & returns from the Norfolk hotel, at 5 even

Prince of Wales coach leaves the 'Red Lion' every sat. morning at 9, & returns from the 'Duke's Palace,' Norwich, at 5 even

A van leaves the 'Red Lion' daily at 8 morn. for Norwich, returns from the 'Duke's Palace' at 4 aft

Deacon & Co.'s van leaves 73 St. Giles, Norwich, every tuesday, thursday & saturday, arriving at the 'Unicorn. Aylsham, at 1 aft. thence to Holt, returning from the latter every mon. wed. & fri. at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 10 morn

CARRIERS.—James Purdy, to & from Norwich, wed. & sat. Robert Francis Margetson, mon. wed. & sat. A van calls at the Bull inn every friday at 1 aft. on its way to Norwich, from Holt & Saxthorpe, & returns on the sat. at 5 evening

Navigation Company, Repton & Scott, clerks

Wherries to & from Yarmouth daily, Messrs. Samuel Parimeter, John Maystone & Robert Francis Margetson, proprietors