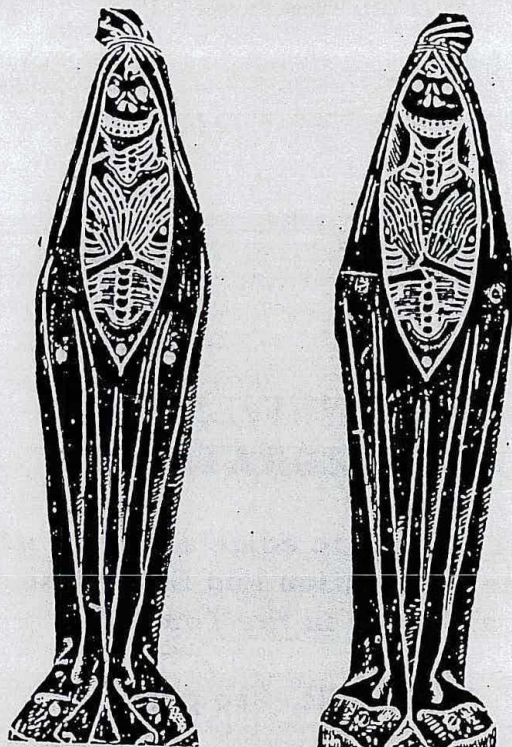


# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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RICH. AND CECILIE HOWARD, 1499. Aylsham, Norfolk.

Vol. 4 No. 2

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## **10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**Don't forget to come and support  
the Celebration and Exhibition  
arranged in the Town Hall**

**For details - see page 64**

### COVER ILLUSTRATION

The brasses of Richard and Cecilia Howard [1499] in St. Michael's church, Aylsham. The illustration is taken from Macklin's "Monumental brasses" 1882





AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

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Vol.4

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### SIR EDMUND REVE.      Joan Turville-Petre.

I have lately been to the church of Long Stratton to see the monument to Judge Edmund Reeve, a member of an Aylsham family which was the subject of an article by Jane Nolan in the *Journal & Newsletter*; Vol.2 No.9. [1990].

I repeat the essential facts. Edmund was born in 1589, the eldest of the seven sons and four daughters of Christopher Reeve, an Aylsham attorney. He entered Caius College, Cambridge in May 1605. His legal training was at Barnard's Inn, then Gray's Inn and the Inner Temple. He served as Steward of Aylsham Lancaster Manor, became Recorder of Great Yarmouth in 1629, Steward of Norwich 1631-39, and Judge of Common Pleas 1639-47.

He married Mary Corey of Bramerton, but there were no children of the marriage. He was knighted. He died in March 1647. In "*Alumni Cantabrigenses*" by J. & J.A. Venn (1924), it is stated that Edmund Reeve was educated at Aylsham, and that his tutor was Mr. Eston. This seems to be the Easton who was headmaster of the Free School between 1600 and 1610 (*Sapwell J. "History of Aylsham" 1960. p.154*)

I have not explored the family connection with Long Stratton, but in the church there are 17th. century memorials to other closely related

Reeves, such as John Reeve, [d.1658] who was priest of the parish. The monument to Judge Edmund is on the north wall of the chancel. A large rectangular tablet contains the Latin inscription (printed in *Blomefield's History of Norfolk. Vol.V pp.195-6. 1806*). Below it is the effigy of the judge, in colour, his red robes and black cap matching his cheeks and beard. Below him is his wife, a dull green all over. I have been lucky enough to get an artists impression (from photographs) by Alan Chesters. My translation of the inscription is as follows:-

#### SIR EDMOND REVE

He was not distinguished by preferment in the order of knighthood or the robe of Justice, offices which by outstanding merit and true learning he would have raised to higher degrees of excellence. To these he himself had not risen.

For indeed he was: in church most faithful in his piety, in court illustrious and courteously expert, in the market place keen-sighted through wise judgement, in public kind and unaffected to all he met. At home he was quietly generous, at table liberal to the guest. In his study he applied himself to learning and theology. In a stormy commonwealth he was a calm peacemaker. In the marriage bed he revered chastity; he is to be revered for the holiness of his death-bed.

He was especially dear to the king for the good faith of assured honesty. When he was seen in Parliament he was admired for his noble high spirit. Among the nobility and the common people he was renowned for fair judgement; in holiness he was an example to the clergy; by the people he was commended for highest integrity; the wealthy esteemed him for upholding their successful suits, the poor remembered him in prayer because he had obtained payment in theirs.



The Monument to Sir Edmund Reeve and his wife, Maria,  
in Long Stratton Church.

Whom the insubordination of the crowd could not terrify, nor the enticements of the Court persuaded to avoid Common Pleas (as others did); nor did so many thousand civil disorders with drawn swords cause him to discard the sword of Justice; but by his means (while fruitlessly the spear threatened the pen), law did not fall silent in time of battle. He alone, with the same untiring hand, held out to rich and poor alike, a pair of scales in balance; next he applied the weights and withdrew them precisely with clean hands, bent an unswerving eye upon the index and examined whether by ever so little it inclined to either side, and whether he could with experienced finger disentangle threads which had knotted; with the fresh breeze of jesting and inoffensive lips he removed every speck of dust from the scales and brought them into balance, so that no-one could ever complain that justice was harsh, or unfair through negligence.

Likewise he was the one, of all the most popular justices in eyre, to instate in rural areas the law recovered from banishment, and to restore the assizes, long since unfamiliar with lasting justice. On the soil of Westminster the goddess of Justice held court; through the summer recess the judge did not stir abroad, and before he had completed the rest of the Surrey Circuit he returned sick to London. Thereupon he was summoned to the Last Judgement, and on the very day that opened Charles' twenty third year [March 27. 1647] he concluded his last day, falling into eternal sleep. Lady Maria Reve, his wife who survived him provided a resting place for him designed by herself ( as he would have wished) where she in turn was to lie when the time came for her (growing drowsy) likewise to fall asleep.

*(Maria, his wife, survived him by almost ten years. She died on 12th. March 1657 and is interred in the same vault)*



## SOCIETY NEWS

**HOW OLD IS MY HOUSE?** - At the Friendship Club, on February 24th., Tom Townsend was greeted by an audience of some 50 members who had braved the winter snow to hear him talk on house history. Mr. Townsend conducted the lecture by means of Survey maps, Tithe and Manorial records, and also older maps dating from 1560 to about 1745. He took as an example, the Bell Inn at Cawston and explained that it is impossible to establish the age of a building by the architectural details alone, due to alterations over the years. The only way is by using deeds and records which can be obtained by visiting the local Record Office.

If the deeds are available, it is possible to go back to the original Root of Title and then follow the various conveyances, probates etc. Following the registration of land, deeds are often unavailable, and then it is really an exercise through the various records available, commencing with the most recent survey maps which show property in plan form. There are earlier survey maps which probably go back to the late 19th. century which often provide fascinating clues. Checking Tithe maps and Manorial Court Records, road maps, Enclosure maps, Land Tax assessments, and Estate Agents sales particulars can also yield useful information. We finally saw some extremely interesting old maps which gave a bird's eye-view, as opposed to the plans on survey maps, like looking down on the property we were researching. These could, in fact, go back to pre-Tudor times, but as they are not in 'plan form' it is difficult to identify particular properties, although inns, farms and churches were clearly marked.

It was a most interesting and fascinating talk, particularly for owners of properties which may have been re-built, extended, or changed in architectural character through the ages.

*Jack Hartley*

**NORFOLK LANDOWNERS SINCE 1800** - On the 24th. March over 40 of us heard Dr. Pam Barnes talk of the changing fortunes of Norfolk landowners from the second half of the 19th. century, up to the outbreak of the Second World War. This was the period following immediately after the 'golden years' of British agriculture, after which the succeeding years were a story of continuing decline.

The 1850s and 1860s had been golden years for farmers with a rapidly increasing population needing everything that farmers could produce. Anyone with any pretensions to status acquired land as the visible sign of his wealth. Those who had not been born into the land-owning classes, but who had acquired fortunes in commerce and industry, swiftly acquired land whenever it became available. Land in Norfolk became a good investment. Landowners rarely dirtied their hands by actually farming their estates, but by leasing land to others they could rely on an assured income of about £1 per acre. By the beginning of the period described by Mrs. Barnes, there were 106 families in Norfolk who owned estates of over 2,000 acres - some considerably more than 2,000 - all producing comfortable and easy livings which seemed set to continue indefinitely. By 1875, dramatic changes were in the air. Four years of atrocious weather started the rot. By this time the full effects of the Industrial Revolution had spread to most parts of the world, allowing rapid movement and importation of cheap foreign foodstuffs; Free Trade, and a general economic depression helped it along. Many of the larger estates were badly affected. Income from rents dropped alarmingly with immediate effects on all the large households. Belts were tightened, staff sacked, expenses trimmed down, and the effects were felt all the way down the social ladder.

To add to all this, many estate owners were involved in grandiose improvements to their houses, which suddenly they were no longer able to finance. Many others lived on estates mortgaged up to the hilt, which previously had never bothered the owners as long as they could keep up paying the interest on their debt. Suddenly they could no longer afford to pay even the interest. Many large estates came on to the market; some eventually being broken up into individual farms. It took a long time for the realisation to dawn that the changes were here to stay, and realistic steps to cope with the changes were put off in the hope that the good times would soon be back. I suppose today's farmers would claim that the good times never have come back.

It was a well-presented and interesting talk, and Betty Gee expressed, appropriately, the thanks of us all. *T.W.M.*

**JOSEPH CLOVER, the artist; 1779-1853** Unusually, two of the lectures given to the Society during this year's lecture programme were linked.



The first of these was given last November by Dr. Christopher Woollam, on the life and work of Joseph Clover, the surgeon and anaesthetist. The second lecture given on Thursday, 28th. April revealed another chapter of the complex Clover family.

This second Clover, and also the older of the two men, was of course, the artist, Joseph Clover. There were two distinct sides to this complicated man; his personal life in Norfolk, and his professional life as a painter in London. It seemed appropriate that they should be revealed for us by Jane Nolan and by Peter Holman because of their own particular interests

The family tree began in 1725 with the first Joseph. One of his sons was named Thomas and the other Joseph. Thomas Clover had a dozen children, most of whom died young, but one of the three survivors eventually became the painter, Joseph Clover, and was the subject of this lecture. The complex family relationships of Joseph Clover, his association with Mary Berry, her daughter and the Swedenborgian Church were unravelled by Jane. All of those associations changed in 1802 when Joseph decided to go to London and study painting. This radical change in his life provided a break in the narrative which allowed Peter to take up and complete the other part of his story.

Joseph became a pupil of the portrait painter, John Opie, eventually becoming a successful portrait painter himself. He frequently exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy, but in 1836, because of his failing sight, he was forced to give up painting and devoted the rest of his life to the Swedenborgian Church.

Peter had prepared a 'time-chart' which clearly illustrated those events running parallel to, and sometimes touching Joseph Clover's creative life. Amongst them were developments in photography and optics which many painters used, the growth of the Norwich School of Painters, advances in the manufacture of watercolour paints, and improvements in the quality of artists' paper.

Our attention was drawn to examples of Joseph Clover's work which are on show in the Castle Museum, and the two civic portraits which are on display in St. Andrew's Hall. The evening was well-attended, greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Because of the shape of Joseph Clover's life, the dual presentation of this lecture was extremely successful. *Geoff Gale*

**VISIT TO COLCHESTER** - On Thursday, 19th. May we enjoyed our first outing of the year, as part of the Society's programme, with a visit to Colchester. I don't know if it was the early start (8.30am from Aylsham Market Place), but numbers were thinner for this outing than for any other that I can recall. This was a great pity because it was a highly enjoyable outing for all those who did go.

Colchester has many things to offer, and as we all went our different ways once we got there, we probably managed to see everything worth seeing between us. We saw the excellent Castle museum covering Colchester's Roman past, and the sections of the Roman city wall that still survive. We saw the beautiful half-timbered building, set in its own grounds, - "Tymperleys", which was once the home of Dr. Gilberd, physician to Queen Elizabeth I, which now contains the Clock Museum. We visited Holy Trinity church, now home to another museum, but once a Saxon church with a tower built of Roman bricks, stone and tiles. There were other galleries and museums to see, such as the Minories and the Hollytrees Museum. If one ignored all the places mentioned it was pleasure enough just to walk around Colchester and enjoy the atmosphere of the town. Some of us managed to visit most places, and even fit in a little shopping on the side.

All this was made easy for us, by the hard work of our secretary, who had visited Colchester in advance, together with Jill Fletcher, and as a result of their reconnaissance we were provided with maps and lists of places of interest and their opening times etc., so that not a second was wasted when we arrived. We knew exactly where to go. A large vote of thanks is deserved for all their excellent preparations. *T.W.M.*

—oooOooo—

## THE NORWICH TO CROMER TRAMWAY.

Tom Mollard

When the railways eventually arrived in Aylsham, we ended up with two lines, two stations and two choices of route to get us into Norwich. Despite the choice of two routes, neither of them was particularly

direct, and both involved a circuitous journey into the city.

I suspect that it is not widely known, but we could quite easily have avoided all these complications if only the plans of the East Norfolk Tramways Company Ltd. had come to fruition. We could then have enjoyed a tram ride directly to the city by the shortest and most direct route - i.e. from Aylsham Market Place, along the main Norwich road [A140] up to St. Augustine's Gate. If we had fancied a trip to Cromer, we could have caught a tram in the opposite direction right into Cromer town centre. All this would have been possible some ten years before the railways arrived in town.

What little we know today of the proposed tramway is contained in the records now preserved in the Town archives. There, we have two books of plans of all the proposed sections of the tramway showing the whole of the route from Norwich to Cromer. It was to have started in Norwich in the parish of St. Clement Without. "*opposite the entrance gate to the Green Hills Public House*" which was near to the present day Aylsham Rd/Drayton Road junction. It would have followed the present Aylsham Road out of the city, crossing what is now Norwich Airport by the old Norwich road to St. Faiths, then through Hainford, Hevingham, Marsham, Aylsham, Ingworth, Erpingham, Roughton to its terminus in Cromer, at a point in a field known as Baker's Field belonging to B. Bond Cabbell Esq.

The tramway was designed for the purpose of conveying passengers, animals, goods, minerals and parcels. We can visualise how passengers might have been conveyed, but one wonders what sort of rolling stock would have been used to convey the rest. The proposals also specified a single track serving the route, except for turn-outs or passing places. It was certainly envisaged as a true tramway (not a light railway) sharing the same road way as all other forms of transport. The provisions of the Order are quite clear, and stipulate that "*The uppermost surface of the rail to be level with the road surface*"

There were five sidings or passing places planned along the route, as follows:-

1. At St. Faiths - at a point near the junction of the Horsford Road with the Norwich to Aylsham Turnpike
2. At Hainford at the milestone [6 miles from Norwich]
3. At Marsham, at or near the junction of the Cawston Road with



the Aylsham - Norwich Turnpike.

4. At Erpingham, at or near the milestone [Norwich 14 miles/  
Cromer 6m] .
5. At Roughton, 5 chains south of the New Inn.

Arrangements for the route through Aylsham seem quite bizarre. The tramway would have entered along the Norwich Road, but at the Dog corner [Burgh Rd. junction] it was to have turned right into Burgh Rd., then left into Oakfield Rd., down the hill past the gas works, then left into Bure Way. At the end of Bure Way it would have re-joined the Turnpike for the rest of its journey. (See Fig. 1) The building which stands at the corner of Norwich Rd/Burgh Rd. was earmarked as a site for sheds and stables etc. for the Company's vehicles. A compulsory purchase order was included in the proposals for that purpose.

Yes, stables! I hadn't mentioned that it would have been a horse-drawn tramway, of course, and how long the journey would have taken is hard to imagine. The only printed description of the proposed tramway is contained in the Draft Provisional Order which was prepared for approval by Parliament in 1873. In the draft there is nothing to suggest what form of propulsion was proposed, but the provision of stabling etc, suggests that horse-trams were intended. It was far too early for electricity to have been considered, in fact the first electric tramway in England was still 20 years away in the future, when the city of Leeds installed its electric tramway in 1891.

The whole route would have followed the turnpike, and the existing plans which show the whole route are useful in that they also illustrate the features of the turnpike. A considerable amount of work must have gone into the preparation of the plans, which are very detailed. They spell out quite clearly how far the track should be from the centre-line of the roadway, and the angles of curves and gradients. Arrangements are made for the compulsory purchase of land and buildings, if necessary.

All of these meticulous plans were drawn by the engineer, Mr. Leslie Jeyes. Copies of plans of the relevant sections were sent to the Parish Clerk of each parish through which the route passed, and a complete set of all documents and plans were deposited "*on the 30th. day of November, 1871 with the Clerk of the Peace for the said county*". A note confirming that this had been done is signed by Charles Foster on the

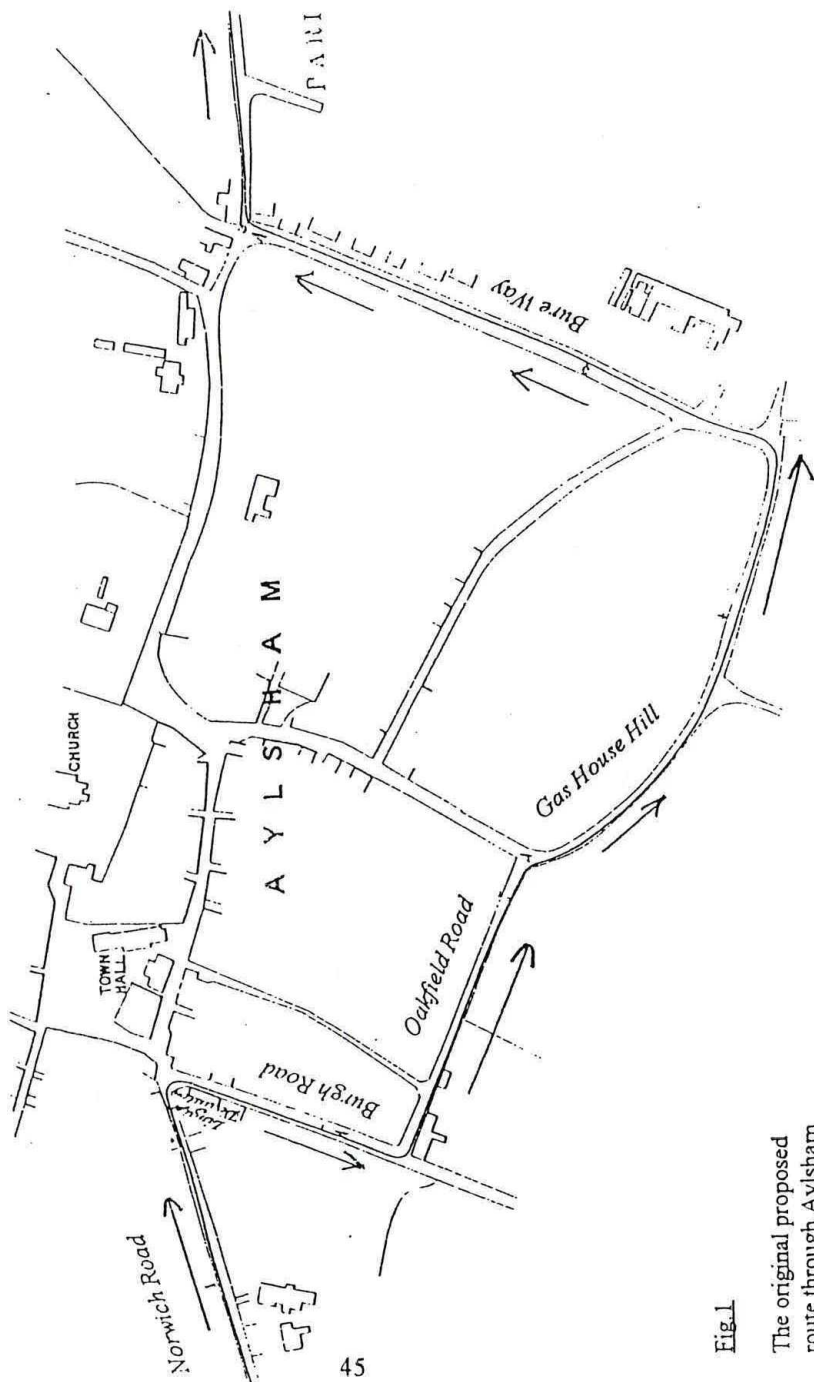


Fig.1

The original proposed route through Aylsham

cover of the Aylsham copy of the plans.

What happened next? The short answer is - we simply do not know! Two things did happen that we know of; one was that the proposers of the tramway were also submitting plans for another tramway system which would have run from Norwich to Taverham. The starting point for both routes would have been the same, i.e. opposite the Green Hills Public House, outside St. Augustine's Gate. The two routes would have split almost immediately, with the route for Taverham heading off down the Drayton Road.

I have not come across any plans or drawings for this second route, although they must have been prepared, in a similar form to those for the Cromer route. The *Eastern Daily Press* for 22nd. January 1872 confirms that the Norwich-Costessey-Taverham scheme had been approved by the Board of Trade. A Local Act was also approved by Parliament sanctioning the same scheme. I have not found any record of the Cromer scheme receiving Parliamentary approval, but the Cromer scheme arrangements had certainly not gone dead. The second event to take place at this time was a fresh look at the proposed route of the Cromer tramway. The second set of plans in the Aylsham Archives are dated one year later and reveal completely fresh proposals for the route through Aylsham. [see fig.2]. The original peculiar routing had been abandoned and a much more direct and logical route substituted. Now, the route was to split at the Dog corner with one line continuing along Red Lion Street, and another line turning left into the Market Place with a stopping and passing place positioned just about where the bus stop is today. This second line would have completed its route through the Market Place to join up with the other line in Red Lion Street. This certainly seems a more logical proposal, although on the return journey, the old horse would have had its work cut out climbing up the hill into town!

The plans for the terminus at Cromer were also considerably revised. The 1871 plan shows the route ending near Upton House, roughly where the Overstrand Road joins the Norwich Road near the traffic lights [see Fig.3]. The 1872 plan, however, takes the line a little further into town towards Church Street, turning into the Gangway, and ending behind the present East Coast Motors Garage. [see fig.4]. Incidentally, the line of the tramway along the Norwich Road had been shifted from one side of the road to the other. It is also interesting to read



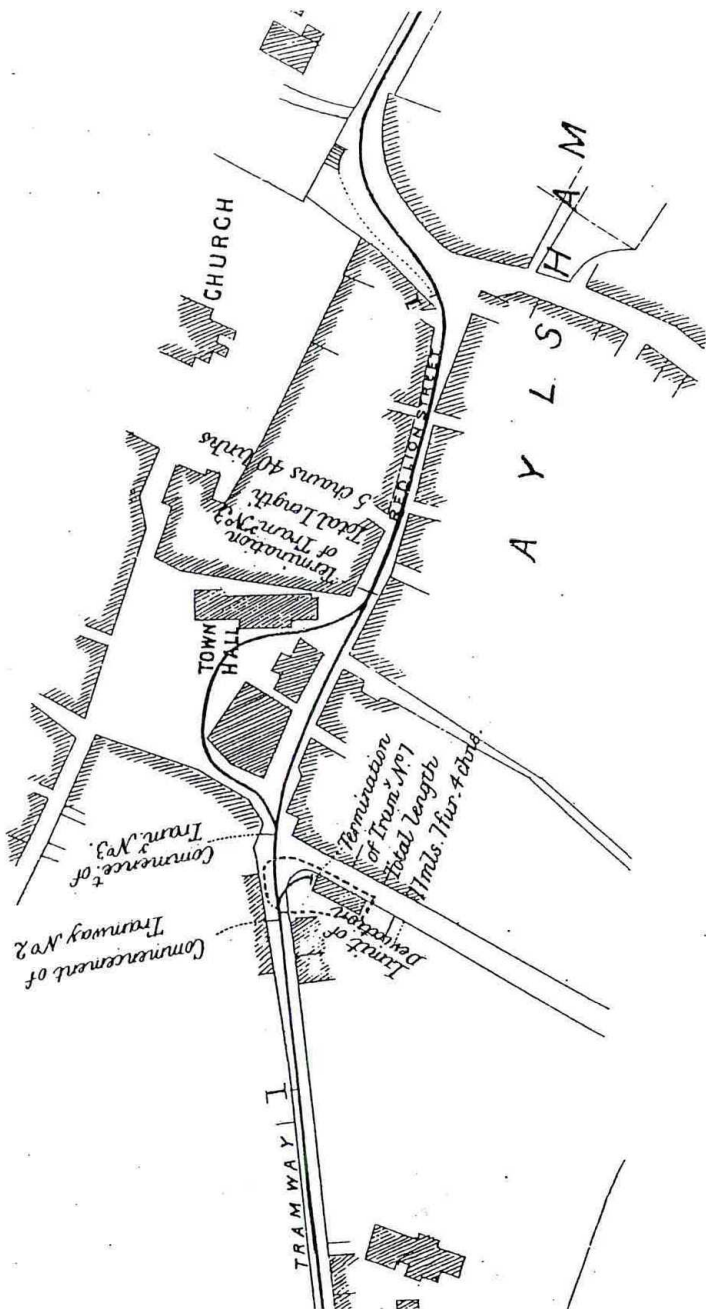


Fig. 2. The revised route through the centre of Aylsham.

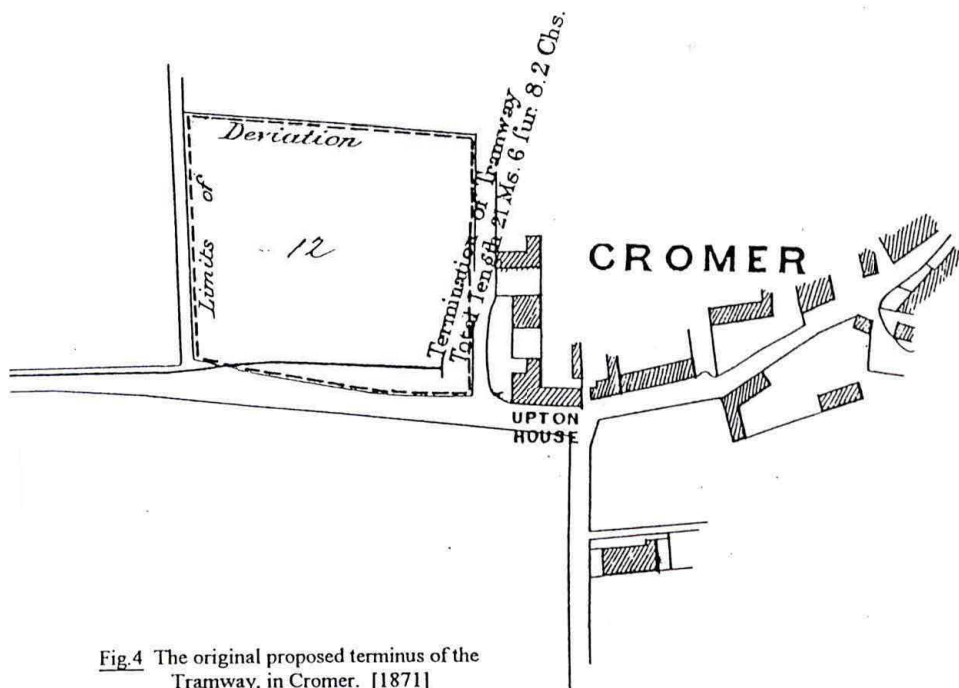
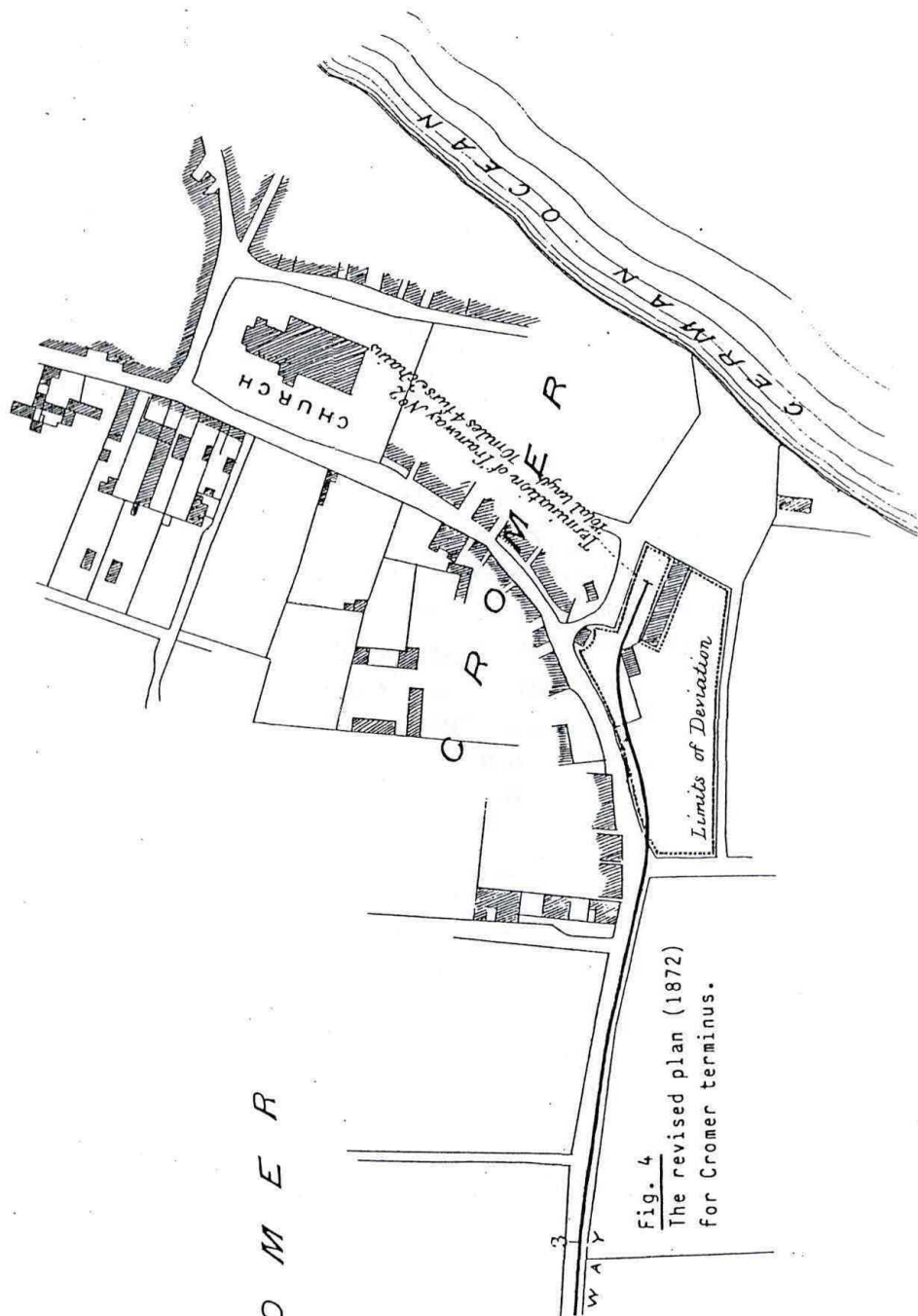


Fig.4 The original proposed terminus of the Tramway, in Cromer. [1871]

on the plans that passengers dismounting at the Cromer terminus would have been just a few short steps from the 'German Ocean'. This was 1872; when did we begin to call it the 'North Sea'?

Despite the revisions of the proposed route nothing ever happened with either proposed tramway. There seems to be no record of what eventually killed the idea off. Possibly the proposers were already hearing rumours of the Great Eastern's plans to bring the railway into Aylsham, and wisely dropped their own proposals. What a pity - it would have made a wonderful day out from Norwich unless, of course, you happened to be a horse.





## THOMAS COPEMAN OF AYLSHAM

*People who keep scrap-book collections of newspaper cuttings clearly enjoy their hobby. For the rest of us, our pleasure lies in finding such scrap-book many years after the compiler is dead and gone. There amongst the yellowing pages lie all sorts of forgotten trifles, and often details of the lives of people which are difficult to trace from any other source.*

*Recently, in a neatly compiled collection, I came across the following obituary of Thomas Copeman. He was a member of the well-known Aylsham family of bankers and lawyers. The bank that they founded we now recognise as Barclay's Bank in Aylsham, and there are still banknotes in existence issued by the family bank. Dr. Sapwell refers briefly to the family, but there is very little information given about Thomas Copeman. As usual, newspaper cuttings are left undated, but in this instance, the date '1900' is pencilled in.*

On November 13th. there passed away a man of no ordinary type of character, who belonged, except for some short periods in his life, entirely to Norfolk, and to that portion of it in which Aylsham is the centre.

Born in Aylsham in 1825 his early ambition was to take Holy Orders, but, with a ready obedience to his father's wishes he abandoned that project, and for a time practised as a solicitor and banker in his native town. After his father's death, being possessed of ample means at that time, he retired into private life and devoted himself to work more congenial to his tastes.

It was a matter of regret to some of his friends that he did not then qualify for ordination, as it was known that he possessed gifts which would have singularly adapted him for the work of the ministry, but circumstances did not favour the idea and his chivalrous regard for his

father's judgement deterred him from taking a step which might seem opposed to it. He therefore remained a layman to the end of his life, although for a few years he held a commission as lay reader in the diocese of London, and afterwards exercised the privileges of that office in the diocese of Norwich.

He was a keen student of theology, of a somewhat eclectic character. He did not confine himself to any particular school of thought, but devoured with avidity the best writings of the best authors of every school. He was a reader as well as a collector of books, and he knew by heart much that was in them. At least he knew exactly where to seek for the information he required, and there was nothing pert or quaint or pleasing to his fancy which he did not store in his memory, and make use of in the theological discussions which he loved.

Unselfish in this as in all respects, his books were freely lent in all directions, or if it seemed to him that they would be of more use to his friends than to himself, they were freely given. Strict churchman as he was, his mind was of a mystic type, attaching itself to no particular party, but rejoicing in goodness and truth whenever he saw it, even in unlikely places.

But it was as a friend that Thomas Copeman was best known and loved. How many are they who would, if they could, gladly tell how much they owe him! His sympathy was wonderful in times of trouble, and his help unstinted. He had passed through severe affliction in his early life, and this acting on his sensitive nature, caused him to become 'a hero of consolation' in the house of mourning, by the sick bed, or in the straits of poverty.

So tender and gentle could he be that it used to be said of him that he had "*a man's head and a woman's heart*" It was as a "*brother born for adversity*" that one saw him in his best light. He might stand aloof from the prosperous, and seem indifferent to those who were in no need of his assistance, but no sooner was trouble at the door, than he was there with it, eager to bear a share, or to take any pains to lighten it. He would act as well as give, and demand justice for others where he thought it was lacking, or plead for the weak against the strong. He was not always popular, for his thought was outspoken, and his sarcasm sometimes sharp, and when deeply wounded he could stand at bay; but those who knew him best loved and trusted and honoured him, as one the like of whom they

may never see again.

His health had been failing him of recent years, but no one apprehended immediate danger, when on the morning of October 18th. he was seized with paralysis, and after lingering for a few weeks, gradually passed beyond our sight, to enter upon the new life for which his devout, sincere and earnest piety had prepared him. He has left a widow and five sons, besides a large circle of friends to mourn his loss. He was laid to rest on the 16th. in Blickling churchyard, in the grave where his first wife lies buried. The service which was a quiet, but most impressive one, was conducted by his brother-in-law, the Rev. Canon Hugh Hare and his nephew, the Rev. R. Copeman, vicar of Stoke Albany.

The church was filled with friends and neighbours.

—ooOoo—

## THE BRASSES, INDENTS AND LOST BRASSES OF ST. MICHAEL'S, AYLSHAM, NORFOLK

J. Roger Greenwood, F.S.A.

*This listing was compiled by the late Roger Greenwood, F.S.A. as a part of the revision of the Mill Stephenson list of Brasses in the British Isles, published in 1926, with an appendix in 1938. This revision was carried out in 1985, and a copy of the revision was given to our chairman by Roger, some time before he died.*

1 An effigy in a surplice measuring 61.5 cms. with a foot inscription in two Latin lines, depending shield with merchant's mark. Two scrolls reach up from mouth to plate, and thence two more scrolls wind up further. All bear a text from Job. Effigy and middle of foot inscription, worn; Master **Thomas Tylson** B.C.L., vicar, according to Blomefield from 1490. Undated, but style of 1502-06. A non-Purbeck slab (222 x 93



cms.) in South east corner of the Sanctuary. Mill Stephenson [1926] queries whether the mark belongs, but T.Martin [1729] noted the mark present. Another, whose notes are bound with Martin's, sited the brass in the middle of the Chancel.

*Illustrated.B.A.A.Journal* xlix, 48 fig.22 (mark) *and* *Lancs.& Cheshire Hist.Soc.Trans.* 4S, xxvi, 34, no.79 (mark).

2 An Effigy in civil dress (41cms.). Effigy of a woman with a foot inscription in two Latin lines, **Robert Farman** and wife **Katerine** undated, but style 1480-97. Relaid in south side of the Sanctuary originally non-Purbeck slab (217.5cms x 109.5cms). Pirated by incised inscription for **Robert Curtis**, Gent.1737, and cut across by heating grill. It lies at the east end of the south side of the nave. Recorded by T.Martin (1729) "in the middle isle" The will of Robert Farman dated 20 Oct. 1485 and proved 13 July 1492, requests burial in church and indicates date.

3 Two skeletons in shrouds, both 57.5 cms.with foot inscription in two Latin lines **Richard Howard**, citizen and sheriff of Norwich, died 13th.Jan. 1499/1500, and wife **Cecilia**. Relaid in the south side of the Sanctuary. Originally non-Purbeck slab [209.7 x 82.5 (visible) cms.] partly covered. Indents cement filled. Pirated by an incised inscription for **John Soame** 1813. Lies at east end of the north aisle, and shows effigies to have been swapped when relaid,thus making most printed illustrations inaccurate.

*Illus: Busby.Comp.guide* 193 pl.14 [wrong] *Macklin. Mon.Brasses, 1 st.ed* 82  
*6th.ed* 93[effigies right but inscription shown detached] *Suffling, 248*[wrong]

4 Effigy in civil dress (46.5 cms). Effigy of a woman, both very worn, inscription and original slab gone, style 1505-22. Relaid back to back, just inside rails, south side of Sanctuary

5 Effigy in shroud, (80cms.). Described by T.Martin (1729) "his hands upon his privities, and his bowels opened" Very worn. Foot inscription [good condition] in three Latin lines **Thomas Wymer** of Aylsham worstead weaver, benefactor to the church before and after his death [notably the rood screen which bears his name] died 7th. June 1507.

Probably relaid. Purbeck slab (113.5 x 71cms.) severely cut down. In north west corner of the Sanctuary, original slab not seen. Recorded by T.Martin [1729] "in the middle isle"; by Ralph Griffin (1929 on rubbing in Cambridge collection) "relaid in a slab to direct south of high altar in chancel"

*illus; Suffling 254.*

6 An inscription (17 x 56cms.) in seven English lines, relaid in small stone in south west corner of the Sanctuary. Original slab not seen. Recorded by Le Neve [1700, bound up into Martin's notes] with second inscription "now deposited in the vestuary". Recorded by Martin [1729], the extant inscription only but with "Effigy in brasse". Recorded by Blomefield [mid-18th.century] as in the chancel, omitting the effigy, but including both inscriptions, the second as loose in the church chest. **John Furmary B.D. Cantab.**, Archdeacon of Stowe, prebendary of Walton in Lincoln cathedral, vicar of Aylsham, a "learned divine, a paneful preacher, a lovinge husband, a kinde father, a charitable neighbor, and now a blessed citizen in heaven". died 4th.August [1610 according to Blomefield], A second, and lost inscription for **Margery Furmary** "sole wife and widowe to John Furmary payneful in her laboure, provident for her Charge, faithful to hir friends, and mercifull to hir enemies". Died 28th. October 1622, aged 74, "not thro' the distemperature of a diseased body, but thro' the violence of a murderous hand". Twelve Latin verses plus two Latin lines posuit by John Furmary, their eldest son.

*Discussion and translation of Latin verses in Sapwell. 22*

7 Inscription (20.3 x 12.5cms.) in 24 English lines, shallowly engraved "The thanks of the discerning individuals of this parish are due to **John Adey Repton, Esq.** of Hare St.in the county of Essex, Architect, for the masterly manner and correct taste displayed by him in disposing of the remaining parts of the fine old screen painted in the year 1508 by Wymer's order of Aylsham of which their altar-piece is composed. Charles Norris, Rector, Peter Perring, curate, Wm. Repton. Esq, Jno.Warnes, Churchwardens, Jno.Cook, Thos. Connold, Thos. Cook, Wm. Wright, Overseers, Wm. Morris, Assistant Overseer. This beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture was put up by John and Robt. Proudfoot, 1833, at the sole expense of C.Norris" Sapwell [p.23] recorded its discovery at the

back of the reredos, August 1913, but now [1985] kept in the vestry.

8 Rectangular plate (38 x 76cms.) within a stylised foliate border with an inscription in 13 English lines with black and red infills, **Robert William Parmeter**, died 26 Sept. 1880 and wife **Sophia**, died 11 May 1881, worshippers together in this church for over 50 years, in whose memory, their daughter presented to the church "*a warming apparatus, the more effectually during the inclement season of the year, to provide for the comfort of the congregations assembling here*" Maker's name - Frank Smith and Co. London. North wall of Chancel at west end [poss. in N.?)

9 An inscription, (22.3 x 53cms.) in eight English lines, **Bertram Sewell**, J.P. resident of Aylsham over 30 years, died 1st. May 1936, aged 57; placed by some of his friends "*as a memorial to his unselfish and constant devotion to the public good*". Mounted on a stone block in the south wall of the south aisle between first and second windows from the east.

10 An inscription (10 x 22.75 cms.) in six English lines, letters shallow and filled with white, **Thomas Woods Purdy** born 17 Dec. 1873 died 20 Nov. 1960 "*peoples warden for 20 years*". Screwed on to back of stalls backing on to rood screen. North side of chancel.

11 An inscription (19.3 x 23.1 cms) in 14 English lines recording the gift of the screen in the Tower arch by **William** and **Joy Hirst** of West Lodge, Aylsham "*in thankfulness for 40 years of married life and for the blessed gift of children and grandchildren*" also in memory of their only daughter, **Jane Jessica** born 17 June 1931 and died 27 May 1962, whose ashes lie buried in the churchyard. Fixed to same oak backing as No. 14., on west wall of nave to south of Tower.

12 An inscription (7.5 x 17.5 cms) in seven English lines recording the gift of £200 towards the restoration of the organ, by **Ernest Cork** in memory of his wife **Alice Elizabeth Cork (nee Abram,)** May 1964. Screwed towards right hand end of the organ in north chapel.



13 An inscription (7.5 x 17.5 cms) in seven English lines recording the raising of £350 by means of a flower festival for the restoration of the organ, September 1964. Screwed towards left-hand end of the organ in north chapel.

14 An inscription (19.3 x 23.3cms.) in nine English lines **Thomas William Hirst** of West Lodge, Aylsham, born 21 September 1893, died 24 October 1965. Churchwarden 1954-1965; his ashes buried in churchyard. Fixed to same oak backing as No.11. on West wall of Nave, south of the Tower.

15 An inscription (10.1 x 23 cms.) in seven English lines, the letters shallow and filled with white, recording the re-leading of the spire in 1966, and that part of the cost was given in memory of the vicar's sister, **Blodwen Evans** who died 17 May 1966. On west wall within the tower, north of the door.

16 An inscription, (7.5 x 12.6 cms) in seven English lines. **James Roofe**, churchwarden 1947-54, and his wife **Gertrude**, both died in 1966 and in whose memory the cupboard in the north vestry was given by their family. Screwed to front of same cupboard.

17 An inscription (7.25 x 17.3 cms.) in three English lines, recording the installation of the discus blower for the organ, in 1969 "*through the generosity of Mr.J.F.Lee*". Screwed at left-hand end of the organ in the North chapel.

18 An inscription. (16.3 x 20.4cms.) in seven English lines, **James Daniel** and **Rose Partridge**, **Blodwen Evans** and **Sidney Vyse**, in whose memory the Lady Chapel was restored and refurnished in 1971. On west wall of South Transept.

19 An inscription (6.3 x 12cms.) in five English lines **Gertrude** and **James Roofe**, died 1966, and their daughter, **Maude Low** died 1971. Mounted on a small block of oak to the north wall of the north chapel, to the east of the door.

20 Indent inscription, (5.75 x 27.5cms.), probably local, non-Purbeck slab, pirated by incised inscription "S.A. 1818" in the north chapel, with head to the north.

21 Indent, inscription (25 x 35.5cms) depending shield. Siting of the rivets at the edges, and the shape of the shield indicates a post mid-16th. century date. Non Purbeck slab (155.5 x 79cms.) part covered and part cut through for pipes, and then filled with cement. In the north aisle at the junction of the transept crossing. Recorded by T. Martin (1729). English inscription - **Nicholas Norgate**, cleric died 16 October 1675. Son of **Thomas Norgate**, late of Aylsham, gent. Martin sketched the shield, bearing two gauntlets in saltire. Martin also noted on the same stone "small effigy of a woman and inscription; lost" [see No. 22]. The indents were presumably lost by a trench for the pipes.

22 Lost indent; probably obliterated by work for the heating pipes. Recorded by Martin (1729) "small effigy of woman, and inscription lost" Same Non Purbeck slab as No. 21, probably local. In North aisle, at the junction of the transept crossing.

23.....Indent, a chalice on a rectangular plate (13.5 x 5cms.) with contiguous inscription. On a Purbeck slab in a style of 1506-1551 period, but probably pre-1535. On the centre line of the nave, abutting chancel steps.

24.....Indent, inscription (6.5 x 32.5cms.) cement filled; probably local a non Purbeck slab, partly covered and probably cut down. At the east end of the north aisle at the transept crossing, under the arch to the north aisle.

25.....Indent, inscription (7 x 72.5cms), cement filled non Purbeck slab, pirated by an incised inscription for **Henry Norgate**, Gent., who died in 1611. Style probably local. To north of centre line of nave, at transept crossing. Recorded by Martin [1729] when brass inscription was also extant. The inscription in two Latin lines read **Margaret Howard**, died 20 December 1493, wife of **Richard Howard**, and previously of **Edward**

Cutler, citizen of Norwich. Sited in north transept. Blomefield notes Cutler was Mayor of Norwich in 1470, and Margaret was his second wife.

26.....Indent, 2 half-effigies; right hand 20 cms and left hand partly covered, joined by an inscription. The worn Purbeck slab indicates either London or early Norwich style (say 1450-1465). At the east end of the nave, just south of centre line. Recorded by Le Neve (1700, bound up in Martin's notes) in *cross isle*, "*middle of church*". Recorded by Martin [1729] in north transept, and by Blomefield (mid-18th.cent. unsited.). Inscription in three Latin lines: **John Jannys, died 18th. March 1460/1, and wife, Agnes.** Blomefield gives the day as "8".

27.....Indent, inscription (9 x 46cms.approx.) clumsily filled with cement, probably local, Non-Purbeck stone, probably cut down at the east end, partly covered. At west end of Nave, at transept crossing, under arch to South aisle.

28.....Indent inscription (3.2 x 24cms.) depending shield, London work, probably c.1450. Purbeck stone, in South transept.

29..... Indent; base of effigy in Mass vestments. Stone cut down across the effigy leaving 10cms., foot inscription. Style probably 1450-1479. Non Purbeck stone. in South Transept.

30.....Possible indent; 8 lead plugs, but no signs of rivets and the lead plugs in places obscure lines of the incised inscription to **Thomas Hawkins 1763; William B. Elvin 1821, Thomas E. Elvin 1829 and Sarah his wife, 1849.** Old, pinky non-Purbeck stone, situated centre line of Nave, in line with 4th. arch from tower.

31.....Lost brass, recorded by Le Neve (1700 bound up into Martin's notes), by Martin (1729), and by Blomefield (mid-18th.century) Inscription was in two Latin lines; **Robert Portelond**, formerly Mayor of Norwich [1477 says Blomefield], and wife, **Margaret.** Le Neve calls him "Richard", undated. Martin links it with a scroll on a small stone, and sites it in the north transept. The will of **Margaret Portelond**, widow, dated



24th. July 1495 and proved 5th. April 1496, requests burial "*in ye chirch of seint Myghell Aylesham, be my husband on ye north syde.....I will it the space before ye Rode be pathed with marbyll at my cost and charge*".

**32.....**A lost brass, recorded by Martin (1729) In the "middle isle" and by Blomefield (mid-18th. century). Inscription in two Latin lines. **Margaret Hervy**, wife of **Richard Hervy**, undated.

**33.....**A lost brass recorded by Martin (1729), on a small stone in the "middle isle", and by Blomefield, inscribed in three Latin lines **Alice Howard**, died 4th. June 1482. Blomefield gives "7th. July". and notes that she was the first wife of **Richard Howard**. [see No.3]

**34.....**A lost brass recorded by Martin (1729), in the North Transept. The inscription was in three Latin lines, **Richard Howard, Junior**, died 22 October 1493, also recorded by Blomefield, but he gives 1483.

**35.....**A lost brass recorded by Martin (1729) in north chancel [i.e. north chapel] also recorded by Blomefield.. The inscription was in two Latin lines **Robert Newman**, and his wife **Marion**. Undated. [see also No.38]

**36.....**A lost brass recorded by Martin (1729), in the North Chapel. Two effigies with an inscription in eight verses (6½ English and 1½ Latin). **Robert Orfell** and his wife, **Marion**. Undated, style probably of period 1480-1497, as the type of verses were exclusive to this style. It was also recorded by Blomefield, but he gives the name **Orwell**.

**37.....**A lost brass recorded by Martin (1729) in the chancel, and recorded by Blomefield.. It was inscribed in two Latin lines, **Edmund Frenghe**, brother of **Thomas Frenghe**, formerly vicar of this church. Undated.

**38.....**A lost brass recorded by Le Neve (1700, bound up into Martin's notes,) but not recorded by Martin or Blomefield. With Latin inscription **William Newman** and his wife **Mary**. Undated. sited in north aisle.

*Probably a misreading of No.35*

39...A lost brass, recorded by Blomefield, with Latin inscription **John Howard**, died **31 August 1505**. Unsited.

40.....A lost brass recorded by Blomefield thus, "*I find by some notes taken in this church some years since, that the following inscription is now lost*". **Robert Hakyn** and wife **Margaret**. Undated and unsited, possibly glass [see No.41].

41.....Not a lost brass, but an inscription in glass lost from a window. It was recorded by Le Neve [1700] thus, "*In the north easternmost window of the Choire (?) Ile, the pictures of a man and his wife, kneeling. "Orate pro animabus Johanis de Bedeford"* It was recorded less clearly by Blomefield [see inscription in No.40 above], and adds to Le Neve's note ".....*et.....uxoris*". Sapwell lists this as a brass.

42.....A lost brass recorded by Blomefield, with a Latin inscription mutilated.....**John Hamond 1495**. Unsited and possibly glass [see Nos. 40 and 41].

43 .....The will of **John Boller**, priest, dated 26 April 1506 requests burial in St Michael's, Aylsham "*in the chapell of seynt thomas [i.e. the South Chapel] by my fadir and modir.....I wull yt my executors after my decesse shall bye or do to be bought, 30 marbill stonnys after the lenght and brede of the stonnys yt my fadirs grave ys covered wt.and yr wt to cover my grave & as ferre cumpas about as the said stonnys may extend*"

44...The will of **William Rusburgh** of Aylesham, dated 22 October 1512, requests burial in the churchyard "*at the south west corner of the Chakir plott, next my ayen, my house. To the which sepulture I geff & biqueth to the reysyng up of the grave with a marbill stone yer on, only to be made wryn the space of a yere next after my buryall day V marks*" He also requests a marble stone costing 12/8d to cover his mother's grave in the churchyard of St.Michael's, St Albans, Herts. That he was buried in the churchyard is substantiated by No.45.

45.....Will of **John Rushburghe** of Aylsham, dated 11th. November 1518 requests burial in the churchyard of Aylsham "*by my father.....also I geve too the reysing of my grave wt tyle and to cover it wt a marbleston of Corve [=Corfe= Purbeck marble ?] £3/6/8d [i.e. 5 marks] if it may be born and my testament performyd*"

46 The will of **John Collett** of Aylsham, dated 15 May [probably in 1520,] and proved 4th. April 1521, requests burial in Aylsham church "*before the Trinitie aulter or ells next the Voyde Rome next unto my Awn cestrye. Item, I wyll that Rome be pathed with marble of my goods*"

47 The will of **Nicholas Purdy** of Aylesham, son of **Robert Purdy**, dated 18th. January 1489/90, requests burial in the church of Aylsham, before the image of St.Nicholas. "*Item pro lapide pro sepulchro. 10s.*"

48 An inscription, (5.1 x 12.2cms.) in three English lines, **May Ellen Ridgon**, 1895-1983, in whose memory heating was installed above the door to the south chapel. Erected early 1985.  
(from information by the daughter of the commemorated)

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