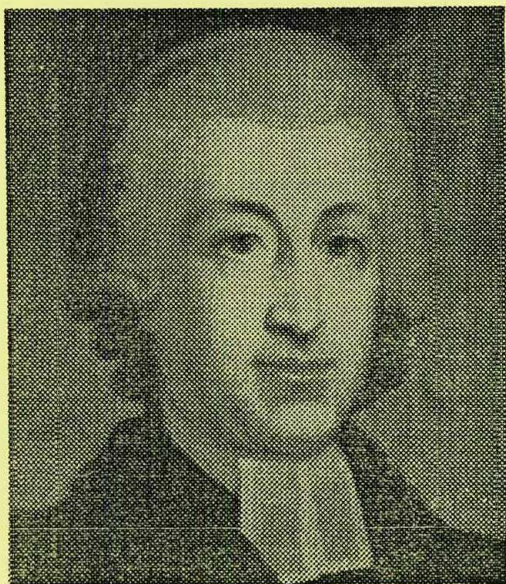


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Vol. 5 No. 10

June 1999

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### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Parson Woodforde, by his nephew, Samuel Woodforde (1806)



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY

## JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 5

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### PARSON WOODFORDE'S VISITOR

Magdalen Goffin

On Thursday 9 October 1794, Parson Woodforde and Nancy entertained a party of six people to dinner at the Rectory. Among them was his old friend, Mr Stoughton, Rector of Sparham. Mr Stoughton brought with him a young man who was introduced as a Mr. Marsh. "*Mr Marsh is a sensible young man and a Clergyman*", Woodforde remarks. "*We spent a very agreeable day of it.*"

Indeed they did. "*Our dinner was, boiled Skaite & fried Eels, Peas-soup, Rump of beef roasted, Ham and three boiled chicken, with Turnips, french Beans, Cabbage & Potatoes. 2nd course, fricasseed Rabbits, a Couple of Ducks roasted, a batter pudding with Currant jelly, Cherry and Bullace Tarts. By way of Desert, we gave them some Grapes, Pears, Wallnuts and Filberts with some Morelle-Cherries that had been preserved in Brandy. The Skaite that I sent to Norwich on purpose for turned out very indifferent and looked very dark. We had Port, Sherry & Mountain Wines, with Strong Beer, bottled Porter and good Table-Beer*".

After coffee and tea they made up two card tables; at one they played whist, at the other, cribbage. Mr. Marsh played whist, the Rector and his niece cribbage, Nancy losing 3/-, Woodforde winning the same



amount. A fine day had been followed by a fine night, so it was 9 o'clock before the visitors left.

Who was this Mr. Marsh? And was he so sensible? The first question is easily answered. Beresford did not know his Christian name. It was in fact William Heath and he was my great-great grandfather. The Marshes were an old Norfolk family. A Robert Marsh had been mayor of Norwich in 1731. His portrait by Heins the Elder, now in private hands, used to hang in St. Andrew's Hall. This Robert Marsh's great nephew, another Robert, the father of the young clergyman, was a freeman of the City of Norwich, and a rich man. He owned and presumably managed the family firm, carriers working from Tombland near the cathedral. They were the Carter Patersons of the day, and plied between London, Cambridge and Norwich. On 10th. June 1790, Woodforde himself *"sent Ben early this morning with my great cart to Norwich with a great Trunck of my brother's which is to go to London by Marsh's waggon on Friday next . . ."* He would not have known that the young clergyman who dined with him four years later was Marsh's only son.

Robert Marsh was a patriotic Englishman. When Napoleon threatened invasion, he offered the government,

"the use of a Hundred horses, twelve broad-wheeled wagons, twenty-four men as drivers, twenty-four boats amounting to two hundred tons burden, six watermen, nine boys, together with blacksmiths and wheelwrights."

His first wife was a Heath of Hemblington. They had two children; the William Heath Marsh we have already met, and a daughter, Sarah Nasmith Marsh, who married the Rev. Ellis Burroughs of Long Stratton. Their mother died young and Robert's second wife was Anne Candler, a family we shall come across again.

So much for the first question. We know something of the background of the young man Woodforde entertained, but was he really the sensible youth Woodforde took him to be?

The Rector could not have known it, but the year 1794 was a very important one for Marsh. He had taken his degree at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, been ordained and married. Family



tradition had it that his wife, Mary Leader of Newmarket, was the daughter of an inn-keeper there, and that he had met her at race meetings which, like many another well-off undergraduate, he frequently attended while still at the university. He may not have been already married when he visited Woodforde, but since there were only two and a half months left in the year in which we know he was married, it is very probable. His first child, another Robert, was born in the September of the following year, so it was not what Woodforde would have called "a compelled marriage". Nevertheless, if Mary's background was what the family said it was, one cannot suppose his father was very pleased.

However, he gave his son the manor house at Lamas, a small village not far from Aylsham, one of whose claims to fame is the burial of the author of *Black Beauty* in the Baptist churchyard there. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and in the Middle Ages had a splendid statue of its patron saint in the chancel. "*Here also*" writes a contemporary of Woodforde, "*was a guild also kept in honour of that saint, and altars, lights, roods, etc. as was customary in those dark ages of priestcraft and superstition.*"

We must presume that William Heath Marsh lived in the manor with Mary. Some of his descendants maintained that they were unhappy together, that she was not allowed to attend the dinner parties in her own house, and that in the end she drowned herself in a local pond. There is not a shred of evidence for this. What is certain, however, is that she died in 1811, aged forty. She was buried at Lamas, later to be joined there by her husband, her father-in-law, Robert Marsh, and three of her children. There are tablets to them all in the chancel.

William Heath Marsh never married again. We do not know when he left Lamas, but it was in his wife's lifetime. We do know that in 1797, he was appointed as chaplain to the 14th Regiment of Foot, commanded by General George Hotham; that he translated and published the *Satires* of Juvenal; was presented to the living of Calthorpe near Erpingham, and lived at Erpingham until he died, thirty-seven years after his wife in 1848.

He had three sons and four daughters. His eldest son, Robert, was named after his grandfather. Such are Norfolk memories, in my

girlhood he was still referred to in Aylsham, where he had retired, as "the old Major." He left home, aged sixteen, interestingly enough in the same year that his mother died. He served under Wellington in the Peninsular War as an ensign in the 24th Regiment of Foot and fought at Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelles and Orthez where he was wounded, evidently not severely, because he afterwards went to India and was one of the few to take part in the advance campaign into Nepal in 1816

Robert had two brothers. Philip and William Heath the younger. Philip's temperament seems to have been different from his brother's, although he too, perhaps using family influence, chose the army as his career. It was a mistake. He was delicate, inclined to melancholy and wrote poetry. He was only thirteen when he lost his mother.

*Oh was there not a life beyond the grave.*

he wrote when he was eighteen and still at Erpingham.

*Had we no promise of immortal bliss  
What heart so bold, what mind so pure, could brave  
The cares and sorrows of a world like this.*

Abroad, he remained desperately homesick for Norfolk, recalling the family life at Erpingham:

*When hailstones down the chimney bound  
And streams and ponds are frozen o'er  
When nutbrown ale goes gaily round  
And driving snow blocks up the door.*

His regiment was sent to Bermuda and at St. George's on Christmas Day 1821 he was overwhelmed with nostalgia:

*Of my dear parents, one is gone to rest  
The maternal eye smiles on me no more  
God save my father's life and make him blest  
With joys serene. From thy pure fountain shower  
Thy bounteous gifts upon his reverend brow  
And for his virtues spare him long below!*

It does not sound as if William Heath drove his wife to suicide. In any event, Philip fell ill, was sent home and died in 1826. He is buried at Lamas.

William Heath's third son, William Heath the younger, followed his father's footsteps. He went to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and entered the Church, succeeding the Rev. Philip Candler, his father's step-mother's brother, as Rector of Lamas. Between them they covered a hundred and twenty years as rectors of that parish, surely a record. William Heath remained a bachelor.

None, therefore, of William Heath the elder's three sons married. Nor did two of his daughters. The two, however, who did marry made interesting alliances. The eldest sister, Charlotte, my great-grandmother, married a neighbour, John Shepherd of Erpingham House, in 1820. The Shepheards were an old Norfolk family, originally from Bacton and Happisburgh on the coast. John Shepherd and Charlotte had ten children very close together. Charlotte died in her father's lifetime in 1840, either during pregnancy or after the actual birth of her eleventh child who did not survive. Her tenth and last living child was my grandfather, Philip Candler Shepherd born in 1838, who died aged ninety-four. It was healthy stock. None of the ten children died in infancy. All lived to a good age, except one who as a youth was drowned at sea. His memorial and many others of the family are to be seen in Erpingham church.

The eldest, Samuel Marsh Shepherd, also followed the family tradition and went to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He took Holy Orders and became vicar of Calthorpe while living at Erpingham House and farming the land inherited from his father. Family life went on calmly, the children grew up, were married and given in marriage. Apart from personal losses, and private griefs, all seemed set fair. In the 1870s, however, something happened that upset the rhythm of their lives. One of John and Charlotte's children was called Susanna, a Shepherd name. In 1847 her uncle, William Heath Marsh the younger, married her at Erpingham church to John Mack of Paston, a manor which had once belonged to Hambleton Custance, Squire Custance's father. One of the signatories on the marriage certificate is that of the Rev. John Custance, Rector of Blickling and Erpingham, the fourth son of Woodforde's squire. He was the "little stranger" whose birth



Woodforde recorded on 6 May 1787, was baptised privately in the nursery of Weston House five days later, and "publicly presented" in Weston church the following September.

Paston Hall is on the site of the old house of the famous Paston family, but nothing remains of the original buildings except the great barn, one of the finest in the country and for the restoration of which, lottery funds are now being solicited.

To understand what happened next, we must realise that the people we are writing about were as steeped in the ethos of the Protestant Reformation as Woodforde himself. Susanna, however, came under the influence of the writings of John Henry Newman, one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement. As we know, this was an attempt, and in many ways a successful one, to revive the Catholic element which had lain so long dormant in the Church of England. Whether rightly or wrongly Susanna came to think that the old faith was a richer and deeper interpretation of Christianity than the one that had supplanted it. Her conversion to Catholicism and the reasons for it affected the whole family, which was split down the middle. Five of the brothers and sisters became Roman Catholics, four stuck to their staunch Protestantism. Eventually, Samuel Marsh Shephard, "Parson Sam" as he was universally known, was himself converted and resigned his living of Calthorpe. Two of his sisters, besides Susanna became Catholics and later founded what was to become the present Catholic church at Aylsham.

The youngest of the family was Philip Candler Shephard, my grandfather, who had been brought up by his sisters. He lived at Abbots Hall, Aylsham. The old name for this property was "Sexton's (Sacristan's) Manor". It had been granted by king Richard I in perpetuity to the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds on condition that the monks provided four wax tapers *'to find a good and sufficient light always burning at the shrine of the blessed martyr, St. Edmund'* Historical events had rendered it impossible for Philip to comply with this condition, but he went some way towards it by converting to Catholicism. Moreover, to the alarm of his family, he had married as

his second wife, the beautiful Maria Pasqua, the Italian who as a child had walked with her father from Rome to Paris, and found fame as an artist's model. Her story has been told elsewhere\*

As so often, the change of religion caused bitterness in the name of religion. Brothers and sisters born in the same house did not speak to each other. The Rector of Erpingham (not, I am glad to say, Mr. Custance) refused to have Parson Sam and his sisters buried beside their parents in his churchyard, because they were renegades. It is difficult for many of us, who believe so little and are so vaguely charitable, to enter into the feelings of country people then. Protestant attitudes towards Catholics were not unlike those of today's Orangemen.

There was another sister, Anna, the youngest daughter of William Heath Marsh. She was named after Anne Candler, her grandfather's second wife. She married William Cooper of Norwich who had been educated at Oxford and Lincoln's Inn, and was an author and dramatist. He and his wife were godparents to their nephew, William Shephard of Erpingham House. Their son was the surgeon (Sir) Alfred Cooper, born the same year as his first cousin, Philip Candler Shephard, and the father of Alfred Duff Cooper, the first Lord Norwich. Charlotte had died at forty-three, worn out with constant child bearing. Anna had four children. She lived for sixty years after her sister, dying in 1900 at the age of ninety-two.

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\**Maria Pasqua* by Magdalen Goffin. OUP 1979

[This article first appeared in the Quarterly Journal of the Parson Woodforde Society. (vol XXXI No.3) for Autumn 1998. I am grateful to Mrs Goffin and to the editor of the Parson Woodforde Society Journal for their permission to reprint it in our Journal & Newsletter]

By one of those strange coincidences, I have also been given the following newspaper account which links directly with the article by Mrs Goffin. - *Ed.*

100 YEARS AGO

## **NEW CATHOLIC CHAPEL AT AYLSHAM OPENING CEREMONY.                      April 8 1899**

On Thursday morning, a small Catholic chapel, built by the Misses Shephard of Aylsham on their grounds, was blessed and opened by the Very Rev. Canon Duckett, D.D. After blessing the chapel and before saying Mass, the Rev. Canon, turning to the small congregation, numbering one dozen, said,

"this little chapel, dedicated to St. John of the Cross, has been built by the Misses Shephard in memory of their brother, the late Mr. Samuel Marsh Shephard. It is to me a melancholy satisfaction to have taken part in this small function, as this chapel is built in reparation for the indignity which was, on the occasion of his funeral, offered to Mr. Samuel Marsh Shephard, for whose soul I now proceed to offer the adorable sacrifice of the Mass."

In the interior, over the entrance, is a brass cross and plate on which is inscribed the words:

*In memory of  
Samuel Marsh Shephard  
Died 1st August 1898  
Aged 76  
May he rest in peace*

This report appeared in the Eastern Daily Press for April 8th. 1899. The indignity referred to was the refusal of the Rector of Erpingham [Canon F. Meyrick] to have Samuel Shephard buried with his parents in Erpingham churchyard because of his conversion to Catholicism. Samuel, born 1822, had been the Vicar of Calthorpe [1863-1892]. Other members of the Shephard family of Erpingham had converted to Catholicism, and Samuel later resigned his living and joined them.

---ooOoo---



## THE CHURCH OF St. JOHN OF THE CROSS, AYLSHAM.

As a tailpiece to the previous items, we can record that the Catholic church of St. John of the Cross in Aylsham, celebrated its centenary on the 6th. April 1999.

The celebratory Mass was said by the Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt. Rev. Peter Smith in the company of several clergy who had been associated with the Aylsham church in previous years, together with the present priest-in-charge, Rev. Peter Marsh, who is also a member of our society. The celebrations were held exactly 100 years to the day of its original opening, and in marked contrast to the original opening ceremony a large congregation was present, together with other clergy from the town and other dignitaries.

The original chapel had been given by the Misses Charlotte and Elizabeth Shephard, and as a unique link with the past, three of the nieces of the original donors were present at the service - Mrs Teresa Chapman, Mrs Catherine Davenport and Mrs Magdalen Goffin. At the end of the service Mrs Goffin briefly recounted the history of the foundation of the chapel. The whole of the story is contained in her book of 20 years ago\* (still available in the local library) and is a most entertaining read.

For those interested in collecting publications on Aylsham history, there is now a very attractive booklet available on the history of this church, written and published by Mr. I.M. Andrews to mark the centenary and available from the church and presumably from Barnwells. The evening concluded with a pleasant celebratory supper in the Town Hall, and now the next 100 years begins . .

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\**Maria Pasqua* by Magdalen Goffin. OUP 1979

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## SOCIETY NEWS

**Roman Norfolk** - was the subject of David Gurney's lecture on February 25th. and what we heard kept us all fascinated. When every Roman find in Norfolk is recorded on a map, the whole area is covered in dots. Sadly, there is not a great deal left to see above ground.

The Iron Age Warham camp (near Wells) is an impressive earthwork, and the gold torques from Snettisham, prized by the Iceni, are unparalleled in Europe. The Iceni welcomed the Romans in AD43 but by AD61 Queen Boudicca found their interference had become intolerable, and she and her followers rose in revolt, fighting and burning to London. Despite their use of highly manoeuvrable light wicker and wood chariots, pulled by two small swift ponies, they were finally defeated by the highly disciplined Roman army. The Romans kept the Iceni under strict control and built many garrisoned forts, but after about 15 years of repression things settled down again and the Iceni were gradually assimilated.

The Roman landscape differed from today. To the east was the Great Estuary with all the rivers deeper, wider and navigable. (The Yarmouth spit formed in the ninth century.) Peddars Way, in the west, led to Holme-next-the-sea with a ferry across to Lincolnshire to avoid the flooded fens. Hadrian in the 2nd. century built canals to drain the fens to grow corn to feed his armies. The land was filled with about 100,000 native people on small settlements and farms. Venta Icenorum, "Market Place of the Iceni", was built at Caistor St. Edmund in AD70 as an Iceni capital and administrative centre to control them. It covered 70 acres and had a forum, a basilica, temples and bath houses, and the streets were on a grid pattern with houses and shops. The River Tas was its waterway. In AD270, half the town was fortified by a stone wall. Some of the stone has been robbed, but there is still a lot left to see. Skeletons with cut marks were found. A massacre?. More probably spades dug into a cemetery when they built the walls. The town had a population of 2,000 - 3,000. Caister-on-sea was a Roman fort built in a wild and desolate spot, now in the middle of a housing estate. Burgh

castle was built later on the opposite side of the estuary with massive walls, still at full height, finishing with a skin of mortar and marks of hobnail boots on top.

Brampton was surrounded by a defence ditch. There were wells, a temple and about 140 pottery kilns. Grey pot kitchenware was made and also white mortaria (mixing bowls). There was also metal working, all very successful. Brampton pots were found on Hadrian's Wall. Nothing visible remains. The Romans built many forts along the coast against possible Saxon invasion. Brancaster fort had a small town grow up outside its walls providing every facility for the garrison. A find at Old Buckenham turned out to be a unique bronze mould for making a brooch. A head at Roydon, Diss, sat on a grass verge for years and was found to be a 2nd. century AD marble head of a Roman Emperor and sold for £55,000 about 12 years ago.

Aylmerton Roman Camp may be field walked, metal detected and aerial photographed for Roman remains in vain. An early pub landlord gave it its totally erroneous name! All this, and much else made David Gurney's lecture full of interest for us. **Jill Sheringham**

**Changes on the Norfolk Coast** - The usual packed audience that we have come to expect, heard Chad Goodwin deliver a first rate account of the effects of the battle between the sea and Norfolk's coastline. It was a study of landscape history, looking at the history of landscape to learn how landscapes form, and observing today's landscape to learn from what we see, what must have been the circumstances that formed it.

We learned about the three main stretches of the county coastline - Hunstanton to Weybourne; Weybourne to Happisburgh and Happisburgh to Yarmouth, each stretch different to its neighbour. It turned out, in a way, like a series of episodes. We saw how Scolt Head and Blakeney Point formed and grew and changed their shapes over the centuries. We saw how harbours formed and later silted up. How Wiveton declined and Cley survived; how Cromer diminished from the effects of the sea as Shipden was washed away, whilst Sheringham grew larger. Further down the coast, Eccles slowly surrendered to the sea, but it took until 1895 before the church tower finally collapsed. It was a detailed and enthralling account of man's attempts to cope with



the attacks from the sea. Some they won, some they lost, but one thing became obvious from the start - every effort in one place had a knock-on effect somewhere else along the coast, usually detrimental, and this is still happening today. **T.W.M.**

**The River Bure from Aylsham to Horning** - On Thursday, 22nd. April a large audience of members and friends listened to a talk by Eric Reading describing this stretch of the river, illustrated with slides from photographs and early postcard views of the river, and revealing a lifestyle less rushed than the sort we know today. It inevitably dwelt largely on the great flood of August 1912 and its effects. On the 26/27th August seven inches of rain fell in less than eight hours, and the resulting build-up of water destroyed many road bridges in the area. Railway lines and embankments were also damaged and stations flooded.

Aylsham bore its share of the floods. Mash's Row was flooded; a train was trapped in one of the stations through damage caused by the flood, but worst of all was the final extinction of the navigation brought about by the destruction of the locks on the river Bure. We saw the effects all the way down stream; flooded buildings; damaged mills; wherries trapped between damaged locks and the end of the visits of the great wherries which had plied regularly between Aylsham and the rest of the Norfolk waterways. We saw where the wherries were built such as the family boatyards like Allens of Coltishall. With the end of the wherries there was also the end of a particular way of life. Without the floods the wherries would still have faded into history as other forms of transport were introduced.

More recent history was illustrated with the great fire at Wroxham, where Roys department store was completely destroyed in 1994, and this lead naturally to scenes of how Roys developed over the years from a convenience store for Broads holiday makers to becoming the "Largest village store" in the country. We also saw how the few remaining wherries survived to become holiday craft and happily for us, give us a small insight into how the river must have looked as they sailed majestically through Broadland. **Barbara Richardson**

**Outing to Lavenham and Otley** - This outing, due to take place shortly is now fully subscribed, and there will be a report of the day's events in the next *Journal*.

**Visit to Wymondham** - details of this event should be enclosed with this issue of the *Journal*, and names of those who wish to go should be given to Betty Gee as soon as possible.

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## NOTES & QUERIES

**Rump family** - following the enquiry in the last *Journal*, for details of his family, Mr L. Rumph, has kindly donated a generous sum to the society's funds. It is a gesture well appreciated. Many thanks.

**CRAFER family of Buxton** - Our secretary has received an enquiry about a Buxton family named CRAFER in the nineteenth century. While in Australia on holiday, the enquirer was given information about David Crafer (1796-1842) and his wife, Mary Anne (née LEGGATT of Dereham.) They were married in Dereham in 1837 when Mary Anne was 21 and David 40. He was described as a butcher, of Buxton and his father was Thomas Crafer.

They went to Australia soon after and lived near Adelaide in a village now called 'Crafer', and started a hotel, once called the *Norfolk Arms* and now known as *Crafer's Hotel*. David Crafer was successful there, but died in 1842 and his young wife married a second and third time. There was a letter from a brother in England which hinted that David had left Norfolk rather hurriedly!

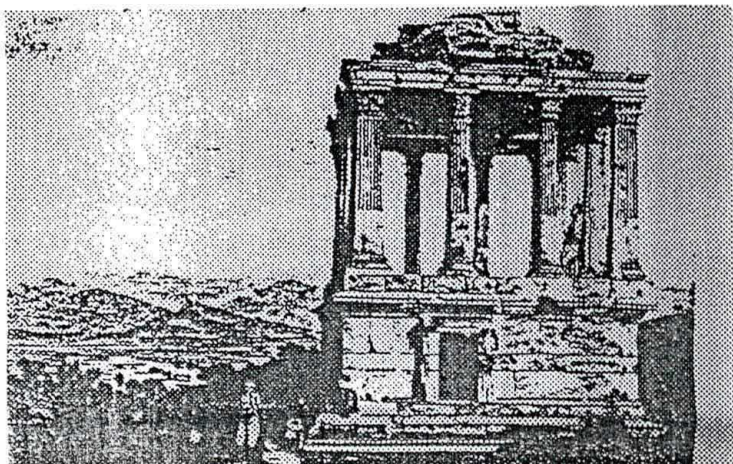
The enquirer, Mr. Peter Tyler, "Oakdene" Weasenham Road, Litcham. PE32 2QT (Telephone 01328-701657) would be interested in information on the Crafer family, possibly brothers and sisters of David.

---ooOoo---

## "NORFOLK AND THE GRAND TOUR"

A lecture by Andrew Moore, Keeper of Art, Norfolk  
Museums Service

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm**  
at the Lecture Theatre, Sainsbury Centre



Andrew Moore, author of *Norfolk and the Grand Tour* will be giving a fascinating and entertaining lecture on the various Norfolk families who went to the continent in search of art, culture and amusement in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The talk will explore not only the personalities involved, but also the art treasures and other souvenirs brought back by these intrepid travellers.

There will be a special viewing of the exhibition **Be moved . . .** from 5 to 5.45pm for those attending the lecture



# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## HALF-DAY VISIT TO WYMONDHAM

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 1999

COST: £6.00 excluding tea

Meet in Aylsham Market Place at 1 pm Return by 5.30 pm

An afternoon visit by coach to Wymondham has provisionally been arranged, based on the WYMONDHAM HERITAGE MUSEUM at the Bridewell. The Museum tells the story of this historic Elizabethan prison and of the founding of the Abbey, but also has displays on Robert Kett and local industry. The Curator would give an introductory talk. A Guided Walk of about one hour round the historic centre of Wymondham is also planned. The Museum and Tea Room shuts at 4 pm but the latter could be kept open for tea/coffee and cakes by prior arrangement. There are of course other refreshment possibilities in the town as it is NOT early closing day. For example, the Abbey Hotel in Church Street (tel no 01953 602148) would do Tea and Danish pastry for £1.85) but would want notice. Their Cream Tea (Pot of tea, 2 scones Jam & cream) would be £3.75 per person.

The price given includes the Guided walk round the centre but members would be free to stay in the Museum or wander on their own. It is anticipated that we would leave from a central car park at 4.45 pm. Since it is some time since we have had a half-day expedition and the Museum/Guide requires confirmation, I must ask you to return the slip below by 20<sup>th</sup> July.

26<sup>th</sup> May 1999

BETTY GEE Secretary

NAME .....

TEL NO .....

Please reserve ..... place/s on the Wymondham Half-day visit on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

I would/ would not like to go on the Guided Walk.

Please arrange for the Museum Tea Room to stay open until 4.30 pm Yes/ No

I enclose cheque for ..... in respect of ..... places

Please return by 20<sup>th</sup> JULY to:

Betty Gee

Oakfield End

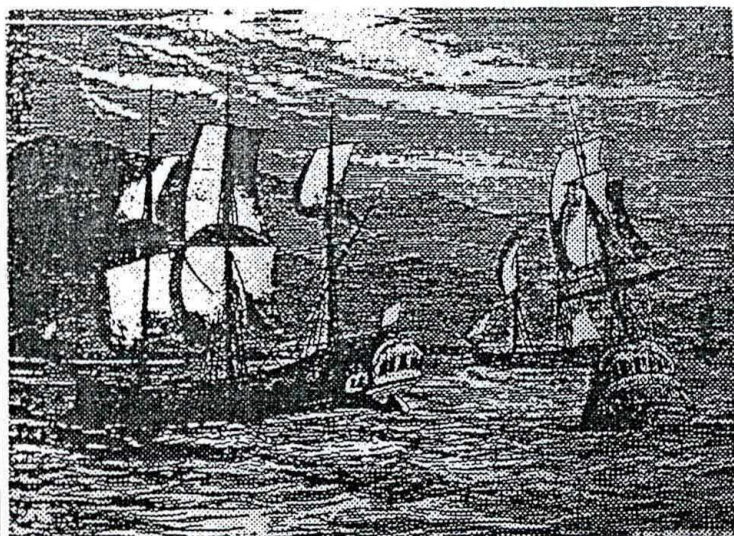
Oakfield Road

Aylsham

Norfolk NR11 6AL

**"TRANSPORTED ACROSS THE SEA"**  
**Convict Transportation to Australia**  
**From Norfolk County Gaol**

A Lecture by Nick Arber  
**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 1999 at 3pm**  
at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts



THE "FIRST FLEET"

Nick Arber will address the transportation of convicts from Norfolk in the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, rediscovering the forgotten history of people who were forced to leave their homes and families and journey half way across the world in punishment for their crimes.

The exhibition **"Be moved . . . Journeys of Body and mind"** (7<sup>th</sup> June - 11<sup>th</sup> July) features several artefacts never previously displayed to the public from the history of convict transportation in Norfolk

## SAINSBURY CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS

Details of an exhibition to be held at the Sainsbury Centre, accompanied by two lectures, have been received and could be of interest to many of our members. The event is the M.A. in Museology exhibition, entitled "**Be moved . . . Journeys of Body and Mind**"

It will run from **June 8<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>**. It will look at all types of journeys, from Captain Cook's voyages to pilgrimages and journeys of the imagination. It will gather objects from museums all around the country, many of which have not previously been on public display. **Be Moved . . .** will also look at more local themes relating to the history of Norfolk, and two lectures on local themes have been arranged to complement this aspect of the exhibition.

Admission to the lectures is free - details of both lectures are given here

--oooOooo--

## THE HORSTEADS OF HUNGATE STREET

Joan Turville-Petre

The Horstead family which owned a block of little houses in Hungate Street, Aylsham, for a full century had three distinguishing characteristics: they were nearly all bricklayers; they bought small properties as an investment; they named the eldest son John or James.

There were quite a few Horsteads in Aylsham at the end of the eighteenth century. There had been none in 1706<sup>1</sup>. Most of them were bricklayers, and the building trade tended to be itinerant. *Aylsham in 1821*<sup>2</sup> shows two families in a block of cottages in Hungate Street (14-20 in modern numeration). The owners are John and James Horstead, each married with a family. Two other sites, in the north of Aylsham, are occupied by Horsteads; the heads of household are John and James.

The Poor Law<sup>3</sup> assessments give a rough idea of people's financial standing. In 1817 a John Horstead was assessed at £3 on his house. By 1819 there was a James as well. In 1822, John, James and John junior were all paying. So the family probably had a foothold in



Hungate Street before *Aylsham in 1821*<sup>2</sup> [the first topographical record of the town's population]. They did not as yet own the whole block:-

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
|                      | 12 - under construction |
| <i>Modern street</i> | 14 - Widow Barnes       |
| <i>Numbers</i>       | 16 - John Horstead      |
|                      | 18 - Widow Duffield     |
|                      | 20 - James Horstead     |

By the Tithe Award Survey of 1839<sup>4</sup>, they owned all except No.12, the property of Mrs. Nobbs, the postmistress:-

| <u>TA</u> | <u>Owner</u>       | <u>Occupier</u>                   |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 108       | John Horstead      | Charles Russell                   |
| 108.01    | " "                | John Horstead                     |
| 109       | James Horstead     | James Horstead                    |
| 109.01    | Harriet Horstead   | Elizabeth Horstead                |
| 110       | Elizabeth Horstead | James Lemmon                      |
| 110.01    | " "                | William Cooper                    |
| 111       | John Horstead      | John Horstead (shops &<br>garden) |

Here, the females identify the family. John (1765-1836) married Elizabeth Barnes in 1788<sup>5</sup>. Their only son was Edward. Harriet was their youngest, unmarried daughter. Provision was made for her and for her mother. John could be uncle of James. The complex housing arrangements suggest close relationship. He died in October 1836<sup>5</sup>. It seems that the Tithe Award Survey<sup>4</sup> was not quite up to date; Elizabeth is termed a widow in the 1836 Parish Registers.

The tenant, Charles Russell, was a blacksmith, aged 28 in 1838 and married. He raised four children in No. 14, and housed a blacksmith's lad. He was there in 1851. The houses occupied by Lemmon and Cooper were just inside the next yard. They were superior to those on the road, having gardens instead of small yards.

The Horsteads had by now bought up the whole block (all these little houses are contiguous) with the exception of No.12, the property of Mrs. Nobbs the postmistress. The business was continued by her daughter. It is curious that in the back garden wall between Nos. 12 and

14 there is a stone inscribed 'HORSTEADS WALL 1837'. This wall is now incorporated into an extension of No.12, and is rendered, but the inscription is left open.

John had acquired some garden and buildings in the space behind their homes (not the cottages still standing there.) This space was now known as Horstead's Yard (a name that has not survived) but there are still people who can point to the corner where "Mr Horstead had his workshop."

James was the elder son of James Edward Horstead and Ann Stewart. [m.1789]. They had two living sons and three who died in infancy. In 1817 James married Ann Maystone (Ann was the favourite girl's name at this time and place). The Maystones were close friends of the Horsteads, and there were several intermarriages. Their first child was christened John Maystone [b.1818] who to his credit used his full baptismal name.

James' mother, Ann, died in 1836 aged 74. She appears in the 1836 (White's) directory, listed amongst '*Bricklayers*', living in Workhouse Lane, and carrying on a bricklaying business, apparently after her husband's death [a James Horstead was buried in 1829 aged 63].

In the census return for 1841 a new John Horstead, aged 50, appears in the Hungate Street group. He is a master bricklayer, whereas James (now 45) is still a journeyman. I do not know his parentage, but he must be another close relation. One child is entered for John and his wife - Emily aged 12. No daughter, Emily, is entered for James, but he certainly had one, born 1828, and he left her £5 by his will. It looks as if John and Susan had temporarily adopted one of James' six children, perhaps to ease pressure on sleeping space?

By the time of the 1851<sup>7</sup> census, James's family is reduced to his wife and two daughters. John Maystone was married with two young sons, living in Horstead's yard, or somewhere near it. Now the fortunes of Horsteads and their houses rise, only to collapse at the end of the century.

John Maystone prospered as builder and brickmaker. In the 1879<sup>6</sup> directory he describes himself as a private resident. In the 1883 directory<sup>6</sup> he is 'builder and contractor', in a full blown advertisement.

His father's will left everything to John Maystone; his younger son, James, had died prematurely leaving two children. Thus, John Maystone inherited the little empire begun by his great-uncle (?), John.

As well as the block of four houses, John had bought up what he could of the yard behind (another prospector had taken five cottages). John Maystone himself had bought at auction [December 1881] seven cottages in Unicorn yard for £180. At some point in between more valuable property had been added - No. 38 Hungate Street [thatched] and the two houses beside it; also the only good houses in Unicorn Yard - Nos. 1 and 3. He died in 1893. Although he must have been comfortably off in the last decade of his life, there is no sign that he lived anywhere but Hungate Street, where his daughter was still living in 1896, according to the directory<sup>6</sup>.

He left a son, James, and two daughters; the younger married in London. James became a bricklayer in Hampstead. He was executor of his father's will, which directed that all his property should be sold and the proceeds divided between the three heirs. James died intestate in 1929 having done very little by way of distribution. The ultimate beneficiaries were two female friends of Emily and Agnes. They disposed of the property by auction in 1952.

#### SOURCES

1. Aylsham Local History Society *Journal & Newsletter*. (vol 2 p.326)
2. *Aylsham in 1821*. A.L.H.S. 2nd ed. 1997
3. Poor Law documents in Town Archives (Aylsham Town Hall)
4. Survey Map of Aylsham 1839 (Wright's) A.L.H.S. 1995
5. Parish Registers. NRO
6. Directories of Norfolk [White's, or Kelly's]
7. Census Returns. NRO

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## *Down Memory Lane*

In the previous *Journal* we were entertained by Gilbert White's "walk" through the town, recalling the people he could remember from many years ago, and the houses and shops where they lived and worked.

In this issue we have a similar tour of reminiscence of people and places by Russell Craske of Oakfield Road, But this time in verse:-

### *AYLSHAM TOWN*

In Aylsham Town when I was a lad  
One little school was all we had,  
Two barbers' shops to cut our hair  
Eleven pubs all serving beer  
Two stationery shops with papers and books  
Three bakers' shops with all good cooks  
Six grocery shops with lots to eat  
Four butchers' shops to supply our meat  
Two chemists shops with all the pills  
Two doctor's surgeries to cure our ills  
Seven confectionery shops with sweets for all tastes  
Two fish and chip shops selling sole, cod and plaice  
One little shop selling bread and cakes  
Four garages selling cars of all makes.  
Three cobblers' shops kept shoes on our feet.  
Lots of policemen on the beat.  
Greengrocers' shops of which we had four,  
One would deliver to your door.  
Two mills to grind the farmers' corn.  
Three merchants selling coal to keep us warm.  
Three jewellery shops selling silver and gold,  
Clocks and watches, new and old.  
Two harness makers to keep horses neat.  
Two blacksmiths' shops to see to their feet.  
Four drapery shops with clothes for all.



A recreation ground for cricket and football.  
Two football teams to score the goals.  
Three ironmongers with nuts, bolts and tools.  
Milk delivered to your door, twice a day,  
Fresh from the farm half a mile away.  
Third of a pint for each pupil at school break  
Tuppence halfpenny was all for the week would take.  
Gaslight lit the street, although not very bright.  
Turned off each morning and on again each night.  
Funfair on the Market, or on the Buttlands.  
Hospital Sunday with the pipe and drum bands.  
Sometimes a circus would come to town,  
Blickling Road field or Cawston Road Sale Ground.  
The town had two bands at that time of day.  
Most weekends on the Market they would play.  
Stalls on the Market, Saturday nights,  
Dimly lit with lantern lights.  
Apples, oranges, bananas galore,  
Boys selling Pink'uns, earning twopence a score  
No piped water, it had to come from a well,  
A few slugs and snails, but it didn't smell.  
Three builders of houses, all doing repairs.  
A Funeral service using a horse-drawn hearse for years.  
No flush toilet, unless you were rich.  
Loo up the garden at night black as pitch.  
Squares of old newspaper threaded with string,  
You could read the news as you did your own thing.  
Two railway stations to city or coast.  
One little post office for letters and parcels to post.  
A lot of old characters we had in the town,  
(Chimney sweep) George Bean, (Honey cart) "Tilly Baker",  
"Webby Brown"  
"Alec Pratt" and his bike, and are you ha'ar Mr Grix.  
Bob Riseborough and his shout, "Hello, are ya about" each  
morning before six.  
A few others I remember to add to that;  
Billy Larter, Maudy Forster, and big lady Bessie Pratt.

A workhouse at the far end of town  
 For the homeless and tramps when they were around.  
 A beautiful church and chapels five.  
 A Town Hall for dances and many a whist drive.  
 The Salvation Army always on hand  
 With their group of songsters, also their band.  
 Wireless and seventy eight records were our 'Top of the Pops'  
 We played with conkers, pop guns, marbles and tops.  
 We all had hoops, be it rubber or steel,  
 An old motor tyre or a bicycle wheel.  
 Collecting for the bonfire out highlight of the year,  
 Any old rubbish the shops had to spare.  
 Guy Fawkes night came, we just couldn't wait  
 To see whose fire was the largest - Buttlands or Millgate.  
 I had four headmasters at school in my day,  
 Sadly, they have all long passed away.

---ooOoo---

## IN THE STEPS OF THE PUNDITS

Alan L. Shaw

In Letheringsett church, about one mile west of Holt, is a wall plaque inscribed:-

To the memory of  
 LIEUT-COLONEL FREDERICK MARSHMAN BAILEY C.I.E.  
 3rd. February 1882 - 17th. April 1967  
 The Younghusband Expedition to Lhasa 1903  
 Explorations in Tibet 1911-13; Awarded the Royal & Royal  
 Scottish Geographical Societies Gold Medals  
 Wounded at Ypres & Gallipoli 1914-15. Mission to  
 Russian Turkestan 1918-20. British Minister  
 at the Court of Nepal 1935-38. Kings Messenger 1942-43.

The plaque summarises the career of this remarkable man who could have stepped out of the pages of a John Buchan thriller. His remains are interred in the churchyard nearby in the Cozens-Hardy family tomb. He had a distinguished career as an officer both in the Indian Army and the elite Indian Political Service, and as an explorer, botanist, lepidopterist, oriental linguist, secret agent, diplomat and finally, best selling author.

In 1922 he married the Hon. Irma Cozens-Hardy, elder daughter of the 2nd. Baron Cozens-Hardy, and after his retirement in 1938 they lived at Warborough House, Stiffkey, Norfolk. Even in retirement his adventurous career was unfinished. In Britain's darkest hours in 1940 he commanded the Home Guard in North Norfolk. An obituary disclosed that he secretly also commanded the North Norfolk "Auxiliary Units" part of a nationwide guerrilla force set up by Winston Churchill to fight on, in the event of German invasion. From 1942 to 1943 he served in Central and South America as a King's Messenger. He is considered by many to have been the last player of the "Great Game", the covert counter-intelligence campaign between Russian and British-Indian agents which was waged from the early nineteenth century until the 1917 Russian Revolution.

To agree boundaries with neighbouring states it is first necessary to define the frontiers by maps based on accurate and detailed survey. The systematic mapping of India was commenced early in the nineteenth century near Madras, and continued northwards for many decades by successive officers of the Royal Engineers seconded for that task to the Surveyor General of India. This operation became known as "*The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India*" and was not even halted during the course of the Indian Mutiny of 1857. The details are recorded in twenty large volumes, at least five of which survived the destruction by fire in 1994 of Norwich City Library.

It was carried out with enormous labour and meticulous accuracy. A key instrument, hauled to the top of many of the highest peaks, was a theodolite weighing nearly half a ton. The height of Everest was first measured by Nicholson, a member of the Survey of India staff in 1849-50 using two trigonometrical points 110 miles away to the south and only 220 feet above sea level. It was not until 1856 that it was named after Sir George Everest, who had retired from the post of

Surveyor General in 1843.

Before India and Pakistan achieved independence in 1947 the Indian sub-continent was governed firstly by its agents, the East India Company and, after the 1857 Mutiny, the British Government of India, headed by successive Viceroy's. Throughout the nineteenth century the Russian Empire, on one pretext or another, gradually expanded eastwards into Central Asia, and was thus seen by the British Indian Government to threaten the neutrality of Afghanistan and Tibet which, for the defence of India, British diplomacy aimed to preserve as neutral buffer states. Although China claimed dominion over Tibet, the decline and demise of the Manchu dynasty left China too weak, at that time, to enforce its claim effectively until the formation of the People's Republic in 1949.

The natural defensive barriers of the Indian sub-continent are the great mountain ranges of the Hindu Kush, the Pamirs ("the roof of the world"), the 1500 mile long Himalayas running from the 26,661 ft. Nanga Parbat in the west, to the 25,445 ft. Namche Barwa in the east, and the rivers and mountains of Burma. Also, a giant river, the Tsangpo, runs west to east across Tibet and disappears into the eastern Himalayas. A map of Bengal, published by the East India Company in 1857, shows that it then ran south as the River Dihong, and emerged into India as the Brahmaputra.

However, until the explorations of 1911 of Captain Bailey, and in 1913 of Captain Bailey and Captain Morshead R.E. it had not been officially established whether the Tsangpo emerged into India as the Brahmaputra, or into Burma as the Irrawaddy. At each end of the chain of mountains were hostile, indigenous tribes. In the centre, on their high plateau behind the Himalayas, the Tibetans attempted successfully to preserve their culture by discouraging the entry of all foreigners, including the Chinese.

But surveying and defining the details of the mountainous northern frontiers of India posed special problems. In those days, long before the development of aerial photography, and because of the hostile attitudes of the independent peoples inhabiting the region, the only practicable method was for secret agents to travel on foot, usually alone, disguised as pilgrims or traders, at risk of their lives if discovered. As Europeans were too easily recognised, from 1863



Colonel T. G. Montgomerie R. E. of the Survey of India, selected and trained Indian nationals, natives of the Tibetan frontier regions. They became known as "pundits", adding a new dimension to the Indian name for a respected intellectual. Each was known only by coded initials until retirement or death. When on a secret mission in remote and dangerous areas of the Himalayas each would walk for months on end, counting his measured paces with the aid of a 100 bead rosary, and carrying a Buddhist prayer wheel fitted secretly with a magnetic compass, and small rolls of paper for recording survey work. One of the most famous, Kintup (codenamed 'KP') was actually illiterate, but possessed a phenomenal memory enabling him to recollect details of arduous journeys months and years after the event.

The journeys of the pundits during the nineteenth century provided much useful information about the various mountain passes through which invasion forces might attempt to attack India. They also provided useful local survey information in support of "*The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India*" which otherwise would have been limited to measuring the heights and locations of such major Himalayan peaks as are visible from trigonometrical points on mountain peaks over a hundred miles away to the south within undisputed Indian territory. The measurements were made, as has since been confirmed by modern equipment, with astonishing accuracy.

Thus was set the pattern of covert geographical and political intelligence operations, which since 1833 had become known to Russians, British and Indians alike as "*The Great Game*". Bailey knew the pundits well. Two of them - "U. G" [Lama Ugyen Gyatso] and S.C.D. [Sarat Chandra Das C.I.E.], the latter brought by Kipling into "*Kim*" as Hari Chunder Mukerjee, formed the board which passed him in his Tibetan language examination.

As elder son of Lieut. Colonel F. Bailey, Royal Engineers (latterly a lecturer in forestry at the University of Edinburgh) Frederick Marshman Bailey was born in Lahore and educated at Edinburgh Academy, Wellington College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. As a young Indian Army subaltern he served with the 17th. Bengal Lancers (1901-1903) then with the 32nd. Sikh Pioneers (1903-05), an infantry regiment with expertise in road building and other basic military engineering tasks.

In 1901 rumours of Russian infiltration in Tibet caused the then Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, to write to the Dalai Lama. With two successive letters unacknowledged, it was decided to send a diplomatic mission to Lhasa to contact the Tibetan government, establish the true position and achieve a treaty safeguarding India's northern borders and setting up trading posts in Tibet all with a view to preventing Russia from doing the same. In June 1903, a four-man "Tibet Frontier Commission" headed by Colonel Francis Younghusband entered Tibet. For its safety it was escorted by a military force of brigade strength under Brigadier General Macdonald of the Royal Engineers.

This included a Maxim gun section detached from the 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, and three companies of mounted infantry formed ad hoc from the 32nd. Sikh Pioneers, Gurkha and other units, mounted initially on pack animals. A group photograph taken in the field, published sixty years later in Peter Fleming's book *"Bayonets to Lhasa"* shows young Lieutenant Bailey with fellow officers of the mounted infantry. Every effort was made by Colonel Younghusband and his escort to avoid bloodshed, but fighting and casualties, mostly but not all on the Tibetan side, took place at various points en route to Lhasa. In one action Gurkhas climbed to 19,000 feet to outflank the Tibetan army, without oxygen or any of the special clothing considered so necessary today. Eventually the Commission reached Lhasa, although by then the Dalai Lama had temporarily departed elsewhere. After much delay a Treaty in which the Tibetans agreed not to have dealings with any foreign power without Britain's consent, and establishing additional trade marts at Gyantse and Gartok, was signed at Lhasa.

In September 1904 the Commission and its escort returned through Sikkim to India. Bailey, fluent in Tibetan, was detached as interpreter to a small survey expedition to Western Tibet, under Captains Ryder and Rawlings. This expedition marched from Lhasa to Simla, a thousand mile winter journey at heights of up to 18,700 feet and temperatures as low as minus 32 degrees Centigrade, and living in tents. En route they reached the source of the great river Tsangpo, and Bailey determined that one day he would solve the riddle of its mysterious course through the eastern Himalayas. He was then, aged 23, appointed to the Indian Political Service and served for three and a

half years as Trade Agent in Gyantse and Chumbi, both in Tibet. During this time he became a friend of the Tashi Lama, a Buddhist prelate similar in rank to the Dalai Lama. Despite the Tibetan and British casualties which had occurred during the Younghusband expedition, a lasting friendship subsequently developed between the Tibetans and British. Unlike the Chinese, who claimed suzerainty over Tibet and treated individual Tibetans, even at the highest level, with great disdain, the British always took care to treat the Tibetans with the respect befitting their ancient Buddhist culture.

The Indian Political Service was a small but elite corps of about 150 men, recruited from officers, two thirds from the Indian Army, one third from the Indian Civil Service. Prior to Independence, these young, hand-picked men governed the Indian Empire under the Viceroy, as resident political officers, agents and advisers to heads of princely States. Some, such as Bailey, in the tradition of the pundits, also secretly explored and mapped remote frontier regions, usually whilst on leave, so that if discovered, their activities could be disowned by the Government of India. In 1909, having accumulated two years home leave after nine years continuous service in Asia, Bailey returned to the United Kingdom and his parent's home in Edinburgh, but his mind was preoccupied with the riddle of the Tsangpo River.

For decades the *Survey of India* had made repeated attempts through its pundits' secret journeys to establish whether this main river of Tibet, flowing west to east towards Burma and hostile tribal territories, was the Brahmaputra of India, or, possibly, the Irrawaddy of Burma. Bailey believed that by entering Tibet from the Chinese side, and as a private individual travelling alone except for a servant, he might succeed in tracing the unknown section of the Tsangpo through the Eastern Himalayas, and still escape the unwelcome attentions of the Chinese and Tibetan governments and the hostility of primitive tribes on the north-east border of India to which he was due to return from his U.K. leave in a few months.

He set out for China in January 1911 via St. Petersburg and the Trans-Siberian Railway, but not before sending a cablegram to his sixteen year old servant, Putamdu, in Tibet instructing him with the aid of Thomas Cook & Sons to travel from Tibet via Calcutta and take his first sea voyage to Shanghai and meet him at a hotel in Beijing on 1st.



March. In anticipation of this journey he had earlier taken Putamdu to Bombay, where he was taught to skin birds and other natural history specimens at the Bombay Natural History Society.

Meeting Putamdu in Beijing they then proceeded for thirty six hours by rail to Hangkow, from there by steamer for four days up the Yangste River to Ichang, then on a houseboat through the famous Yangste Gorges for nine days to Wanh sien. After a three day rest Bailey contracted with Chinese coolies to be carried overland by chair nearly 450 miles to Chengtu, and from there rode or marched another 650 miles to Batang, on the upper reaches of the Yangste. Here, although still in Chinese territory, the local people spoke a Tibetan dialect understandable by Bailey. Another 50 miles or so brought them to the Mekong River, the Chinese-Tibetan frontier.

After a journey from the U.K. of around 9,000 miles, Bailey had reached Eastern Tibet but was still 200 miles, as the crow flies, east of his main objective, the Tsangpo, and separated from it by ranges of very high, snow-covered mountains and the Salween River. Fifty miles further on, they crossed the Irrawaddy/Brahmaputra watershed over the Zasha La, a 15,000 feet pass, and continued for a further 90 miles north west to Shugden Gumpa. At this point they were less than 100 miles from the Tsangpo, but the local Tibetan Governor of the area stated that as fighting had broken out further on between a fierce local tribe and some Chinese soldiers, 500 of the latter being killed, Bailey would be travelling at risk of his life and permission to go further could not be given.

His two year leave from the Indian Political Service was nearing its end, and he had no option but to turn back and go south via Rima to the nearest Indian village of Sadiya, which he and Putamdu reached after many hardships, dressed in rags and covered in leeches, on 7th. August 1911, seven months after Bailey had left Moscow on the Trans-Siberian express. During this epic journey from China through Tibet to Assam, while in unknown country, Bailey continuously made route surveys, measuring the bearings of peaks and other important land marks, determining the height above sea level of every mountain pass and river crossing by measuring the temperature of boiling water in a hypsometer, and still found time to collect and name specimens of rare animals, birds, butterflies and plants, now in museums and botanic



gardens across the world. Although his attempt to reach the falls on the Tsangpo had failed, through no fault of his own, he was awarded the Gill Memorial by the Royal Geographical Society, and the MacGregor Medal by the Royal United Service Institute of India. The Viceroy of India, however, felt it necessary to take a rather different view. Bailey was reprimanded for overstaying his leave by two months!

However, he appears to have been forgiven, and, along with a Captain Henry Morshead, was soon back in Tibet where they both



earned the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for their work in mapping a large area of the Himalayas at the point where the Tsangpo broke through the Himalayan range. Then came the Great War of 1914-1918. Bailey re-joined his regiment, and fought in Flanders with the Indian Expeditionary Force, where he was wounded. After his recovery, he fought at Gallipoli with the Gurkhas, and was shot in both legs. He was then recalled to India, where he served on the North West Frontier before re-joining the Indian Political Service to serve in Mesopotamia and Persia.

Early in 1918 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to head a secret mission to Kashgar in Chinese Turkestan to ascertain the aims of the Bolsheviks who had taken power in Tashkent in Russian Turkestan, and whether they posed a threat to India's security. His adventures during nearly two years that followed were eventually published nearly twenty years later in his book *"Mission to Tashkent"* - a best seller of the day.

Top Bailey in Bolshevik disguise in Bokhara  
Bottom Bailey in Turkoman dress

[By coincidence, *Mission to Tashkent* was chosen as its publishing choice for March 1999, by the Folio Society, available at £19.95 as one of that Society's attractive editions. These accompanying photographs of Bailey have been 'borrowed' from the Folio Society catalogue]

*Editor*

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## VISIT OF THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY TO AYLSHAM

Members of the Parson Woodforde Society visited Aylsham on Saturday, 22nd. May. The society was enjoying a three day visit to Norfolk, and after attending their AGM in Norwich on Friday, members spent Saturday morning exploring Aylsham as part of their tour of places associated with the famous Norfolk parson.

After a reception at the Friendship Club, the 60 or so members, who come from all parts of the country, divided into four groups and were taken on a tour of Aylsham by members of our society. After they had been welcomed to Aylsham by our Vice-Chairman, Julian Eve, the separate parties were shown around the Millgate area by Elizabeth Gale; the town centre by Peter Pink; the parish church and Repton's grave by Daphne Davey, and all groups finally examined an exhibition of the town archives prepared by Ron Peabody and Tom Mollard. The members of the Parson Woodforde Society then enjoyed a ploughman's lunch at the Black Boys Hotel, just as Parson Woodforde himself did in 1781.

After lunch, which was more successful than the one the parson enjoyed, the society members moved on to Felbrigg Hall, the one-time home of William Windham who is mentioned several times in the parson's diaries. The final day of the visit included a visit to Weston Longville, where James Woodforde was rector for several years, before setting off home after a very successful "frolic"

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